

1996/16. United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming the importance of United Nations standards, norms and guidelines in crime prevention and criminal justice,

Stressing the need for further coordination and concerted action in translating those standards and norms into practice,

Recalling its resolution 1993/34 of 27 July 1993, in section III of which it requested the Secretary-General to commence a process of information-gathering to be undertaken by means of surveys, such as reporting systems, and contributions from other sources, including inter-governmental as well as non-governmental organizations and institutes,

Recalling also its resolution 1994/18 of 25 July 1994,

Recalling further its resolution 1995/13 of 24 July 1995, in which it requested the Secretary-General to develop questionnaires on the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules),⁵⁸ the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (the Riyadh Guidelines)⁵⁹ and the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty,⁶⁰ to be considered by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its fifth session, with a view to requesting the Secretary-General to submit a report on the replies to the Commission at a subsequent session,

1. *Invites* Governments to ensure the promotion and widest possible dissemination of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice and to publish the *Compendium of United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*⁶¹ in the languages of their countries;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary funds, to ensure the reprinting of the *Compendium* in sufficient numbers in all the official languages of the United Nations;

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

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to widely disseminate, via the World Wide Web database facility of the United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network, the texts of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners,⁵⁷ the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials,⁶² together with the Basic Principles for the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials,⁶³ the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power⁶⁴ and the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary,⁵³ as well as the reports of the Secretary-General on the use and application of those United

Nations standards in crime prevention and criminal justice,⁶⁵ and to make the information on which the reports are based available upon request;

5. *Urges* Governments that have not yet replied to the questionnaires on the four standards in crime prevention and criminal justice to submit their replies to the Secretary-General as soon as possible, with a view to enabling him to make the database more comprehensive;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its seventh session a report on the use and application of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules), the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (the Riyadh Guidelines) and the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report, incorporating comments sought from Governments, on the desirability of establishing an inter-sessional working group to examine the reports on the use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice in more detail, as well as the information on which the reports were based, and to recommend to the Commission possible further action to assist Member States in translating those instruments into practice;

8. *Decides* that the Commission should consider the report of the Secretary-General on the desirability of establishing an inter-sessional working group at its sixth session;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to promote the use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, *inter alia*, by providing advisory services and technical cooperation to Member States on request, including assistance to Member States in criminal justice and law reform, organization of training for law enforcement and criminal justice personnel and support to the administration and management of penal and penitentiary systems, thus contributing to the upgrading of their efficiency and capabilities;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to coordinate the activities related to the use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice between the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division of the Secretariat and other relevant United Nations entities, such as the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, in order to heighten their efficacy and avoid overlapping in the implementation of their programmes.

*45th plenary meeting
23 July 1996*