

Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the Secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and other relevant entities, with a view to ensuring adequate resources for technical co-operation activities in crime prevention and criminal justice. Interested Governments should give priority to the inclusion of crime prevention and criminal justice projects in the national and regional programmes proposed for the support of the United Nations Development Programme.

28. In order to fully implement the mandates emerging from the crime prevention and criminal justice programme and to provide additional technical and scientific expertise and resources for matters of international co-operation in this field, broader involvement of, and assistance by, non-governmental organizations are required.

29. Governments and other funding agencies should contribute to the United Nations Trust Fund for Social Defence in order to enable the United Nations to implement, in an adequate and effective manner, programmes of technical and scientific co-operation in this field.

45/108. Review of the functioning and programme of work of the United Nations in crime prevention and criminal justice

The General Assembly,

Aware of the responsibility assumed by the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 155 C (VII) of 13 August 1948 and General Assembly resolution 415 (V) of 1 December 1950,

Recalling its resolutions 40/32 of 29 November 1985, 41/107 of 4 December 1986, 42/59 of 30 November 1987, 43/99 of 8 December 1988 and 44/72 of 8 December 1989 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1986/11 of 21 May 1986, 1987/53 of 28 May 1987, 1988/44 of 27 May 1988 and 1989/68 of 24 May 1989, and taking note of Council resolution 1990/27 of 24 May 1990,

Recognizing the increasingly transnational character and dimensions of crime and also recognizing that the new, organized and sophisticated forms of crime call for concerted international action,

Alarmed by the high human and material costs of crime and aware that its consequences involve a substantial drain on the economies of Member States, and loss and damage to the victims of crime,

Convinced of the urgent need for more effective and responsive international mechanisms to assist countries and facilitate joint strategies in areas of mutual concern,

Noting that the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, in its resolution 10/1 of 31 August 1988,⁷² requested its Chairman to appoint a sub-committee to provide an overview of the magnitude of the problem of crime in its economic, criminological, social and juridical aspects, to assess the most efficient means of stimulating practical international action in support of Member States and, in particular, the role of the United Nations in that regard, and to make recommendations to the Committee, at its eleventh session, concerning the most effective mechanisms for the implementation of the conclusions of the overview, and noting that a report on these matters was prepared by the sub-committee appointed by the Chairman, which was considered, reviewed, revised and approved by the Committee

by its resolution 11/3 of 16 February 1990,⁷³ at its eleventh session,

Noting also that the General Assembly, in its resolution 44/72, invited the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, at its eleventh session, to give priority attention to the conclusions and recommendations of its sub-committee and to consider appropriate follow-up thereto by the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control entitled "The need for the creation of an effective international crime and justice programme"⁷⁴ and noting the endorsement of the report by the Eighth Congress, as well as the deliberations of the Congress thereon,⁷⁵

1. *Decides* to establish an intergovernmental working group, which, on the basis of the report of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control entitled "The need for the creation of an effective international crime and justice programme", would produce a report elaborating proposals for an effective crime prevention and criminal justice programme and suggesting how that programme could most appropriately be implemented, and, accordingly, requests the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with the chairmen of the regional groups, to appoint no more than thirty Member States on the basis of the principle of equitable geographical distribution to constitute the membership of the working group;

2. *Invites* Member States, in consultation with the Secretary-General and the Chairman of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, to convene an early ministerial meeting:

(a) To consider the report of the intergovernmental working group in order to decide what the future crime prevention and criminal justice programme should be;

(b) To consider, in this context, the possible need for a convention or other international instrument to develop the content, structure and dynamics of that programme, including mechanisms for setting priorities, securing the implementation of the programme and monitoring the results achieved;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in preparation for the ministerial meeting, to assess the possible implications of the programme proposed by the intergovernmental working group for the resources and organization of the Secretariat and to report thereon to the ministerial meeting and to the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all practical measures to ensure rapid implementation of General Assembly resolutions 42/59 and 44/72 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1986/11, 1987/53, 1989/68 and 1990/27, in so far as they relate to the strengthening and upgrading of the status of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, taking into account the demands on the Branch that will be created by the preparations for the meeting of the intergovernmental working group and the ministerial meeting and by the current and expected

⁷² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1988, Supplement No. 10 (E/1988/20)*, chap. I, sect. C.

⁷³ *Ibid.*, 1990, Supplement No. 10 (E/1990/31), chap. I, sect. D.

⁷⁴ E/1990/31/Add.1.

⁷⁵ See A/CONF.144/28, chap. IV.

programme, including the conclusions and recommendations of the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders;

5. *Invites* Member States to provide active support and assistance for the development of an effective international crime prevention and criminal justice programme and of viable mechanisms for implementing it;

6. *Decides* that the conclusions and recommendations of the ministerial meeting should be brought to the attention of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Crime prevention and criminal justice", for appropriate action.

68th plenary meeting
14 December 1990

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Pursuant to paragraph 1 of the above resolution, the President of the General Assembly subsequently informed the Secretary-General⁶⁶ that, in consultation with the chairmen of the regional groups, he had appointed twenty-nine Member States to constitute the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme.

Accordingly, the Working Group is composed of the following Member States: ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, BURKINA FASO, CHINA, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, CUBA, EGYPT, FRANCE, GERMANY, GHANA, INDIA, INDONESIA, JAPAN, LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA, MALAYSIA, MALAWI, NICARAGUA, NIGERIA, PHILIPPINES, POLAND, SUDAN, SWEDEN, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, UGANDA, UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS, UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and YUGOSLAVIA.

45/109. Computerization of criminal justice

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/72 of 8 December 1989, in which the question of computerization of criminal justice was addressed,

Recalling also resolution 9 of the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders⁷⁷ on the development of crime and criminal justice information and statistical systems,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 1986/12 of 21 May 1986,

Bearing in mind the recommendations on the computerization of criminal justice administration contained in the report of the Interregional Preparatory Meeting for the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders on topic II, "Criminal justice policies in relation to problems of imprisonment, other penal sanctions and alternative measures",⁷⁸ which emanated from the European Seminar on Computerization of Criminal Jus-

Information Systems: Realities, Methods, Prospects and Effects, held at Popowo, Poland, from 18 to 22 May 1987,

Aware that crime poses a serious problem for the personal security of individuals and for their enjoyment of human rights, thereby adversely affecting the quality of life and harming the development process,

Aware also that inefficiencies, inequalities or failures in the administration of criminal justice may themselves infringe on the rights and personal security of individuals,

Recognizing that the computerization of criminal justice administration is an important mechanism for the promotion of the efficient and humane management of criminal justice as long as the protection of privacy, the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are taken into account,

Taking note with appreciation of the principles on the storage, use and protection of data enunciated in the final report of the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on guidelines for the regulation of computerized personal data files,⁴⁰

Recognizing that computerization of criminal justice is an important mechanism for the production of statistical information that would benefit national Governments and the international community by providing data on crime trends and the operation of criminal justice systems,

Recognizing also that the growth of crime nationally and internationally calls for enhanced international co-operation,

Noting that the European Seminar and the first United Nations workshop on the computerization of criminal justice information organized within the framework of the Eighth Congress offered a suitable opportunity to share experiences and establish viable policy options on this issue,

Conscious that the promotion of the computerization of criminal justice administration among Member States requires the enhancement of technical co-operation activities,

Emphasizing the common problems faced by all Member States in the administration and computerization of criminal justice, and the fact that both developing and developed countries may, through an enhanced capacity for an exchange of information on an international level, benefit from such international co-operation in the process of computerization,

Mindful that technical co-operation requires extensive expertise and resources and new logistical arrangements for the speedy delivery of services relating to the computerization of criminal justice administration,

Noting with appreciation the draft directory of automated criminal justice information systems submitted by the Helsinki Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations, to the first United Nations workshop on the computerization of criminal justice information,

1. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, to the extent that the activities referred to in the present resolution cannot be undertaken within existing resources and with available expertise, to prepare proposals for sub-

⁶⁶ A/45/973 and Add.1.

⁷⁷ 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. E.

⁷⁸ See A/CONF.144/IPM.4.