



# Economic and Social Council

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## Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

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### Draft report

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### Addendum

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

1. At its 7th and 8th meetings, on 23 May 2019, the Commission considered agenda item 7, 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 a report of the Secretary-General on the use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice ([E/CN.15/2019/9](#));
2. The Chief of the Justice Section of UNODC made an introductory statement.
3. Statements were made by the representatives of Thailand, South Africa, China, Algeria, Indonesia, Kuwait and the United States.
4. Statements were also made by the observers for Canada, Viet Nam, Azerbaijan, Saudi Arabia and Namibia.
5. Observers for the Thailand Institute of Justice, the Korean Institute of Criminology and the International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges also made statements.

### Deliberations

6. Many speakers emphasized the importance of the United Nations standards and norms for their national crime prevention strategies and justice reform initiatives and also in the context of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Several speakers underlined the important and exclusive mandate of the Commission within the United Nations system with regard to the United Nations standards and norms, and noted the need to update those standards and norms. Many speakers expressed appreciation for the efforts of UNODC to promote and support the application of the standards and norms and commended the tools and programmes developed for that purpose.



7. UNODC was commended for its leadership role in promoting, spearheading and coordinating efforts to address crime and violence and in assisting Member States, including through the provision of technical assistance in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice in support of the rule of law.
  8. Many speakers reported on national initiatives to improve prison conditions and ensure respect for the human dignity of prisoners, in line with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules). Reference was also made to the Group of Friends of the Nelson Mandela Rules.
  9. Several speakers described national measures adopted to promote the use of non-custodial measures, in line with the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules). Several speakers highlighted the advantages of restorative justice processes, guided by a victim-centred approach, the importance of access to legal aid, in particular for vulnerable members of society, and the benefits of the transfer of foreign prisoners to their home country to facilitate their rehabilitation.
  10. Challenges posed by urban crime, the recruitment of youth by gangs and the need to rehabilitate former gang members were mentioned, with one speaker suggesting that those issues be considered at the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.
  11. Several speakers stressed the importance of public participation and the role of civil society organizations, academia and private-public partnerships in the development and implementation of crime prevention and criminal justice programmes.
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