

## ECOSOC Resolution 2007/21

### **Information-gathering instrument in relation to United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* 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,

*Recalling also* its resolution 2003/30 of 22 July 2003 on United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, in which it decided to group such standards and norms into four categories for the purpose of targeted collection of information, in order to better identify the specific needs of Member States with a view to improving technical cooperation, and in which it called upon Member States, in responding to inquiries on the application of such standards and norms, to focus on identifying difficulties encountered in their application, ways in which technical assistance could overcome those difficulties and desirable practices in prevention and control of crime,

*Aware* of the collection of information that has taken place in relation to the first three categories of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice,

*Recalling* its resolution 2006/20 of 27 July 2006 on United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention, in which it requested the Secretary-General to convene an intergovernmental expert group meeting, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, to design an information-gathering instrument in relation to the second component of the third category of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, namely, those related primarily to victim issues, and to study ways and means to promote their use and application, and to report on progress made in that connection to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its sixteenth session,

*Noting* General Assembly resolution 40/34 of 29 November 1985, in which the Assembly adopted the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power,<sup>1</sup>

*Recalling* its resolution 1989/57 of 24 May 1989 on the implementation of the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power,

*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,<sup>2</sup> invited Member States to draw, where appropriate, on the Guidelines in the development of legislation, procedures, policies and practices for children who were victims or witnesses in criminal proceedings, and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Crime

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<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 40/34, annex.

<sup>2</sup> Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/20, annex.

Prevention and Criminal Justice at its seventeenth session on the implementation of that resolution,

*Noting* General Assembly resolution 56/261 of 31 January 2002, entitled “Plans of action for the implementation of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century”, in particular section IX of the plans of action, on action in the context of witnesses and victims of crime to implement the relevant commitments undertaken in the Vienna Declaration,

*Aware* that in the Bangkok Declaration on Synergies and Responses: Strategic Alliances in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,<sup>3</sup> Member States recognized the importance of giving special attention to the need to protect witnesses and victims of crime and terrorism, and committed themselves to strengthening, where needed, the legal and financial framework for providing support to such victims, taking into account, inter alia, the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power,

1. *Reiterates* its continued support to the use and application of the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power;<sup>4</sup>

2. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Intergovernmental Expert Group to Develop an Information-Gathering Instrument on United Nations Standards and Norms Related Primarily to Victim Issues, at its meeting held in Vienna from 27 to 29 November 2006, in designing an information-gathering instrument in relation to United Nations standards and norms related primarily to victim issues and in identifying proposals to foster the use and application of such standards and norms;

3. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Governments of Canada and Germany for their financial support in the organization of the meeting of the intergovernmental expert group;

4. *Approves* the questionnaire on United Nations standards and norms related primarily to victim issues, annexed to the report of the Secretary-General on the results of the meeting of the intergovernmental expert group,<sup>5</sup> which is designed to identify examples of how individual States use and apply the relevant standards and norms, but such examples are not intended to provide standards of use and application that would necessarily be suitable for all States;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to forward the questionnaire to Member States;

6. *Invites* Member States to reply to the questionnaire and to include any comments or suggestions they may have in relation to that instrument;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to seek information from relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, within the mandate of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and from the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network and other relevant United Nations entities with respect to

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<sup>3</sup> General Assembly resolution 60/177, annex.

<sup>4</sup> General Assembly resolution 40/34, annex.

<sup>5</sup> E/CN.15/2007/3, annex I.

their capacity to provide technical assistance in relation to the areas outlined in the questionnaire;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources and to the outcome of discussions at the second session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption on its information-gathering mechanism, an open-ended intergovernmental meeting of experts, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, to design an information-gathering instrument in relation to the fourth category of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, namely, those relating primarily to the independence of the judiciary and the integrity of criminal justice personnel, building on the experience gained from the information-gathering exercises completed to date, in particular in relation to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime<sup>6</sup> and the United Nations Convention against Corruption,<sup>7</sup> and ensuring that there is no duplication or overlap between the information-gathering instrument and the work covered by existing mechanisms and working groups;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its eighteenth session, on the basis of information gathered using the questionnaire referred to in paragraphs 4 and 5 above, on the use and application of United Nations standards and norms relating primarily to victim issues, in particular with regard to the following:

(a) Examples of difficulties encountered in the application of United Nations standards and norms relating primarily to victim issues;

(b) Examples of ways in which technical assistance can be provided to overcome those difficulties;

(c) Examples of useful practices in addressing existing and emerging challenges in that field;

(d) Suggestions from Member States on ways to further improve existing standards and norms relating primarily to victim issues if Member States add such comments to their responses to the questionnaire.

*45th plenary meeting  
26 July 2007*

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<sup>6</sup> General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex I.

<sup>7</sup> General Assembly resolution 58/4, annex.