

1997/32. United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 46/152 of 18 December 1991 on the creation of an effective United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme,

Reaffirming the importance of United Nations standards, norms and guidelines 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 1996/16 of 23 July 1996, in which it requested the Secretary-General to continue to promote the use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice,

1. *Invites* Governments to promote and disseminate the *Compendium of United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*¹⁷⁹ in the languages of their countries;

2. *Recommends* that the relevant national authorities promote the use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice;

3. *Invites* Governments that have not yet replied to the questionnaires on the four standards in crime prevention and criminal justice referred to in its resolution 1996/16, namely the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners,¹⁸⁰ the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials¹⁸¹ together with the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials,¹⁸² the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power¹⁷⁰ and the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary,¹⁸³ to submit their replies in order to enable the Secretariat to summarize that information and to disseminate it through the World Wide Web database facility of the United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network;

4. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare the relevant survey instruments on the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (The Tokyo Rules),¹⁷¹ the Guidelines on the Role of Prosecutors¹⁸⁴ and the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers¹⁸⁵ for submission to the

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its seventh session;

5. *Calls upon* Member States to consider making available funds for technical cooperation activities that are aimed at promoting the further use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice;

6. *Recommends* that the cooperation and coordination between the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division of the Secretariat and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights be further improved, not only to avoid overlapping in the implementation of their programmes, but also to reinforce existing collaboration;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene a meeting of government experts in crime prevention and criminal justice, attending in their personal capacity, funded by extrabudgetary resources, to review the draft minimum rules for the administration of criminal justice,¹⁸⁶ without prejudice to the future work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, paying special attention to the following:

(a) Whether those draft minimum rules duplicate or contradict existing conventions or standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice;

(b) The necessity of elaborating such an instrument;

(c) The diversity of legal systems and practices in each Member State.

*36th plenary meeting
21 July 1997*

¹⁷⁹ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.92.IV.1 and corrigendum.

¹⁸⁰ *First United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Geneva, 22 August–3 September 1955: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 1956.IV.4), annex I, sect. A.

¹⁸¹ General Assembly resolution 34/169, annex.

¹⁸² *Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Havana, 27 August–7 September 1990: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.IV.2), chap. I, sect. B.2, annex.

¹⁸³ *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, sect. D.2, annex.

¹⁸⁴ *Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Havana, 27 August–7 September 1990: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.IV.2), chap. I, sect. C.26, annex.

¹⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, chap. I, sect. B.3, annex.