

1998/16. Action against corruption

The Economic and Social Council,

Concerned about the seriousness of problems posed by corruption, which may endanger the stability and security of societies, undermine the values of democracy and morality and jeopardize social, economic and political development,

Convinced that existing arrangements for combating corruption at the national and international levels must be periodically reviewed and modernized to ensure that the specific contemporary problems of fighting all forms of corruption are being effectively addressed at all times,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 51/59 of 12 December 1996,

Recalling also its resolution 1995/14 of 24 July 1995,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 52/87 of 12 December 1997, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to invite each Member State to provide a report on steps taken to implement the provisions of the United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions,⁵⁹

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on action against corruption and bribery,⁶⁰

Recalling the manual prepared by the Secretariat on practical measures against corruption,⁶¹

Aware of recent multilateral initiatives to combat corruption, including the United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions, the International Code of Conduct for Public Officials,⁶² the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, adopted by the Organization of American States on 29 March 1996,⁶³ the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions, adopted by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development on 21 November 1997,⁶⁴ the Convention on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests of 26 July 1995⁶⁵ and the Protocols of 27 September 1996 and 19 June 1997 to that Convention,⁶⁶ drawn up by the Council of the European Union on the basis of article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union, the Convention on the fight against corruption involving officials of the European Communities or officials of member States of the European Union, drawn up by the Council of the European Union on 26 May 1997,⁶⁷ the ongoing work of the Council of Europe to elaborate a criminal law convention against corruption, the programmes of the Council of Europe targeting that form of criminality and recommendation 32 of the recommendations elaborated and endorsed by the Senior Experts Group on Transnational Organized Crime of the Political Group of Eight, which met at Lyon, France, from 27 to 29 June 1996, which are contained in annex I to Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/22 of 21 July 1997,

Convinced that updating the manual on practical measures against corruption by incorporating into the manual a section describing recent developments will contribute to increased efficiency in combating that form of criminality,

Determined to ensure that United Nations materials to assist States in their efforts to combat corruption remain as useful and as up to date as possible,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in his efforts to update the manual prepared by the Secretariat on practical measures against corruption,⁶¹ to include in the text a section describing recent developments in combating corruption, in particular the practical impact of recent multilateral initiatives in this area, such as the above-described activities of the United Nations, the Organization of American States, the

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the European Union, the Council of Europe and the Senior Experts Group on Transnational Organized Crime of the Political Group of Eight;

2. *Decides* to convene an open-ended meeting of governmental experts, using extrabudgetary resources offered by the Government of France for that purpose, to explore means of ensuring that the initiatives described in paragraph 1 above are effective and that an appropriate international strategy against corruption, including the proceeds thereof, is formulated in consultation with other intergovernmental organizations active in this area;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including on the work of the governmental experts, to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its ninth session.

*44th plenary meeting
28 July 1998*