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Crime prevention and criminal justice

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2023

[on the report of the Third Committee ([A/78/482](#), para. 29)]

78/224. Reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration

The General Assembly,

Recalling the outcome of the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Kyoto, Japan, from 7 to 12 March 2021, as reflected in the report of the Congress¹ and in the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,²

Reaffirming the commitment expressed in the Kyoto Declaration to reduce reoffending through rehabilitation and social reintegration,

Noting the deliberations of the Fourteenth Congress under the agenda item entitled “Integrated approaches to challenges facing the criminal justice system”, during which, inter alia, the need for practical guidance for national criminal justice systems on reducing reoffending and the recommendation to develop new United Nations standards and norms on the issue of reducing reoffending were raised by some Member States,

Noting also the discussions held at the workshop on the topic “Reducing reoffending: identifying risks and developing solutions” and the three subtopics, as reflected in the report of Committee II of the Fourteenth Congress, in particular the encouragement given by some participants to Member States to share information on promising practices and consider the development, under the auspices of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, of model strategies to reduce reoffending that reflect, among others, the good practices discussed during the workshop,³

¹ [A/CONF.234/16](#).

² Resolution [76/181](#), annex.

³ [A/CONF.234/16](#), chap. VII, sect. B.



Noting further the efforts taken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to implement General Assembly resolution 76/182 of 16 December 2021, namely through convening, with the support of the Government of Japan, an online expert group meeting, during which a limited number of experts, participating in their individual capacity, met from 6 to 8 April 2022 to share information on promising practices and to identify a set of key elements to be considered for inclusion in draft model strategies on reducing reoffending,

Recalling its resolution 77/232 of 15 December 2022, in which it requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to convene a meeting of an open-ended intergovernmental expert group, with interpretation in all official languages of the United Nations, with a view to developing model strategies on reducing reoffending that could serve as useful tools for Member States, taking into consideration relevant provisions in the existing United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, current developments, research and tools, written contributions from Member States and, without prejudice, the output of the expert group meeting held from 6 to 8 April 2022,

Recalling also the standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice adopted or recommended by the General Assembly, including the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules),⁴ the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules)⁵ and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules),⁶ and at the same time acknowledging the need for standards and norms specifically focusing on reducing reoffending,

1. *Encourages* Member States to develop comprehensive strategies or action plans to reduce reoffending through effective interventions for the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders;
2. *Also encourages* Member States to promote a rehabilitative environment in correctional facilities, including through designing and implementing effective treatment programmes based on an individual assessment of the needs of and risks faced by offenders, and to provide offenders with access to vocational and technical training and educational programmes to support them in developing the skills necessary for reintegration;
3. *Further encourages* Member States, as appropriate and in line with domestic legislation, to take into account the relevant and appropriate United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, mainstream a gender perspective into their criminal justice systems, support the development of necessary skills among offenders in correctional facilities and facilitate working opportunities, where appropriate, to promote the social rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders;
4. *Recognizes* the benefit that may be derived from incorporating respect for cultural diversity, based on respect for the rule of law, into rehabilitation and reintegration programmes;
5. *Encourages* Member States to promote rehabilitation approaches and programmes within their judicial systems empowered to deal with specific problems, such as social or mental health issues;
6. *Also encourages* Member States to promote a rehabilitative environment in the community to facilitate the social reintegration of offenders with the active

⁴ Resolution 70/175, annex.

⁵ Resolution 65/229, annex.

⁶ Resolution 45/110, annex.

involvement of local communities, giving due regard to the need to protect society and individuals and the rights of victims and offenders;

7. *Further encourages* Member States to promote multi-stakeholder partnerships to reduce reoffending by fostering inter-agency coordination among relevant government authorities, such as employment and social welfare agencies and local governments, as well as public-private partnerships between those authorities and the community, including cooperating employers and community volunteers who support the long-term and social reintegration of offenders;

8. *Expresses appreciation* to Member States that shared with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, through written contributions, information on promising practices for possible inclusion in draft model strategies on reducing reoffending, for consideration by the open-ended intergovernmental expert group to be convened pursuant to its resolution [77/232](#);

9. *Takes note* of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat examining preliminary areas for consideration by the open-ended intergovernmental expert group;⁷

10. *Strongly encourages* Member States to actively participate in the meeting of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group and to include in their delegations experts from a variety of relevant disciplines;

11. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to support the efforts of Member States to reduce reoffending through the promotion of rehabilitative environments and reintegration by providing technical assistance, including material support, upon request, to Member States, in particular developing countries, taking into account their needs and priorities, as well as challenges and restrictions;

12. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes outlined in the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

*50th plenary meeting
19 December 2023*

⁷ [E/CN.15/2023/13](#).