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**Commission on Crime Prevention
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**Use and application of United Nations standards and
norms in crime prevention and criminal justice****Standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal
justice****Report of the Secretary-General****Addendum****I. Introduction**

1. The present addendum contains information additional to that provided in the report of the Secretary-General of 12 March 2003 (E/CN.15/2003/10), submitted in response to Economic and Social Council resolutions 2002/13, entitled "Action to promote effective crime prevention", 2002/14, entitled "Promoting effective measures to deal with the issues of missing children and sexual abuse or exploitation of children", and 2002/15, entitled "United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice", of 24 July 2002. Replies have since been received from Argentina, Colombia, Oman, the Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela concerning resolution 2002/13, from Saudi Arabia and Switzerland on resolution 2002/14 and from Austria, Qatar and the Syrian Arab Republic on resolution 2002/15. Those replies are summarized below.

* E/CN.15/2003/1.



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

2. Austria highlighted its financial contribution to and hosting of the Meeting of Experts on the Application of United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Stadtschlaining, Austria, from 10 to 12 February 2003 (see E/CN.15/2003/10/Add.1). The mandate of the Meeting was to evaluate the results achieved and the progress made in the application of existing United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, to review the present system of reporting, to assess the advantages to be expected in using a cross-sectoral approach and to make concrete proposals to be considered by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twelfth session.

3. With regard to the invitation of Member States to make available voluntary funds for technical cooperation projects in the area of criminal justice reform, Austria announced its intention to make a voluntary contribution to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (formerly known as the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention) for a project on juvenile justice reform, as one of six components of the programme on criminal justice reform in Afghanistan.

4. Qatar reported that it wished to support technical cooperation projects by hosting workshops, meetings, special exhibitions and so on that the United Nations system was undertaking rather than make a direct financial contribution. The aim of so doing was to present the current progress of Qatar, as well as to allow more people in the country who were interested in such issues to acquire the knowledge and technical skills offered by such activities.

5. The Syrian Arab Republic reported that in the area of the use and application of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, its criminal code of 1949 had been amended several times to keep abreast of international developments relating to combating crime. It had also adopted a modern and advanced law dealing with all aspects of combating drug-related crimes. Within that context, the Syrian Arab Republic cooperated closely with the United Nations in crime prevention matters and contributed in that field by submitting relevant proposals and reports. It was also party to international conventions against drugs, terrorism and corruption and attempted to apply United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice with the objective of increasing cooperation and implementation of programmes in that area.

6. With regard to penal reform, the Syrian Arab Republic reported that its code of penal procedure provided legal guarantees for both defendants and witnesses. It paid special attention to the control of prisons and special committees were entrusted with the task of taking care of prison inmates. The prisons were equipped with libraries contributing to the education of prisoners and their rehabilitation.

7. With regard to administration of juvenile justice, there were judges specialized in juvenile justice. The juvenile law of the Syrian Arab Republic was highly advanced in terms of taking account of the personality of juveniles educationally, socially and psychologically. There were special institutes for juvenile education, reform and rehabilitation under the supervision of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour.

C. Missing children and sexual abuse and exploitation of children

1. Action to promote cooperation with civil society

8. Saudi Arabia reported that a free telephone line had been established within the Ministry of Justice and Social Affairs devoted to providing advice and counselling on cases of sexual abuse and exploitation of children should they occur.

9. Switzerland reported that an interdisciplinary working group exchanged information on combating sexual exploitation of children and sex tourism. The Centre for Family Affairs coordinated child abuse prevention and child protection and supported or initiated projects in the field of violence and sexual exploitation of children that were normally carried out with non-governmental organizations and university institutions. Swiss non-governmental organizations played an important role in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child.

2. Measures against child prostitution

10. Saudi Arabia reported that the phenomena of missing children and sexual abuse or exploitation of children were not serious problems. Isolated and individual occurrences were governed by Islamic law (Shariah), applicable in the country to deal with those problems in terms of punishment, rehabilitation and teaching of ethics and good manners.

11. Switzerland referred to its criminal code, which criminalized incitement of minors to prostitution; pornography involving children; sexual acts with children; sexual acts with dependent persons; sexual coercion; sexual acts committed against a person incapable of judgement or resistance; sexual acts with persons in hospital, in detention or on remand; abuse of persons in distress; and trafficking in human beings.

3. Time limits for penal proceedings

12. Switzerland referred to its criminal code in which the time limit for sex offences against children under 16 years of age varied according to the severity of an offence. The time limit regime was intended to ensure that victims who were sexually abused in their early childhood would still have sufficient time to decide whether to make a complaint.

E. Crime prevention

13. Argentina proposed that a regional or central forum for crime policy or prevention should be set up with the financial support of participating States and technical assistance provided by the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The forum would draw together all national actors involved in the formulation and implementation of crime prevention policies with a view to creating an environment for discussion, as well as a platform for the exchange of experience and information and enabling international, regional and national crime prevention networks to be strengthened further.

14. Colombia reported that it had been implementing the main aspects of the guidelines on crime prevention and active community involvement through the operation of the legal centre programme, neighbourhood security fronts and citizens' watchdog groups. It also expressed its willingness to share the experience of its legal centre programme with interested States or international organizations. The legal centres functioned as multi-agency referral centres offering dispute settlement services within a specific locality, providing the public with access to justice, advising citizens on their rights, preventing crime and curbing impunity.

15. Oman highlighted the danger that crime posed to the security, stability and safety of citizens and gave examples of crime prevention measures taken, including the development of radio and television programmes in order to show the negative aspects of vice and criminality, encouraging cooperation between citizens and security personnel, promoting national and foreign investment in order to create employment opportunities and using modern equipment for inspections at airports in order to preserve the security and safety of travellers.

16. The Syrian Arab Republic welcomed any action aimed at promoting cooperation in the international prevention of crime as well as any technical assistance.

17. Venezuela stressed that States must devote considerable effort and planning to crime prevention in order to reduce effectively the number of punishable acts and to make possible lasting peace in society.
