

ECOSOC Resolution 2003/26

Prevention of urban crime

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 55/59 of 4 December 2000, in which the Assembly endorsed 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 Offenders held in Vienna from 10 to 17 April 2000, 56/261 of 31 January 2002, in which the Assembly took note with appreciation of the plans of action for the implementation of the Vienna Declaration, annexed to resolution 56/261, including the plan of action on crime prevention,¹ and 57/170 of 18 December 2002, in which the Assembly again invited Governments to use the plans of action as a guide in their efforts to formulate legislation, policies and programmes in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice,

Recalling also its resolution 1995/9 of 24 July 1995, in which it adopted guidelines for cooperation and technical assistance in the field of urban crime prevention,

Recalling further its resolution 2002/13 of 24 July 2002, on action to promote effective crime prevention, in which it accepted the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime, annexed to the resolution,

Concerned at the continuing rise in urban crime of an increasingly serious nature in many parts of the world,

Mindful of the clear linkages between urban crime and drug trafficking, organized crime and the illegal possession and use of firearms,

Recognizing that in many countries criminal activities have become a major threat to public safety in large urban areas,

Expressing particular concern for children at risk in large urban areas,

Recognizing that urban criminality in specific situations hampers economic growth and weakens state institutions, thereby undermining efforts to promote sustainable development and reduce poverty,

Recognizing also the need for a balanced, integrated approach to fighting urban crime, including activities addressing such root causes as poverty, social marginalization and exclusion and lack of opportunities for young people,

Recognizing further that crime prevention strategies and actions should be based on a broad, gender-sensitive, multidisciplinary foundation of knowledge about proven and promising practices,

Reiterating the need for more regional and international collaboration in the fight against urban crime,

¹ General Assembly resolution 56/261, annex, sect. VIII.

1. *Encourages* Member States to draw upon the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime, annexed to Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/13, when developing, implementing and evaluating urban crime prevention programmes and projects, and to share their experience gained in that regard, including in their inputs to the report of the Secretary-General requested in that resolution;

2. *Also encourages* Member States to establish effective policies and to pursue the implementation of such policies, where appropriate, to protect children at risk in urban areas;

3. *Requests* the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in consultation with Member States, the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and other relevant entities of the United Nations system, to continue to assist Member States, upon request, to prepare proposals for the provision of technical assistance in the area of crime prevention, in accordance with the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime, including through capacity-building and training;

4. *Also requests* the Centre for International Crime Prevention, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources and with the assistance of Governments, the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network and relevant United Nations entities, to compile an overview of proven and promising practices in the area of urban crime prevention, including in criminal justice, to develop a practical manual on the use and application of the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime and to convene for that purpose an expert group meeting, with participants to be selected on the basis of equitable geographical representation;

5. *Again calls upon* all relevant United Nations organizations and bodies and international financial institutions to give appropriate consideration to the inclusion of urban crime prevention and law enforcement projects in their assistance programmes;

6. *Recommends* that in the programme of the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice due attention be given to the issue of urban crime;

7. *Welcomes* the inclusion of urban crime and youth at risk as one of the issues for the workshops to be held at the Eleventh Congress, which would permit an in-depth discussion of the subject at the regional preparatory meetings for the Congress.

*44th plenary meeting
22 July 2003*