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Prevention of Crime and the Treatment
of Offenders**

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SIXTH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON THE PREVENTION
OF CRIME AND THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS
Caracas, 25 August-5 September 1980

ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL INSTITUTE FOR
THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND THE TREATMENT
OF OFFENDERS FOR AFRICA SOUTH OF THE
SAHARA

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat would like to inform the Sixth Congress of the following developments which have taken place concerning the establishment of a regional institute for Africa south of the Sahara:

1. The African Regional Preparatory Meeting on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, which met at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), at Addis Ababa, 21-25 August 1978, adopted a resolution on the establishment of an African regional institute for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders (see annex I).
2. At its first regular session in 1979, the Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1979/20, of 9 May 1979, entitled "Technical co-operation in crime prevention and control", requested the Secretary-General to establish an institute for Africa south of the Sahara in the field of crime prevention and the treatment of offenders (see annex II). Pursuant to that request, the Secretary-General, with the support of the United Nations Development Programme and in co-operation with the Organization of African Unity, will convene a brief meeting in Africa in 1980 to determine the modality of the institute, its location and operation. The Government of Zambia has formally offered host facilities for the proposed institute.
3. At its sixth meeting, in April 1980, the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa, in resolution 392 (XV), entitled "Establishment of an African regional institute for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders", requested the Executive Secretary of ECA, in consultation with the relevant international and regional organizations, to take all appropriate steps to establish a United Nations regional institute for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders for Africa south of the Sahara (see annex III).

Annex I

"The African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders,

Considering that Africa is undergoing unprecedented changes of a political, social and economic nature,

Noting that, as a result of these changes many African countries have been affected by an unbearable increase in criminality, especially economic criminality,

Recalling that the United Nations, through its various agencies, especially the United Nations Development Programme, has been assisting many African countries in other spheres, but not yet with respect to crime control,

Aware that the United Nations has established regional institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders for all developing regions with the exception of Africa,

Recognising that various United Nations bodies, including the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders have called for the establishment of an African regional institute for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders,

Conscious of the need for the immediate establishment of such an institute for Africa,

Urges the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to take all necessary steps for the creation of the African Regional United Nations Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, and to properly equip it to perform the following tasks:

1. To provide in-service training for criminal justice personnel, including policy-makers, administrators, judges, prosecutors, lawyers, police and corrections officials, teachers, social workers and researchers;
2. To conduct training courses and seminars for the teaching staff of criminal justice related schools, colleges and academies in African countries;
3. To conduct crime and criminal justice surveys, and to engage in research designed to assist Member States in planning for social defence and crime control;

4. To operate a programme for statistical data collection and analysis;
5. To publish and disseminate information relating to new developments in criminal justice, calculated to keep African criminal justice personnel abreast of development;
6. To provide technical assistance in matters of crime prevention and control, upon request, to African Member States;
7. To enhance the awareness of the African peoples of human rights in criminal justice and the quality of life."

Annex II

1979/20. Technical co-operation in crime prevention and control

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/59 of 8 December 1977, by which the Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control with regard to the report of the Fifth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, 29/

Concerned about the prevailing trend of criminality in many countries of the world and its impact on the efforts of Member States to promote and sustain a better quality of life in their respective countries, especially in the developing countries,

Aware that Member States, particularly developing countries, are evaluating or willing to evaluate the effectiveness of their criminal justice systems with a view towards restructuring them so as to ensure their capacity to deal with rising crime rates,

Reaffirming the right of each Member State to formulate and implement its national policies and programmes in the field of crime prevention and control in accordance with its own needs and priorities,

Considering that a growing number of countries feel the lack of interregional and technical advisers capable of assisting Governments in planning and implementing their crime prevention strategies,

Recognizing the importance of co-operation among Member States and the efforts already made by the international community in the field of crime prevention and the treatment of offenders, as well as the need to promote further collaboration in this field at the regional and interregional levels,

Recognizing also the desirability of sustaining international collaboration and efforts in the field of crime prevention and the treatment of offenders, as a significant element in the achievement of the objectives of the new international economic order and the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade,

Noting the importance of the availability of technical assistance and technical advisory services, on a regular basis, to members of the international community which request them, especially among the developing countries of the world,

29/ See E/CN.5/536, chap. I.

Concerned that the countries of Africa south of the Sahara, in spite of numerous appeals to the international community for assistance in establishing regional institutes to facilitate research, planning and implementation of crime prevention programmes and strategies, are still without viable regional means of collaborating systematically and in concert in matters pertaining to crime prevention and the treatment of offenders,

Recalling that the United Nations has already established institutes in other regions of the world,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to establish an institute for Africa south of the Sahara in the field of crime prevention and the treatment of offenders;

2. Also requests the Secretary-General to restore and make available through the United Nations Development Programme the services of interregional and regional advisers in the field of crime prevention and the treatment of offenders to Member States, at their request;

3. Further requests the Secretary-General, under the auspices of the programme of technical co-operation among developing countries, to explore new formulae for providing developing countries with technical experts through the United Nations, for instance, providing experts whose basic salary would be covered by the sending country and whose additional expenses would be covered by the receiving country.

14th plenary meeting
9 May 1979

Annex III

392 (XV). Establishment of an African Regional Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the recommendations of the fifth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders concerning:

(a) the incorporation of dynamic crime prevention within the framework of national planning with emphasis on the interdependence of crime control activities,

(b) the development of greater awareness of the significance of economic crimes particularly of corruption and damage to the environment and the effect of such crimes on the development process, and,

(c) the early establishment of regional research facilities for crime prevention and the promotion of criminal justice in Africa,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/20 which also endorsed the establishment of an institute south of the Sahara in the field of crime prevention and the treatment of offenders,

Bearing in mind that the United Nations has already established similar institutes in other regions of the world,

Aware of the resolution of the African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Sixth United Nations Congress of the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders urging the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to take all necessary steps for the creation of the African Regional Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders,

Conscious of the linkage of socio-economic development on the one hand and social disorganization and crime on the other,

Convinced of the urgent need for the creation of such a regional institute to serve the region of Africa south of the Sahara,

1. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA in consultation with relevant international and regional organizations to take all appropriate steps to establish a United Nations Regional Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders for Africa south of the Sahara;

2. Invites the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to provide the Executive Secretary of ECA with financial resources for the initiation of the processes for the establishment of this United Nations Regional Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders for Africa south of the Sahara;

3. Invites further the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide the Executive Secretary of ECA all material support for the realization of this project;

4. Urges all African States to incorporate crime prevention elements in their national economic and social development planning.

212th meeting, 12 April 1980

This archiving project is a collaborative effort between United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and American Society of Criminology, Division of International Criminology. Any comments or questions should be directed to Cindy J. Smith at CJSmithphd@comcast.net or Emil Wandzilak at emil.wandzilak@unodc.org.