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Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

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Agenda item 4

United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice

Austria, Costa Rica and Uganda: draft resolution

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

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,

Recalling Commission on Human Rights resolution 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 the plans of action for the implementation of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice, 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,¹

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,²

I

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 commence without delay a process of information-gathering to be undertaken by means of surveys,

Recalling also its resolution 1998/21 of 28 July 1998, in section I of which it requested the Secretary-General to continue the information-gathering,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on “Reform of the criminal justice system: achieving effectiveness and equity” and the use and application of United Nations standards and norms, especially concerning juvenile justice and penal reform;³

2. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions,⁴ the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on Crime and Public Security,⁵ and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Code of Conduct for Public Officials⁶ and considers the first cycle of reporting obligations on the implementation of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice to have been completed;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene a meeting of a group of experts, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary funds, to evaluate the results achieved and the progress made in the application of existing United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, to review the present system of reporting, to assess the advantages to be expected in using a “clustered”

¹ General Assembly resolution 56/261, annex, sects. VIII-X and XII-XIV.

² E/AC.51/2001/5, para. 13.

³ E/CN.15/2002/3.

⁴ E/CN.15/2002/6.

⁵ E/CN.15/2002/11.

⁶ E/CN.15/2002/6/Add.1.

approach and to make concrete proposals to be considered by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twelfth session;

4. *Encourages* the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat to continue to provide technical assistance and advisory services to Member States upon request in support of criminal justice reform, including in the framework of peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction, drawing on the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice;

5. *Calls upon* Member States to make available additional funds for technical cooperation projects in the area of criminal justice reform;

6. *Calls upon* the Centre for International Crime Prevention to further increase cooperation and coordination with other relevant entities, in particular the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in the implementation of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, with the aim of reinforcing the existing collaboration in the implementation of their respective programmes, and to strengthen collaborative ties with other United Nations entities and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

II

Penal reform

Recalling its resolution 1999/27 of 21 July 1999 on penal reform,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to take action against prison overcrowding, inter alia, by making increased use of alternatives to imprisonment, pursuant to its resolution 1999/27;

2. *Calls upon* the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat to provide assistance in the form of advisory services, needs assessment, capacity-building, training or other assistance to States, upon request, in order to enable them to improve prison conditions, reduce prison overcrowding and increase reliance on alternatives to imprisonment.

III

Administration of juvenile justice

Recalling its resolution 1999/28 of 28 July 1999 on administration of juvenile justice,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure strengthened cooperation between the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat and other relevant partners, in particular the other members of the coordination panel on technical advice and assistance in juvenile justice, established in line with the Guidelines for Action on

Children in the Criminal Justice System,⁷ including follow-up to the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on juvenile justice matters;

2. *Requests* the Centre for International Crime Prevention to continue, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network and other entities, to develop and carry out projects to prevent youth crime, to strengthen juvenile justice systems and to improve the rehabilitation and treatment of juvenile offenders.

⁷ Resolution 1997/30, annex.