

1996/13. Administration of juvenile justice

The Economic and Social Council,

Aware of the specific situation of children and juveniles, in particular when deprived of their liberty, and concerned about the extent to which they are used as instruments in criminal activities,

Emphasizing the importance of coordinating the activities in the field of the administration of justice carried out under the responsibility of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice with those carried out under the responsibility of the Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling resolution 7 of 7 May 1995 of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, on children as victims and perpetrators of crime and the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme: from standard setting towards implementation and action,⁴⁶ and Council resolution 1995/27 of 24 July 1995,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 50/181 of 22 December 1995 on human rights in the administration of justice,

Recalling further Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/32 of 19 April 1996 on human rights in the administration of justice, in particular of children and juveniles in detention,³⁹

Noting that the Committee on the Rights of the Child attaches particular importance to the question of the administration of juvenile justice and that it includes in its conclusions on reports of States parties concrete recommendations concerning the provisions of advisory services and technical cooperation in this field,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on children as victims and perpetrators of crime,⁴⁷

1. *Welcomes* the progress made with regard to elaborating a programme of action to promote the effective use and application of international standards and norms in juvenile justice;

2. *Recognizes* the need to further strengthen international cooperation and practical technical assistance in the field of juvenile justice;

3. *Calls upon* Governments once again to make effective use and application of international standards in the administration of justice and, to that end, to provide for effective legislative and other mechanisms and procedures;

4. *Encourages* States to make use of technical assistance offered by the United Nations programmes of advisory services and technical assistance in order to strengthen national capacities and infrastructure in the field of the administration of justice;

5. *Calls upon* Governments to include in their national development plans the administration of justice as an integral part of the development process and, to that end, to allocate adequate resources for improving the administration of juvenile justice, as well as to make use of technical assistance offered, at their request, by the United Nations programmes of technical cooperation in this field;

6. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as relevant United Nations bodies and programmes, to consider favourably requests by States for assistance in the field of the administration of justice;

7. *Invites* the Secretary-General, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank, as well as other international and regional organizations and non-governmental organizations, to place emphasis on technical assistance projects in the field of juvenile justice;

8. *Also invites* the Secretary-General to strengthen system-wide coordination of technical assistance projects in the field of juvenile delinquency prevention and the establishment or improvement of juvenile justice systems;

9. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to pay special attention to the subject of juvenile justice and, in close cooperation with the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division of the Secretariat, the United Nations Children's Fund and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, to develop strategies to ensure effective coordination of technical cooperation programmes in the field of juvenile justice;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to organize, in cooperation with the Government of Austria, a meeting of an expert group on the elaboration of a programme of action to promote the effective use and application of international standards and norms in juvenile justice, using extrabudgetary resources made available by the Government expressly for that purpose;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

12. *Decides* that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its sixth session should consider the draft programme of action on juvenile justice.

*45th plenary meeting
23 July 1996*