



# Economic and Social Council

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## Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 25 July 2013

*[on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention  
and Criminal Justice (E/2013/30 and Corr.1)]*

### **2013/37. 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 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime was requested, within its existing mandate, 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, taking into account the need to make the best possible use of existing resources,

*Recalling also* the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World, adopted at 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 consider designating focal points and provide information when requested to do so by the Commission,

*Recalling further* General Assembly resolution 67/189 of 20 December 2012, in which the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its existing mandate, was requested to continue strengthening the regular collection, analysis and dissemination of accurate, reliable and comparable data and information and Member States were strongly encouraged to share such data and information with the Office,

*Recalling* its resolutions 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 and 2012/18 of 26 July 2012 on improving the quality and availability of statistics on crime and criminal justice for policy development,

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*Recalling also* Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 19/2 of 21 May 2010 on strengthening the collection, analysis and reporting of comparable crime-related data,<sup>1</sup> in which Member States were invited to strengthen their efforts to review and improve data-collection tools in order to enhance knowledge on world crime trends and patterns,

*Reaffirming* 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 Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1566 (L) of 3 May 1971,

*Taking note* of the report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-fourth session, held in New York from 26 February to 1 March 2013,<sup>2</sup> and of its decision to support the implementation of a road map to improve the quality and availability of crime statistics at the national and international levels,

*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 in the collection and dissemination of statistics on crime and criminal justice among the various national institutions,

*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,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on a road map to improve the quality and availability of crime statistics at the national and international levels, prepared pursuant to resolution 2012/18;<sup>3</sup>

2. *Welcomes* the deliberations of the Statistical Commission at its forty-fourth session, held in New York from 26 February to 1 March 2013, including the consideration it gave to the report on a road map to improve the quality and availability of crime statistics at the national and international levels;

3. *Supports* the activities presented in the road map for improving crime statistics, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue activities to improve statistical information on crime as per the road map and to

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<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 10 (E/2010/30)*, chap. I, sect. D.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 2013, *Supplement No. 4 (E/2013/24)*.

<sup>3</sup> E/CN.3/2013/11.

report regularly on those activities to the Statistical Commission and to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

4. *Welcomes* the establishment of the group of experts from both the statistical and criminal justice fields to provide support for the implementation of the road map within the framework of the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

5. *Approves* the plan to finalize by 2015 an international classification of crimes for statistical purposes, which will serve as a powerful methodological tool for harmonization and for the improvement of international and regional comparability;

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

7. *Invites* Member States that have not yet done so to appoint a national focal point for the submission of data on crime and criminal justice to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, through the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems, in order to support the Office in ensuring that the national data disseminated are consistent over time and meet the highest standards of quality;

8. *Acknowledges* the positive contribution to the implementation of the activities established in the above-mentioned road map of the Centre of Excellence for Statistical Information on Governance, Victimization, Public Security and Justice, which was developed jointly by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico, and encourages the establishment of similar centres in other countries and regions in a concerted effort to improve crime statistics at the global level;

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

10. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue its mandated activities to regularly collect and disseminate statistics on crime and criminal justice and to provide analyses and studies on trends and patterns on the basis of information produced by Member States or, alternatively and where possible and appropriate, by extracting data from existing official publications;

11. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes of the present resolution in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

12. *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.

*47th plenary meeting  
25 July 2013*