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Addendum

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

1. At its 8th meeting, on 25 May 2017, the Commission considered agenda item 6, 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:

Report of the Secretary-General on the use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice ([E/CN.15/2017/9](#)).

2. The Director of the Division for Operations of UNODC made an introductory statement. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences made a statement.

3. Statements were made by the representatives of South Africa, Thailand, China, the United States, Canada and Morocco. Statements were also made by the observers for Indonesia, Algeria and Lebanon.

4. The observers for the Korean Institute of Criminology made a statement. The observers for Penal Reform International and the Academic Council on the United Nations System made statements as well.

Deliberations

5. Many speakers highlighted the significance of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice in ensuring fair, humane and effective criminal justice systems. The relevance of the standards and norms in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, notably Sustainable Development Goals 5, 11 and 16 contained therein, was underscored.

6. Reference was made to the important and exclusive mandate of the Commission, as the principal policymaking body in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. The Commission provided a forum for, inter alia, negotiations



on relevant standards and norms, information exchange on crime prevention strategies and identification of priorities of the international community for combating crime.

7. Appreciation was expressed for the Commission's achievements, in particular its work on the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules). In that regard, the launch of the Group of Friends of the Nelson Mandela Rules was mentioned.

8. Many speakers shared initiatives taken at the national level to improve prison conditions, ensure the respect of the human dignity of prisoners and promote the social reintegration of offenders, in line with the Nelson Mandela Rules. They also reported on their efforts to promote the use of alternatives to imprisonment, in line with the Tokyo Rules and the Bangkok Rules, including in the context of drug-related offences, as recommended in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly. A number of speakers noted that the use of restorative approaches in criminal matters deserved increased attention and that a meeting to exchange experiences would be beneficial.

9. Speakers also reported on national efforts to improve access to legal aid, in particular for vulnerable members of society and groups with special needs, referring to the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems and to the Johannesburg and Buenos Aires declarations on implementing those Principles and Guidelines.

10. Speakers also addressed the need to prevent and respond to violence against children while improving the treatment of children in contact with the justice system.

11. The acute need to address violence against women, including the gender-related killing of women and girls, was stressed, as was the importance of data collection and monitoring of trends through "femicide watches" or observatories.

12. Appreciation was expressed for the ongoing technical assistance tools and programmes developed by UNODC and for its advisory role. A number of speakers called for additional resources to be allocated to the Office to support crime prevention and criminal justice reform.