

PREFACE

1. Since its foundation, the United Nations, drawing on the principles of the Charter and the International Bill of Human Rights, has formulated numerous international instruments in crime prevention and criminal justice. The United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders have contributed to this process of standard-setting, beginning with the First Congress, in 1955, which adopted the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of prisoners (Economic and Social Council Resolution 663 C I (XXIV)).

2. In accordance with the recommendations of the congresses, other important instruments have been adopted in more recent years, such as the Declaration of the Fourth Congress, the Caracas Declaration, the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (General Assembly resolution 3452 (XXX)); the Code of Conduct for law Enforcement Officials (General Assembly resolution 34/169); the Safeguards guaranteeing the protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty (Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/50); and the Procedures for the effective implementation of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Economic and Social Council Resolution 1984/47).

3. The work of the United Nations in this field had been expanded by the additional standards adopted by the Seventh Congress (Milan, 1985) and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 40/32 of 29 November 1985, namely the Milan Plan of Action; the Guiding Principles for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in the Context of Development and a New International Economic Order; the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice; the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power; the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary; and the Model Agreement on the Transfer of Foreign Prisoners and Recommendations on the Treatment of Foreign Prisoners.

4. Further, in 1989, the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, adopted the principles on the Effective prevention and Investigation of Extra-legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions (resolution 1989/65, the procedures for the Effective implementation of the Basic principles on the Independence of the judiciary (resolution 1989/60) and the Guidelines for the Effective Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials (resolution 1989/61). On the same occasion the Council also adopted relevant resolutions on the implementation of the Declaration of Basic principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power (resolution 1989/57) and of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (resolution 1989/66). These instruments were endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 44/162 of 16 December 1989.

5. In 1990, a considerable number of new standards, guidelines and model treaties had been adopted by the Eighth United Nations Congress and Welcomed by the General Assembly in its resolutions 45/121 of 14 December 1990 and 45/166 of 18 December 1990. These new standards, guidelines and model treaties are: International co-operation for crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of development; United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency; United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty; United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures; Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners; Guidelines for the prevention and control of organized crime; Measures against international terrorism; Model Treaty on Extradition; Model Treaty on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters; Model Treaty on the Transfer of proceedings in Criminal Matters; Model Treaty on the Transfer of Supervision of Offenders Conditionally Sentenced or Conditionally Released; Basic principles on the Role of Lawyers; Guidelines on the Role of Prosecutors; Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials; and Model Treaty for the prevention of crimes that infringe on the cultural heritage of peoples in the form of movable property.

6. In Economic and Social Council 1989/69, the Secretary-General was requested to prepare a compilation of all existing United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice. A preliminary version was prepared as part of the documentation of the Eighth United Nations Congress.^{1/} In accordance with the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, the compendium has been finalized after the Congress and issued as a technical publication to include the newly adopted instruments, in a form similar to that of **Human Rights : A Compilation of International Instruments.**^{2/}

7. It is hoped that the compendium will contribute to a wider knowledge and an increased awareness of United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice standards, proving to be of value to all those who are both interested in crime control and concerned with the observance of human rights in the administration of justice.

Notes

1/ A/CONF. 144/INF.2.

2/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.88.XIV.1.