

ECOSOC Resolution 2004/31

Prevention of urban crime

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2003/26 of 22 July 2003 on the prevention of urban crime, in which it called 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,

Recalling also the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution S-25/2 of 9 June 2001, which reaffirmed that the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements¹ and the Habitat Agenda² would remain the basic framework for sustainable human settlement development in the years to come,

Concerned about the seriousness of violent crimes in cities all over the world, which generates a fear of crime and has an impact on sustainable economic development, the quality of life and human rights,

Recalling that it had requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme 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,³ including through capacity-building and training,

Recalling also that the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime have explored areas of mutual interest in order to collaborate in the betterment of good urban governance with a view to achieving the goals and targets of the United Nations Millennium Declaration,⁴ including linking urban safety and urban governance, developing a conceptual understanding and tools in relation to the role of local authorities in crime prevention, examining local manifestations of transnational organized crime and developing new forms of justice, policing and policies targeting groups at risk, in particular children, youth and women,

Taking note of the memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme aimed at establishing a framework for collaboration, and noting that bilateral consultations have taken place and a programme of work has been developed,

Noting the progress made by Member States to establish effective policies and programmes in urban crime prevention, and encouraging increased sharing of experience,

¹ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution I, annex I.

² *Ibid.*, annex II.

³ Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/13, annex.

⁴ See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

1. *Welcomes* the initiative of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to collaborate with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on technical assistance in relation to crime prevention, including the links between local and transnational organized crime, through operational projects, joint workshops and the compilation of useful practices and guidelines;

2. *Also welcomes* the fact that due attention will be given to the issue of urban crime at the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in the Workshop on Strategies and Best Practices for Crime Prevention, in particular in relation to Urban Crime and Youth at Risk;

3. *Takes note* of the Safer Cities Programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, and encourages municipalities to join the related network;

4. *Welcomes* the initiative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to establish, for developing countries, a database of good and promising practices in the area of urban crime prevention, in coordination with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the relevant institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network;

5. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to develop its knowledge and tools pertaining to the role of local authorities in the prevention of crime through the development of specific measures targeting groups at risk, in particular children and youth;

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

7. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to provide technical assistance to States, upon request, in collaboration with other relevant entities, in the area of urban crime prevention;

8. *Calls once again 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 programmes of assistance.

*47th plenary meeting
21 July 2004*