

isters, and appreciative of the significant contributions made by those centres in a short period,

1. *Calls upon* Governments to intensify their efforts to implement developmentally oriented social welfare policies;

2. *Urges* that the work carried out by the regional social welfare centres should be strengthened and that any proposed integrated development centres should include in their work programmes specific programmes dealing with social welfare;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen the Secretariat's activities relating to policy, planning, training and operational aspects of social welfare, including those of relevance to integrated rural development, having in mind the guidelines established by the General Assembly with regard to development;

4. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to examine and analyse developmental activities with social welfare content and objectives, including those undertaken by international and regional centres, and to report on them to the Commission for Social Development at its twenty-seventh session.

*14th plenary meeting  
9 May 1979*

#### **1979/19. Functions and long-term programme of work of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Conscious* that the main responsibility for solving the problems of crime prevention and control lies with national Governments,

*Reaffirming* its duty to promote international co-operation in solving economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems and the responsibility assumed by it for promoting international co-operation in the area of crime prevention and control,

*Recalling* paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 32/60 of 8 December 1977, as well as the other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council,

*Aware* of the need for and importance of more effective and better co-ordinated arrangements for the work of United Nations bodies dealing with crime prevention and the treatment of offenders,

*Recognizing* the role of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control in assisting the Economic and Social Council in organizing and co-ordinating activities concerning crime prevention and control in the United Nations system,

1. *Entrusts* the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control with the following main functions:

(a) Preparation of the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders with a view to considering and facilitating the introduction of more effective methods and ways of preventing crime and improving the treatment of offenders;

(b) Preparation and submission to the competent United Nations bodies and to those congresses, for their approval, of programmes of international co-operation in the field of crime prevention on the basis

of principles of sovereign equality of States and non-interference in internal affairs, and other proposals related to the prevention of offences;

(c) Provision of assistance to the Economic and Social Council in the co-ordination of the activities of United Nations bodies in matters concerning crime control and the treatment of offenders, and preparation and submission of findings and recommendations to the Secretary-General and to the appropriate United Nations bodies;

(d) Promotion of exchanges of experience gained by States in the field of crime prevention and the treatment of offenders;

(e) Discussion of major issues of professional interest, as a basis for international co-operation in this field, particularly those related to the prevention and reduction of crime;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures to ensure the implementation of the present resolution.

*14th plenary meeting  
9 May 1979*

#### **1979/20. Technical co-operation in crime prevention and control**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 32/59 of 8 December 1977, by which the Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control with regard to the report of the Fifth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders,<sup>29</sup>

*Concerned* about the prevailing trend of criminality in many countries of the world and its impact on the efforts of Member States to promote and sustain a better quality of life in their respective countries, especially in the developing countries,

*Aware* that Member States, particularly developing countries, are evaluating or willing to evaluate the effectiveness of their criminal justice systems with a view towards restructuring them so as to ensure their capacity to deal with rising crime rates,

*Reaffirming* the right of each Member State to formulate and implement its national policies and programmes in the field of crime prevention and control in accordance with its own needs and priorities,

*Considering* that a growing number of countries feel the lack of interregional and technical advisers capable of assisting Governments in planning and implementing their crime prevention strategies,

*Recognizing* the importance of co-operation among Member States and the efforts already made by the international community in the field of crime prevention and the treatment of offenders, as well as the need to promote further collaboration in this field at the regional and interregional levels,

*Recognizing also* the desirability of sustaining international collaboration and efforts in the field of crime prevention and the treatment of offenders, as a significant element in the achievement of the ob-

<sup>29</sup> See E/CN.5/536, chap. I.

jectives of the new international economic order and the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade,

*Noting* the importance of the availability of technical assistance and technical advisory services, on a regular basis, to members of the international community which request them, especially among the developing countries of the world,

*Concerned* that the countries of Africa south of the Sahara, in spite of numerous appeals to the international community for assistance in establishing regional institutes to facilitate research, planning and implementation of crime prevention programmes and strategies, are still without viable regional means of collaborating systematically and in concert in matters pertaining to crime prevention and the treatment of offenders,

*Recalling* that the United Nations has already established institutes in other regions of the world,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to establish an institute for Africa south of the Sahara in the field of crime prevention and the treatment of offenders;

2. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to restore and make available through the United Nations Development Programme the services of interregional and regional advisers in the field of crime prevention and the treatment of offenders to Member States, at their request;

3. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, under the auspices of the programme of technical co-operation among developing countries, to explore new formulae for providing developing countries with technical experts through the United Nations, for instance, providing experts whose basic salary would be covered by the sending country and whose additional expenses would be covered by the receiving country.

*14th plenary meeting  
9 May 1979*

#### **1979/21. Strengthening of United Nations institutes and United Nations-affiliated institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Reaffirming* the importance of co-operation among Member States and the value of efforts already made by the international community in the field of crime prevention and the treatment of offenders, and also the need to promote development of this co-operation at the interregional and regional levels,

*Recalling* its resolution 1086 B (XXXIX) of 30 July 1965 concerning the strengthening of the United Nations social defence programme, in pursuance of which, *inter alia*, was established the United Nations Trust Fund for Social Defence, and also General Assembly resolutions 32/58, 32/59 and 32/60 of 8 December 1977,

*Reaffirming* the primary importance of the role of research and training in the field of social defence,

*Aware* of the fact that if the United Nations institutes and United Nations-affiliated institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders

are to be successful in the work they are doing in the context of economic and social development, they must be able to plan an organic, coherent and long-term policy,

*Considering* that the results which the institutes have achieved and the services they have rendered both to the international community as a whole and to specific regions or countries not only justify the maintenance of those institutes but also militate in favour of their consolidation and strengthening,

*Also aware* of the fact that the means hitherto employed may benefit from increased co-ordination and co-operation,

1. *Expresses its gratitude* to all countries, in particular to the host countries Costa Rica, Egypt, Italy and Japan, which, by their voluntary contributions, have so far made possible the establishment and operation of the institutes;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with a view to strengthening the above-mentioned institutes, to take all appropriate measures to ensure permanent financial resources—in addition to other voluntary contributions provided by governmental and non-governmental sources—by placing the question before the competent bodies of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations regional commissions;

3. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to study, with the competent bodies of the United Nations and the Secretariat services concerned, the most appropriate steps to secure better co-ordination of the work programmes of the institutes,

*14th plenary meeting  
9 May 1979*

#### **1979/22. Capital punishment**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 2857 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971 and 32/61 of 8 December 1977 in which the Assembly confirmed the continuing interest of the United Nations in the study of the question of capital punishment with a view to promoting full respect for everyone's right to life and also reaffirmed that the main objective to be pursued was the progressive restriction of the number of offences for which the death penalty might be imposed with a view to the desirability of abolishing that punishment,

*Concerned* about the slow progress in achieving this objective,

*Reaffirming* its wish for the establishment of adequate legal procedures and the greatest possible safeguards for the accused in capital cases,

*Mindful* of its resolution 1930 (LVIII) of 6 May 1975, in which it requested the Secretary-General, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2857 (XXVI), to proceed with the report on practices and statutory rules which might govern the right of a person sentenced to capital punishment to petition for pardon, commutation or reprieve, and to report on those questions to the Council at the latest at its first regular session of 1980, together with the basic report of 1980 on capital punishment,