

Information-gathering instrument on United Nations standards
and norms related primarily to the prevention of crime

Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/28 of 21 July 2004, the following questionnaire is designed as a tool to collect information to assist in the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General, in particular as regards the following:

- (a) The difficulties encountered in the application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention;
- (b) Ways in which technical assistance can be provided; and
- (c) Useful practices and emerging challenges.

It is not intended to produce a scorecard of how well States are doing. It addresses the main sections of the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime (Council resolution 2002/13, annex) and, as the case may be, other relevant instruments.

Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/13 of 24 July 2003 on action to promote effective crime prevention accepted the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime and also requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on the implementation of that resolution. In the Guidelines, crime prevention refers to "strategies and measures that seek to reduce the risk of crimes occurring" by influencing "their multiple causes" (para. 3). It includes social crime prevention (or prevention through social development), local, community or neighbourhood-based crime prevention, situational crime prevention and measures to prevent recidivism. The definition does not include law enforcement and other criminal justice intervention, even though these may have crime prevention aspects. It is cognizant, however, of the need to take account of "the growing internationalization of criminal activities" (para. 4). When referring to the community, it refers in essence to "the involvement of civil society at the local level" (para. 5).

Other instruments relevant to the prevention of crime include:

- Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/9 of 24 July 1995, the annex to which contains the Guidelines for cooperation and technical assistance in the field of urban crime prevention
- General Assembly resolution 51/60 of 12 December 1996, the annex to which contains the United Nations Declaration on Crime and Public Security

The questionnaire is divided into five sections: structuring crime prevention at the governmental level; crime prevention approaches; implementation issues; international cooperation, networking and technical assistance; and concluding questions. In developing the questionnaire, related paragraphs have been grouped for simplicity and clarity.

I. Structuring crime prevention at the government level

The following paragraphs of the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime refer to government responsibility, leadership and structures to organize and deliver effective crime prevention.

2. It is the responsibility of all levels of government [national, regional and local] to create, maintain and promote a context within which relevant governmental institutions and all segments of civil society, including the corporate sector, can better play their part in preventing crime.

Government leadership

7. All levels of government should play a leadership role in developing effective and humane crime prevention strategies and in creating and maintaining institutional frameworks for their implementation and review.

Cooperation/partnerships

9. Cooperation/partnerships should be an integral part of effective

crime prevention, given the wide-ranging nature of the causes of crime and the skills and responsibilities required to address them. This includes partnerships working across ministries and between authorities, community organizations, non-governmental organizations, the business sector and private citizens.

Government structures

17. Governments should include prevention as a permanent part of their structures and programmes for controlling crime, ensuring that clear responsibilities and goals exist within government for the organization of crime prevention, by, inter alia:

- (a) Establishing centres or focal points with expertise and resources;
- (b) Establishing a crime prevention plan with clear priorities and targets;
- (c) Establishing linkages and coordination between relevant government agencies or departments;
- (d) Fostering partnerships with non-governmental organizations, the business, private and professional sectors and the community;
- (e) Seeking the active participation of the public in crime prevention by informing it of the need for and means of action and its role.

Training and capacity-building

18. Governments should support the development of crime prevention skills by:

- (a) Providing professional development for senior officials in relevant agencies;
- (b) Encouraging universities, colleges and other relevant educational agencies to offer basic and advanced courses, including in collaboration with practitioners;
- (c) Working with the educational and professional sectors to develop certification and professional qualifications;
- (d) Promoting the capacity of communities to develop and respond to their needs.

Supporting partnerships

19. Governments and all segments of civil society should support the principle of partnership, where appropriate, including:

- (a) Advancing knowledge of the importance of this principle and the components of successful partnerships, including the need for all of the partners to have clear and transparent roles;
- (b) Fostering the formation of partnerships at different levels and across sectors;
- (c) Facilitating the efficient operation of partnerships.

1. Have government bodies in your country taken steps to implement the approach to crime prevention defined in the Guidelines?

() Yes (X) No

If the answer is "Yes", please describe briefly.

Resolution on the prevention and Combating of crime, which was recently adopted, represents general principles and strategic goals and is only basis for preparation of more specific national plane, strategies and action planes, which have to be adopted until January 2007. Since the Strategy has not been adopted yet all the other answers are negative.

2. In your country, have specific crime prevention policies or strategies been adopted?

(a) At the national level?

() Yes (X) No

If the answer is "Yes", please cite the title and date of adoption.

Has this policy or strategy been enshrined in legislation?

() Yes (X) No

If the answer is "Yes", please provide the reference and date of adoption.

(b) At the regional level?

() Yes (X) No

(c) At the local level?

() Yes (X) No

If the answer to (b) and/or (c) above is "Yes", please specify.

3. In your country, which government department, ministry or organization at the national level has the responsibility for leadership in crime prevention?

Please specify.

Not defined yet.

4. In your country, does the organization or framework of crime prevention include:

(a) A centre or focal point at the national level?

() Yes (X) No

If the answer is "Yes", please cite the name and status of the responsible agency or agencies.

(b) Centres or focal points at the regional level?

() Yes (X) No

() Not applicable

(c) Establishing crime prevention plans with clear priorities?

(i) At the national level?

() Yes () Yes, in part

(X) No

(ii) At the regional level?

() Yes () Yes, in part

(X) No () Not applicable

(iii) At the local level?

() Yes () Yes, in part

(X) No

(d) Establishing linkages and coordination between relevant government agencies and organizations?

(i) At the national level?

() Yes () Yes, in part

(X) No

(ii) At the regional level?

() Yes () Yes, in part

(X) No () Not applicable

(e) Fostering partnerships with non-governmental organizations, the business, private and professional sectors and the community?

(i) At the national level?

() Yes () Yes, in part

(X) No

(ii) At the regional level?

() Yes () Yes, in part

() No () Not applicable

() Yes () Yes, in part

(X) No

(iii) At the local level?

(f) Seeking the active participation of the general public?

(i) At the national level?

() Yes () Yes, in part
(X) No

(ii) At the regional level?

() Yes () Yes, in part
(X) No () Not applicable

(iii) At the local level?

() Yes () Yes, in part
(X) No

(g) A specific role for the police and other institutions performing similar roles?

() Yes (X) No

If the answer is "Yes", please describe.

5. In your country, do government bodies support the development of crime prevention skills by:

(a) Providing professional development?

() Yes (X) No

(b) Encouraging relevant educational institutions to offer basic and advanced courses?

() Yes (X) No

(c) Working to develop certification and professional qualifications?

() Yes (X) No

(d) Promoting the capacity of communities to develop and respond to their own needs?

() Yes (X) No

II. Crime prevention approaches

Crime prevention as defined in the relevant instruments refers to various approaches generally called social, community-based and situational crime prevention, as well as preventing recidivism.

In respect to social crime prevention, relevant paragraphs of the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime include:

6. Crime prevention encompasses a wide range of approaches, including those which:

(a) Promote the well-being of people and encourage pro-social behaviour through social, economic, health and educational measures, with a particular emphasis on children and youth, and focus on the risk and protective factors associated with crime and victimization (prevention through social development, or social crime prevention);

Socio-economic development and inclusion

8. Crime prevention considerations should be integrated into all relevant social and economic policies and programmes, including those addressing employment, education, health, housing and urban planning, poverty, social marginalization and exclusion. Particular emphasis should be placed on communities, families, children and youth at risk.

Social development

24. Governments should address the risk factors of crime and victimization by:

(a) Promoting protective factors through comprehensive and non-stigmatizing social and economic development programmes, including health, education, housing and employment;

(b) Promoting activities that redress marginalization and exclusion;

(c) Promoting positive conflict resolution;

(d) Using education and public awareness strategies to foster a culture of lawfulness and tolerance while respecting cultural identities.

6. Is the concept of social crime prevention (as defined in paragraph 6 (a) of the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime) part of your country's crime prevention policy, strategy or programmes?

() Yes (X) No

7. Do your country's crime prevention policies, strategies or programmes include a specific focus on:

(a) Children and youth at risk of victimization or offending?

() Yes (X) No

If the answer is "Yes", please specify.

(b) Vulnerable groups?

() Yes (X) No

If the answer is "Yes", please specify.

(c) The different needs of men and women?

() Yes (X) No

If the answer is "Yes", please specify.

8. Are crime prevention considerations integrated into relevant social and economic policies and programmes?

() Yes (X) No

If the answer is "Yes", please specify.

9. In your country, do crime prevention policies, strategies or programmes:

(a) Promote protective factors (e.g. staying in school, positive parenting, job training for youth, etc.)?

(X) Yes () No

If the answer is "Yes", please describe briefly.

According to legislation in the field of social security and education.

(b) Promote activities to redress marginalization or exclusion?

(X) Yes () No

If the answer is "Yes", please describe briefly.

Fight programme against poverty and social exclusion has been adopted

(c) Promote positive conflict resolution (e.g. mediation, restorative justice, etc.)?

(X) Yes () No

If the answer is "Yes", please describe briefly.

ADR has been adopted in the field of civil justice.

(d) Use education and public awareness?

(X) Yes () No

If the answer is "Yes", please describe briefly.

Through media and school system.

(e) Involve the media?

(X) Yes () No

If the answer is "Yes", please describe briefly.

In respect of community or locally based crime prevention, relevant paragraphs of the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime include:

6. Crime prevention encompasses a wide range of approaches, including those which:

(b) Change the conditions in neighbourhoods that influence offending, victimization and insecurity that results from crime by building on the initiatives, expertise and commitment of community members (locally based crime prevention);

10. Does your country have specific crime prevention policies, strategies or programmes designed to change the conditions that influence offending, victimization and insecurity in neighbourhoods?

() Yes (X) No

If the answer is "Yes", please specify.

11. Does your crime prevention policy or strategy include an integrated approach to address the multiple risk and protective factors in highly vulnerable neighbourhoods or communities?

() Yes (X) No

If the answer is "Yes", please specify.

In respect of situational crime prevention, relevant paragraphs of the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime include:

6. Crime prevention encompasses a wide range of approaches, including those which:

(c) Prevent the occurrence of crimes by reducing opportunities, increasing risks of being apprehended and minimizing benefits, including through environmental design, and by providing assistance and information to potential and actual victims (situational crime prevention);
Situational prevention

26. Governments and civil society, including, where appropriate, the corporate sector, should support the development of situational crime prevention programmes by, inter alia:

(a) Improved environmental design;

(b) Appropriate methods of surveillance that are sensitive to the right to privacy;

(c) Encouraging the design of consumer goods to make them more resistant to crime;

(d) Target "hardening" without impinging upon the quality of the built environment or limiting free access to public space;

(e) Implementing strategies to prevent repeat victimization.

12. Does your country have specific situational crime prevention policies, strategies or programmes to:

(a) Improve environmental design and management?

() Yes (X) No

If the answer is "Yes", please specify.

(b) Implement appropriate methods of surveillance that are sensitive to privacy?

() Yes (X) No

If the answer is "Yes", please specify.

(c) Promote target hardening without impinging on the quality of the built environment?

() Yes (X) No

If the answer is "Yes", please specify.

(d) Encourage the design of crime resistant consumer goods?

() Yes (X) No

If the answer is "Yes", please specify.

(e) Implement strategies to prevent repeat victimization?

() Yes (X) No

If the answer is "Yes", please specify.

In respect of the prevention of recidivism, relevant paragraphs of the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime include:

6. Crime prevention encompasses a wide range of approaches, including those which:

(d) Prevent recidivism by assisting in the social reintegration of offenders and other preventive mechanisms (reintegration programmes).

13. In your country, do you have specific policies, strategies or programmes to prevent recidivism by assisting in the social reintegration of offenders and other preventive mechanisms?

() Yes (X) No

If the answer is "Yes", please specify.

III. Implementation issues

Sustainability and accountability are important principles to ensure the implementation of effective crime prevention programmes and initiatives. The relevant paragraphs of the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime are:

1. There is clear evidence that well-planned crime prevention strategies not only prevent crime and victimization, but also promote community safety and contribute to the sustainable development of countries. Effective, responsible crime prevention enhances the quality of life of all citizens. It has long-term benefits in terms of reducing the costs associated with the formal criminal justice system, as well as other social costs that result from crime. Crime

prevention offers opportunities for a humane and more cost-effective approach to the problems of crime.

Sustainability/accountability

10. Crime prevention requires adequate resources, including funding for structures and activities, in order to be sustained. There should be clear accountability for funding, implementation and evaluation and for the achievement of planned results.

Sustainability

20. Governments and other funding bodies should strive to achieve sustainability of demonstrably effective crime prevention programmes and initiatives through, inter alia:

(a) Reviewing resource allocation to establish and maintain an appropriate balance between crime prevention and the criminal justice and other systems, to be more effective in preventing crime and victimization;

(b) Establishing clear accountability for funding, programming and coordinating crime prevention initiatives;

(c) Encouraging community involvement in sustainability.

14. In your country, what measures have been taken to ensure the sustainability of crime prevention policies, strategies and programmes?

Please describe briefly.

15. In your country, have there been systematic attempts to assess the costs of crime and crime control measures, including crime prevention measures?

() Yes (X) No

If the answer is "Yes", please provide the source of funding and an estimate of the total costs.

In implementing crime prevention, elements of a rigorous process have been identified. The relevant paragraphs of the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime are:

Knowledge base

11. Crime prevention strategies, policies, programmes and actions should be based on a broad, multidisciplinary foundation of knowledge about crime problems, their multiple causes and promising and proven practices.

21. As appropriate, Governments and/or civil society should facilitate knowledge-based crime prevention by, inter alia:

(a) Providing the information necessary for communities to address crime problems;

(b) Supporting the generation of useful and practically applicable knowledge that is scientifically reliable and valid;

(c) Supporting the organization and synthesis of knowledge and identifying and addressing gaps in the knowledge base;

(d) Sharing that knowledge, as appropriate, among, inter alia, researchers, policy makers, educators, practitioners from other relevant sectors and the wider community;

(e) Applying this knowledge in replicating successful interventions, developing new initiatives and anticipating new crime problems and prevention opportunities;

(f) Establishing data systems to help manage crime prevention more cost-effectively, including by conducting regular surveys of victimization and offending;

(g) Promoting the application of those data in order to reduce repeat victimization, persistent offending and areas with a high level of crime.

Planning intervention

22. Those planning interventions should promote a process that includes:

(a) A systematic analysis of crime problems, their causes, risk factors and consequences, in particular at the local level;

- (b) A plan that draws on the most appropriate approach and adapts interventions to the specific local problem and context;
- (c) An implementation plan to deliver appropriate interventions that are efficient, effective and sustainable;
- (d) Mobilizing entities that are able to tackle causes;
- (e) Monitoring and evaluation.

Supporting evaluation

23. Governments, other funding bodies and those involved in programme development and delivery should:

- (a) Undertake short- and longer-term evaluation to test rigorously what works, where and why;
- (b) Undertake cost-benefit analyses;
- (c) Assess the extent to which action results in a reduction in levels of crime and victimization, in the seriousness of crime and in fear of crime;
- (d) Systematically assess the outcomes and unintended consequences, both positive and negative, of action, such as a decrease in crime rates or the stigmatization of individuals and/or communities.

16. In your country, is the use of knowledge-based crime prevention strategies, policies or programmes facilitated by:

- (a) Supporting the generation and utilization of useful information and data?
() Yes (X) No

If the answer is "Yes", please describe briefly.

- (b) Supporting the sharing of useful information and data?
() Yes (X) No

If the answer is "Yes", please describe briefly.

- (c) Promoting the application of useful information and data to reduce repeat victimization, persistent offending and high crime areas?
() Yes (X) No

If the answer is "Yes", please describe briefly.

17. In your country, do the crime prevention policies, strategies or programmes promote a planning process that includes:

- (a) A systematic analysis of crime problems, their causes and risk factors and consequences, in particular at the local level?
() Yes (X) No

If the answer is "Yes", please describe briefly.

(b) A plan that draws on the most appropriate approaches and adapts interventions to the specific local problems and local context?

- () Yes (X) No

If the answer is "Yes", please describe briefly.

(c) An implementation plan to deliver efficient, effective and sustainable interventions?

() Yes (X) No

If the answer is "Yes", please describe briefly.

(d) Mobilizing entities that are able to tackle causes?

() Yes (X) No

If the answer is "Yes", please describe briefly.

(e) Monitoring and evaluation?

() Yes (X) No

If the answer is "Yes", please describe briefly.

18. In your country, do the crime prevention policies, strategies or programmes include:

(a) Undertaking evaluation to test rigorously what works?

() Yes (X) No

If the answer is "Yes", please describe briefly.

(b) Undertaking cost-benefit analyses?

() Yes (X) No

If the answer is "Yes", please describe briefly.

(c) Assessing reduction in crime, victimization and fear of crime?

() Yes () No

If the answer is "Yes", please describe briefly.

(d) Assessing outcomes and unintended consequences?

() Yes (X) No

If the answer is "Yes", please describe briefly.

19. Has an evaluation of components or specific activities of your country's national crime prevention policy or strategy been undertaken?

() Yes (X) No

If the answer is "Yes", please describe briefly.

The Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime recognize the links between local and transnational organized crime and the need to prevent organized crime. The relevant paragraphs of the Guidelines are:

Interdependency

13. National crime prevention diagnoses and strategies should, where appropriate, take account of links between local criminal problems and international organized crime.

Prevention of organized crime

27. Governments and civil society should endeavour to analyse and address the links between transnational organized crime and national and local crime problems by, inter alia:

(a) Reducing existing and future opportunities for organized criminal groups to participate in lawful markets with the proceeds of crime, through appropriate legislative, administrative or other measures;

(b) Developing measures to prevent the misuse by organized criminal groups of tender procedures conducted by public authorities and of subsidies and licences granted by public authorities for commercial activity;

(c) Designing crime prevention strategies, where appropriate, to protect socially marginalized groups, especially women and children, who are vulnerable to the action of organized criminal groups, including trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.

Links between transnational and local crime

31. Member States should collaborate to analyse and address the links between transnational organized crime and national and local crime problems.

20. In your country, do crime prevention policies, strategies or programmes assess the potential links between local and national crime problems and transnational organized crime?

() Yes (X) No

If the answer is "Yes", please describe briefly.

21. In your country, do the crime prevention policies, strategies or programmes include:

(a) Measures to reduce opportunities for organized criminal groups to participate in lawful markets?

() Yes (X) No

If the answer is "Yes", please describe briefly.

(b) Measures to prevent the misuse of public tender procedures, subsidies and licences?

() Yes (X) No

If the answer is "Yes", please describe briefly.

(c) Measures to protect socially marginalized groups, especially women and children, who are vulnerable to exploitation by organized criminal groups, including preventing trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants?

() Yes (X) No

If the answer is "Yes", please describe briefly.

IV. International cooperation, networking and technical assistance

Member States are encouraged to facilitate international cooperation and develop networks for the exchange of practices and knowledge. The relevant paragraphs of the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime include:
Technical assistance

29. Member States and relevant international funding organizations should provide financial and technical assistance, including capacity-building and training, to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, communities and other relevant organizations for the implementation of effective crime prevention and community safety strategies at the regional, national and local levels. In that context, special attention should be given to research and action on crime prevention through social development.

Networking

30. Member States should strengthen or establish international, regional and national crime prevention networks with a view to exchanging proven and promising practices, identifying elements of their transferability and making such knowledge available to communities throughout the world.

Prioritizing crime prevention

32. The Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat, the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network of affiliated and associated institutes and other relevant United Nations entities should include in their priorities crime prevention as set out in these Guidelines, set up a coordination mechanism and establish a roster of experts to undertake needs assessment and to provide technical advice.

Dissemination

33. Relevant United Nations bodies and other organizations should cooperate to produce crime prevention information in as many languages as possible, using both print and electronic media.

22. Does your country participate in international networks for the exchange of information and knowledge on crime prevention policies, strategies or programmes?

() Yes (X) No

If the answer is "Yes", please specify.

23. What are the main obstacles to your country participating in international networking?

Please describe.

24. Please identify guides, toolkits, compendiums or manuals of crime prevention practices from your country that can be shared with other countries.

25. Does your country need technical assistance in any area of crime prevention?

() Yes (X) No

26. Is your country able to provide technical assistance in any area of crime prevention?

() Yes (X) No

If the answer to questions 25 and/or 26 is "Yes", please mark the appropriate box(es) below: Need technical assistance Can provide technical assistance

- (a) Including prevention as a permanent part of government structures (para. 17)
- (b) Government support for the development of crime prevention skills (para. 18)
- (c) Government and civil society support of partnerships (para. 19)
- (d) Social crime prevention (paras. 6 (a), 8 and 24)
- (e) Locally based or neighbourhood crime prevention (para. 6 (b))
- (f) Situational crime prevention (paras. 6 (c) and 26)
- (g) Prevention of recidivism (para. 6 (d))
- (h) Sustainability and accountability of crime prevention (paras. 1, 10 and 20)
- (i) Knowledge-based crime prevention (paras. 11 and 21)
- (j) Planning interventions (para. 22)
- (k) Monitoring and evaluation (para. 23)
- (l) Assessing the links between local crime problems and transnational organized crime (paras. 13, 27 and 31)
- (m) Of the areas identified, is there a priority?
If so, please identify.

V. Concluding questions

27. What are some of the main lessons your country has derived from national experience in implementing crime prevention policies, strategies and programmes? Please describe.

28. What are the main challenges in your country for delivering effective crime prevention? Please describe.