

1994/18. United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 46/152 of 18 December 1991 on the creation of an effective United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 48/103 of 20 December 1993 on crime prevention and criminal justice and 48/137 of 20 December 1993 on human rights in the administration of justice,

Recalling also section VII of its resolution 1992/22 of 30 July 1992, in which it decided that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice should include in its agenda a standing item on existing United Nations standards and norms in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice,

Recalling further section III of its resolution 1993/34 of 27 July 1993, in which it requested the Commission to establish, at its third session, an open-ended in-session working group,

Acknowledging with appreciation the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, which emphasized the importance of providing assistance for strengthening the rule of law and the administration of justice,⁴⁵

Taking note of the conclusions and recommendations of the Meeting of Experts for the Evaluation of Implementation of United Nations Norms and Guidelines in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held at Vienna from 14 to 16 October 1991,⁴⁷

1. *Reaffirms* the important contribution that the use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime

⁴⁵ See E/CN.15/1994/11.

⁴⁶ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III, sect. II, para. 67.

⁴⁷ See E/CN.15/1992/4/Add.4.

prevention and criminal justice make to criminal justice systems;

2. *Stresses* the need for further coordination and concerted action in translating into practice United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice;

3. *Invites* Member States to ensure the widest possible dissemination of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice;

4. *Also invites* Member States to strengthen the human and financial resources available to the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Secretariat by, for example, contributing to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund in order to enable the Branch better to assist States in conducting seminars, workshops, training programmes and other activities for promoting the use and application of standards and norms;

5. *Endorses* the questionnaires⁴⁸ on the following United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its third session:

(a) The Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners;⁴⁴

(b) The Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials,⁴⁴ together with the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials;³³

(c) The Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power;⁴⁴

(d) The Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary;⁴⁴

6. *Invites* Member States to reply to those questionnaires;

7. *Also invites* Member States, in replying to the questionnaires to provide their views and comments for an evaluation of the questionnaires;

8. *Expresses its appreciation* of the most valuable support of the Governments of China, France, the Russian Federation, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the publication of the *Compendium of United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*,⁴⁹ currently available in English only, in the other official languages of the United Nations;

9. *Requests* the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to continue to give special attention to the use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice;

10. *Also requests* the Commission to continue its consideration of the question at its fourth session by having the open-ended in-session working group discuss, *inter alia*, the role of the United Nations in promoting the use and application of standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice;

11. *Emphasizes* the importance of cooperation in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice with the

interregional and regional institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders and with intergovernmental organizations in that field;

12. *Reaffirms* the important role of non-governmental organizations in contributing to the effective use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice;

13. *Invites* the Coordinator of the International Year of the Family to report to the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders on activities related to crime prevention and criminal justice undertaken in observance of the Year;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to promote the use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice as an important contribution to effective criminal justice systems:

(a) Through advisory services and the technical cooperation programme, including training programmes and fellowships, with a view to strengthening further joint activities, including those with other United Nations entities, institutes and non-governmental organizations;

(b) By providing assistance to Member States, especially those in transition, in reforming their law enforcement, judicial and penal systems;

(c) By continuing cooperative training courses in order to assist Member States, at their request, with the use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, especially by organizing seminars for the training of trainers;

(d) By continuing the development of manuals and other forms of guidance for law enforcement officials and criminal justice personnel on the use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice;

(e) By continuing to coordinate the activities of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch and the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat and other relevant United Nations entities related to the use and application of standards and norms so as to heighten their efficacy and avoid overlapping in the implementation of their programmes;

(f) By ensuring the participation of members of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch in the discussion of the relevant issues by the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities;

15. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its fifth session, in 1996, a report on the replies to the questionnaires on the use and application of the United Nations standards and norms listed in paragraph 5 above;

16. *Further requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To ensure the widest possible dissemination, within existing resources, of the *Compendium of United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*;

⁴⁸ E/CN.15/1994/CRP.5-8.

⁴⁹ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.92.IV.1 and corrigendum.

(b) To publish *Strategies for Confronting Domestic Violence: A Resource Manual*,⁵⁰ which is currently available in English only, in the other five official languages of the United Nations, subject to the availability of budgetary or extrabudgetary funds.

*43rd plenary meeting
25 July 1994*