

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to convene a meeting, during the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, to consider the revision of the survey questionnaire, and invites Governments to include in their national delegations persons suited to that task;

7. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, in particular through the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and the Statistical Office, and in co-operation with the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the Secretariat, to provide assistance to the regional institutes so that training programmes may be organized for criminal justice statisticians and others involved in the preparation of the replies to the surveys with a view to increasing the rate of response;

8. *Decides* that the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control should review the results of the periodic surveys with a view to including them in regular United Nations technical publications on the state of crime and justice in the world.

*13th plenary meeting  
24 May 1990*

#### 1990/19. Technical co-operation in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Considering* that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as proclaimed in the Charter, is to achieve international co-operation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

*Convinced* that, within the framework of development, crime prevention and criminal justice should be guided by respect for the principles proclaimed in the Caracas Declaration<sup>28</sup> and the Milan Plan of Action,<sup>29</sup> the Guiding Principles for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in the Context of Development and a New International Economic Order,<sup>30</sup> and other pertinent instruments adopted by the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders,

*Convinced also* that concerted efforts in all areas will lead to the practical application of these principles, with full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Considering* that the deteriorating socio-economic situation in some countries demands the aid of the international community, in all areas, within the framework of freely concluded bilateral or multilateral conventions,

*Emphasizing* the usefulness of regional and interregional co-operation in crime prevention and criminal

justice, as fostered by the United Nations regional and interregional institutes and other such organizations that work closely with the United Nations,

*Noting with satisfaction* the statutory establishment of the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, and reaffirming the vital role the Institute is called upon to play in assisting the African region in the formulation and implementation of appropriate crime prevention and criminal justice policies and programmes,

*Acknowledging* the economic constraints on the States members of the African region to meet their financial obligations to the Institute to enable it to start operations and to implement its mandate,

*Aware* of the conditions attached to funding by the United Nations Development Programme, which would limit the staffing, administrative and operational capabilities of the Institute,

*Convinced* that the viability of the Institute requires adequate funding on a predictable, assured and continuous basis,

1. *Recommends* that the international community, working through bilateral or multilateral arrangements, provide Member States, at their request, with necessary assistance, in order to contribute to the establishment of the infrastructure required for crime prevention and criminal justice;

2. *Invites* Member States to increase their co-operation in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice by expanding their operational activities in this area;

3. *Urges* the United Nations Development Programme to provide adequate funding for the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders on a predictable, assured and continuous basis, for a minimum of six years, subject to biennial evaluation of performance of the Institute by its Board and the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control;

4. *Urges* Governments to provide supplementary financial and technical support so as to enable the United Nations to help developing countries in their efforts to identify, analyse, follow up and evaluate crime trends, to formulate crime prevention and control strategies that are effective and in harmony with their national development plans, priorities and objectives, and to implement criminal justice policies with a view to ensuring respect for United Nations principles and standards in this area;

5. *Invites* Member States to include crime prevention and criminal justice policies in their planning process, particularly when formulating national development plans, so as to reduce the human, social and economic costs associated with criminality and delinquency, and to allocate sufficient funds to the activities of the criminal justice system, paying appropriate attention to research and training;

6. *Urges* the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat and other financial organizations to continue to provide financial support and assistance within their programme of technical co-operation activities;

<sup>28</sup> General Assembly resolution 35/171, annex.

<sup>29</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. A.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*, sect. B.

7. Requests the Secretary-General to inform the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control at its twelfth session of the measures taken by the Member States to achieve the objectives of the present resolution.

13th plenary meeting  
24 May 1990

## 1990/20. Prison education

### *The Economic and Social Council,*

*Affirming* the right of everyone to education, as enshrined in article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>31</sup> and in articles 13 to 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>32</sup>

*Recalling* rule 77 of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners,<sup>33</sup> which states, *inter alia*, that provision shall be made for the further education of all prisoners capable of profiting thereby, that the education of illiterates and young prisoners shall be compulsory and that the education of prisoners shall be integrated with the educational system of the country so far as practicable,

*Recalling also* rule 22.1 of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (The Beijing Rules),<sup>34</sup> which states that professional education, in-service training, refresher courses and other appropriate modes of instruction shall be utilized to establish and maintain the necessary professional competence of all personnel dealing with juvenile cases, and rule 26, which stresses the role of education and vocational training for all juveniles in custody,

*Bearing in mind* the long-standing concern of the United Nations about the humanization of criminal justice and the protection of human rights and about the importance of education in the development of the individual and the community,

*Bearing in mind also* that human dignity is an inherent, inviolable quality of every human being and a precondition for education aiming at the development of the whole person,

*Bearing in mind further* that 1990, the year in which the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders is to be held, is also International Literacy Year,<sup>35</sup> the objectives of which are directly relevant to the individual needs of prisoners,

*Noting with appreciation* the significant efforts made by the United Nations, in preparing for the Eighth Congress, to give more recognition to prison education,<sup>36</sup>

1. *Recommends* that Member States, appropriate institutions, educational counselling services and other

organizations should promote prison education, *inter alia*, by:

(a) Providing penal institutions with educators and accompanying services and raising the educational level of prison personnel;

(b) Developing professional selection procedures and staff training and supplying the necessary resources and equipment;

(c) Encouraging the provision and expansion of educational programmes for offenders in and outside prisons;

(d) Developing education suitable to the needs and abilities of prisoners and in conformity with the demands of society;

2. *Also recommends* that Member States should:

(a) Provide various types of education that would contribute significantly to crime prevention, resocialization of prisoners and reduction of recidivism, such as literacy education, vocational training, continuing education for updating knowledge, higher education and other programmes that promote the human development of prisoners;

(b) Consider the increased use of alternatives to imprisonment and measures for the social resettlement of prisoners with a view to facilitating their education and reintegration into society;

3. *Further recommends* that Member States, in developing educational policies, should take into account the following principles:

(a) Education in prison should aim at developing the whole person, bearing in mind the prisoner's social, economic and cultural background;

(b) All prisoners should have access to education, including literacy programmes, basic education, vocational training, creative, religious and cultural activities, physical education and sports, social education, higher education and library facilities;

(c) Every effort should be made to encourage prisoners to participate actively in all aspects of education;

(d) All those involved in prison administration and management should facilitate and support education as much as possible;

(e) Education should be an essential element in the prison régime; disincentives to prisoners who participate in approved formal educational programmes should be avoided;

(f) Vocational education should aim at the greater development of the individual and be sensitive to trends in the labour market;

(g) Creative and cultural activities should be given a significant role since they have a special potential for enabling prisoners to develop and express themselves;

(h) Wherever possible, prisoners should be allowed to participate in education outside the prison;

(i) Where education has to take place within the prison, the outside community should be involved as fully as possible;

(j) The necessary funds, equipment and teaching staff should be made available to enable prisoners to receive appropriate education;

<sup>31</sup> General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>32</sup> See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>33</sup> See *Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.88.XIV.1), sect. G.

<sup>34</sup> General Assembly resolution 40/33, annex.

<sup>35</sup> See General Assembly resolution 42/104.

<sup>36</sup> See A/CONF.144/IPM.4 and 5 and Corr.1 and A/CONF.144/RPM.1 and Corr.1, 3 and Corr.1 and 2, 4 and Corr.1 and 5 and Corr.1.