

Rights, under which no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment;¹⁵

11. *Notes with appreciation* the material and other forms of assistance that peoples under colonial and foreign rule continue to receive from Governments, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and calls for a maximization of this assistance;

12. *Looks forward* to the publication of the following studies by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities:

(a) Historical and current development of the right to self-determination on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations and other instruments adopted by United Nations organs, with particular reference to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(b) Implementation of United Nations resolutions relating to the right of peoples under colonial and foreign domination to self-determination;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to give maximum publicity to the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and to give the widest possible publicity to the struggle being waged by oppressed peoples for the realization of their self-determination and national independence;

14. *Decides* to consider this item again at its thirty-third session on the basis of the reports that Governments, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations have been requested to submit concerning the strengthening of assistance to colonial Territories and peoples under foreign domination and control.

60th plenary meeting
7 November 1977

32/58. Methods and ways likely to be most effective in preventing crime and improving the treatment of offenders

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3021 (XXVII) of 18 December 1972, in which it instructed the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control to submit a report on the methods and ways likely to be most effective in preventing crime and improving the treatment of offenders, including recommendations on the measures most appropriate in such areas as law enforcement, judicial procedures and correctional practices,

Concerned about the prevailing trends of criminality in many countries of the world, which show the spread of emerging new forms of serious and organized crime,

1. *Takes note* of the report entitled "Methods and ways likely to be most effective in preventing crime and improving the treatment of offenders", contained in the report of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control on its fourth session,¹⁶ as a guideline for future United Nations activities directed towards the prevention and control of crime and delinquency and the treatment of offenders;

2. *Invites* Member States to make use of the report, as appropriate, in formulating national crime prevention policies and strategies;

3. *Calls upon* Member States, as well as international governmental organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and the specialized agencies, to collaborate fully in pursuance of the goals set out in the report;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to facilitate the collaboration referred to in paragraph 3 above;

5. *Urges* all Member States, as well as international governmental and non-governmental organizations, to support the United Nations Trust Fund for Social Defence and the international and regional institutes in crime prevention and control;

6. *Recommends* that the Secretary-General should draw on the report in formulating proposals for future medium-term plans in crime prevention and criminal justice.

98th plenary meeting
8 December 1977

32/59. Report of the Fifth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

The General Assembly,

Conscious of the seriousness of crime problems, which have assumed new forms and dimensions in many countries of the world and are transcending national boundaries,

Concerned about the high social and material cost which crime exacts and the impediment it presents to a more wholesome development and a better quality of life for all,

Alarmed at the excesses of those crime control policies which, in certain countries, extend to torture and other abuses, negating the basic principles of human rights and of criminal justice itself,

Recalling in this context the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, contained in the annex to its resolution 3452 (XXX) of 9 December 1975,

Recognizing that the various forms of social control for the prevention of crime should take into account differences in traditions, economic and political structures, available resources and levels of development existing among Member States,

Recalling the responsibility assumed by the United Nations in crime prevention under General Assembly resolution 415 (V) of 1 December 1950, which was affirmed in Economic and Social Council resolutions 731 F (XXVIII) of 30 July 1959 and 830 D (XXXII) of 2 August 1961, and in the promotion and strengthening of international co-operation in this field in accordance with Assembly resolution 3021 (XXVII) of 18 December 1972,

Having considered the report of the Fifth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders,¹⁷ held at Geneva from 1 to 12 September 1975, and the recommendations made by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control at its fourth session,¹⁸

¹⁵ Resolution 217 A (III).

¹⁶ E/CN.5/536, annex IV.

¹⁷ A/CONF.56/10 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.2 and corrigendum).

¹⁸ E/CN.5/536, chap. I, sect. B.

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to implement to the fullest extent possible the conclusions of the Fifth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders by:

(a) Transmitting for appropriate action to the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions, as well as to all other United Nations organs and organizations concerned, those conclusions of the Fifth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders that fall within their spheres of competence;

(b) Giving them the widest possible circulation and dissemination and stimulating international efforts to exchange experience and knowledge;

(c) Gathering and disseminating information concerning crime trends and criminal policies, with special emphasis on economic criminality and abuses of economic power that have a detrimental effect on national economies and international trade, and by developing strategies to deal with them;

(d) Providing to Member States, at their request, advice and assistance for the re-evaluation of their criminal justice systems and for reassessment of the purposes as well as the effectiveness of such systems in relation to national and local requirements;

(e) Elaborating guidelines for the development and implementation of policies designed to make criminal justice systems more responsive to current social needs, to ensure the strict observance of fundamental human rights and to promote a more rational, consistent and integrated approach to the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders;

(f) Fostering the exchange among countries of information relating to crime and to the functioning of the criminal justice systems;

2. *Stresses* the need for intensive international and regional co-operation in crime prevention and control, as well as co-ordination, among all the United Nations organs and organizations concerned, especially the United Nations Development Programme, the various regional commissions and institutes and the specialized agencies;

3. *Urges* that technical assistance in crime prevention and control be made available to Governments requesting it, as a matter of urgency, and that high priority be given to the provision of regional and inter-regional technical advisory services and co-operation, particularly in the light of recent directives of the policy-making bodies of the United Nations focusing on regional and intercountry activities and the proved success of this approach to crime prevention;

4. *Invites* Member States to give maximum attention and support to the relevant conclusions of the Fifth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and to provide to the Secretary-General, in time for submission to the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, to be held at Sydney in 1980, information relating to the measures taken in this respect;

5. *Draws the attention* of Member States to the existence of the United Nations Trust Fund for Social Defence, established in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 1086 B (XXXIX) of 30 July 1965, and urges them to contribute to it;

6. *Appeals* to all Member States to support international action for crime prevention, especially through the sharing of costs of international meetings, seminars, workshops and training courses and by acting as hosts to regional research centres;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the information received under paragraph 4 above for submission to the Sixth Congress and to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session;

8. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures for the preparation of the Sixth Congress, *inter alia*, through the commissioning of reports by consultant experts, selected with due regard to equitable geographic representation, and the organization of regional preparatory meetings, pursuant to existing practice, for Africa, Asia and Latin America, to which all Governments of the region may send experts and to which the Secretary-General shall invite consultant experts from the region concerned.

98th plenary meeting
8 December 1977

32/60. Crime prevention and control

The General Assembly,

Noting with concern the increase of crime in many parts of the world,

Conscious that crime in its various forms hampers the economic, social and cultural development of peoples and threatens the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Reaffirming the right of each 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,

Recognizing the importance of co-operation among Member States and the efforts made by the international community in the field of crime prevention and control, as well as the need to co-ordinate the action of United Nations bodies in order to achieve greater effectiveness in this field,

Noting the importance of the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders and the necessity of their thorough preparation,

Recalling its resolution 415 (V) of 1 December 1950 concerning United Nations activities in the field of crime prevention and control, and taking into account the considerable changes which have taken place in the United Nations since that time,

Noting with satisfaction the report of the Secretary-General on crime prevention and control,¹⁹

1. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to consider in a comprehensive manner at its sixty-fourth session the question of crime prevention and control with a view to further co-ordination of the activities of United Nations bodies in this field, in particular the preparation every five years of a United Nations congress on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, the publication of the *International Review of Criminal Policy* and the provision of technical assistance to interested Member States, at their request;

¹⁹ A/32/199.