

ECOSOC Resolution 2003/25

International cooperation, technical assistance and advisory services in crime prevention and criminal justice

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century, adopted by the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders¹ and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/59 of 4 December 2000,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 57/173 of 18 December 2002 on strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity,

Recalling further its resolutions 1998/24 of 28 July 1998, on technical cooperation and advisory services in crime prevention and criminal justice, and 2002/19 of 24 July 2002, on strengthening international cooperation and technical assistance within the framework of the activities of the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in preventing and combating terrorism,

Emphasizing the importance of enhancing international cooperation and coordination among Member States in the fields of crime prevention and criminal justice to the achievement of the objectives of the United Nations, including sustainable development, improved quality of life, democracy and human rights,

Noting the increasing number of requests for technical assistance received by the Centre for International Crime Prevention from least developed countries, developing countries, countries with economies in transition and countries emerging from conflict,

Expressing its appreciation for funding provided by Member States in 2002, which has permitted the Centre to enhance its capacity to conduct an increasing number of technical assistance activities,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the reports of the Executive Director of the Office on Drugs and Crime on the work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention,² in particular its technical cooperation activities, and on ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto³ and the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening international cooperation and technical assistance in preventing and combating terrorism;⁴

¹ See *Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Vienna, 10-17 April 2000: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.IV.8).

² E/CN.15/2003/2.

³ E/CN.15/2003/5.

⁴ E/CN.15/2003/9.

2. *Commends* the Centre for assisting Member States in the improvement of their criminal justice systems by responding to an increasing number of requests for technical assistance in the implementation of projects;

3. *Recognizes* the expansion of technical assistance activities of the Centre and encourages international, regional and national funding agencies, as well as international financial institutions, to support the technical cooperation activities and interregional advisory services of the Centre;

4. *Urges* relevant entities of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, as well as other international and regional organizations, to increase their interaction with the Centre in order to ensure that, as appropriate, activities in the fields of crime prevention and criminal justice, including activities to combat terrorism and corruption, are considered in their country and regional programmes and development frameworks, to ensure the full utilization of the expertise of the Centre in activities related to crime prevention and criminal justice and to promotion of the rule of law and to avoid duplication of effort;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* to Member States for supporting the technical assistance activities of the Centre by providing financial or in-kind contributions to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme;

6. *Expresses the need* to have adequate resources available in order to make progress in the further operationalization of the activities of the Centre and in order to implement the projects carried out under its global programmes against trafficking in human beings, terrorism, corruption and organized crime;

7. *Urges* Member States to make or increase, as appropriate, voluntary contributions to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, as well as to make or increase, as appropriate, contributions in direct support of activities and projects of the Centre, including through contributions to institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, in order to strengthen further the capacity of the Centre to provide technical assistance;

8. *Encourages* Member States, in particular, developing countries and countries with economies in transition, that are beneficiaries of technical assistance provided by the Centre and are in a position to do so to contribute to the activities of the Centre through such means as the provision of necessary infrastructure or human resources or by allotting national funds to projects implemented in partnership with the Centre;

9. *Encourages* developing countries and countries with economies in transition to include in their requests for assistance from the United Nations Development Programme, in particular within its country programme framework, projects and/or elements on crime prevention and criminal justice;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to enhance further the resources available within the existing overall budgetary framework of the United Nations for the operational activities and, in particular, the interregional advisory services of the Centre for International Crime Prevention under section 23, Regular programme of technical cooperation, of the regular budget of the United Nations;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to make all possible efforts, including appeals to donors in the private sector, mobilization of resources and fund-raising, to increase extrabudgetary resources, including general-purpose funds, bearing in mind the need to safeguard the independence and international character of the Centre.

*44th plenary meeting
22 July 2003*