

Resolution 21/1

Strengthening Government oversight of civilian private security services and the contribution of such services to crime prevention and community safety

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

Recalling its resolution 18/2 of 24 April 2009, entitled “Civilian private security services: their role, oversight and contribution to crime prevention and community safety,”

Recalling also the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World,¹ adopted by the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Salvador, Brazil, from 12 to 19 April 2010, in which Member States recognized the importance of strengthening public-private partnerships in preventing and countering crime in all its forms and manifestations,

Recalling further the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime,² in the basic principles of which it is stated that cooperation and partnerships should 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 includes partnerships working across ministries and between authorities, community organizations, non-governmental organizations, the business sector and private citizens,

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

Bearing in mind that the work of civilian private security services may be highly sensitive and may require specific supervision and oversight by Governments,

Emphasizing that providers of civilian private security services are present in some States and that their services, while primarily preventive in nature, may complement those provided by the criminal justice system and, in some countries, are often supportive of public safety,

Mindful of the fact that civilian private security services may create challenges for the criminal justice system in some countries,

Taking note of the notes by the Secretariat on civilian private security services: their oversight and their role in and contribution to crime prevention and community safety,³

Recalling its resolution 19/1 of 21 May 2010, entitled “Strengthening public-private partnerships to counter crime in all its forms and manifestations”,

¹ General Assembly resolution 65/230, annex.

² Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/13, annex.

³ E/CN.15/2011/14 and E/CN.15/2012/20.

Mindful of the planning meeting held in Abu Dhabi on 10 and 11 May 2010, at which further study of the issue was recommended,

Noting the work of the Expert Group on Civilian Private Security Services at its meeting held in Vienna from 12 to 14 October 2011, and the resulting draft preliminary recommendations on oversight and regulation of civilian private security services and on the contribution of such security services to crime prevention and community safety,⁴

Noting also 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. *Takes note* of the draft preliminary recommendations of the Expert Group on Civilian Private Security Services (entitled “Abu Dhabi draft preliminary recommendations”);

2. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to circulate the Abu Dhabi draft preliminary recommendations on the oversight and regulation of civilian private security services and on their contribution to crime prevention and community safety to all Member States, through a note verbale requesting their response;

3. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to prepare a report that summarizes and provides a synthesis of the responses of Member States, to be submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-second session;

4. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for those purposes, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

⁴ E/CN.15/2012/20.