

1995/12. Establishment of a clearing-house for international projects in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 46/152 of 18 December 1991, in which the Assembly decided that the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme should be devoted to providing States with practical assistance to achieve the goals of preventing crime and improving the response to crime,

Recalling also its resolution 1994/22 of 25 July 1994, in which it requested the Secretary-General to establish a database on technical assistance, integrating needs of Member States, particularly developing countries, as well as on existing collaborative arrangements and funding, taking into account regional concerns,

Recognizing the need for maximum efficiency and effective utilization of increasingly scarce developmental assistance at a time of growing difficulties in the prevention and control of crime,

Recognizing also that improving the clearing-house capacity of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme requires a steady and concerted effort on the part of Member States and other entities including institutes cooperating within the programme to work more closely and effectively in advancing the electronic exchange of information, the computerization of the administration of criminal justice, and the collection and dissemination of crime and justice information,

Recognizing further that the improvement of the clearing-house capacity of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme requires continuous efforts to create and maintain databases on current crime and justice developments globally, regionally and subregionally, the information from which should be made available through the computerized United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network, as part of a broader clearing-house function carried out by that programme,

Conscious that the present capacity of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Secretariat lags behind the growing need to provide timely information at the request of Member States and other interested parties, and that the management of the databases listed in the programme budget for the Branch requires a coordinated effort on the part of those parties,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on proposals for improving the clearing-house capacity of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme,³⁸ prepared in response to resolution 3/3 of 5 May 1994 of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,³⁹

Noting that, in recent years, many international projects on crime prevention and criminal justice have targeted States in Central and Eastern Europe,

Fully aware that international cooperation is essential to successful efforts against international criminal activity,

Recognizing that there is no existing central repository with information on planned, ongoing or projected training and other projects in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on proposals for improving the clearing-house capacity of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, which consolidate the approach to relevant crime and justice information activities that should be further intensified and made operational,

Taking note also of the initiatives taken by the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations, in the areas to which the present resolution refers,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary funds, to initiate a project to establish a regional database on international training and technical assistance projects in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice which, upon completion, would provide interested Governments, international organizations and other entities with information on concluded, ongoing or planned international projects in consultation and cooperation with the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations, which has offered to manage the database;

2. *Invites* all Member States, international organizations and other entities engaged in collaborative training and technical assistance projects in Central and Eastern Europe in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice to provide, to the extent of their ability, information to the Secretary-General for a regional clearing-house to facilitate the exchange of information to assist policy makers in all Member States in better allocating resources, identifying potential partners in cooperative projects and opportunities for collaborative action and improving support for an incremental approach to better prevent crime and ensure criminal justice, on the understanding that all information provided to the database may be restricted at the request of the provider;

3. *Takes note* of the form for providing information on technical assistance in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, contained in annex II to the report of the Secretary-General on the technical cooperation and advisory services of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme;⁴⁰

4. *Recommends* that the Secretary-General should view the project as a pilot project aimed at demonstrating the utility of a regional database on crime prevention and criminal justice, with a view to considering additional regional databases or a global database;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit the results of the pilot project to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its fifth session.

*49th plenary meeting
24 July 1995*