



## Economic and Social Council

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### Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

#### Twenty-second session

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Item 7 of the provisional agenda\*

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

##### Argentina, Austria and Norway: draft resolution

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

##### Taking action against femicide/gender-related killing of women and girls

*The General Assembly,*

*Alarmed* that femicide/gender-related killing, that is, the killing of women and girls because of their gender, is persistently increasing worldwide,

*Aware* that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>1</sup> affirms the principle of the inadmissibility of discrimination and proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in the Declaration, without distinction of any kind, including distinction based on sex,

*Emphasizing* the importance of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,<sup>2</sup> which defines violence against women as any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life,

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\* E/CN.15/2013/1.

<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>2</sup> Assembly resolution 48/104.



*Conscious* of the commitments undertaken by Member States through the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>3</sup> which requires States parties to take in all fields, in particular the political, social, economic and cultural fields, measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men,

*Taking into consideration* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women,<sup>4</sup> which identifies violence against women as an obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development and peace, while emphasizing that such violence both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Bearing in mind* the actions and measures that Member States should take to meet their international obligations with respect to putting an end to violence against women, as identified in the report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth study on all forms of violence against women,<sup>5</sup>

*Recalling* the relevant General Assembly resolutions addressing various aspects of violence against women,

*Stressing* the significance of the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice<sup>6</sup> as a way to assist countries in strengthening their national crime prevention and criminal justice capacities to respond to all forms of violence against women,

*Taking into account* the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences<sup>7</sup> and Human Rights Council resolution 20/12 of 5 July 2012 on accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: remedies for women who have been subjected to violence,

*Taking into account also* the agreed conclusions of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women of 15 March 2013, in which the Commission urged all Governments to strengthen national legislation to punish violent gender-related killing of women and girls and integrate specific mechanisms or policies to prevent, investigate and eradicate such deplorable forms of gender-based violence,

*Welcoming* the various initiatives taken at the regional level to prevent and address violence against women, including the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution and

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<sup>3</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>4</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

<sup>5</sup> A/61/122/Add.1 and Corr.1.

<sup>6</sup> General Assembly resolution 65/228, annex.

<sup>7</sup> A/HRC/20/16.

the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence,

*Expressing its appreciation* for the work undertaken by the United Nations system in preventing and responding to all forms of violence against women and girls,

*Viewing with appreciation* the considerable input of many civil society organizations, as well as academia, in addressing the different forms of violence against women and girls, through research and direct action in their respective communities, and recognizing the needs of the families of those victims,

*Alarmed* by the fact that violence against women and girls is proportionately the least punished crime in the world, since in some countries femicide/gender-related killing is rarely reported, poorly investigated and hardly prosecuted, and deeply concerned about the high level of impunity for perpetrators of femicide/gender-related killing of women and girls,

*Recognizing* the key role of the criminal justice system in preventing and responding to femicide/gender-related killing, including in reducing impunity for such crimes,

*Recognizing* the efforts made to address those forms of violence in different regions, including in countries where the concept referred to as “femicide” or “feminicide” has been incorporated in national legislations,

*Reaffirming* the commitment to working together to put an end to such crime, in full compliance with international and national legal instruments,

1. *Urges* Member States, in view of their due diligence obligations to protect women’s rights and to prevent femicide/gender-related killing of women and girls and bring to justice the perpetrators of such crimes, to undertake institutional initiatives to improve the prevention of femicide/gender-related killing of women and girls and the provision of legal protection, including appropriate remedies, reparation and compensation, to the victims of such crimes, in accordance with international treaties and the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power;<sup>8</sup>

2. *Also urges* Member States to consider adopting and implementing legislation that specifically addresses femicide/gender-related killing of women and girls and to design appropriate and effective responses to reduce and eliminate femicide/gender-related killing of women and girls, and to periodically review such legislation;

3. *Further urges* Member States, acting at all levels, to end impunity by ensuring accountability and punishing perpetrators of these most serious crimes against women and girls;

4. *Urges* Member States to design, implement and evaluate comprehensive and articulated programmes aimed at preventing all forms of violence against women and girls, including femicide/gender-related killing;

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<sup>8</sup> General Assembly resolution 40/34, annex.

5. *Calls upon* Member States to design, implement and evaluate programmes aimed at reducing those vulnerabilities unique to victims of femicide/gender-related killing and to conduct research focused on public education and interventions that target those vulnerabilities;

6. *Invites* Member States to strengthen the criminal justice response to femicide/gender-related killing so as to address the existing problems of poor criminal investigations and underreporting, improve the capacity of Member States to effectively investigate, prosecute and sanction all forms of violence against women and girls and provide reparation and compensation to victims and their families;

7. *Also invites* Member States to collect and share relevant data and related information on femicide/gender-related killing of women and girls;

8. *Further invites* Member States to promote the implementation of the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in order to strengthen national responses to femicide/gender-related killing of women and girls;

9. *Calls upon* relevant United Nations entities and agencies, in particular the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to support Member States in developing and implementing strategies and policies at the national, regional and international levels to address and prevent femicide/gender-related killing of women and girls;

10. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network to facilitate the gathering and dissemination of relevant and reliable data and other related information to be provided by Member States on their efforts to implement the present resolution;

11. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue conducting and coordinating relevant research on femicide/gender-related killing of women and girls, particularly in connection with the standardization of the collection and analysis of data;

12. *Calls upon* relevant United Nations entities and agencies, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other specialized funds and programmes of the United Nations, to raise awareness among Member States regarding femicide/gender-related killing of women and girls;

13. *Calls upon* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to collect best practices and other relevant information from civil society organizations and academia and share them with Member States;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene an expert meeting to discuss ways and means to more effectively prevent, investigate, prosecute and sanction femicide/gender-related killing of women and girls, with a view to making practical recommendations, drawing also on current best practices;

15. *Invites* Member States to agree on the inclusion of the goal of ending violence against women and girls in the post-2015 development agenda, with the specific target of reducing gender-related violence by at least half by 2025;

16. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary contributions for much more comprehensive and system-wide action against femicide/gender-related killing of women and girls, including studies and research, sharing of relevant information and awareness-raising, exchange of best practices and support of civil society organizations, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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