

Dual Distribution for Council Members  
-----COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONSULTATION WITH  
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

(Council NGO Committee)

LIST OF COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS  
GRANTED CATEGORY (b) OR (c) CONSULTATIVE STATUS

Note: This list is submitted in accordance with paragraph 4, Part IV, of the Report of the Committee on Arrangements for Consultation with Non-Governmental Organizations, approved by the Council on 21 June 1946 (Resolution No.2/3 of 21 June 1946. Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, First Year, Second Session, pp. 360-365).

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PENAL LAW (Association internationale de droit pénal)

INTERNATIONAL BUREAU FOR THE UNIFICATION OF PENAL LAW (Bureau international pour l'unification du droit pénal)

In letters dated 9 July 1948 addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council and couched in almost identical terms, the above organizations submit proposals regarding the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders. Noting with the keenest interest the intention of the Economic and Social Council to regard the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders as a subject of constant concern to the United Nations, these two organizations have declared their readiness to co-operate in this field and have already expressed their views on the general study and work programme communicated to them by the Secretariat. In addition, the Association and the Bureau are conducting detailed research into certain of the questions sent to them for study by the Secretariat.

The two organizations are, however, of the opinion that a study truly international in scope and offering every assurance of scientific objectivity cannot be carried out satisfactorily by the United Nations without the effective collaboration of the various organizations which specialise in this field. They recall that in the past several organizations co-operated fully and wholeheartedly with the League of Nations. In May 1932, at a meeting held at the headquarters of the League, they adopted - in response to a question asked by the Assembly - a resolution which may be summarised as follows:

1. The League of Nations should prepare conventions dealing with:
  - (a) the standardisation of the definition of offences;
  - (b) the standardisation of the fundamental rules of criminal law;
  - (c) the inclusion in penal legislations of standardised definitions of offences;
  - (d) the more extensive unification of certain branches of criminal law.

2. The League's assistance in co-operating with States for the prevention and suppression of crime should relate to the following points:

- (a) The improvement and unification of rules for extradition, etc.
- (b) International police co-operation.
- (c) Improvement of the fundamental rules for the execution of penalties and preventive measures involving imprisonment.
- (d) International assistance and agreements for the repatriation of foreigners who have been discharged.

3. The League might enlist the co-operation of specially qualified organizations in its work in certain of the fields mentioned above. The way in which the tasks might be allocated among these various organizations was indicated under items (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e).

4. The allocation proposed should not however be regarded as drawing a hard and fast line between the fields of activity of each institution, in view of the complex nature of the questions dealt with.

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The resolution adopted in 1932 did not affect either the status of equality as between the various organizations consulted, or their own freedom of action and independence or the League's freedom to call on the services of experts or of any institution whose co-operation it deemed useful.

In the light of present circumstances, the Association and the Bureau consider that it should be possible to develop collaboration in the same spirit between the United Nations and the various specialist organizations. The organizations still existing which collaborated in this field with the League of Nations are as follows:

- International Association of Penal Law,
- International Bureau for the Unification of Penal Law,
- International Penal and Prison Commission,
- International Criminal Police Commission,
- Howard League for Penal Reform,
- International Law Association.

To this list might be added the International Union for Child Welfare and the Nordiska Kriminalistforeningarna.

By enlisting the co-operation of the said organizations, which all have national branches or representatives in various countries, the United Nations can obtain studies carried out by experts and covering a large number of areas of the world.

The Association and the Bureau consider it highly desirable that the Economic and Social Council, when it comes to deal with the question of the prevention of crime

and the treatment of offenders, should lay particular stress in its resolution both on the value of collaboration between the United Nations and the competent organizations, and on the necessity for co-ordination of the activities of the said organizations. That would be one of the most effective methods of ensuring the full success of United Nations work on this question, while at the same time enabling the United Nations to effect considerable economies. By the co-ordination of widely scattered activities and through the intermediary of the said organizations, the United Nations would have at its disposal a large number of theoretical and practical experts of indisputable authority on questions of social protection. The United Nations could thereby avoid - at least for some time to come - the expenditure entailed by the convocation of groups of experts by the Secretariat.

In addition, as regards the organizations already granted consultative status, the Council would thus have implemented to the fullest extent the provisions of Article 71 of the Charter.