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 135 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, interregional 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;

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 interregional 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 as 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, 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


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 institutions;

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
21 May 1986

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;

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;

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,

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.

16th plenary meeting
21 May 1986

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

The Economic and Social Council,


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, 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;

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