

ECOSOC Resolution 2006/29

Crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women and girls

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that, at the 2005 World Summit held at United Nations Headquarters from 14 to 16 September 2005, Heads of State and Government underscored the importance of eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls,¹

Recalling also the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action² adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995, and, in particular, the determination of Governments to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls,

Bearing in mind that, in 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 2000,³ Member States committed themselves to taking into account and addressing, within the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, as well as within national crime prevention and criminal justice strategies, any disparate impact of programmes and policies on women and men,

Recalling that, in the plans of action for the implementation of the Vienna Declaration,⁴ specific national and international measures on the special needs of women as criminal justice practitioners, victims, prisoners and offenders were recommended,

Recalling also that the Bangkok Declaration on Synergies and Responses: Strategic Alliances in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, adopted at the high-level segment of the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Bangkok from 18 to 25 April 2005,⁵ emphasized the importance of promoting the interests of victims of crime, including taking account of their gender,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 52/86 of 12 December 1997, on crime prevention and criminal justice measures to eliminate violence against women, in which the Assembly adopted the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and called upon the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to continue to consider the elimination of violence against

¹ See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

² *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

³ General Assembly resolution 55/59, annex.

⁴ General Assembly resolution 56/261, annex.

⁵ General Assembly resolution 60/177, annex.

women within the training and technical assistance efforts of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme,

Noting Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, on women, peace and security, in which the Council recognized the serious impact of armed conflict and resulting violence directed against women in such situations,

Recalling its resolution 1996/12 of 23 July 1996, on the elimination of violence against women, in which it urged Member States to review or monitor legislation and legal principles, procedures, policies and practices relating to criminal matters to determine if they had an adverse or negative impact on women and, if they had such an impact, to modify them in order to ensure that women were treated fairly by the criminal justice system,

Recalling also its resolution 2005/20 of 22 July 2005, in which it adopted the Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime, which contain a gender perspective,

Reaffirming its resolution 2005/21 of 22 July 2005, on strengthening the rule of law and the reform of criminal justice institutions, in which it encouraged the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to develop tools and training manuals on criminal justice reform, based on international standards and best practices,

Noting previous and ongoing work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the area of violence against women and children,

Noting also the Workshop on Violence against Women in the Twenty-first Century, organized by the Government of France, the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Paris on 28 and 29 April 2005,

Recognizing the challenge of developing effective criminal justice initiatives targeting violence against women and girls, in particular in the area of designing appropriate law enforcement responses in developing countries and countries with societies in transition, which would ensure the protection of victims while guaranteeing that perpetrators are effectively prosecuted and held accountable for their acts,

Noting the progress made by the independent expert in preparing the study on violence against children, requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 57/190 of 18 December 2002, which will pay particular attention to the situation of girls, and the contribution of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to that study,

Welcoming the in-depth study on all forms of violence against women requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 58/185 of 22 December 2003 and looking forward to its publication, and also welcoming the contribution of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to that study in the form of the co-sponsoring, with the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat, of an expert group meeting held in May 2005 on good practices in combating and eliminating violence against women,

Expressing concern at the high levels of violence against women and girls in many societies,

1. *Urges* Member States to consider, to the utmost extent possible, using the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice⁶ in developing and undertaking strategies and practical measures to eliminate violence against women and in promoting women's equality within the criminal justice system;

2. *Strongly encourages* Member States to promote an active and visible policy for integrating a gender perspective into the development and implementation of policies and programmes in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice in order to assist with the elimination of violence against women and girls;

3. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within available extrabudgetary resources, not excluding the use of existing resources from the regular budget of the Office,⁷ and invites the institutes comprising the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network to consider providing assistance, upon request, to Member States in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women and girls, in cooperation with other relevant entities of the United Nations system, and to integrate the elimination of violence against women and girls into their training and technical assistance efforts, including their crime prevention activities;

4. *Welcomes* the development by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime of a handbook for law enforcement officials on effective responses to violence against women, and encourages the Office, within available extrabudgetary resources, not excluding the use of existing resources from the regular budget of the Office,⁷ to continue to develop tools and training manuals on criminal justice reform, with a gender perspective and targeting the special needs of women in the criminal justice system, including women in prison settings;

5. *Also welcomes* the work already carried out by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in providing assistance to victims of violence, in particular women and children, by setting up one-stop centres and supporting non-governmental organizations active in that area, and invites the Office, within available extrabudgetary resources, not excluding the use of existing resources from the regular budget of the Office,⁷ to draw on its experience to expand such activities;

6. *Invites* Member States to provide resources to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to enable it to provide effective assistance to Member States in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women and girls;

⁶ General Assembly resolution 52/86, annex.

⁷ This language does not provide a basis for an increase in the regular budget or requests for supplemental increases.

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its seventeenth session, in 2008, on the implementation of the present resolution.

41st plenary meeting
27 July 2006