

## ECOSOC Resolution 2002/15

### **United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Reaffirming* the importance of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice and the need to maintain a balance between the current main priority issue of combating transnational organized crime and the other priority issues of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 56/161 of 19 December 2001 on human rights in the administration of justice,

*Taking note of* Commission on Human Rights resolution 2002/47 of 23 April 2002 on human rights in the administration of justice, in particular juvenile justice,

*Bearing in mind* that the theme for the eleventh session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was “Reform of the criminal justice system: achieving effectiveness and equity”,

*Recalling* the relevant provisions of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century, annexed to General Assembly resolution 55/59 of 4 December 2000,

*Recalling also* the plans of action for the implementation of the Vienna Declaration, annexed to General Assembly resolution 56/261 of 31 January 2002, in particular the plans of action on crime prevention, on witnesses and victims of crime, on prison overcrowding and alternatives to incarceration, on juvenile justice, on the special needs of women in the criminal justice system and on standards and norms,

*Mindful* of the recommendation of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination of the Economic and Social Council at its forty-first session, that the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat should propose to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twelfth session a revised mechanism for reporting on the use and application of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice,<sup>1</sup>

#### **I. Use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice**

*Recalling* its resolution 1993/34 of 27 July 1993, in section III of which it requested the Secretary-General to commence without delay a process of information-gathering to be undertaken by means of surveys,

*Recalling also* its resolution 1998/21 of 28 July 1998, in section I of which it requested the Secretary-General to continue the information-gathering,

---

<sup>1</sup> E/AC.51/2001/5, para. 13.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on reform of the criminal justice system: achieving effectiveness and equity and the use and application of United Nations standards and norms, especially concerning juvenile justice and penal reform;<sup>2</sup>

2. *Also takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions,<sup>3</sup> the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on Crime and Public Security,<sup>4</sup> and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Code of Conduct for Public Officials,<sup>5</sup> and considers the first cycle of information-gathering on the use and application of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice to have been completed;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene a meeting of a group of experts, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary funds, to evaluate the results achieved and the progress made in the application of existing United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, to review the present system of reporting, to assess the advantages to be expected in using a cross-sectoral approach and to make concrete proposals to be considered by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twelfth session;

4. *Encourages* the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat to continue, subject to the availability of existing funds, to provide technical assistance and advisory services to Member States, upon request, in support of criminal justice reform, including in the framework of peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction, drawing on the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice;

5. *Invites* Member States to make available voluntary funds for technical cooperation projects in the area of criminal justice reform;

6. *Invites* the Centre for International Crime Prevention further to increase cooperation and coordination with other relevant entities, in particular the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in the use and application of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, with the aim of enhancing complementarities and reinforcing the existing collaboration in the implementation of their respective programmes, and to strengthen collaborative ties with other United Nations entities and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

## **II. Penal reform**

*Recalling* its resolution 1999/27 of 28 July 1999 on penal reform,

---

<sup>2</sup> E/CN.15/2002/3.

<sup>3</sup> E/CN.15/2002/6 and Add.2.

<sup>4</sup> E/CN.15/2002/11.

<sup>5</sup> E/CN.15/2002/6/Add.1 and 3.

*Recognizing* that acute prison overcrowding may result in the violation of basic human rights of prisoners and prison staff,

1. *Invites* Member States to undertake the necessary efforts to solve the problem of prison overcrowding, inter alia, by, if necessary, introducing or making appropriate use of alternatives to imprisonment;

2. *Invites* relevant bodies and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, subject to the availability of existing funds, as well as Member States, to continue to provide assistance in the form of advisory services, needs assessment, capacity-building, training or other assistance to States, upon request, in order to enable them to improve prison conditions, reduce prison overcrowding and increase reliance on alternatives to imprisonment.

### **III. Administration of juvenile justice**

*Recalling* its resolution 1999/28 of 28 July 1999 on administration of juvenile justice,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen cooperation between the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat and other relevant partners, in particular the other members of the coordination panel on technical advice and assistance in juvenile justice established in line with the Guidelines for Action on Children in the Criminal Justice System,<sup>6</sup> including follow-up to the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on juvenile justice matters;

2. *Invites* the Centre for International Crime Prevention and Member States to continue, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network and other entities, subject to the availability of existing funds, to develop and carry out projects to prevent youth crime, to strengthen juvenile justice systems and to improve the rehabilitation and treatment of juvenile offenders, as well as to improve the protection of child victims.

*37th plenary meeting*  
*24 July 2002*

---

<sup>6</sup> Resolution 1997/30, annex.