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SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Crime prevention and criminal justice

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

This report is submitted in response to paragraph 24 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/68 and paragraph 9 of resolution 1989/59. It summarizes the action taken by the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, the progress made in the preparations for the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, and other programme activities. Particular emphasis is placed on the review of the functioning and programme of work of the United Nations in crime prevention and criminal justice and on the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

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## INTRODUCTION

1. This report has been prepared in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/68 on the review of the functioning and programme of work of the United Nations in crime prevention and criminal justice. In operative paragraph 24, the Secretary-General was requested to submit to the Council, at its first regular session of 1990, a progress report on the implementation of that resolution, paying particular attention to paragraph 4 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1986/11, paragraphs 3 (a) and 4 of Council resolution 1987/53, and paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 42/59.
2. In pursuance of paragraph 9 of Council resolution 1989/59, the present report also contains information on further steps taken to establish the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and to ensure adequate support for its activities.
3. The present document complements the report of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control on its eleventh session (E/1990/31), which is also before the Council.

### I. ACTION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

4. The General Assembly, at its forty-fourth session, adopted resolution 44/72 on crime prevention and criminal justice in which it proposed a series of measures to reinforce international co-operation and national action in this field and to ensure the success of the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. The Assembly also adopted resolution 44/71 on international co-operation in combating organized crime, which emphasized the growing threat posed by this form of criminality and the urgent need for more effective collaborative action against it. The Assembly also adopted resolution 44/162 on human rights in the administration of justice, which stressed the importance of the United Nations norms and standards in this area and their effective implementation.

### II. CONTINUATION OF PREPARATIONS FOR THE EIGHTH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

5. By its resolution 1989/69, the Council decided that the theme of the Eighth Congress should be "International co-operation in crime prevention and criminal justice for the twenty-first century". The Congress will endeavour to devise and promote more effective means of international co-operation against mounting criminality; discuss penal sanctions, as well as the treatment and protection of young persons in conflict with the law; and review the implementation of the existing United Nations standards and guidelines in crime prevention and criminal justice.

6. The Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, at its eleventh session, recommended for transmission to the Congress through the Council new draft instruments and recommendations which should make a significant contribution to the process of developing international law and standards in this field (E/1990/31, chap. I, sect. C).

### III. TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

7. Practical aid is being provided to an increasing number of interested Governments in response to the growing need for viable crime prevention policies, accentuated by the widening reach of transnational crime, and in order to assist with appropriate criminal justice reforms.

#### A. Interregional advisory services

8. The need for such assistance is reflected in the large number of requests for the interregional advisory services. Between March 1989 and April 1990, the Interregional Advisor in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice carried out missions to the following countries: Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Egypt, Ethiopia, Haiti, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritius, Paraguay, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic and Thailand. He also consulted with the regional commissions, the United Nations institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders and with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

9. Advisory services were provided on a range of subjects, including legal reform; the establishment of crime prevention councils or other mechanisms, improving access to justice, especially for the poor or marginalized segments of society; upgrading the capability of law enforcement and criminal justice personnel to deal with sophisticated new forms of transnational crime, especially drug trafficking; and reduction of prison overcrowding and correctional reforms, with emphasis on non-institutional alternatives and staff training.

10. Special attention has been given to juvenile delinquency and the growing numbers of "street children", exacerbated by factors such as population displacement, weakening family and community ties and drug abuse. Preventive and protective strategies and improved "juvenile justice" have been a major area of advisory services, and innovative project proposals have been developed for children in difficult circumstances or in conflict with the law.

11. One of the prime aims has been to help countries to translate United Nations norms and guidelines into concrete terms, as well as to foster follow-up programmes designed to consolidate the gains made. While these activities have been limited by scarcity of resources, they are opening new prospects for an enhanced role of law and criminal justice in promoting equity, social justice and human rights in the context of development and multilateral technical co-operation. The Interregional Adviser also visited potential donor countries, including Italy, Japan, Spain and the United States of America, in order to obtain financial support for projects in developing countries.

B. Interregional Seminar on Corruption in Government

12. In co-operation with the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, an Interregional Seminar on Corruption in Government was held at The Hague, from 11 to 15 December 1989, at the invitation of the Government of the Netherlands. It was attended by some 50 participants from 30 countries and a number of observers. The Seminar noted that the problems of administrative and political corruption were universal and, while they exerted a particularly pernicious effect on countries with vulnerable economies, they had world-wide repercussions. The participants reviewed the major causes and forms of corruption in government, exchanged experiences and views on ways of improving public management processes and procedures, and evaluated measures taken by Governments to combat corruption. They also considered a draft manual on practical measures against corruption, for submission to the Eighth Congress.

13. The Seminar recognized the importance of democratic institutions, a free press, the rule of law, the independence of the judiciary, and the creation of a political, socio-economic and administrative environment in which the public and civil services could operate without improper interference. It recommended that policies against corruption be included in development plans and strategies, and that they be implemented and monitored by specialized bodies.

14. The Seminar also recommended a range of preventive measures, including economic competition; deregulation; restructuring of the civil service; professionalization with adequate remuneration, training and adherence to a code of ethics; parliamentary democracy; increased public accountability; freedom of the press; raised public awareness through education and media campaigns; provision of adequate channels for complaints, and effective action on them (ombudsmen, independent commissions of inquiry, administrative tribunals, inspectorates or vigilance commissions); obligatory disclosure of assets or investments and of conflicts of interest; proper auditing of government agencies and suppliers; improved banking and financial regulations; and mechanisms to prevent capital flight, tax and customs evasion.

15. Among the measures urged were periodic reviews of the adequacy of legislation and sanctions against corruption; swift, fair and equitable judicial processes; strategic planning for investigative bodies; interdisciplinary investigative task forces; enhanced co-operation by witnesses through protection from retribution and financial rewards; forfeiture and confiscation of corruptly gained assets, and provisions against money laundering.

16. The Seminar drew attention to the connection with organized crime, particularly drug trafficking, which could subvert entire Governments and render financial systems dependent on "narcodollars". It underlined the widening scope of such problems with the transnationalization of crime, and the need for commensurate counterstrategies, both regional and international.

17. In calling for strengthened co-operation among States against corruption, the Seminar recommended mutual assistance in criminal justice matters and more effective extradition procedures; technical co-operation and assistance to

strengthen national machinery and promote integrity in tendering international aid projects; the sharing of information about anti-corruption laws and techniques, including research results; the elaboration of an international code of conduct for public officials and monitoring of compliance with it; and the inclusion of corruption in the study of an international criminal jurisdiction.

C. Co-operation with the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control

18. The shared objectives and concerns of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna have, as recommended by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, given rise to some joint operational projects. Thus, a project for strengthening the criminal justice system and drug abuse prevention and control in Uganda was begun with support from the Fund and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It covers the training of police, judges and prosecutors, as well as providing advisory services and equipment. The Branch is assisting a project on the establishment of specialized drug courts in Bolivia and has formulated a proposal for the treatment of prisoners in Argentina infected with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). With the assistance of the Fund, the services of a senior law enforcement expert were provided for a review of the police situation in Ghana and the development of a project proposal for the establishment of a Senior Police Officers' School at Accra. Regional and subregional projects for joint implementation have also been submitted, for instance on mutual assistance in criminal matters for African countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Economic Community of the Great Lakes States (CEPGL).

D. Co-operation with the Human Rights Advisory Programme

19. Progress has been made in strengthening technical co-operation in the area of human rights in the administration of justice and in developing operational co-operation with the Centre for Human Rights. In pursuance of General Assembly resolution 44/162 and previous resolutions on this subject, joint activities have been undertaken under the United Nations Human Rights Advisory Programme. Advisory services were rendered to the Government of Colombia, and a follow-up training course on human rights in judicial inquiry was organized at Rome in September 1989, in co-operation with the Government of Italy, the Centre for Human Rights and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute. The Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch collaborated in a Seminar on Human Rights in the Administration of Justice held in Moscow.

20. In pursuance of paragraphs 1 and 5 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/65, a workshop on techniques (particularly forensic procedures) for the investigation of arbitrary and summary executions was organized by the United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (ILANUD) in co-operation with the Minnesota Lawyers' International Human Rights Committee, from 24 to 28 October 1989, in San José, Costa Rica.

21. Joint implementation of training projects on human rights in the administration of justice is being undertaken with the Centre for Human Rights, for example, in Ghana, Haiti and Paraguay, and others are foreseen in collaboration with the Henri Dunant Institute. The United Nations Office at Vienna was represented at the second meeting on inter-agency co-operation in advisory services and technical assistance in human rights, organized by the Centre for Human Rights at Geneva on 12 March 1990.

#### E. Other activities

22. In accordance with paragraphs 16 and 17 of Council resolution 1989/68, calling for intensification of the operational aspects of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, a number of activities have been undertaken and planned, with the help of donor agencies and countries, for follow-up at the national level.

23. In response to a request from the Government of Ethiopia, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development has provided a consultant to advise on crime statistics and computerized criminal justice data bases. An expert in this field is also advising the Government of Nigeria in a UNDP-supported project, and similar services have been provided to Mauritius and Paraguay. Funds have also been provided by UNDP for training activities, including national criminal justice workshops in Liberia and Malawi. Juvenile justice projects have been formulated in Brazil, Ethiopia, Swaziland and Thailand and have also been submitted to potential donors.

24. On 9 October 1989, a memorandum of understanding on co-operation in crime prevention and criminal justice was signed in Moscow by the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna and the Minister of the Interior of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. It provides for collaborative activities between the Ministry, the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute in Rome and the Helsinki Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations. Activities envisaged include, inter alia, a research workshop on the prevention of organized crime; a seminar on drug abuse control; a training course on computer technology and police work; and a seminar on crime prevention through environmental design.

#### IV. UNITED NATIONS AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

25. At the fourteenth session of the Conference of African Ministers, held at Niamey, Niger, from 14 to 18 April 1988, the Statute of the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) was adopted and Uganda selected as the host country. The Statute of the Institute was signed by 26 countries; (10 signatures were required for its entry into force): Burundi, Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal,

Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Several other States have declared their intention to sign. The Institute is to be financed through contributions from African States, based on the Organization of African Unity (OAU) scale of assessments, with initial support from UNDP, which has earmarked \$US 2 million for the Institute in 1990-1993. The OAU Council of Ministers, at its last session, held from 19 to 24 February 1990, adopted a resolution urging those of its members which had not yet done so to sign the Statute and to make contributions in cash and in kind.

26. In accordance with the Statute, the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) selected the following countries to represent the various African subregions on the Institute's Governing Board: Botswana, Central African Republic, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Morocco, Rwanda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zaire. The host country, Uganda, is also a member. The inaugural meeting of the Board was held in Kampala from 14 to 15 June 1989, chaired by the Executive Secretary of ECA and officially opened by the President of Uganda. The Board adopted its terms of reference and rules of procedure, as well as the Institute's staff rules and regulations. It approved the UNDP project document and the Institute's proposed programme of work for 1989-1993. The Board further considered the financing of the Institute and the responsibilities of the participating States. The host country agreement was signed at the closing ceremony. The Board also agreed on procedures for the selection of the Institute's director and deputy director.

27. At an extraordinary session, in Addis Ababa on 13 August 1989, the Board approved the appointment of the Director and Deputy Director of the Institute, who have since assumed their functions. At the same meeting, a progress report on the UNDP project proposal was considered, including the designation of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs as associated agencies. A status report was also given on the facilities and financial contribution provided by the host country.

28. The premises and residential facilities of the Police Training College, Kampala, are being readied for occupancy by the Institute, which is scheduled to launch its programme of activities in its permanent location in July 1990. A comprehensive programme of training, research, information, advisory services and collaborative action has been envisaged to help the States of the region to deal effectively with crime and justice problems in the context of development and the increasing transnationalization of crime.

29. The Director of the Institute attended the annual co-ordination meeting of the heads of the United Nations institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders and representatives of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, held at Riyadh in January 1990. He also participated in the eleventh session of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control.

30. Consultations are under way to assess the special requirements and priorities of African States in crime prevention and criminal justice and to mobilize the urgently needed funding. In this connection, the attention of the Council is drawn



particularly to the draft resolution of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control on this subject.

#### V. CO-ORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES

31. Major efforts were made during the year to strengthen co-operation and co-ordination with the United Nations institutes, the specialized agencies, other relevant United Nations entities and other organizations. The annual co-ordination meeting, held at Riyadh from 13 to 15 January 1990 with the support of the Arab Security Studies and Training Centre, provided an admirable opportunity for joint planning of Congress-related activities.

32. With technical support from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the model treaty on the prevention of crimes against cultural heritage, developed with the assistance of ILANUD, was approved by the Committee for transmission to the Eighth Congress. A collaborative project on the treatment of AIDS in prison, carried out in co-operation with the World Health Organization (WHO), is being completed. It has also been possible to strengthen the collaboration with other United Nations entities, such as the Centre for Human Rights, in the area of the administration of justice. Close contact was maintained with the Centre and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in the finalization of the draft Convention on the Rights of the Child, with a view to aligning relevant parts of the text with the provisions of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice, the draft guidelines on delinquency prevention and the new rules on the treatment of juveniles deprived of their liberty. Co-operation with the Office of Legal Affairs has also been established on the prevention and control of terrorism and the possible creation of an international criminal court.

33. Co-operation with non-governmental organizations has been further reinforced, and collaboration with criminological centres, such as the Australian Institute of Criminology, has been institutionalized. The establishment, in the near future, of the professional and scientific advisory council, called for by the Economic and Social Council in paragraph 23 of its resolution 1989/68, with extrabudgetary funds provided for this purpose by the Government of Italy, should significantly help in this endeavour.

#### VI. INFORMATION NETWORK AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

34. The International Review of Criminal Policy has again been published, with a double issue on juvenile delinquency. A special volume on capital punishment has also been printed in collaboration with the Oxford University Press. The Newsletter is sent to all national correspondents and interested institutions and experts.

35. The United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Information Network, established with the co-operation of the New York State University at Albany, has become operational, in pursuance of paragraph 10 of Council resolution 1989/68.

Network users are able to communicate electronically; to exchange documents and data; to scan a calendar of relevant world events; to search various data bases; to obtain up-to-date information on selected issues; and to communicate with other networks. Electronic bulletins on special subjects are also provided: the first one, on juvenile delinquency, was issued in late 1989, and the second, on victim services, in early 1990. Linkages are also being established with other United Nations data bases, such as UNBIS, the United Nations documents index. The network has been joined not only by the United Nations institutes and affiliated centres, but also by a growing number of national institutions, organizations and individual subscribers.

36. Unfortunately, this process has been limited by the shortage of resources. In view of the continuous requests for information received from Governments, organizations and individuals, the capability of the network needs to be appreciably increased if it is to provide the comprehensive, up-to-date information required by policy makers and researchers.

#### VII. IMPLEMENTATION OF UNITED NATIONS STANDARDS AND NORMS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

37. In accordance with paragraph 6 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/63, a pre-sessional working group on this subject was convened on 1 and 2 February, prior to the eleventh session of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control. The Group stressed the importance of the United Nations standard-setting role and the need for effective implementation of the norms adopted internationally and offered guidelines and prototypes for national and international application. It noted the shortfalls that still existed, as revealed by United Nations surveys. Among the major obstacles found was the low priority attached to this area, the shortage of funds, inadequate human and professional resources, lack of co-ordinated action, and, often, lack of political will or public apathy. It was suggested that greater public awareness of the issues might elicit both increased support and additional resources.

38. Proposals as to how the United Nations could assist interested Governments in implementing the guidelines and standards included the development of effective procedures for their application in the context of economic and social development strategies and of the changes taking place in different parts of the world; strengthened technical co-operation and advisory services; incorporation of the United Nations instruments in national legislation and making them available in the appropriate language and form to all concerned; educational and promotional activities in schools, colleges and criminal justice academies, as well as in law faculties and among professional groups; enlisting the co-operation of the media; increasing community involvement and creating an atmosphere conducive to the observance of the principles embodied in the instruments, as well as lowering resistance against them; establishment or reinforcement of national committees for the promotion of United Nations norms and guidelines; and promotion of evaluative research.

39. Extrabudgetary resources were needed for these purposes, both from concerned Governments (e.g. through increased contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Social Defence) and from international funding agencies (i.e. through inclusion of projects in UNDP country programmes). It was also recommended that Governments should provide adequate support to the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice institutes for national follow-up action, in order to meet the many requests for technical co-operation.

40. The Group suggested that a more effective way of monitoring the implementation of United Nations standards and norms should be found than the existing pattern of periodic reports by Governments in reply to United Nations questionnaires and the summaries prepared on them.

41. In view of the vital importance of implementation, it was suggested that the Committee prepare a comprehensive plan assessing the various standards and mutual assistance treaties according to priorities and on the basis of a thorough analysis, taking into account the resources available. The possibility of merging or clustering certain surveys was also suggested according to their respective objectives. In this connection, the Working Group distinguished four main types of standards: (a) those which deal basically with human rights issues; (b) those which promote or protect the integrity of criminal justice administration; (c) those which are essentially administrative; and (d) more general documents such as the Milan Plan of Action, the Guiding Principles for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in the Context of Development and a New International Economic Order, 1/ and the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power. 2/

42. The Group accorded highest priority to the general documents and those dealing with human rights issues, and proposed a "programmatic implementation plan". It also held that an implementation body might be established, constituted of members of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control or other acknowledged experts, who would make first-hand inquiries within countries.

43. Matters concerning the integrity of criminal justice systems required the training of personnel, provision of information and encouragement of greater accountability, as well as commitment at the ministerial and senior management levels. The United Nations institutes could play a leading role and report periodically on these activities. There was also need for a model syllabus for training in particular services or professions, and for in-service training in the operation of the criminal justice system as a whole.

44. The role of non-governmental organizations in propagating and helping to apply the United Nations standards and norms was also stressed, as was that of the United Nations information network, if it could be suitably expanded. The prompt publication of the proposed compendium of all United Nations standards relating to crime prevention and criminal justice was urged so that they could be widely disseminated in various languages. A voluntary fund for the implementation of the United Nations standards was also envisaged. The Working Group made specific recommendations, which were endorsed by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control in a draft resolution, for adoption by the Council.

#### VIII. PROGRAMME PLANNING

45. In accordance with paragraph 7 of Council resolution 1989/68, a separate programme on crime prevention and criminal justice has been included in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. The programme, approved by the Committee, contains three subprogrammes concerned, respectively, with (a) collaborative action against transnational crime; (b) crime prevention planning and criminal justice management; and (c) crime prevention and criminal justice norms and standards. In the strategies and activities proposed under these subject headings, stress has been placed on the achievement of concrete targets and on help to Governments in translating United Nations guidelines into practical reality. The major focus is also on intensified international co-operation in dealing with crime problems, transcending national frontiers and requiring concerted action.

#### IX. REVIEW OF THE FUNCTIONING AND PROGRAMME OF WORK

46. The Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, at its eleventh session, devoted special attention to the review of the functioning and programme of work of the United Nations in crime prevention and criminal justice, in pursuance of its resolution 10/1 and paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 44/72. The Committee unanimously approved a report on the need for the creation of an effective international crime and justice programme, which is to be submitted to the Eighth Congress (E/1990/31/Add.1) and a draft decision thereon (E/1990/31, chap. I, sect. C, decision 11/122).

47. The report emphasizes the seriousness of the world crime situation and the need for strengthened international co-operation, for which it outlines the main requirements. It notes the enormous human and material costs of crime and the impediments that it presents to sustained development, national stability and a better quality of life. It also draws attention to the alarming new forms of crime that are increasingly assuming transnational dimensions, undermining social peace and even international relations. Using advanced technological means and sophisticated organizational forms, organized crime, particularly drug trafficking, is outpacing official capacity for control. Countries debilitated by the economic crisis are an easy prey to crime. Regional and subregional integration is likely also to further transnational criminality if preventive steps are not taken.

48. The report highlights certain subjects as meriting special or continuing attention, including organized crime; violence; environmental offences; juvenile delinquency; protection of victims; criminal justice system management; community-based sanctions; upgrading of law enforcement activities; and training. It stresses the pivotal role of criminal justice in protecting the interests of society, safeguarding human rights and securing peaceful and democratic development. It calls for effective implementation of the United Nations instruments and standards and for practical initiatives, such as the development of model agreements and effective strategies for international co-operation.

49. The report states:

"The United Nations is the only existing entity that has the general mandate and the international constituency necessary to provide countries with effective assistance in preventing and controlling national and transnational crime. It lacks, however, the organizational capacity to discharge this responsibility fully and effectively."

The report further suggests:

"The logical administrative placement of such a programme would be either a new United Nations agency established and maintained with separate funding, or a new, major unit of the Secretariat."

50. In order to provide an appropriate institutional framework and permit the consolidation of the instruments for international co-operation in crime prevention and criminal justice, an international convention has been suggested. It is also proposed that a summit or ministerial meeting should be convened to mobilize the necessary political will and identify the strategy to be pursued in dealing more effectively with the burgeoning problems of national and transnational crime.

#### X. CONCLUDING REMARKS

51. The Committee in its report draws attention to the severe and persisting financial and other constraints under which this programme is operating, and urges remedial measures. This problem has been underscored in successive General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions (e.g. Assembly resolutions 42/95, paragraph 5, 43/99, paragraph 10, and 44/72, paragraph 1; and Council resolutions 1986/11, paragraph 4, and 1987/53, paragraphs 3 (a) and 4). Other bodies, such as the Committee on Programme and Co-ordination, at its spring session of 1989, noted the disparity between the growth of mandated activities and the limited resources available for them. The regional preparatory meetings for the Congress also voiced their concern and urged appropriate action. In its resolution 1989/68, paragraphs 6 and 7, and 17 and 18, the Council made similar calls and requested, in paragraph 24, a progress report on their implementation.

52. In the context of the severe financial and budgetary constraints of the Organization, however, it has not been possible to increase the regular budget resources of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch. The proposed redeployment of seven posts of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs to Vienna, which might have given some room for adjustment within the United Nations Office at Vienna, was not approved by the General Assembly. It should be noted, however, that the temporary Congress posts have been filled, and in view of the importance of the programme, no professional posts were cut in the Crime Branch in the retrenchment exercise.

53. Given the new emphasis placed on social issues, and the multidisciplinary nature of effective crime prevention, including co-ordination with economic, public administration and development policies, the relevance of this programme to the mainstream of United Nations activities is clear.

54. The Committee on Crime Prevention and Control has assessed the problem and suggested a possible response, both in the near and longer-term. It has, inter alia, suggested that a new United Nations Agency should be established with separate funding, or a new major unit of the Secretariat. Member States will no doubt wish to consider whether either of these options are viable. The Committee has also called for a procedure for selecting issues for priority attention, for designing a programme for each issue, for assembling and deploying the resources needed for this purpose, and for monitoring and evaluating the results.

55. The Committee has underlined the importance of an energetic fund-raising campaign, with intensive consultations with Governments, in order to maximize their contributions to the programme. Several Governments have already demonstrated their interest in the programme by providing human and material support. For example, the Government of the USSR has contributed the services of an experienced professional; Italy and Japan have provided junior professional officers; and other Governments and organizations have provided short-term experts for special projects and host facilities for meetings. The pledging day scheduled for the Eighth Congress offers an opportunity for affirming the commitment to this work.

56. The forthcoming Congress provides a real opportunity to meet the challenge. The instruments and resolutions before it, all approved by consensus by the Committee as its preparatory body, will define the path which future action will take. The organizational arrangements are well advanced and the substantive platform has been carefully scrutinized by Governments and in the preparatory meetings. The draft resolutions before the Council should further promote empirically based and operationally tested strategies designed to curtail crime and victimization in its multifarious forms. The elements of concerted action are largely there, but if the Organization is to discharge its mandated leadership role and to assist vulnerable countries in the fight against crime, then it must have the capability to do so. The answer and the responsibility for providing it ultimately lie with Member States.

#### Notes

1/ Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Milan, 26 August-6 September 1985: report prepared by the Secretariat (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IV.1), chap. I, sects. A and B.

2/ General Assembly resolution 40/34, annex.

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