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Addendum

Use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice

1. At its 8th and 9th meetings, on 14 and 15 April 2011, the Commission considered agenda item 8, entitled “Use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice”. For its consideration of the item, the Commission had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2011/3-E/CN.15/2011/3);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the rule of law through improved integrity and capacity of prosecution services (E/CN.15/2011/8);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice (E/CN.15/2011/12);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on national and international efforts for child justice reform, in particular through improved coordination in technical assistance (E/CN.15/2011/13).

2. The Secretariat made an introductory statement. Statements were made by the representatives of the United States, Canada, the Russian Federation and Germany. A statement was also made by the observer for Italy. Statements were also made by the observers for the Academic Council on the United Nations System, the International Commission for Catholic Prison Pastoral Care and the Friends World Committee for Consultation.



3. Discussions ranged over the following specific topics: new instruments in the area of violence against women and women in detention and in custodial and non-custodial settings; efforts in the area of child justice reform, juvenile justice and child victims; standards on integrity and capacity of prosecution services and, in general, the possible review of some of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice. In addition, the methodology of the Commission's work on that item was discussed, in particular its review of the implementation of the standards and norms by Member States. A suggestion was made to amend the title of the item for future sessions of the Commission.
4. The adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) and of the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was welcomed.
5. Speakers were in favour of following up on the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World, in which Member States invited the Commission to consider reviewing and, if necessary, updating and supplementing the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, in particular with regard to the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.
6. Speakers welcomed the report on coordination of efforts in child justice reform (E/CN.15/2011/13) and stressed its importance in achieving coordinated results, including through the Inter-agency Panel on Juvenile Justice. It was also noted that the standards and norms in the area of juvenile justice formed the basis for review of implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It was stressed that a sound legislative basis was an essential part of ensuring a fair and effective child youth justice system and that it was also necessary to address the conditions underlying criminal behaviour if long-term and meaningful solutions were to be achieved.
7. It was stated that existing and future UNODC training curricula and technical assistance projects should support the practical application of the standards and norms and put into practice the United Nations values of equality and fairness.
8. UNODC work conducted with UNICEF using technology to promote training of professionals in the area of child victims and witnesses was commended, especially as a response to the abuse of technology for the abuse of children. Information on national practices to address use of the Internet to commit crime against children was shared, and an offer was made to share additional lessons learned with other States.
9. The report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the rule of law through improved integrity and capacity of prosecution services (E/CN.15/2011/8) was welcomed, and the importance of the guidelines for prosecutors was stressed. It was recommended that UNODC work with the International Association of Prosecutors to develop training materials and good practices on how those standards could be applied to prosecution operations and practices. It was noted that the standards and norms on prosecution and the role of lawyers had not received sufficient attention thus far, and it was hoped that future work would be done to apply and disseminate the guidelines.