

1997/35. Technical cooperation and interregional advisory services in crime prevention and criminal justice

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 51/63 of 12 December 1996 on strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity,

Recalling also its resolution 1995/15 of 24 July 1995 and resolution 5/2 of 31 May 1996 of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, on technical cooperation and interregional advisory services in crime prevention and criminal justice,¹³⁹

Stressing the direct relevance of crime prevention and criminal justice to sustained development, stability, improved quality of life, democracy and human rights, which is increasingly recognized by other United Nations entities, specialized agencies and international organizations,

Aware of the continued increase in requests for technical assistance forwarded to the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division of the Secretariat by least developed countries, developing countries, countries with economies in transition and countries emerging from conflict,

1. Commends the efforts of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division of the Secretariat, in cooperation with the institutes constituting the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network and others, in responding to the increasing requests for assistance, as reported by the Secretary-General,¹³⁷ and expresses appreciation for the operationalization of the Programme, including the elaboration of a number of important project proposals that urgently require new funding;

2. Welcomes the work done by the informal consultative group on resource mobilization in accordance with resolution 5/3 of 31 May 1996 of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;¹³⁹

3. Commends the increased cooperation between the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division, the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network and other entities of the United Nations, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights, and calls upon those entities, together with the World Bank and other international, regional and national funding agencies, to support technical cooperation activities devoted to crime prevention and criminal justice as a means of guaranteeing effective and sustainable development, utilizing the expertise of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme;

4. Welcomes the cooperation between the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, in particular in the area of action against money laundering, and calls upon the two programmes to continue to undertake joint activities, in particular the elaboration and execution of technical cooperation projects;

5. Expresses its concern at the lack of adequate resources, which may impede progress in the further operationalization of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and hamper the implementation of those projects that have been elaborated so far in response to urgent requests from countries in need;

6. Expresses its appreciation to those Member States that contribute to the activities of the Programme by providing funding, the services of associate experts, consultants and experts for training purposes, advisory missions and the implementation of technical assistance projects, by developing training manuals and other material, by offering fellowship opportunities and by hosting action-oriented workshops and expert group meetings;

7. Calls upon potential donors and relevant funding agencies to make significant and regular financial and/or other contributions for the formulation, coordination and implementation of technical assistance projects elaborated within the framework of the Programme and to strengthen the mandated role of the Programme as facilitator of bilateral assistance;

8. Invites developing countries and countries with economies in transition to include in their requests for assistance from the United Nations Development Programme, in particular as part of its country programme framework, projects and/or elements on crime prevention and criminal justice, with a view to upgrading national institutional capacity and professional expertise in that field;

9. Requests the Secretary-General, bearing in mind the plan for strategic management of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in accordance with Commission resolutions 1/1 of 29 April 1992¹⁸⁹ and 4/3 of 9 June 1995,¹⁹⁰ to enhance further the resources required for the operational activities of the Programme, including travel funds for the mobilization of resources and special efforts for fund-raising;

10. Also requests the Secretary-General to include in his programme budget proposals for the biennium 1998-1999, under the section on technical cooperation, adequate funds for maintaining two posts of interregional advisers in crime prevention and criminal justice and for further strengthening the interregional advisory services to support technical assistance activities, including short-term advisory services, needs assessments, feasibility studies, field projects, training and fellowships.

*36th plenary meeting
21 July 1997*