

Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

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Other matters

Draft resolution on sustainable urban development through policies for safer cities and urban crime prevention

Submission by the drafting group

The Governing Council,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements,¹ the Habitat Agenda² and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,³ in which member States endorsed the universal goal of ensuring adequate shelter for all, recognized the need to make human settlements safer and called for the promotion of determined action against urban crime and violence,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 56/261 of 31 January 2002, 62/175 of 18 December 2007 and 65/230 of 21 December 2010, by which States were called upon to promote international cooperation aimed at supporting crime prevention,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolutions 2002/13 of 24 July 2002, 2003/26 of 22 July 2003, 2005/22 of 22 July 2005 and 2008/24 of 24 July 2008, by which the Economic and Social Council called upon Member States, relevant United Nations bodies and international financial institutions to integrate crime prevention considerations into their social and economic policies and programmes,

Recalling its resolution 22/8 of 3 April 2009, by which it approved guidelines on access to basic services for all, including public safety as a basic service,

Acknowledging the commitments made in the Bangkok Declaration on Synergies and Responses: Strategic Alliances in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,⁴ in which Member States agreed to strengthen international cooperation in order to create an environment that was conducive to the fight against crime, promoting growth and sustainable development and eradicating poverty and unemployment through effective and balanced development strategies and crime prevention policies,

Acknowledging also the commitments made in the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their

1 *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

2 *Ibid.*, annex II.

3 General Assembly resolution S-25/2.

4 A/CONF.203/18.

Development in a Changing World,⁵ in which Member States stressed the need for all States to have national and local action plans for crime prevention that took into account, among other things, factors that placed certain populations and places at higher risk of victimization and/or offending in a comprehensive, integrated and participatory manner, and for such plans to be based on the best available evidence and good practices,

Recognizing initiatives taken at the regional level, including the adoption of the Solo Declaration in June 2010, by which signatories underscored the importance of making cities peaceful and liveable for future generations,

Expressing its concern at rising crime rates and growing insecurity in many parts of the world, affecting the quality of life, sustainable livelihoods and human dignity of the inhabitants of cities and towns,

Noting with concern the impact of urban crime and violence on women and vulnerable groups, including street children and young people,

Bearing in mind that crime prevention and urban safety are closely related to institutional, political, economic, social and cultural contexts and that positive measures contribute not only to diminishing violence, but also to strengthening the social fabric in cities,

Mindful of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, on whose work the United Nations Human Settlements Programme could build in the urban context to, among other things, ensure complementarity and enhance synergies,

Recalling the strategic policy decision of the secretariat of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to establish a safer cities programme in 1996 to support cities in the development and implementation of city crime prevention and urban safety strategies, and to mainstream it into urban sustainable development agendas, giving rise to the commitment of many cities and the enhanced contribution of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to effective global, regional and local partnerships for delivery of urban safety, enhanced through the establishment of a global network on safer cities and the complementary cooperation with other networks related to crime prevention,

1. *Encourages* member States to consider, adopt and strengthen, as appropriate, effective urban crime prevention responses, at the local and national levels, for sustainable urban development, and to reinforce the coordination of security, safety and social and economic policies to build safer cities;

2. *Invites* member States to consider the prevention of crime, the promotion of urban safety and the fostering of social cohesion as priorities to be incorporated into urban planning, management and governance policies;

3. *Also invites* member States to consider an area-based approach when developing policies on the prevention of crime, including by paying special attention to deprived neighbourhoods to ensure social and territorial cohesion;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in cooperation with the relevant United Nations bodies, in particular the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and specialized international, regional and subregional organizations, to compile best practices on policies, norms and institutional conditions related to urban crime prevention within the context of sustainable human settlements and urban development, focusing on the respective roles and responsibilities of national governments and local authorities on this specific policy area;

5. *Calls upon* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in accordance with the Habitat Agenda, the medium-term strategic and institutional plan and the strategic plan for safer cities 2008–2013 to mainstream the issue of crime prevention, urban safety and social cohesion as a primary component of sustainable urban development;

6. *Invites* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to identify the underlying causes behind crime and violence in cities and to promote urban crime prevention by enabling productive economic activities in urban areas, a sustainable urban livelihood and enhancing the quality of life in cities;

5 General Assembly resolution 65/230 of 21 December 2010, annex.

7. *Calls upon* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to draft Safer Cities Guidelines on access and delivery of urban crime prevention within the context of sustainable urban development, based on consultations with member states, including through the Committee of Permanent Representatives, relevant United Nations bodies and concerned stakeholders;
 8. *Encourages* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to respond to requests for assistance from local authorities, in accordance with its capacities, in their planning and development of policies and local activities aimed at reducing the impact of crime on the social and economic development of towns and cities;
 9. *Requests* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to use its regional and interregional programmes as mechanisms to promote triangular, South-South, and city-to-city cooperation in this area through exchanges of experts, best practices and policy options;
 10. *Invites* member States, key stakeholders and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, where appropriate, to allocate additional regional technical and financial resources to help the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to support local authorities in the strengthening of urban crime prevention public policies, and to support pilot projects of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme that take into account gender and are based on vulnerable groups in all regions to assess the impact of urban crime prevention policies and activities in the strengthening of sustainable urban development;
 11. *Appeals* to member States to adopt and implement urban civic intercultural programmes, where appropriate, aimed at combating racism and xenophobia, reducing the exclusion of minorities and migrants and thus promoting community cohesion in cities;
 12. *Invites* member States and other donors, to the extent possible, to provide technical, human and financial resources to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to support the implementation of the present resolution;
 13. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session.
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