

Resolution 18/2

Civilian private security services: their role, oversight and contribution to crime prevention and community safety

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century,³⁹ in which Member States emphasized that effective action for crime prevention and criminal justice requires the involvement, as partners and actors, of Governments, national, regional, interregional and international institutions, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and various segments of civil society, including the mass media and the private sector, as well as the recognition of their respective roles and contributions,

Recalling also the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime, adopted by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2002/13 of 24 July 2002 and based in part on the principle that cooperation and partnerships ought to be an integral part of effective crime prevention, given the wide-ranging nature of the causes of crime and the skills and responsibilities required to address them, and that this includes partnerships working across ministries and between authorities, community organizations, non-governmental organizations, the business sector and private citizens,

Recalling further that the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime state that it is the responsibility of all levels of government to create, maintain and promote a context within which relevant governmental institutions and all segments of civil society, including the corporate sector, can better play their part in preventing crime,

Recalling further the Bangkok Declaration on Synergies and Responses: Strategic Alliances in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,⁴⁰ adopted at the high-level segment of the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Bangkok from 18 to 25 April 2005, in which Member States recognized the role of individuals and groups outside the public sector, such

³⁹ General Assembly resolution 55/59, annex.

⁴⁰ General Assembly resolution 60/177, annex.

as civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, in contributing to the prevention of and the fight against crime and terrorism and encouraged the adoption of measures to strengthen this role within the rule of law,

Emphasizing that States have primary responsibility for public order, safety and security,

Noting that, in some cases, civilian private security services may, in the course of their duties, contribute to protection for private citizens and commercial and non-commercial entities, where applicable, consistent with national legislation,

Also noting that, in some States, civilian private security services cooperate with and assist the police and may contribute to crime prevention and community safety consistent, where applicable, with national legislation,

Further noting that some civilian private security services may operate nationally and may also seek to operate internationally,

Further noting that, while many States have established mechanisms to regulate civilian private security services, the level of government oversight nevertheless varies widely,

Further noting the importance of effective oversight of civilian private security services by competent State authorities to ensure that they are not compromised or misused by criminal elements, including organized criminal groups,

1. *Invites* Governments to examine the role played on their territory by civilian private security services, assessing, where applicable and consistent with their national laws and administrative policies, the contribution of such services to crime prevention and community safety, and to determine whether national legislation provides adequate oversight and to share their experiences in this regard with other Member States and with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

2. *Decides* to establish an ad hoc open-ended intergovernmental expert group, inviting experts from academia and the private sector to become members of that group in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Economic and Social Council, to study the role of civilian private security services and their contribution to crime prevention and community safety and to consider, inter alia, issues relating to their oversight by competent State authorities, and invites Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary contributions in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

3. *Welcomes* the offer of the Government of the United Arab Emirates to act as host to a meeting of the above-mentioned expert group;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution for consideration by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twentieth session.