

Resolution

2009/25

Improving the collection, reporting and analysis of data to enhance knowledge on trends in specific areas of crime

The Economic and Social Council,

Convinced of the importance of relevant United Nations indicators and instruments for the collection and analysis of accurate, reliable and comparable data on all relevant aspects of specific crime issues,

Recognizing the urgent need to improve the quality, scope and completeness of data concerning international crime trends and specific crime issues for the purpose of developing evidence-based policies for crime prevention and the operation of criminal justice systems,

Recalling that, in its resolution 1992/22 of 30 July 1992, it reaffirmed the request of the General Assembly to the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to enable the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme to continue and improve the surveys of crime trends and the operation of criminal justice systems carried out periodically as a means of obtaining and providing a cross-nationally updated picture of patterns and dynamics of crime in the world,

Bearing in mind the Bangkok Declaration on Synergies and Responses: Strategic Alliances in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,¹ in which Member States declared their intention to improve responses to crime and terrorism nationally and internationally by collecting and sharing information on crime and welcomed the work done by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and by the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network in the area of trends in crime and justice,

Bearing in mind also the recommendations and conclusions of the expert group on crime statistics convened pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolutions 1996/11 of 23 July 1996, 1997/27 of 21 July 1997 and 2005/23 of 22 July 2005,

Noting the systems for the collection of data and information on criminal justice already in place at the regional and international levels, including the delinquency observatories, and convinced of the importance of avoiding duplication,

Underscoring the importance of improving data collection tools in order to ensure a simple and more efficient process, thus encouraging and motivating a greater number of Member States to submit the required information on time and ensuring a more representative assessment, at the international level, of all relevant aspects of specific crime issues,

Recognizing the importance of building the capacity of Member States to collect and report such information,

Recognizing also the importance of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the regular collection of information through the United Nations Survey on Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice

¹ General Assembly resolution 60/177, annex.

Systems pursuant to General Assembly resolution 3021 (XXVII) of 18 December 1972 on crime prevention and control and Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/48 of 25 May 1984 on crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of development,

1. *Invites* Member States to strengthen their efforts to review and improve data collection tools in order to obtain an objective, scientific, balanced and transparent assessment of emerging trends in specific areas of crime;

2. *Also invites* Member States to share information on the progress made and the obstacles encountered in fostering the exchange among States of information related to crime and to the function of the criminal justice system;

3. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to establish an open-ended intergovernmental expert working group, to be convened at least once between sessions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to prepare recommendations on the improvement of tools for the collection of relevant crime data, in particular the United Nations Survey on Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems, and of the collection, collation, analysis and reporting processes, in support of the ongoing work of the Office in that area, invites Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for that purpose in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations, and notes that the working group should base its work on, inter alia, the following general considerations:

(a) The need to simplify and improve the reporting system of the United Nations Survey on Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems in order to encourage more Member States to report, in a coordinated and integrated way, on their efforts, achievements and challenges in specific areas of crime and provide information relating to the nature and extent of challenges posed by transnational crime;

(b) The need to avoid duplication of efforts to the extent possible by taking into account existing reporting procedures, including those of relevant regional and international bodies;

(c) The need for accurate, reliable and internationally comparable data on all relevant aspects of specific crime issues, bearing in mind the value of comparing those data with previously collected data, including from surveys on victimization, where possible;

(d) The possibility of using for the United Nations Survey on Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems a shorter, annual questionnaire containing a core set of questions;

(e) The possibility of including in such a core survey on crime trends and operations of criminal justice systems thematic modules reflecting the theme or themes of the thematic discussions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

(f) The importance of learning from the experience acquired by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime through the data collection mechanisms established in respect of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto² and the United

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

Nations Convention against Corruption,³ including in relation to the use of modern technologies, where feasible;

4. *Invites* relevant international and regional organizations, upon request, to provide to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime information on their experiences in collecting crime-related data;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to submit to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at its nineteenth session, a report on the activities of the above-mentioned expert working group;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in coordination with the Statistical Commission, to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at its twentieth session, on the implementation of the present resolution.

*44th plenary meeting
30 July 2009*

³ Ibid., vol. 2349, No. 42146.