

1998/24. Technical cooperation and advisory services in crime prevention and criminal justice

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 52/90 of 12 December 1997, on strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, particularly its technical cooperation capacity,

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 being recognized by United Nations entities, specialized agencies and other international organizations,

Aware of the continued increase in requests for technical assistance forwarded to the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat by least developed countries, developing countries, countries with economies in transition and countries emerging from conflict,

Recalling the memorandum of understanding concluded in August 1997 between the Centre and the United Nations Office for Project Services to cooperate closely in the execution and implementation of technical assistance projects in crime prevention and criminal justice,

Appreciating the funding provided by certain Member States in 1997 that has permitted the Centre to enhance its capacity to execute an increased number of projects,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 52/12 A of 12 November 1997 and 52/12 B of 19 December 1997, entitled "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform",

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the technical cooperation activities of the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat,⁹⁷ in particular its success in focusing its technical cooperation activities in those subject areas specifically mandated by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Centre for assisting Member States in achieving positive results in the improvement of their criminal justice systems by responding to the increasing requests for technical assistance, by

implementing a number of important projects and by formulating new projects that urgently require new funding;

3. *Welcomes* the work done by the informal consultative group on resource mobilization in accordance with resolutions 5/3 of 31 May 1996⁹⁸ and 6/1 of 9 May 1997⁹⁹ of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

4. *Commends* the increased cooperation between the Centre, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Office for Project Services, and calls upon those entities, together with the World Bank and other international, regional and national funding agencies, to support technical cooperation activities complementary to existing bilateral programmes devoted to crime prevention and criminal justice as a means of guaranteeing effective and sustainable development, utilizing the expertise of the Centre;

5. *Welcomes* the close cooperation between the Centre and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, in particular in the areas of action against money-laundering and of drugs and prisons, and calls upon the two entities to continue to undertake joint activities, in particular the elaboration and execution of technical cooperation projects;

6. *Expresses its concern* at the fact that the lack of adequate resources 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 so far been elaborated in response to urgent requests from countries in need;

7. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States that contribute to the activities of the Programme by providing funding and 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;

8. *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 role of the Programme as facilitator of bilateral assistance in that area;

9. *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 strengthening national institutional capacity, professional expertise and continuing education in that field;

⁹⁷ E/CN.15/1998/9.

⁹⁸ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 10* and corrigenda (E/1996/30 and Corr.1-3), chap. I, sect. D.

⁹⁹ *Ibid.*, 1997, *Supplement No. 10* and corrigendum (E/1997/30 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. D.

10. *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 1992¹⁰⁰ and 4/3 of 9 June 1995,¹⁰¹ to enhance further the resources available within the existing overall budgetary framework of the United Nations for the activities of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, including travel funds for the mobilization of resources and special efforts for fund-raising;

11. *Requests* the Executive Director of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention to enter into discussions with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme with a view to having the Centre for International Crime Prevention recognized as an executing agency;

12. *Calls upon* the Executive Director of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention to consider enhancing the operational activities of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme by establishing a presence at the country or subregional level, jointly with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme where appropriate.

*44th plenary meeting
28 July 1998*