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Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

World crime trends and emerging issues and responses in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice

Mexico: draft resolution

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

Improving the quality and availability of statistics on crime and criminal justice for policy development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 65/232 of 21 December 2010, in which the Assembly requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to strengthen the collection, analysis and dissemination of accurate, reliable and comparable data and information to enhance knowledge on crime trends and support Member States in designing appropriate responses in specific areas of crime, in particular in their transnational dimension,

Recalling also the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World,¹ adopted by the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Salvador, Brazil, from 12 to 19 April 2010, and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/230 of 21 December 2010, in which the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was invited to consider strengthening the capacity of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to collect, analyse and disseminate accurate, reliable and comparable data on world crime and victimization trends and patterns, and Member States were called upon to support the gathering and analysis of information and to

* E/CN.15/2012/1.

¹ General Assembly resolution 65/230, annex.



consider designating focal points and provide information when requested to do so by the Commission,

Recalling further its resolution 2009/25 of 30 July 2009, on improving the collection, reporting and analysis of data to enhance knowledge on trends in specific areas of crime,

Recalling Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 19/2 of 21 May 2010, entitled “Strengthening the collection, analysis and reporting of comparable crime-related data”, in which the Commission invited Member States to strengthen their efforts to review and improve data-collection tools in order to enhance knowledge on world crime trends and patterns,

Considering that the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in its resolution 7 (VI), expressed its satisfaction at the creation of the Centre of Excellence for Statistical Information on Governance, Victims of Crime, Public Security and Justice, established jointly by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico, and requested the Centre, subject to the availability of resources, to support the countries of the region in their efforts to improve the collection, dissemination and analysis of information on crime and to develop standards for the measurement of the crimes which are most frequent in the region,

Recognizing that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is the intergovernmental body mandated to address issues relating to crime prevention and criminal justice, while the Statistical Commission is responsible for promoting the development of national statistics and the improvement of their comparability, as well as the improvement of statistics and statistical methods generally, as reaffirmed by the Council in its resolution 1566 (L) of 3 May 1971,

Emphasizing that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Statistical Commission can complement and support each other’s efforts in the field of statistics on crime and criminal justice,

Recognizing the importance of information and statistics in developing and supporting public policies at the national, regional and global levels,

Reaffirming that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is the focal point within the United Nations system for statistics on crime and criminal justice,

Acknowledging the need to ensure coordination among the various national institutions in the collection and dissemination of statistics on crime and criminal justice,

Noting that the Statistical Commission, in its decision 43/102 of 2 March 2012, acknowledged the need for national statistical offices to give sufficient consideration to the challenges of producing and disseminating crime statistics within the national context and to work with partners in the criminal justice system,

Reaffirming that national surveys on victims of crime, often conducted by national statistical offices, are important tools for the collection of information on crime and criminal justice, and acknowledging that it would be desirable to have clear guidance on conducting such surveys so as to ensure the comparability of results obtained in different countries,

Bearing in mind the gaps still existing in statistical information on crime and criminal justice, particularly in relation to emerging forms of crime and the challenges posed by the limited comparability of statistical data obtained in different countries,

Underscoring the importance of technical assistance and of building the capacity of Member States to collect, analyse and disseminate accurate and comparable statistics on crime and criminal justice,

Taking note of the tools and publications issued by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime that provide technical guidance, methodologies and standards for the collection of data and the preparation of evidence-based analyses of specific forms of crime, such as surveys on victims, crime trends and homicide,

1. *Welcomes* the deliberations of the Statistical Commission, at its forty-third session, in 2012, and the request of the Commission, in its decision 43/102, for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico to report back to the Statistical Commission, at its forty-fourth session, in 2013, on the following topics:

(a) A road map of the steps needed to develop crime statistics;

(b) The feasibility of developing an international classification of crimes for statistical purposes;

(c) The way in which the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice could cooperate with regard to the development of crime statistics;

2. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to make available to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at its twenty-second session, the report to be prepared by the Office, in cooperation with the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico, for consideration by the Statistical Commission at its forty-fourth session;

3. *Invites* Member States to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with relevant information that could be taken into consideration in the preparation of the above-mentioned report;

4. *Also invites* Member States to encourage productive dialogue among national authorities responsible for the collection, processing and dissemination of crime and criminal justice statistics, including national statistical offices, so as to enhance coordination at the national level and to ensure the use of common standards;

5. *Further invites* Member States to appoint a national focal point for the submission of crime and criminal justice data to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime through the annual United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems, in order to support that Office in ensuring that the national data disseminated are consistent over time and meet the highest quality standards;

6. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Centre of Excellence for Statistical Information on Governance, Victims of Crime, Public Security and Justice, established jointly by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the

National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico, and encourages both the Office and the Institute, through the Centre, to support States, upon request, in improving their statistics on crime and criminal justice;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue developing guidelines and standards to assist Member States in producing and disseminating accurate and comparable statistics on crime and criminal justice and to continue providing technical assistance to Member States, upon request, in order to enhance their capacity to collect, analyse and report data on crime and criminal justice;

8. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue its activities to regularly collect and disseminate statistics on crime and criminal justice and to provide trend analyses and studies based on the information provided by Member States;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at its twenty-third session, on the implementation of the present resolution.
