



Economic and Social Council

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Agenda item 14 (c)

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council

*[on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention
and Criminal Justice (E/2012/30 and Corr.1 and 2)]*

2012/18. Improving the quality and availability of statistics on crime and criminal justice for policy development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 65/232 of 21 December 2010, in which the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime was requested to strengthen the collection, analysis and dissemination of accurate, reliable and comparable data and information to enhance knowledge on crime trends and support Member States in designing appropriate responses in specific areas of crime, in particular in their transnational dimension,

Recalling also the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World, adopted by the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Salvador, Brazil, from 12 to 19 April 2010, and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/230 of 21 December 2010, in which the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was invited to consider strengthening the capacity of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to collect, analyse and disseminate accurate, reliable and comparable data on world crime and victimization trends and patterns and Member States were called upon to support the gathering and analysis of information and to consider designating focal points and provide information when requested to do so by the Commission,

Recalling further its resolution 2009/25 of 30 July 2009 on improving the collection, reporting and analysis of data to enhance knowledge on trends in specific areas of crime,

Recalling Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 19/2 of 21 May 2010 on strengthening the collection, analysis and reporting of comparable crime-related data,¹ in which Member States were invited to strengthen

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 10 (E/2010/30)*, chap. I, sect. D.



their efforts to review and improve data-collection tools in order to enhance knowledge on world crime trends and patterns,

Considering that the countries participating in the sixth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Bávaro, Dominican Republic, from 16 to 18 November 2011, expressed their satisfaction at the creation of the Centre of Excellence for Statistical Information on Governance, Victimization, Public Security and Justice, established jointly by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico, and that the Statistical Conference requested the Centre, subject to the availability of resources, to support the countries of the region in improving the compilation, dissemination and analysis of information on crime and in developing standards for measuring the scale of crimes most affecting the region,

Recognizing that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is the intergovernmental body mandated to address issues relating to crime prevention and criminal justice, while the Statistical Commission is responsible for promoting the development of national statistics and the improvement of their comparability, as well as the improvement of statistics and statistical methods generally, as reaffirmed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1566 (L) of 3 May 1971,

Emphasizing that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Statistical Commission can complement and support each other's efforts in the field of statistics on crime and criminal justice,

Recognizing the importance of information and statistics in developing and supporting public policies at the national, regional and global levels,

Reaffirming that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is the focal point within the United Nations system for statistics on crime and criminal justice,

Acknowledging the need to ensure coordination in the collection and dissemination of statistics on crime and criminal justice among the various national institutions,

Noting the need, expressed by the Statistical Commission in its decision 43/102 of 2 March 2012,² for national statistical offices to give sufficient consideration to the challenges of producing and disseminating statistics on crime within the national context and to work with partners in the criminal justice system,

Reaffirming that national victimization surveys, which are often conducted by national statistical offices,³ are important tools for the collection of information on crime and criminal justice, and acknowledging that it would be desirable to have technical and methodological tools for conducting such surveys so as to ensure the comparability of results obtained in different countries,

Bearing in mind the gaps still existing in statistical information on crime and criminal justice, particularly in relation to emerging forms of crime, and the challenges posed by the limited comparability of statistical data obtained in different countries,

² *Ibid.*, 2012, *Supplement No. 4* (E/2012/24), chap. I, sect. B.

³ In statistical systems that do not have a single national statistical office, this refers to the statistical agency responsible for collecting statistics on crime and justice matters.

Underscoring the importance of technical assistance and of building the capacity of Member States to collect, analyse and disseminate accurate and comparable statistics on crime and criminal justice,

Taking note of the tools and publications produced by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime that provide technical guidance, methodologies and standards for the collection of data and the preparation of evidence-based analyses on specific forms of crime, such as victimization, crime trend and homicide surveys,

1. *Welcomes* the deliberations of the Statistical Commission at its forty-third session, held from 28 February to 2 March 2012, and the request made by the Commission to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico to prepare a joint report, to be considered by the Commission at its forty-fourth session, which should include:

(a) A road map of the steps needed to develop statistics on crime;

(b) An assessment of the feasibility of developing an international classification of crimes for statistical purposes;

(c) The way in which the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice could cooperate with regard to the development of statistics on crime;²

2. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to make available to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-second session the report to be prepared by the Office in cooperation with the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico for consideration by the Statistical Commission at its forty-fourth session;

3. *Invites* Member States to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with relevant information that could be taken into consideration in the preparation of the aforementioned report;

4. *Also invites* Member States to encourage productive dialogue among national authorities responsible for the collection, processing and dissemination of statistics on crime and criminal justice, including national statistical offices, so as to enhance coordination at the national level and to ensure the use of common standards;

5. *Invites* Member States that have not yet done so to appoint a national focal point for the submission of data on crime and criminal justice to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, through the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems, in order to support the Office in ensuring that the national data disseminated are consistent over time and meet the highest standards of quality;

6. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Centre of Excellence for Statistical Information on Governance, Victimization, Public Security and Justice, developed jointly by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico, and encourages both bodies to support countries, through the Centre and upon request, in improving their statistical information on crime and criminal justice;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue developing technical and methodological tools to assist countries in producing and disseminating accurate and comparable statistics on crime and criminal justice, and to continue providing technical assistance, upon request, to Member States in order to enhance their capacity to collect, analyse and report data on crime and criminal justice;

8. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue its mandated activities to regularly collect and disseminate statistics on crime and criminal justice and to provide trend analyses and studies based on the information provided by Member States;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*46th plenary meeting
26 July 2012*
