VI. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Third Committee

in the Protection of Human Rights, organized by the United Nations and held at The Hague from 14 to 25 April 1980.36

Recognizing that a number of Member States already have legal provisions and safeguards which reflect the principles of the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials,

1. Calls upon all States:

(a) To consider favourably the use of the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials within the framework of national legislation and practice or directives governing law enforcement agencies;

(b) To make the text of the Code of Conduct available to all law enforcement officials in their own language;

(c) To instruct, in basic training programmes and in all subsequent training and refresher courses, law enforcement officials in the provisions of the national legislations which are connected with the Code of Conduct and other basic texts on human rights;

2. Invites Governments in all regions of the world to consider measures to promote the application of the Code of Conduct, including the organization of symposia on the role of law enforcement officials in the protection of human rights;

3. Invites the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control to study the application of the Code of Conduct on the basis of the information received from Member States, taking into account the recommendations of the national symposia on the role of law enforcement officials in the protection of human rights, and to include the outcome of its considerations in its regular report to the Economic and Social Council.

96th plenary meeting
15 December 1980


The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the importance to all nations of making rapid progress in the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, in view of the significant increase in crime, including new forms of crime, in various parts of the world,

Considering that the phenomenon of crime, through its impact on society, impairs the over-all development of nations, undermines people’s spiritual and material well-being, compromises human dignity and creates a climate of fear and violence that endangers personal security and erodes the quality of life,

Considering that the international community should make concerted, systematic efforts to co-ordinate and stimulate technical and scientific co-operation and policies directed towards crime prevention in the context of political, economic, social and cultural development,

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

ST/HR/SER.A/6, chap. III.
of international co-operation in this field in accordance with Assembly resolution 3021 (XXVII) of 18 December 1972.

Bearing in mind its resolutions 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969 containing the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974 containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974 containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation and 35/56 of 5 December 1980, the annex to which contains the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,

Recalling its resolutions 32/59 and 32/60 of 8 December 1977, in which it noted the importance of the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders,

Acknowledging the role played by the United Nations through its efforts in crime prevention and the treatment of offenders and the need to strengthen this role, especially at the regional level, in order to make the application of the relevant agreements effective and to ensure that the functioning of the technical advisory and co-ordination services of the United Nations becomes more systematic and efficient,

Having considered the report of the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held at Caracas from 25 August to 5 September 1980,

Emphasizing the importance of the work of the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in crime prevention and the treatment of offenders and stressing the spirit of co-operation and the progress achieved,


2. Endorses the Caracas Declaration contained in that report and adopted by consensus at the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, annexed to the present resolution;

3. Affirms that crime prevention and criminal justice should be considered in the context of economic development, political, social and cultural systems and social values and changes, as well as in the context of a new international economic order;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to provide sufficient resources to ensure that the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat is able to discharge its responsibilities in accordance with its mandate and the recommendations of the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to take such steps as may be appropriate for the necessary strengthening of activities, especially at the regional and subregional levels, taking into account the specific needs of each region, including the establishment of institutes for research, training and technical assistance in those regions that are without such institutes, as well as the strengthening of existing institutes, in order to facilitate international co-operation in the field of crime prevention;

6. Urges the Secretary-General to implement the conclusions concerning the new perspectives for international co-operation in respect of crime prevention adopted by the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders;

7. Calls upon all relevant organizations of the United Nations system to take the necessary measures to ensure a concerted and sustained effort to implement the principles contained in the Caracas Declaration;

8. Invites Governments to make continuous efforts to implement the principles contained in the Caracas Declaration and other relevant resolutions and recommendations, as adopted by the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, in accordance with the economic, social, cultural and political circumstances of each country;

9. Further requests the Secretary-General to circulate the report of the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders among Member States and intergovernmental organizations, in order to ensure that it is disseminated as widely as possible, and to strengthen information activities in this field;

10. Invites the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its thirty-sixth session, a report on the measures taken to implement the present resolution;

11. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-sixth session an item entitled “Crime prevention and criminal justice and development”.

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ANNEX
Caracas Declaration


Bearing in mind the importance to all nations of making rapid progress in the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, in view of the significant increase in crime, including new forms of crime, in various parts of the world,

Considering that the phenomenon of crime, through its impact on society, impairs the over-all development of nations, undermines people’s spiritual and material well-being, compromises human dignity and creates a climate of fear and violence that erodes the quality of life,

Considering that the international community should make concerted, systematic efforts to co-ordinate and stimulate technical and scientific co-operation and policies directed towards crime prevention in the context of social, cultural, political and economic development,

Acknowledging the role played by the United Nations through its efforts at the international level in the field of crime prevention and the treatment of offenders,

Considering that this role should, by common accord, be strengthened at the international level, and especially at the regional level, in order to make the agreements concluded in this field truly effective and to ensure that the functioning of the technical advisory and co-ordination services is more systematic and efficient,

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VI. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Third Committee

35/172. Arbitrary or summary executions

The General Assembly,

Having regard to the provisions bearing on capital punishment in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, particularly its articles 6, 14 and 15,

Recalling its resolution 2393 (XXIII) of 26 November 1968, in which it invited Governments of Member States, inter alia, to ensure the most careful legal procedures and the greatest possible safeguards for the accused in capital cases in countries where the death penalty obtains,

Alarmed at the incidence in different parts of the world of summary executions as well as of arbitrary executions,

Concerned at the occurrence of executions which are widely regarded as being politically motivated,

1. Urges Member States concerned:

(a) To respect as a minimum standard the content of the provisions of articles 6, 14 and 15 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and, where necessary, to review their legal rules and practices so as to guarantee the most careful legal procedures and the greatest possible safeguards for the accused in capital cases;

(b) To examine the possibility of making automatic the appeal procedure, where it exists, in cases of death sentences, as well as the consideration of an amnesty, pardon or commutation in these cases;

(c) To provide that no death sentence shall be carried out until the procedures of appeal and pardon have been terminated and, in any case, not until a reasonable time after the passing of the sentence in the court in the first instance;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to use his best endeavours in cases where the minimum standard of legal safeguards referred to in paragraph 1 above appears not to be respected;

3. Further requests the Secretary-General to seek from Member States, specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and concerned non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council views and observations concerning the problem of arbitrary executions and summary executions, and to report to the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control at its seventh session.

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The General Assembly,

Taking into account the significance and the results of the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held at Caracas from 25 August to 5 September 1980,


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Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.