

and the preparatory meetings for the Congress to consider these questions.

16th plenary meeting  
21 May 1986

**1986/11. Initial review of the functioning and programme of work of the United Nations in crime prevention and criminal justice**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* the responsibility assumed by the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice under Economic and Social Council resolution 155 C (VII) of 13 August 1948 and General Assembly resolution 415 (V) of 1 December 1950, in particular with regard to the convening of the quinquennial United Nations congresses,

*Concerned* at the escalation of crime and violence in many parts of the world, requiring the constant attention of the world community,

*Bearing in mind* the importance of the role of the United Nations in raising the awareness of the international community of crime problems and the urgent need for more effective policies and strategies in crime prevention and criminal justice,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 35/171 of 15 December 1980, in which the Assembly endorsed the Caracas Declaration and urged 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,

*Reiterating* the necessity for the international community to make concerted and systematic efforts to strengthen technical and scientific co-operation in crime prevention and criminal justice and to formulate fair, humane and effective policies directed towards crime control in the context of different political and cultural systems and different stages of economic and social development,

*Stressing* the urgent need to improve regional, inter-regional and international co-operation and co-ordination and to make concerted efforts to combat crime in its multifaceted aspects,

*Recalling* Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/19 of 9 May 1979 on the functions and long-term programme of work of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control,

*Recognizing* the important contributions of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control in elaborating draft instruments, model agreements and guidelines in crime prevention and criminal justice,

*Noting* the continuing increase in the work-load of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, particularly in relation to the mandates approved by the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 40/32 of 29 November 1985, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in his report to the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, to initiate a review, as a matter of urgency, of the functioning and programme of work of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, including the United Nations

regional and interregional institutes, paying special attention to improving the co-ordination of relevant activities within the United Nations in all related areas,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the initial review of the functioning and programme of work of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice;<sup>21</sup>

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of the quinquennial United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, the productive results of which have been widely recognized and endorsed by Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the academic community;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements to ensure the optimal functioning of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, including more active intersessional involvement of the Committee members at the national, regional and inter-regional levels in considering priority questions and preparing recommendations thereon, without additional cost to the United Nations;

4. *Urges* the Secretary-General to look critically at the existing structure and level of management of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, with a view to strengthening its capacity and status commensurate with its responsibilities, including the possibility of providing additional expertise to enable the Branch to respond more effectively to mandates given by the legislative bodies concerning new programme areas, taking into account current budgetary constraints and the need to redeploy resources, as necessary;

5. *Endorses* the recommendations made by the Secretary-General in paragraph 82 of his report,<sup>21</sup> urges the Secretary-General and the entities concerned to initiate the implementation of those recommendations and, in particular, invites the Secretary-General to make all efforts, within the existing resources allocated to the Branch and any extrabudgetary resources that may become available:

(a) To establish, in co-operation with the United Nations institutes and other entities concerned, a global crime and criminal justice information network, with the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch serving as a focal point, including a mechanism for the centralization of inputs from non-governmental organizations and scientific institutions;

(b) To strengthen the critically needed interregional advisory services in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice; to provide technical and regional advisers as well as additional interregional advisers as quickly as budgetary resources permit; and to strengthen the professional capacity of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch to support, follow up and develop technical assistance projects and to co-ordinate the activities of the regional and interregional institutes in this regard;

(c) To ensure the full co-ordination of activities relating to crime prevention and criminal justice in the United Nations system, with a view to maximizing it and avoiding duplication, taking into account the pivotal role played by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/19;

(d) To strengthen public information activities to promote the dissemination of the Milan Plan of Action, the Guiding Principles for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in the Context of Development and a New

<sup>21</sup>E/AC.57/1986/4.

International Economic Order and other international instruments and resolutions adopted by the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders<sup>22</sup> and the General Assembly at its fortieth session;

6. *Requests* the United Nations funding agencies, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, to provide the United Nations institutes with the necessary resources to assist them in carrying out their programmes, and appeals to Governments of the respective regions to contribute generously and systematically to technical co-operation activities undertaken by the institutes;

7. *Appeals* to Governments to contribute financially, through the United Nations Trust Fund for Social Defence, to the development of technical assistance activities and action-oriented research and training, particularly in the developing countries;

8. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the steps taken towards the establishment of an African institute for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, urges the Secretary-General and all organizations and agencies involved in this project to take further steps to ensure its prompt creation, if possible before the end of 1986, and appeals to Governments in that region to co-operate fully in this respect and to promote the establishment of regional institutes in regions where they do not yet exist;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Committee at its tenth session and to the General Assembly at its forty-third session, taking into account the views of the Committee and containing specific proposals on the implementation of the present resolution.

*16th plenary meeting  
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#### **1986/12. Crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of development**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Having considered* the report of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control concerning crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of development,<sup>23</sup>

*Recalling* its resolution 1984/48 of 25 May 1984 on crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of development,

*Taking into account* resolution 9, on the development of crime and criminal justice information and statistical systems, adopted by the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders,<sup>24</sup>

*Emphasizing again* the importance of the collection and analysis of crime-related data at the national and international levels as a basis for informed decision-making with regard to crime prevention and the effective and fair administration of justice,

*Noting with appreciation* the progress made by the Secretary-General in the establishment of a United Nations crime-related data base,

<sup>22</sup>See *Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders*, Milan, 26 August-6 September 1985: report prepared by the Secretariat (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IV.1), chap. I.

<sup>23</sup>*Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1986, Supplement No. 5 (E/1986/25)*, chap. VI.

<sup>24</sup>See *Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders*, Milan, 26 August-6 September 1985: report prepared by the Secretariat (United Nations publication, Sales No. E/86.IV.1), chap. I, sect. F.

*Recognizing* the need to increase the response rate of Member States to the periodical surveys of crime-related data in order to broaden the understanding of crime and its prevention as well as the operations of criminal justice systems throughout the world,

1. *Recommends* that the questionnaire for the next United Nations Survey of Crime Trends, Operations of Criminal Justice Systems and Crime Prevention Strategies should be abbreviated and simplified, to the extent practicable without materially reducing its scope and utility, so as to increase the response rate from Member States;

2. *Invites* the United Nations regional institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders to encourage and assist Member States in their regions in completing the next Survey and to render such assistance as requested by the Secretariat in the analysis and publication of the data, within existing resources;

3. *Recommends further* that the work of the next Survey should include the collection and analysis of data and of information and recommendations concerning the national use of information systems in crime prevention and the administration of justice in Member States;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen, as far as possible within existing resources, the capacity of the Secretariat to collect and analyse action-oriented recommendations on crime prevention and the administration of criminal justice, as well as crime data.

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#### **1986/13. Co-ordination and information in the field of youth**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 1979/27 of 9 May 1979, 1980/25 of 2 May 1980, 1981/25 of 6 May 1981, 1982/28 of 4 May 1982, 1983/26 of 26 May 1983, 1984/44 of 25 May 1984 and 1985/30 of 29 May 1985,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolutions 34/151 of 17 December 1979, 36/28 of 13 November 1981, 37/48 of 3 December 1982, 38/22 of 22 November 1983, 39/22 of 23 November 1984 and resolution 40/14 of 18 November 1985, adopted by the General Assembly, acting as United Nations World Conference for the International Youth Year,

*Considering* it necessary to disseminate among young people the ideals of peace, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, human solidarity and dedication to the objectives of progress and development,

*Welcoming* the results achieved in the process of preparing for and observing the International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace at the local, national, regional and international levels,

*Convinced* that the timely and significant impetus generated by the activities of the International Youth Year should be maintained and reinforced with appropriate actions for the implementation of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth<sup>25</sup> endorsed by the General Assembly acting as the United Nations World Conference for the International Youth Year,

1. *Takes note* of the conclusions contained in the report of the Secretary-General on co-ordination and information in the field of youth;<sup>26</sup>

2. *Calls upon* all United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, regional commissions, intergovernmental and

<sup>25</sup>A/40/256, annex, sect. III.

<sup>26</sup>E/1986/41