

**Quadrennial Report for American Society of Criminology (ASC), NGO in Special
Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
Submitted May 29 2006**

PART I

The American Society of Criminology (ASC) gained Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC in July 2002. The ASC is comprised of approximately 4,000 members, including about 500 international members from 40 countries. Roughly 70% of members are university professors who engage in social and behavioral science based criminological research. Employees of public and private research agencies make up about 10%, and students comprise the additional 20% of the membership. The purposes of the organization are:

- To bring together persons who are actively engaged in teaching and/or practice in the field of criminology and criminal justice;
- To foster training and research in criminology and criminal justice in institutions of higher learning and in law enforcement and correctional agencies;
- To encourage understanding and cooperation among those engaged in criminology and criminological research on a national and international basis;
- To serve as a clearing house for the collection and dissemination of criminological knowledge, skills and policy;
- To promote, foster and conduct research and instruction in the field of criminology and criminal justice;
- To accumulate, integrate and systematize scientific knowledge and to print, publish, and distribute literature and reports in the area of criminology and criminal justice.

The American Society of Criminology meets these goals by holding an annual meeting in North America (USA or Canada) every November during which approximately 2,500 persons from some 30 countries participate in approximately 600 panels and plenary sessions on a wide range of crime related topics. The ASC publishes two journals (*Criminology* and *Criminology & Public Policy*) and a newsletter. The ASC has five specialized divisions, including the Division of International Criminology (DIC) which has taken a leading role in United Nations activities. [For additional information on the ASC, see www.asc41.com]

PART II

Section A. Participation of ASC representatives in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, major conferences, and other UN meetings (2002-2005)

ASC representatives are allowed to attend a variety of UN meetings in an observational role, the most important of which are the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice annual sessions, held in April or May in Vienna, and the quinquennial United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (the most recent one held in Thailand in 2005). Through its special consultative status, the ASC may join crime-and justice related NGO organizations such as

the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme (ISPAC). Over the reporting period (2002-2005), ASC representatives have actively participated in these four venues. Below follow the details of this participation.

A. COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE MEETINGS (VIENNA)

- April 16-25, 2002 11th session
 - ASC was not yet admitted to Special Consultative Status to ECOSOC, but two ASC members (representing different NGOs) attended and prepared an informational report for the ASC membership.
- May 13-22, 2003 12th Session
 - 6 representatives present
 - Participation in Alliance of NGOs meeting
 - 1 oral statement (expressing interest in making substantial contribution to the 11th UN Crime Congress; acknowledging United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as high priority)
- May 11-20, 2004 13th session
 - 4 representatives present
 - Participation in Alliance of NGOs meeting
 - 1 oral statement (welcoming draft information-gathering questionnaires on United Nations Standards and Norms in crime prevention and criminal justice; announcing plans to organize ancillary meetings under the agenda item entitled “Making Standards Work: Fifty Years of Standard Setting in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice” during the 11th UN Crime Congress; looking forward to report of the Secretary General on capital punishment and implementation of the safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty)
- May 23-27, 2005 14th session
 - 3 representatives present
 - Participation in Alliance of NGOs meetings
 - Oral statement 1 (reporting on activities of American Society of Criminology in support of the Crime Commission and the 11th UN Crime Congress; expressing support for points 6, 7 and 9 of the of the Conclusions and Recommendations of the 11th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/CN.15/2005/5). These points involve support for a more integrated approach within the United Nations in relation to the provision of assistance for building capacity and crime prevention and criminal justice, and in cooperation in criminal matters of a transnational character, as a contribution to the establishment and strengthening of the rule of law” (point 6); reiterating pledge for ‘scholarly contributions’ similar to those of the Program Network Institutes (point 7); and supporting the strengthening of the role of NGOs in contributing to the prevention of and the fight against crime and terrorism within the rule of law (point 9).
 - Oral statement 2: The second oral statement was made on behalf of the NGO community to honor Mr. Eduardo Vetere.
 - Copies of *Criminology and Public Policy* research journal article on the death penalty were distributed through the Member States official mailboxes.

B. 11TH UN CRIME CONGRESS (BANGKOK) – APRIL 18-25, 2005

- Publicity concerning the Crime Congress was provided through ASC and Division of International Criminology (DIC) newsletters; informational sessions concerning participation were held at ASC annual meetings (2003, 2004); ASC member served on Alliance committee to coordinate and assist in planning Ancillary Sessions
- ASC organized 5 panels for presentations at the Ancillary Meetings.
 - April 18: Transnational Crime and Justice Issues
 - April 20: Trafficking in children
 - April 22: Economic and Financial Crimes: Challenges to sustainable development
 - April 22: Transnational Crime and Justice Issues in Asia
 - April 23: The Reality of Implementing Justice Sector Reform Programs: Implementing UN Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.
 - These panels involved extensive cooperation with UN Crime Commission Secretariat, designated NGO Coordinator (Gary Hill) and other NGOs.
- ASC representatives – collaborating with the Alliance of NGOs – organized a social function (coffee reception) for participants of the Crime Congress
- No formal oral or written statements were made

C. INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAMME (ISPAC)

Since the ASC is primarily a scientific professional organization, ISPAC - a consortium of scientific and professional groups - provides a most appropriate structure for ASC involvement. The December meetings of ISPAC have been attended by ASC members throughout the years – either as observers or as invited speakers. Specifically, for the reporting period, one ASC representative attended in December 2002, two representatives were present in December 2003 and 2004, and three representatives were present in December 2005. It should be noted that at the December 2005 meeting, one of the ASC representatives was elected to serve on the ISPAC Board.

D. ALLIANCE OF NGOS ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (NEW YORK, USA)

The ASC is a member of the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. This organization of grassroots NGOs meets every 2 months (6 per year) in New York City. Over the reporting period, ASC representatives have played an active role on this organization. Specifically,

- At least 1 ASC representative has attended every meeting, except one.
- ASC representative served on NY Alliance committee to assist in planning ancillary sessions at the 11th Crime congress in Bangkok.
- ASC representative served on the Alliance Working Party of Victims
- ASC representative was elected to serve as Alliance Secretary

Section B. ASC member activities carried out in cooperation with other bodies or specialized agencies of the UN (July 2002- December 2005)

- The ASC provided technical and financial assistance to the Secretariat of the Crime Commission in the production of the documentary on reforming criminal justice, shown at the 11th Crime Congress. The title of the documentary is: “Making Standards Work: 50 Years of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice” produced by the United States-based non-governmental organization “Two Hands Free.”
- The ASC provided financial and technical assistance to the production of the CD-Rom “Documentation from the First to the Tenth United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (1955-2000).” The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime collaborated with the ASC Division of International Criminology to archive the proceedings of 50 years of UN Congresses on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders (Congresses 1 – X, 1955-2000). The documents (working papers, reports, resolutions) are currently available at www.asc41.com/undocs.htm and at www.unodc.org. Its contents were researched and compiled by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Division for Treaty Affairs (Vienna, Austria), and the scanning work was made possible by the collaborative efforts of the ASC.

Section C. Initiatives undertaken by ASC members in support of the overall goals and objectives of the UN.

- The ASC is a scholarly organization interested in the study of crime and crime prevention, including its international dimensions. One of its objectives is strengthening the role of research findings in the formulation of crime and justice policy. Members of the ASC are increasingly involved in the production of scholarly research in the areas of prime interest to the UN (trafficking in human beings, corruption, drug trafficking, terrorism, money laundering, rule of law). The annual meetings of the ASC have devoted a substantial number of sessions to these topics, thereby increasing the awareness of the importance of these issues, as well as sharing relevant expertise among American and non-American researchers and policymakers. In addition, every ASC annual meeting since 2002 has had specific UN-focused panels, workshops, and informational sessions open to interested ASC members.
- An article in the ASC Newsletter *The Criminologist* (Vol.28, No.6, November/December 2003) was written to stimulate interest among ASC members in contributing their expertise to UN crime and justice-related concerns. The Newsletter of the Division of International Criminology routinely includes extensive discussion of UN-related crime and justice activities (see <http://www.asc41.com/dir1/divintcrim.htm>)
- The ASC has donated copies of thirty years of ASC-sponsored professional journals to the library of the Crime Commission’s Secretariat in Vienna.

CONCLUDING STATEMENT

Although the ASC gained Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC only in July 2002, it should be noted that numerous ASC members have been active in crime-related UN activities for a long time. Most notable, Professor Gerhard O.W. Mueller who served as chief of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch from 1974 to 1982, and who also was executive secretary to U.N. congresses for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders in 1975 and 1980, remained an active ASC member until shortly before he passed away in April 2006. Other ASC members have been involved as members of other NGOs, participated in meetings of International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme (ISPAC) as observers or speakers, and contributed as independent experts in UN-related institutes [e.g. European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations (HEUNI), United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)]. For many years now, the ASC has functioned as a rich source of expertise to ECOSOC and other UN bodies.

The experience of the first four years (2002-2005) as a NGO with Special Consultative Status has further solidified and reinforced the American Society of Criminology's recognition of the importance of sharing knowledge and expertise to deal with matters of transnational and international crime and rule of law. In addition to the activities listed in this report, ASC members have provided expertise to officials and experts encountered in national and international meetings, and provided liaison to connect ASC experts with officials and agencies seeking research input. Through its meetings, publications, websites, and other venues, the ASC has helped to move international crime and rule of law to a higher place on the research agenda of many individual scholars as well as of public and private research institutes in both the US and abroad. The American Society of Criminology looks forward to continue its work as a NGO with special Consultative Status with ECOSOC.

Report prepared and respectfully submitted on behalf of the American Society of Criminology by the ASC United Nations Main Representative for 2005-2008, Ineke Haen Marshall (Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts 02115-5000, USA; i.marshall@neu.edu)