

crime prevention, criminal justice and the treatment of offenders and victims, held at Milan, Italy, in November and December 1987,

1. *Recommends* that the Secretary-General consider, subject to the provision of extrabudgetary funds and consideration by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, the preparation, publication and dissemination of a guide for criminal justice practitioners and others engaged in similar activities, taking into account the work already done on the subject;

2. *Also recommends* that Member States take the necessary steps to give effect to the provisions contained in the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power, through:

(a) The adoption and implementation of the provisions contained in the Declaration in their national justice systems in accordance with their constitutional process and domestic practice;

(b) The introduction of legislation to simplify access by victims to the justice system in order to obtain compensation and restitution;

(c) The examination of methods of assisting victims, including adequate redress for the actual harm or damage inflicted, identifying limitations and exploring ways by which these may be overcome, to ensure that they meet effectively the needs of victims;

(d) The establishment of measures to protect victims from abuse, calumny or intimidation in the course or as a result of any criminal or other proceedings related to the crime, including effective remedies, should such abuses occur;

3. *Further recommends* that Member States, in collaboration with relevant services, agencies and organizations, endeavour:

(a) To encourage the provision of assistance and support services to victims of crime, with due regard to different social, cultural and legal systems, taking into account the experience of different models and methods of service delivery and the current state of knowledge concerning victimization, including its emotional impact, and the consequent need for service organizations to extend offers of assistance to victims;

(b) To develop suitable training for all who provide services to victims to enable them to develop the skills and understanding needed to help victims cope with the emotional impact of crime and overcome bias, where it may exist, and to provide factual information;

(c) To establish effective channels of communication between all those who are involved with victims, organize courses and meetings and disseminate information to enable them to prevent further victimization as a result of the workings of the system;

(d) To ensure that victims are kept informed of their rights and opportunities with respect to redress from the offender, from third parties or from the State, as well as of the progress of the relevant criminal proceedings and of any opportunities that may be involved;

(e) Where informal mechanisms for the resolution of disputes exist, or have been newly introduced, to ensure, if possible and with due consideration to established legal principles, that the wishes and sensibilities of victims are fully taken into consideration and that the outcome is at least as beneficial for

the victims as would have been the case if the formal system had been used;

(f) To establish a monitoring and research programme to keep the needs of victims and the effectiveness of services provided to them under constant review; such a programme might include the organization of regular meetings and conferences of representatives of relevant sectors of the criminal justice system and other bodies concerned with the needs of victims, in order to examine the extent to which existing law, practice and victim services are responsive to the needs of victims;

(g) To undertake studies to identify the needs of victims in cases of unreported crime and make the appropriate services available to them;

4. *Recommends* that, at the national, regional and international levels, all appropriate steps be taken to develop international co-operation in criminal matters, *inter alia*, to ensure that those who suffer victimization in another State receive effective help, both immediately following the crime and on their return to their own country of residence or nationality, in protecting their interests and obtaining adequate restitution or compensation and support services, as necessary;

5. *Recognizes* the need to work out in greater detail part B of the Declaration and to develop international means for preventing the abuse of power and for providing redress for victims of such abuse where national channels may be insufficient, and recommends that appropriate steps be taken to this effect;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to organize, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary funds, a meeting of experts to formulate specific proposals for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 40/34 and the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and the Abuse of Power, in so far as those documents apply to the abuse of power, in time for the proposals to be submitted to the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control at its eleventh session and for consideration by the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

*15th plenary meeting
24 May 1989*

1989/58. United Nations network of government-appointed national correspondents in the field of crime prevention and control

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 415 (V) of 1 December 1950, by which the Assembly established a system of national correspondents appointed by Governments to co-operate with the Secretariat in all matters concerning crime prevention and control,

Reaffirming also its resolution 357 (XII) of 13 March 1951, in which it emphasized that the appointment of national correspondents should be made on the basis of their expert qualifications or experience, professional or scientific, in the field of crime prevention and control,

Recognizing the important role of national correspondents, the valuable contributions they have made and the work they have accomplished in the promotion and implementation of the United Nations programme of work in the field of crime prevention and control, including that of the United

Nations institutes, the United Nations quinquennial congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, and the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control,

Recognizing also the role the network has played in achieving a consensus and promoting co-operation, at the regional, interregional and international levels, on questions of criminal policy.

Bearing in mind the various legislative directives which have, over the years, called upon the national correspondent network to undertake an increasing number of activities of a technical and scientific nature, such as the conducting of research, participation in the implementation of major regional and global surveys, preparation of analytical reports on developments in crime and juvenile delinquency and criminal justice operations,

Also bearing in mind the fact that the role, functions and contributions of the network have substantially increased over the years, both in level and scope,

Taking into account the recommendations of the first general meeting of national correspondents, held on the occasion of the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders,

1. *Expresses satisfaction* with the work and efforts of the Secretariat in bringing about an expansion of the national correspondents network to cover nearly all countries of the world;

2. *Invites* those Member States that have not yet done so to appoint one or more national correspondents and to inform the Secretary-General accordingly;

3. *Also invites* Member States:

(a) To appoint national correspondents from among experts, practitioners and policy makers in the field of crime prevention and control, and when appointing more than one national correspondent, to designate a chief national correspondent as national co-ordinator, as is already the case in numerous countries;

(b) To facilitate and support the work of national correspondents, recognizing their role and functions and according appropriate official status at the national level, thus promoting more effective collaboration with the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and control;

(c) To enhance the representation and involvement of national correspondents in technical meetings of the United Nations by, *inter alia*, including them in governmental delegations to United Nations quinquennial congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders and relevant preparatory meetings;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make every effort to strengthen the functional capacity of the network and to co-ordinate and mobilize it by, *inter alia*:

(a) Fostering more systematic involvement in the United Nations programme of work;

(b) Ensuring a more effective flow of information and closer collaboration;

(c) Taking more fully into account the views of national correspondents on key questions of criminal policy to ensure their reflection in the work of the United Nations, facilitating consensus building, and

ensuring that the programme of work responds to the technical needs and problems of various regions;

(d) Convening general meetings of national correspondents attending United Nations quinquennial congresses;

(e) Exploring ways and means of establishing strong, permanent, ongoing links between the network and the United Nations Secretariat, the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, the United Nations Development Programme and United Nations institutes, as well as justice agencies, scientific institutions and other organizations world wide;

(f) Continuing to publish, at regular intervals, information circulars to keep national correspondents abreast of developments in the work programme of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and control;

(g) Encouraging the organization of international advisory groups and meetings of national correspondents, to review, in particular, the implementation of relevant resolutions;

5. *Requests* the United Nations Development Programme to provide liaison services between national correspondents and the Secretariat;

6. *Requests* the United Nations institutes to involve national correspondents more fully in their activities;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control at its eleventh session;

8. *Recommends* that the Secretary-General transmit the present resolution to the Governments of Member States.

15th plenary meeting
24 May 1989

1989/59. African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1984/51 of 25 May 1984, by which it urged the Secretary-General and all the organizations and agencies involved in the establishment of the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders to take steps to ensure its prompt creation and appealed to Governments in the African region to co-operate fully and act expeditiously in this respect,

Affirming the usefulness of regional co-operation in crime prevention and criminal justice as fostered by the United Nations regional and interregional institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, which have played pivotal roles in assisting the Member States of their respective regions,

Bearing in mind that the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa, by its resolution 642 (XXIII) of 15 April 1988,⁹⁴ adopted the statute of the Institute and decided that its headquarters should be located at Kampala,

Acknowledging with satisfaction the activities so far undertaken during the initial phase of the operation of the Institute and the efforts made by the Economic Commission for Africa, in co-operation with the Organization of African Unity and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre

⁹⁴See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1988, Supplement No. 13 (E/1988/37), chap. IV.*