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Crime prevention and criminal justice

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The report is submitted in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/44. It highlights steps taken to implement that resolution and presents an overview of organizational and substantive preparations for the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, as well as activities carried out at the regional and international levels. The document should be read in conjunction with the report of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control on its tenth session (E/1988/20).

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INTRODUCTION

1. On 27 May 1988, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1988/44 on the review of the functioning and programme of work of the United Nations in crime prevention and criminal justice. This resolution, and the discussion that preceded its adoption, reconfirmed the importance that Member States attach to United Nations work in this field.

2. The Council's attention is also drawn to paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 43/99 of 8 December 1988 on crime prevention and criminal justice, by which the Assembly invited the Economic and Social Council, at its first regular session of 1989, to give priority attention to the recommendations of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control regarding, in particular, the implementation of the resolutions of the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, the review of the functioning and programme of work of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice and the preparations for the Eighth Congress.

3. The present report is submitted in response to the two foregoing resolutions.

I. PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1988/44

A. Committee on Crime Prevention and Control at its tenth session

4. The tenth session of the Committee, which met at Vienna from 22 to 31 August 1988, coincided with the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme. It was a unique opportunity to draw the attention of policy makers and the public at large to the importance of protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms through responsive and humane criminal justice policies. In response to paragraph 10 of the Council's resolution 1988/44, as well as paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 42/59, the Committee had three important tasks: to review the implementation of the recommendations of the Seventh Congress; to prepare for the Eighth Congress; and to assess the results of the programme review. A number of far-reaching recommendations were made for appropriate action by the Council. 1/

5. In discussing the follow-up of the Seventh Congress, the Committee considered that adequate implementation mechanisms and concrete action-oriented strategies had to be developed at different levels. The Committee concluded that there was a visible impact of the Milan Plan of Action and other United Nations instruments in crime prevention and criminal justice on the policies of Governments. Many countries were undertaking far-reaching and comprehensive legal reforms, providing for the improvement of criminal justice systems, the transparency of legal proceedings and the protection of judges and lawyers. Important goals were the humanization of justice, the protection of liberty, decriminalization, fair and

effective use of the penal sanction, the reduction of the prison population and securing redress for victims. The Committee's recommendations are reflected in draft resolutions I to XII.

6. The Committee drew attention to the imbalance between its expanded responsibilities and the frequency and duration of its sessions. Great concern was also expressed at the paucity of resources. The recommendations of the Committee are contained in draft resolution XIII.

7. In response to paragraph 10 of Council resolution 1988/44, the Committee reviewed the preparations for the Eighth Congress, as summarized in the report of the Secretary-General (E/AC.57/1988/14). Particular attention was given to the results of the interregional preparatory meetings of experts. The Committee expressed satisfaction at the progress achieved so far, reviewed all the proposals and recommendations of the interregional meetings, and noted with appreciation the collaboration developing with the interregional and regional institutes, relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and the professional community. The recommendations of the Committee on this matter are contained in draft resolution XIV.

B. The General Assembly at its forty-third session

8. During the discussion of item 93, "Crime prevention and criminal justice", over 29 statements were made by representatives of developed and developing countries. 2/ These statements reflected measures undertaken to implement the resolutions and recommendations of the Seventh Congress and included:

(a) Initiatives aimed at the implementation of provisions of the Milan Plan of Action and application of new and more effective strategies in crime prevention and criminal justice in close collaboration with the United Nations;

(b) Viable programmes for the rehabilitation and social reintegration of offenders;

(c) Promotion and protection of fundamental human rights;

(d) Establishment of training and employment opportunities to provide viable alternative measures to imprisonment;

(e) Emphasis on preventive social measures with respect to juvenile crime;

(f) Educational and vocational programmes and self-confidence building measures for convicted prisoners aimed at their resocialization;

(g) Criminal law reforms based, inter alia, on United Nations policies, i.e., passing new legislation to strengthen the administration of justice by modernizing extradition procedures, widening the scope for the confiscation of the proceeds of crime, improving the judicial process, and expanding compensation schemes for victims of crime;

(h) "Safer cities" programmes to reduce crime in urban areas with high crime rates by the involvement of voluntary organizations;

(i) Publicity programmes to provide guidance to individuals, families and businesses on how to protect themselves and their property;

(j) Involvement of the private sector, and community participation in crime prevention efforts.

9. The representative of Cuba renewed the offer of his Government to host the Congress at Havana, and pledged the full collaboration of his Government in ensuring its success. The offer was welcomed by many representatives.

10. In commenting on the need to strengthen the programme, many representatives underlined the important function of the United Nations in assisting Member States in their efforts to combat crime and promote justice. It was stressed that the priorities set by the Council should be strictly followed and reflected in the work programme. They included international co-operation against serious crimes, especially mutual legal assistance and extradition; combating organized crime; improving the management of criminal justice systems and reducing the use of imprisonment; regard for human rights in the administration of justice; continuance of world surveys on crime trends and the criminal justice information network; close co-ordination of the activities of the regional institutes; and well focused technical assistance to developing countries. Continuous attention should also be given to the prevention of traditional crimes such as theft and street violence. A balance should be maintained between the criminological and legal aspects of the programme, as well as between crime control concerns and strict observance of basic human rights.

11. The General Assembly adopted resolution 43/99 on crime prevention and criminal justice, by which it welcomed, inter alia, the efforts made by Member States and the Secretary-General to translate into action the recommendations contained in the Milan Plan of Action, and urged those Governments that had not yet done so to inform the Secretary-General about their implementation. The Assembly further stressed the need for Member States to continue to make concerted and systematic efforts to strengthen international co-operation in crime prevention and criminal justice and to facilitate the adoption by the Eighth Congress of viable and constructive action-oriented strategies against crime. The Assembly called upon all States and other relevant organizations to become actively involved in the preparations for the Eighth Congress, to participate in the regional and preparatory meetings and to be represented at the quinquennial congresses at a high level. It also called upon the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to give priority to national, regional and international measures aimed at fighting crime and improving the administration of justice. Member States, as well as relevant organizations, were encouraged to support technical co-operation activities and contribute to the United Nations Trust Fund for Social Defence. Finally, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide the necessary resources for the preparations of the Eighth Congress, including its regional preparatory meetings, and to ensure that the allocation of manpower to the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for

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Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs was sufficient to meet its responsibilities and necessary commitments. The Assembly also adopted resolution 43/153 on human rights in the administration of justice, by which, inter alia, acknowledging the important work accomplished in that field by the crime prevention and criminal justice programme and the Committee at its tenth session, it requested the Secretary-General to provide all the necessary support to the United Nations bodies working on standard setting in that field.

C. Sub-Committee of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control

12. In pursuance of resolution 10/1 of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, the Meeting of the Sub-Committee was convened from 18-19 January 1989 and hosted by the Arab Security Studies and Training Centre (ASSTC) at Riyadh. It was attended by the members of the Bureau of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control and other designated experts, as well as by the directors of the United Nations regional and interregional institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, the ASSTC and the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC). A background paper entitled "Restructuring the practical management of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme" was prepared by the Director of the Helsinki Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations (HEUNI).

13. The Sub-Committee focused attention on substantive, organizational and structural aspects of the United Nations programme. It was observed that as the nature of crime had changed it was necessary to conduct periodic assessments and analyses of the state of crime within different countries, as well as crimes transcending national boundaries, so as to identify their deleterious consequences and devise effective counter strategies and policies. Case studies on new forms of crimes should be carried out. Information sharing in that respect was essential. To that end, the establishment and maintenance of an effective criminal justice information network was indispensable. It was also necessary to continue to improve criminal justice administration and to ensure the implementation of existing standards and norms.

14. The view was expressed that the general public should be made aware of the considerable results so far achieved by the United Nations programme on crime prevention and criminal justice and of the useful work accomplished by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control. Press conferences, round-table discussions, publications and other related activities could contribute to raising public awareness. The United Nations congresses should also contribute to that aim.

15. Much of the discussion was concerned with the unsatisfactory resource situation. A number of questions were raised as to the ability of the United Nations to continue playing a leading role in that field, and how its programme could be optimized. Two main schools of thought emerged: one favoured strengthening the existing structure of the United Nations, upgrading its status, scope, autonomy, visibility and functions, to encompass all aspects of crime prevention and criminal justice; and the other recommended the creation of an independent, self-supporting institution.

16. However, caution was voiced by some experts on the latter point. While it was important to explore alternative solutions, it was more realistic and appropriate to devise new ways of enhancing the existing structure. In crime prevention and criminal justice the authority of the United Nations had been firmly established; but to be truly effective, its role and capability in carrying out the mandated tasks to meet the pressing needs of Member States should be strengthened. In considering new avenues to improve the functioning of the United Nations programme of work, the Sub-Committee paid particular attention to what was feasible in view of the existing financial difficulties confronting the United Nations.

17. As to the role of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, the view was expressed that its sessions must be held annually if it was to provide the needed guidance effectively. Since the Committee was playing an essential role in policy formulation and programme evaluation, it should be enabled to perform its functions properly. The members of its Bureau should provide advice to the Secretary-General on priority concerns. It was further proposed that the members of the Committee could serve as resource persons for the countries of their respective regions, and prepare proposals on emerging issues, based on national and regional experiences.

18. It was stressed that technical co-operation was an especially important component of the United Nations activities, and should be reinforced. While developed countries should increase their contribution for those activities, developing countries should include crime prevention and criminal justice programmes in national development plans. The network of United Nations institutes was regarded as the main infrastructure for technical co-operation at the regional level: in this respect the role of the United Nations Social Defence Research Institute (UNSDRI) should be enhanced in order to expand practical field research and provide the necessary research inputs. Also, more dynamic interaction between the Secretariat and the institutes should be pursued and closer co-ordination of activities of mutual interest ensured.

19. It was the unanimous view that the Meeting was of extraordinary value in terms of work accomplished, which would provide a blueprint for strengthened international action. Such meetings should be convened more frequently, possibly at the headquarters of United Nations institutes or at the invitation of interested Governments. It should be noted that the Sub-Committee had been convened thanks to the generosity of the ASSTC which had covered all expenses related to the organization of the Meeting.

II. PREPARATIONS FOR THE EIGHTH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

A. Regional preparatory meetings for the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

20. Subsequent to the five interregional preparatory meetings in 1988, five regional preparatory meetings are being held in 1989. These intergovernmental meetings will be attended by representatives of Governments, United Nations bodies,

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specialized agencies and other entities in the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and recognized national liberation movements. Their scheduling is as follows:

1. The Asian and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting will be held at the Headquarters of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, at Bangkok, from 10 to 14 April 1989.
2. The European Regional Preparatory Meeting will be held at the Headquarters of the Helsinki Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, affiliated with the United Nations, at Helsinki, from 24 to 28 April 1989.
3. The Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting will be held at the Headquarters of the United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, at San José, from 8 to 12 May 1989.
4. The Western Asia Regional Preparatory Meeting will be held under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, at Cairo, from 27 May to 31 May 1989, at the invitation of the Government of Egypt.
5. The African Regional Preparatory Meeting will be held at the Headquarters of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa, from 5 to 9 June 1989.

B. Organizational and substantive arrangements for the Eighth Congress

21. In order to enrich the substantive preparations, and in pursuance of paragraph 4 of resolution 1988/44, joint ad hoc meetings on issues deserving special attention continue to be held in consultation with Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The International Penal and Penitentiary Foundation organized one such meeting in Groningen, Netherlands, from 8 to 12 October 1988, devoted to the elaboration of draft standards minimum rules for the implementation of non-custodial sanctions and measures involving restriction of liberty. In co-operation with the Pan Arab Organization for Social Defence and the United Nations, the Social Security Fund in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya organized a symposium at Tripoli, from 10 to 13 October 1988, on the prevention of juvenile delinquency. It unanimously adopted the Tripoli Plan of Action on the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency. The International Commission of Jurists, under the auspices of the United Nations, organized a conference at Caracas, Venezuela, from 16 to 18 January 1989 on the independence of judges and lawyers. It adopted the Caracas Plan of Action, supporting the United Nations programme aimed at strengthening the independence and impartiality of the judiciary and enhancing the role of lawyers. The International Association of Penal Law and the International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences, in co-operation

with the Police Academy of the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior, organized an international meeting at Cairo, Egypt, from 22 to 25 January 1989, on victims of crime and the implementation of the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power, in connection with the celebration of National Police Day. In co-operation with the Government of Italy, the "Big Four" (the International Association of Penal Law, the International Society of Criminology, the International Society of Social Defence and the International Penal and Penitentiary Foundation) convened a colloquium in Bellagio, Italy, from 2 to 5 May 1989, on topic III of the Eighth Congress, namely, "Effective national and international action against: (a) organized crime; (b) terrorist criminal activities".

22. The Council, in its decision 1988/146 of 27 May 1988, took note with appreciation of the offer of the Government of Cuba to host the Eighth Congress. A first planning mission to Havana, undertaken at the request of the Cuban authorities, reported that the conference facilities, the Palacio de las Convenciones situated at a reasonable distance from the centre of Havana, were satisfactory. Hotel accommodation and other facilities were also satisfactory.

23. In view of time constraints and the need for advance planning, a decision on the venue of the Congress by the Council is urgently required.

24. Following the directives of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, invitations to attend the Congress will be extended at an early stage to Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, specialized agencies and United Nations organs and internationally recognized experts so as to ensure that all participants have adequate time to prepare position papers and scientific reports. The early designation of focal points and contact ministries by Governments, and the mobilization of academic institutions and other associations in order to raise public awareness about the Congress, will contribute to its success.

III. ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT AND JOINT COLLABORATION AT THE REGIONAL, INTERREGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

A. Technical assistance in crime prevention and criminal justice

25. In pursuance of paragraphs 6 and 7 of Council resolution 1988/44, the Secretariat is consulting with both developing and potential donor countries in order to expand technical co-operation. Through the good offices of the Secretariat, the Government of Italy provided advisory assistance to the Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (ILANUD), and to Jamaica, on computerization of criminal justice and improvement of prison conditions, while the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland provided advice to Malawi and Zambia on probation and prison reforms. The Government of Argentina has made available to the Secretariat an expert to help to formulate project documents and provide advice on the treatment of juveniles and drug-addicted offenders. The Government of Austria has arranged for tours of correctional institutions and made available a roster of architects

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and planners of corrections facilities and treatment centres for drug addicts. The Government of Japan has provided a regional technical adviser based at Bangkok.

26. Discussions have also taken place with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, and the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development on providing assistance for projects in this field. The Department continues to finance the services of an interregional adviser, as well as ad hoc advisory missions, and has funded a seminar on the prevention of juvenile delinquency through community participation (see paras. 35-36). UNDP has provided funds for training activities, such as national criminal justice workshops in Liberia and Malawi. Projects in Brazil, Cameroon, Cuba, Nigeria, Swaziland and Uganda are also under consideration by UNDP.

27. Consultations were held with officials of Member States to ascertain assistance requirements and to provide information on the services available through the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch. The following possible projects have been identified: the establishment of a senior police officers' school for Ghana; a project dealing with the prevention of juvenile delinquency in Botswana; an assessment of crime trends in Mauritius; a criminal statistics project in Ethiopia; criminal law reform in Papua New Guinea; treatment of drug addicts in prison in Malaysia; training of judges in Bolivia; and rehabilitation of offenders in Zambia.

28. A technical assistance project for the Government of Uganda on "Drug Traffic Control, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Reform" has been provisionally approved by the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) for joint financing with UNDP. Close working relationships have been developed with UNFDAC, and a number of other possible joint projects in law enforcement are envisaged.

29. Closer collaboration in the provision of advisory services and the joint implementation of training projects in the administration of justice has been established with the Centre for Human Rights, in pursuance of General Assembly resolutions 41/149, 42/143 and 43/153.

30. The interregional adviser visited Ethiopia, Malawi, Swaziland and Uganda in Africa; Argentina, Barbados, Brazil and Cuba in Latin America; China and Thailand in Asia; and Egypt, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in the Arab region. Among the many areas covered were the prevention and control of organized criminality, including illicit drug trafficking and contraband; prevention of juvenile delinquency; law reform and modernization of the judiciary; adapting legal institutions to social change; non-judicial conflict resolution procedures such as mediation, arbitration and conciliation; and implementation of United Nations standards in crime prevention and criminal justice.

31. The ongoing co-operation with non-governmental organizations will be further strengthened through the establishment of an international council of scientific and professional organizations which can provide practical assistance to the United Nations. The Government of Italy has been approached to provide extrabudgetary funds for the project, to be jointly executed with the Centro Nazionale di Prevenzione e Difesa Sociale, a non-governmental organization in consultative

status with the Economic and Social Council. In addition, a number of projects are under consideration in collaboration with non-governmental organizations. For Swaziland, funding is sought for a project of the Swaziland Association for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of Offenders. In Argentina, a project has been designed to strengthen the supervision and after-care treatment capacity of the Patronage of Discharged Prisoners, a non-governmental organization that has been helping ex-offenders for more than 80 years. Another project prepared for Argentina focuses on the treatment of addicts in prison, with attention to the AIDS problem, and the development of suitable after-care services. This proposal is being considered by an Italian non-governmental organization for joint execution.

32. A number of regional technical co-operation projects are also under discussion. A draft treaty on mutual assistance in criminal matters for the West Africa region, and a regional training programme for southern Africa are being prepared. In 1988, UNDP approved a project RLA/88/001 "Judicial System and Development", for ILANUD, to be executed by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, backstopped by the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch. The project is undertaking a series of pilot activities in Argentina, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Peru and Honduras, as well as evaluation seminars at the end of the project.

B. International Seminar on the Prevention and Treatment of
Juvenile Delinquency through Community Participation

33. In co-operation with the Department for Technical Co-operation for Development, the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch organized a Seminar on the Prevention and Treatment of Juvenile Delinquency through Community Participation. It was hosted by the Ministry of Justice of China and held at Beijing from 19 to 24 October 1988. Experts from Australia, Barbados, Brazil, China, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, Federal Republic of Germany, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, New Zealand, Nigeria, the Philippines, Sweden, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United Republic of Tanzania attended, as well as representatives of the Centre for Human Rights of the United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations institutes.

34. The experts noted that the Seventh Congress, through the adoption of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (The Beijing Rules), had made major advances by establishing a set of universally accepted principles regarding the protection of the rights of juveniles in conflict with the law. As some years have passed since the adoption of the Rules, the Seminar provided a unique opportunity to focus attention on the problems of juveniles world wide and review the progress made in the application of the Beijing Rules. The Seminar adopted recommendations relating to the following topics:

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Community-oriented programmes

Measures encouraging de-institutionalization

Implementation of the Beijing Rules

Strengthening co-operation in the field of juvenile justice

The Seminar also adopted guidelines for follow-up action:

At the national level: (a) Formulation and adoption of a multisectoral national policy of prevention of juvenile delinquency through community participation; (b) reorganization of criminal justice agencies to incorporate community programmes into their work, along with the necessary allocation of human and financial resources; (c) development of appropriate training modules and materials for law enforcement officials and other juvenile justice personnel; (d) strengthening action research on the effectiveness of various prevention measures; and (e) designating national focal points to serve as part of a regional and global network to exchange information.

At the regional level: (a) Greater collaboration among the relevant United Nations organs and bodies, including the institutes and the regional commissions; (b) major emphasis on the training of trainers and development of regional and subregional training programmes, data collection and dissemination techniques; and (c) organization of regional ministerial conferences on juvenile justice, under the auspices of the United Nations.

At the global level: (a) Review and evaluation of training materials and technical resources used at the regional, subregional and national levels, and co-ordination of research efforts; (b) identification of national needs and potential sources of co-operation, including assistance in project formulation and programme implementation; (c) close involvement of all bodies and units concerned with a view to ensuring the full protection of the rights, well-being and future of children and youth; and (d) establishment of a juvenile justice information network to promote exchange of experiences with regard to innovative and successful juvenile delinquency prevention programmes.

C. Resource constraints

35. Paragraph 3 of Council resolution 1988/44 requested the Secretary-General to ensure adequate resources for the United Nations programme of work in crime prevention and criminal justice, through measures such as the appropriate redeployment of staff and funds, including redeployment from relevant departments at Headquarters. Although efforts to obtain extrabudgetary resources for the programme and to protect it against further staff cuts have been undertaken, it has not been possible to secure the human and financial resources commensurate with the requirements of the programme and the demanding preparations for the Congress.

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36. If the United Nations is to serve all Member States as a reliable source of timely information and as a tool for strengthened international co-operation in support of national efforts to curb the spread of criminality, and to cope with all the additional responsibilities bestowed upon it, it should not only have the capacity to interact with government agencies, professional associations and practitioners in the field, but also sufficient means to discharge its tasks effectively. 3/ This was fully acknowledged by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control. 4/ Human and financial resources available to the United Nations programme in crime prevention and criminal justice are shrinking. At the same time, legislative mandates are multiplying. The programme and its resources should be redesigned in order to make a tangible, positive impact on the pressing world crime situation. 5/

D. United Nations interregional and regional institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders

37. Paragraph 8 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/44, requested the Secretary-General to foster further collaboration between the Secretariat and the United Nations regional and interregional institutes. The Fifth Annual Joint Meeting on Programme Co-ordination, which was held at Riyadh on 18 January 1989, enabled United Nations institutes in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, as well as the Australian Institute of Criminology, to examine modalities of closer co-operation, co-ordination and joint work. The Meeting discussed a number of priority areas for further action, including the Third United Nations Survey of Crime Trends, Operations of Criminal Justice Systems and Crime Prevention Strategies (1980-1986), the establishment of the computerized United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice information network, and practical implementation of United Nations standards in crime prevention and criminal justice. The Meeting recommended the early operation of the information network, at least among the institutes and the Secretariat, pending further work on its extension to interested agencies and institutions at the country level.

38. Since the Seventh Congress, collaboration between UNSDRI and the United Nations Office at Vienna has intensified. 6/ UNSDRI's programme activities and its technical assistance facilities to developing countries have been further expanded. The Institute's celebration of its 20 years of existence coincided with the approval by the Committee of its "new statute", and the establishment of the Institute's Board of Trustees. 7/ UNSDRI has sought to strengthen its relationships with the United Nations regional institutes and ASSTC. The Institute is playing an active role in the organizational and substantive preparations for the Eighth United Nations Congress; it made scholarly contributions to all the interregional preparatory meetings and will participate in the regional preparatory meetings in 1989. UNSDRI is taking the lead in preparing the research workshop on alternatives to imprisonment, to be organized at the Eighth Congress.

39. The United Nations Asia and Far East Institute (UNAFEI) continued to assist countries of the Asia and Pacific region by conducting training courses and seminars and co-operating closely with the Secretariat. The Seventy-eighth International Training Course, "Footprints, contemporary achievement and future perspectives in policies for correction and rehabilitation of offenders", was held in 1988; it was designed to identify the progress made and the efforts that should

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be undertaken in the correction field. During the same year, UNAFEI organized the Asia and Pacific Regional Experts' Meeting for the formulation of the draft of proposed United Nations standard minimum rules for the non-institutional treatment of offenders.

40. ILANUD devoted most of its resources to upgrading the skills of criminal justice personnel of the Latin American region so as to advance knowledge and understanding of United Nations standards, norms and guidelines in crime prevention and criminal justice. ILANUD continued to organize training courses, seminars and workshops on issues of regional concern, such as crime and juvenile justice, independence of the judiciary and judicial training, and court administration and organization. The Institute also provides technical assistance to interested countries of the region.

41. Close co-operation has been maintained between the Secretariat and the Helsinki Institute for Crime Prevention and Control affiliated with the United Nations (HEUNI). HEUNI has started an inventory of specific preventive measures related to conventional criminality, the results of which will be summarized in a manual to be submitted to the Eighth Congress. An Expert Group Meeting was organized in November 1988 on the implementation of the United Nations Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power. Substantive support has been extended by HEUNI towards the establishment of the crime prevention and criminal justice information network, and for the development of methodological tools for the regional analyses of the Third World Survey.

42. The activities of the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI), which is temporarily hosted by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), were suspended owing to the unavailability of funds. At the fourteenth session of the ECA Conference of Ministers, held at Niamey, Niger, in 1988, Uganda was selected as the host country. An agreement between the Secretariat and the Government of Uganda on host facilities has been submitted to the Government for signature. At present, the most pressing issue is the continuation of financial assistance by UNDP to enable the Institute to continue its training and research activities. At the last session of the Committee, concern was voiced by many experts over the future of UNAFRI. Consequently, the Committee proposed draft resolution IV entitled "African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders", for urgent action by the Council. 8/

43. ASSTC has expanded its activities in organizing training courses and seminars, conducting research, holding regional academic programmes and international expert meetings, including the Expert Meeting on the Preparations for the Research Workshop on Alternatives to Imprisonment. A number of projects have been jointly implemented by the United Nations and the ASSTC, while others are in the planning stages.

E. Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on the follow-up to the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

44. The first Inter-agency Meeting on the follow-up to the recommendations of the Seventh United Nations Congress and on the preparations for the Eighth Congress was held at Vienna from 1-2 September 1988. The Meeting discussed a number of important issues, including the implementation of the resolutions and recommendations of the Seventh Congress; preparations for the Eighth Congress and public information activities; and improved co-ordination and technical co-operation in crime prevention and criminal justice.

45. The Meeting adopted a number of recommendations, which may be summarized as follows:

(a) Co-operation in crime prevention and criminal justice should be further strengthened with a view to ensuring effective implementation of the recommendations of the Seventh Congress, and obtaining inputs from the relevant agencies to the five substantive topics of the Eighth Congress;

(b) The Centre for Human Rights and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the United Nations Office at Vienna should co-operate closely in all matters of human rights in the administration of justice, develop further the recently created focal points to monitor the human rights aspects of the administration of justice, and co-ordinate their technical advisory services in that field;

(c) UNDP and other funding agencies should be made aware of the important linkages between crime prevention and economic development, and the negative impact of crime on the quality of life and the enjoyment of basic human rights. They should also be informed about the facilities and services offered by the Secretariat, the United Nations institutes and the regional commissions, with a view to financing technical assistance projects;

(d) Greater recognition should be given to the importance of the work accomplished over the past 40 years, particularly in the development of standards and policies touching upon such issues as the protection of children and youth, particularly children "at social risk", drug abuse control, violence, organized crime, terrorism, human rights, victimization, abuse of power, development planning, public administration, law enforcement, independence of the judiciary, the role of lawyers, the treatment of prisoners, and alternatives to institutionalization;

(e) The regional commissions and the regional institutes should elaborate action programmes in consultation with the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, for the benefit of the countries of the respective regions;

(f) Further inter-agency meetings should be convened and the attendance of all relevant United Nations agencies and bodies be actively solicited, as well as their involvement in Congress-related activities.

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46. Several specialized agencies have already reacted positively to these recommendations and have indicated topics on which they are prepared to collaborate with the United Nations, i.e.: the World Health Organization in relation to the treatment of AIDS in prisons; UNESCO in connection with the protection of cultural patrimony; and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in relation to physical planning and crime prevention.

V. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

47. The Council has noted, in a number of recent resolutions, the increase in mandates related to research and policy development, as well as to the implementation of standards and the collection and dissemination of information, the growth in the number of countries requesting technical assistance, the necessity to expand the operational aspects of the programme, and the urgency for efficient preparations for the Eighth Congress.

48. Improved procedures and internal rationalization measures have contributed to carrying out the increased activities generated by the additional responsibilities with which the Secretariat has been entrusted. In this respect, a five-prong strategy has been followed, including:

(a) Making more cost-effective the capacity of the United Nations to support activities in crime prevention and criminal justice, including, on the basis of decreasing resources, its capability to analyse and disseminate research findings and information on comparative approaches, and to devise new ways of co-operation in the fight against the new forms of transboundary criminality, in pursuance of the provisions of the Milan Plan of Action;

(b) Promoting the co-ordination of activities in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice in support of more efficient and humane crime prevention policies at the national, regional and international levels;

(c) Achieving a better integration of criminological and legal research, policy analysis, monitoring of global trends and implementation of existing standards, with operational activities;

(d) Reinforcing technical co-operation activities and advisory assistance services, especially through closer co-operation between the United Nations Office at Vienna, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, UNDP and other funding agencies;

(e) Encouraging closer collaboration, both on substantive and operational matters between the Secretariat and relevant national institutions, intergovernmental organizations, and other voluntary and non-governmental organizations concerned with crime prevention and criminal justice.

49. This strategy has been reflected in the draft provisional programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, and in the proposals for the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

50. However, it is clear that, although considerable progress has been achieved in the implementation of Council resolution 1988/44 through the serious efforts made to meet the programme goals and ensure the proper follow-up of the recommendations of the Seventh Congress, a truly effective and comprehensive response to the challenges posed by crime and delinquency is still out of reach. Much remains to be done and highly demanding tasks lie ahead.

51. In the light of these observations, the Council may wish to consider the report of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control and take appropriate action on its recommendations. In its resolution 43/99, the General Assembly, recognizing, *inter alia*, that issues related to crime had intensified in complexity and gravity and noting with concern that the severe constraints on the human and financial resources available to the Secretariat might jeopardize not only the success of the Eighth Congress but the programme as a whole, invited the Council to give priority attention to the recommendations of the Committee, and requested the Secretary-General to provide the necessary resources for the preparation of the Eighth Congress and to ensure that the allocation of manpower to the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs is sufficient to meet its increased responsibilities and necessary commitments.

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1988, Supplement No. 10 (E/1988/20), chap. I, sect. A.

2/ An account of the Third Committee's discussion is contained in the summary records (A/C.3/43/SR.15-22, 25 and 31).

3/ See the report of the Secretary-General on the review of the functioning and programme of work of the United Nations in crime prevention and criminal justice (E/AC.57/1988/13), para. 71.

4/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1988, Supplement No. 10 (E/1988/20), paras. 143 and 144.

5/ See the report of the Secretary-General on crime prevention and criminal justice (A/43/572), para. 96.

6/ See United Nations Social Defence Research Institute at Twenty, 1968-1988 (Rome, 1988).

7/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1988, Supplement No. 10 (E/1988/20), chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution I.

8/ Ibid., draft resolution VI.
