

Prioritizing crime prevention

32. The Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat, the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network of Institutes and other relevant United Nations entities should include in their priorities crime prevention as set out in these Guidelines, set up a coordination mechanism and establish a roster of experts to undertake needs assessment and to provide technical advice.

Dissemination

33. Relevant United Nations bodies and other organizations should cooperate to produce crime prevention information in as many languages as possible, using both print and electronic media.

2002/14. Promoting effective measures to deal with the issues of missing children and sexual abuse or exploitation of children

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Convention on the Rights of the Child,²⁴ the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,²⁶ the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime⁵⁹ and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,⁶⁰

Recalling also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹⁹

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 50/145 of 21 December 1995 on the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, in which the Assembly endorsed the resolutions adopted by the Ninth Congress, including resolution 7 of 7 May 1995 on children as victims and perpetrators of crime and the United Nations criminal justice programme,⁶¹

Recalling the First World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, held in Stockholm from 27 to 31 August 1996, and the Declaration and Agenda for Action⁶² adopted by the World Congress to promote the protection of the rights of the child and end the commercial sexual exploitation of children, in particular by applying the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant instruments,

Recalling also the Second World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, held in Yokohama, Japan, from 17 to 20 December 2001, at which the participants adopted the Yokohama Global Commitment 2001,⁶³ welcoming the enhancement by States of actions towards the elimination of child prostitution, child pornography and trafficking in children for sexual purposes,

Recalling further International Labour Organization Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (Convention No. 182), which prohibits forced or obligatory labour of all people under the age of 18,

I

Action to promote cooperation with civil society in dealing with the issues of missing children and sexual abuse or exploitation of children

Convinced that civil society can play a role in the fight against the disappearance of children and that organizations or a structured network of associations can be useful in finding missing children and in preventing and countering that problem,

Convinced also that civil society can also play a role in the fight against sexual abuse or exploitation of children and that organizations or a structured network of associations can be useful in assisting sexually abused or exploited children and in preventing and countering that problem,

1. *Encourages* Member States to facilitate cooperation between the competent authorities and qualified organizations or associations of civil society involved in tracing missing children or in assisting sexually abused or exploited children;

2. *Emphasizes* that such cooperation does not prejudice the role of the competent authorities in conducting investigations and proceedings;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to examine the possibility, taking into account the resources available, of providing, inter alia, a toll-free hotline or other means of communication or encouraging arrangements, for instance through the use of the Internet, whereby the qualified organizations or associations referred to in paragraph 1 above could make a hotline available twenty-four hours a day;

4. *Also calls upon* Member States to establish appropriate arrangements, to the extent necessary, in accordance with their legislation pertaining to investigations and proceedings, in order to facilitate the mutual exchange, between such organizations or associations and the competent authorities, of appropriate information concerning the tracing of missing or sexually abused or exploited children.

⁵⁹ General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex I.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, annex II.

⁶¹ See *Report of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Cairo, 29 April–8 May 1995* (A/CONF.169/16/Rev.1) chap. I.

⁶² A/51/385, annex.

⁶³ See A/S-27/12, annex.

II

Measures against child prostitution

Recalling the Convention on the Rights of the Child,²⁴ in article 34 (a) of which States parties are called upon to prevent the inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity,

Noting that, in article 3, paragraph 1 (b), of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,²⁶ States parties are called upon to ensure that the act of offering, obtaining, procuring or providing a child for prostitution is fully covered under their criminal or penal law,

Considering that child prostitution is undeniably a traumatic experience for the children involved,

Reaffirming the need to make persons who procure or obtain the sexual services of children responsible for their action, which violates the rights and the dignity of the children involved,

Calls upon Member States to take immediate steps to provide for the effective and proportional punishment, under their domestic law, of persons who procure or obtain the sexual services of children.

III

Time limits for criminal proceedings in cases involving the sexual abuse or exploitation of children

Emphasizing that sexual abuse or exploitation provokes traumas among children who are the victims of such abuse or exploitation and that the experience may affect them throughout their life,

Emphasizing also that the perpetrators are often to be found within the family, among the acquaintances or friends of the family, or among other persons in the immediate environment of or holding a position of authority over the victims,

Considering that the victims of sexual abuse or exploitation generally need time to reach the level of maturity required to perceive the abusive nature of the events that they have experienced, to express their opinion about those events and to dare to denounce them,

Calls upon Member States to make every effort to ensure, in conformity with domestic legislation, that the time limit for bringing criminal proceedings in cases involving the sexual abuse or exploitation of a child does not obstruct the effective prosecution of the offender, for instance, by considering the possibility of postponing the beginning of the time limit until the child has reached the age of civil majority.

*37th plenary meeting
24 July 2002*

2002/15. United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming the importance of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice and the need to maintain a balance between the current main priority issue of combating transnational organized crime and the other priority issues of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 56/161 of 19 December 2001 on human rights in the administration of justice,

Taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2002/47 of 23 April 2002 on human rights in the administration of justice, in particular juvenile justice,

Bearing in mind that the theme for the eleventh session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was "Reform of the criminal justice system: achieving effectiveness and equity",

Recalling the relevant provisions of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century, annexed to General Assembly resolution 55/59 of 4 December 2000,

Recalling also the plans of action for the implementation of the Vienna Declaration, annexed to General Assembly resolution 56/261 of 31 January 2002, in particular the plans of action on crime prevention, on witnesses and victims of crime, on prison overcrowding and alternatives to incarceration, on juvenile justice, on the special needs of women in the criminal justice system and on standards and norms,

Mindful of the recommendation of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination of the Economic and Social Council at its forty-first session, that the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat should propose to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twelfth session a revised mechanism for reporting on the use and application of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice,⁶⁴

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Use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice

Recalling its resolution 1993/34 of 27 July 1993, in section III of which it requested the Secretary-General to

⁶⁴ E/AC.51/2001/5, para. 13.