



# Economic and Social Council

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## 2021 session

Agenda item 19 (c)

**Social and human rights questions:  
crime prevention and criminal justice**

## Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 22 July 2021

*[on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention  
and Criminal Justice (E/2021/30)]*

### 2021/21. Reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration

*The Economic and Social Council*

*Recommends* to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the outcome of the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Kyoto, Japan, from 7 to 12 March 2021, as reflected in the report of the Congress<sup>1</sup> and in the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>2</sup>

*Reaffirming* the commitment expressed in the Kyoto Declaration to reduce reoffending through rehabilitation and social reintegration,

*Noting* the deliberations of the Fourteenth Congress under the agenda item entitled “Integrated approaches to challenges facing the criminal justice system”, during which, inter alia, the need for practical guidance for national criminal justice systems on reducing reoffending and the recommendation to develop new United Nations standards and norms on the issue of reducing reoffending were raised by some Member States,

*Noting also* the discussions held at the workshop on the topic “Reducing reoffending: identifying risks and developing solutions” and the three subtopics,

<sup>1</sup> A/CONF.234/16.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., chap. I, resolution 1.



as reflected in the report of Committee II of the Fourteenth Congress, in particular the encouragement given by some participants to Member States to share information on promising practices and consider the development, under the auspices of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, of model strategies to reduce reoffending that reflect, among others, the good practices discussed during the workshop,<sup>3</sup>

*Recalling* the standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice adopted or recommended by the General Assembly, including the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules),<sup>4</sup> the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules)<sup>5</sup> and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules),<sup>6</sup> and at the same time acknowledging the need for standards and norms specifically focusing on reducing reoffending,

1. *Encourages* Member States to develop comprehensive strategies or action plans to reduce reoffending through effective interventions for the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders;

2. *Also encourages* Member States to promote a rehabilitative environment in correctional facilities, including through designing and implementing effective treatment programmes based on an individual assessment of the needs and risks of offenders, and to provide offenders with access to vocational and technical training and educational programmes to support them in developing the skills necessary for reintegration;

3. *Further encourages* Member States to promote a rehabilitative environment in the community to facilitate the social reintegration of offenders with the active involvement of local communities, giving due regard to the need to protect society and individuals and the rights of victims and offenders;

4. *Encourages* Member States to promote multi-stakeholder partnerships to reduce reoffending by fostering inter-agency coordination among relevant government authorities, such as employment and social welfare agencies and local governments, as well as public-private partnerships between those authorities and the community, including cooperating employers and community volunteers who support the long-term and social reintegration of offenders;

5. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to convene an expert group meeting to share information on promising practices to reduce reoffending, with a view to developing model strategies on reducing reoffending, which can serve as useful tools for Member States, taking into account relevant provisions in the existing standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, current developments, research, tools and the outcome of the deliberations of the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

6. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to support the efforts of Member States to reduce reoffending through the promotion of rehabilitative

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., chap. VII, sect. B.

<sup>4</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/175, annex.

<sup>5</sup> General Assembly resolution 65/229, annex.

<sup>6</sup> General Assembly resolution 45/110, annex.

environments and reintegration, by providing technical assistance, including material support, upon their request, to Member States, in particular developing countries, taking into account their needs and priorities, as well as challenges and restrictions;

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

8. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its thirty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*13th plenary meeting  
22 July 2021*