

national crime prevention initiatives. The Guiding Principles, recommended by the General Assembly in 1985, "provide a comprehensive framework to the future course of crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of development needs."<sup>40</sup>

The U.N. General Assembly also adopted the *Recommendations on international co-operation for crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of development*, of the Eighth Congress, held at Havana in 1990. The recommendations assert "the importance of criminal law reform to keep pace with developments in crime, the incorporation of crime prevention policies into national development planning, and the promotion of international, scientific and technical cooperation in these areas."<sup>41</sup>

A noteworthy initiative supported by the Canadian government was the 1989 European and North-American Conference on Urban Safety and Crime Prevention held at Montreal. The Conference produced the *Agenda for Safer Cities* which calls for local, national and international action "to improve the quality of life by making communities safer from crime."<sup>42</sup>

It is clear that many developments in crime prevention and community safety are occurring around the world. Witnesses told the Committee that Canadian governments and communities could benefit from being informed about the experiences and latest developments in urban safety in other countries, particularly in countries that have established national crime prevention structures and policies such as France, the Netherlands and Sweden.

To expand our knowledge about what works and why, through the exchange of information between cities and countries, they recommended that the federal government support the creation of an international crime prevention centre affiliated with the United Nations. In his brief to the Committee, Irvin Waller highlighted the benefits of such a centre.

It will provide a new tool to reduce violence, interpersonal property crime, illicit drug use and fear across the world. It will facilitate the exchange of skills, knowledge and resources of what works to prevent crime between countries and communities.  
(p. 11-12)

The Committee agrees that the establishment of an international crime prevention centre in Canada merits consideration by the federal government. It believes that exposure to international developments in urban safety will enhance Canada's ability to effectively deal with crime. As well, the Committee is of the view that Canada has crime prevention expertise and successes that should be shared with other countries.

### **Recommendation 5**

**The Committee recommends that federal government support the establishment of an international centre for the prevention of crime to be affiliated with the United Nations.**

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<sup>40</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 4.

<sup>42</sup> Final Declaration of the European and North-American Conference on Urban Safety and Crime Prevention, *Agenda for Safer Cities*, Montreal, October 13, 1989.