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Report of the Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting to review and update the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Bangkok, 23 - 25 March 2009

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I. Introduction

1. In December 1997, the General Assembly adopted the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (resolution 52/86, Annex) as a guideline to be used by Governments in their efforts to address, within the criminal justice system, the various manifestations of violence against women. The Model Strategies and Practical Measures set a comprehensive strategy that should guide States in developing policies and undertaking practical measures to eliminate violence against women and in promoting women's equality within the criminal justice system. The strategies and the measures which member States are called to implement in accordance with the Model are based on ten pillars: criminal law; criminal procedure; police; sentencing and correction; victim support and assistance; health and social services; training; research and evaluation; crime prevention measures and international cooperation.

2. At its seventeenth session (Vienna, 14-18 April 2008), the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice adopted decision 17/1, entitled "Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women and girls". In paragraph (c) of its decision, the Commission requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to convene an intergovernmental group of experts with equitable geographical representation, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, to review and update, as appropriate, the Model Strategies

and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, taking into account current developments, research, tools and the outcome of the deliberations of the Crime Commission at its seventeenth session, and to make recommendations on addressing violence against women and girls, to be considered by the Commission at its nineteenth session.

3. Pursuant to decision 17/1 of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and grateful for the generous offer of the Government of Thailand to act as host for the meeting as well as to the Governments of Canada and Finland for the financial contribution provided for its organization, the Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting to review and update the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was held in Bangkok from 23 to 25 March 2009.

4. In order to prepare a draft document to be discussed and reviewed by the Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting that would reflect as many inputs as possible and would support a full and comprehensive discussion, a Note Verbale was sent to all Member States by UNODC seeking suggestions for changes and improvements to the 1997 Model Strategies and Practical Measures. Twenty-six responses to the Note Verbale have been received from the following countries: Argentina; Austria, Bahrain, Canada, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Finland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritius, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, the Philippines, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia and the United States of America. The draft text

considered by the Meeting reflected the inputs and comments received by Member States.

II Organization of the Meeting

A. Opening of the Meeting

5. The Meeting was opened by the Permanent Secretary of Justice of Thailand who, after recalling the process which led to the holding of the meeting, indicated how violence against women has become a major impediment to the enjoyment of human rights, gender equality, development and peace. He stressed that such violence has also a negative impact on psychological, social and economic development of individuals, families, communities and countries. He also underlined that the international community is in dire need of appropriate measures, ensuring intervention that not only would stop and sanction violence, but would also restore a sense of control to the victims. Mention was also made of the need of meeting the goals of the Millennium Development Goals in 2015, in particular Goal 3 on promoting gender equality and empowering women as well as to the need to promote a right-based approach to all relevant policies. Likewise, it was stressed that it is important to have a set of crime prevention and criminal justice rules which aim at preventing and stopping violence against women and at enabling victims to seek redress and recourse for such despicable crime. In his opening remarks, the Permanent Secretary of Justice also recalled the initiatives carried out by Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha, UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador for Thailand, to address in a holistic and integrated manner the serious problem of violence against women. In this regard, mentioned was made of Her Royal Highness support to UNIFEM's "*Say NO to Violence against Women*" campaign.

6. In a video recorded statement, Her Royal Highness, Princess Bajrakitiyabha, welcomed the experts to the Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting and drew the attention of the participants to the fact that violence against women is a violation of human rights and of gender equality. She also stressed that the differences in the enjoyment of human rights is a root cause of violence against women and that addressing such issue is a call of moral high ground. In this regard, she recalled that Thailand has joined the “*Say NO to Violence against Women*” campaign, organized by UNIFEM, and that more than 3 millions signatures have been collected under this initiative. She also recalled that violence against women needs to be addressed in a multidimensional way and that is vital to empower women. In this connection, she mentioned other relevant Thai initiatives, such as the ELFI project related to the treatment of female offenders. In concluding her statement, Her Royal Highnesses emphasized that the revised and updated version of the 1997 Model Strategies and Practical Measures will assist countries to better and more effectively prevent and combat all forms of violence against women.

7 In his opening remarks, the Representative of the UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific commended the Government of Thailand for taking the initiative to host the meeting of the inter-governmental group of experts to review and update the 1997 Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. He also stressed that this initiative was part of a broader policy and strategy of Thailand to support the goal of equitable treatment for women and prisoners. The representative then recalled the disproportionate impact that the current global economic crisis would have upon women, particularly in

the East Asia and Pacific region. In this connection, he recalled that shrinking global demand for clothes, textiles and electronics produced in the region would mean that women will be the first to lose their jobs. In addition, it could also be expected that women would feel the sharp end of reduced access to micro-credit and that they would be the first to feel the reduction of social services as governments cut back on spending programmes. Emphasis was placed to the fact it can be expected that all this would have consequences at home and that – often – these consequences would be violent.

8. The Representative recalled that the role that the United Nations play in advancing the cause of the elimination of violence against women is twofold. He underlined that, firstly, the United Nations help negotiating and adopting conventions and norms which themselves set the tone and quality of laws and norms adopted by the Member States and that, secondly, the United Nations work alongside countries to ensure that women's lives are made more secure and that women and girls lead healthier lives. Mention was also made of the fact that during recent years, the United Nations has paid increasing attention to not only strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice systems, but also giving greater attention to the needs of women and girls and how victims and witnesses are treated within the justice systems. In this regard, he recalled the UNODC's Regional Programme Framework for the years 2009-2012 for the East Asia and the Pacific Region, in the framework of which countering human trafficking has a central role. In this connection, he stressed that work to counter the phenomenon of trafficking should aim at building four pillars: i) a strong and well-informed prosecutorial and judicial systems to prosecute, punish and convict traffickers; ii) a quick and accurate identification of victims

along with immediate protection and support; iii) special support to allow victims to serve as witnesses; and iv) systems and processes that enable effective international investigative and judicial cooperation in trafficking cases

9. In concluding his remarks, he underlined that along with the work in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, to effectively reduce and – ultimately – eliminate violence against women, it is also important to achieve success in other areas of female empowerment.

10. The Regional Programme Director of the United Nations Women Development Fund, East and Southeast Asia Regional Office, recalled that violence against women is a universal phenomenon and that as an average one woman out of three has been either beaten, forced to sex or abused by intimate partner. In her intervention, the Director mentioned that the countries belonging to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have all ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, that they adopted the ASEAN Declaration on Violence against Women which recognizes such violence as a violation of human rights. She also recalled that eight out of ten of the countries belonging to this region have adopted legislation on domestic violence while several of these countries have developed national action plans to implement such a legislation.

11. Several recommendations on how to prevent, reduce and eliminate violence against women were indicated by the Director, including the need to have legal protection for women; the need to ensure that legislation has a gender-sensitive approach; the need for laws to have a clear statement of

objectives and to be grounded in international human rights instruments; the need to have a comprehensive definition of domestic violence; the need to take into consideration in judicial matters the battered-women syndrome; the need for legislation to have civil and criminal remedies; the need to have a speedy and gender-sensitive access to pre-litigation measures, emergency relief (i.e. shelters and medical attention) and temporary orders; the need to enforce sanctions for violating court orders; the need to have support services that are speedy and easily accessible; the need to empower victims; and the need to have a multi-disciplinary and comprehensive approach to fight violence against women.

12. In her introductory remarks, the representative of UNODC thanked the Government of Thailand for its generous hospitality in hosting the meeting as well as the Governments of Canada and Finland for providing a financial contribution for its organization. The UNODC representative recalled that the Model Strategies and Practical Measures were adopted by the General Assembly in 1997, with resolution 52/86, and they reflect negotiated language agreed to by consensus after full discussion by Member States. She also stressed that they continue to be a relevant and useful document, adopting a multidisciplinary approach to combating violence against women and covering all components of the criminal justice system and she explained that the need to revise the Model Strategies and Practical Measures stemmed from the consideration that they were developed over ten years ago, and it was felt that they should reflect current developments and research, taking into account new approaches and prevention tools and good practices. She underlined that in the last decade, there have been a number of efforts made to combat violence against women: new practices, new thinking, new research as well as new

international legal instruments such as the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. She also stressed that various United Nations resolutions regarding women, peace and security, crimes against women committed in the name of honor, violence against women migrant workers, crime prevention have been adopted and regional instruments and efforts have also taken place in these last ten years.

13. In introducing the draft text of the revised and updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures, she recalled that in order to prepare the draft document to be discussed by the Intergovernmental Group of Experts, that would reflect as many inputs as possible and would support a full and comprehensive discussion, a Note Verbale was sent to all Member States by UNODC seeking suggestions for changes and improvements to the 1997 Model Strategies and Practical Measures, and that twenty-six countries had replied. She also recalled that in preparing the draft document the Special Rapporteur on Violence against women, its causes and consequences, the Division for the Advancement of Women and some of the Institutes of the Crime Programme Network, and namely United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy, the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime and the Institute for Security Studies, were consulted.

B. Attendance

14. The Meeting was attended by experts from 15 countries, by observers of the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy and the Institute for Security Studies as well as by observers of the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Children Fund. A list of participants is contained in Annex II to the present report.

C. Election of officers

15. The following officers were elected by consensus:

Chairman: Wisit Wisitsora-At (Thailand)

Vice-Chairmen: Carole Morency (Canada)

Beata Ziorkiewicz (Poland)

Yenny Muñoz Torres (Chile)

Rapporteur: Koffi Yéboué Hypolite (Ivory Coast)

D. Adoption of the agenda

16. The Meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the Meeting.
2. Election of the bureau.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
4. Review and update of the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.
5. Recommendations on addressing violence against women and girls for the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.
6. Conclusions
7. Adoption of the report and closure of the Meeting.

III. Summary of the discussion and recommendations

17. At its first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth meetings, held respectively on 23, 24 and 25 March, the Intergovernmental Expert Group considered the text of the draft revised and updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. At its sixth meeting on 25 March, the Group completed its review of the revised and updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures.

18. At its sixth meeting, on 25 March, pursuant to the request of decision 17/1 of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Group considered the text of following draft resolution containing a series of recommendations on addressing violence against women and girls for the consideration and possible action of the Commission.

Draft resolution

Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women

The General Assembly

Reaffirming the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women¹ and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action² adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995, and in particular, the determination of Governments to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women,

Recognizing that the term “women,” except where otherwise specified, encompasses “girl children,”

Reaffirming also the programme of action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994, as well as the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender, equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century³, and the Declaration adopted at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women,

Stressing that all forms of violence against women constitute not only a violation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women but also have serious socio-economic consequences that hinder the achievement of gender equality and development,

Reaffirming its resolution 52/86 of 12 December 1997 in which it adopted the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

Reaffirming further its resolutions 61/143 of 19 December 2006 and 63/155 of 18 December 2008 on intensification of efforts to eliminate violence against women,

Recalling that the Bangkok Declaration, adopted at the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, emphasized the importance of promoting the interests of victims of crime, including taking account of their gender,

¹ General Assembly resolution 48/104.

² Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

³ General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

Mindful of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 and 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008 on women and peace and security,

Recalling also the inclusion of gender-related crimes and crimes of sexual violence in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court⁴, as well as the recognition by the ad hoc international criminal tribunals that rape can constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity or a constitutive act with respect to genocide or torture,

Calling for the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence in the family, within the general community and where perpetrated or condoned by the State,

Expressing deep concern about the pervasiveness of violence against women in all its forms and manifestations worldwide, and reiterating the need to intensify efforts to address such challenge,

Recognizing that violence against women is rooted in historically unequal power relations between men and women and that all forms of violence against women seriously violate and impair or nullify the enjoyment by women of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and constitute a major impediment to the ability of women to make use of their capabilities,

Recognizing also that women's poverty and lack of empowerment, as well as their marginalization resulting from their exclusion from social policies and from the benefits of sustained development, can place them at increased risk of violence, and that violence against women impedes the social and economic development of communities and States, as well as the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing further that effective and integrated criminal justice responses to violence against women require close cooperation between all key stakeholders, including law enforcement officials, prosecutors, victim advocates, health professionals and forensic scientists,

Recalling the joint dialogue of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on addressing violence against women through legal reform, held in New York on 4 March 2009, on the occasion of the 53rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling further decision 17/1 of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in which the Commission requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to convene an intergovernmental group of experts with equitable geographical

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 2187, No. 38544.

representation, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, to review and update, as appropriate, the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

1. *Takes note* with appreciation of the work of the above Meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts held in Bangkok from 23 to 25 March 2009 (E/CN.15/2010/xxx),
2. *Adopts* the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, annexed to the present resolution;
3. *Strongly condemns* all acts of violence against women, whether these acts are perpetrated by the State, by private persons or by non-state actors, and calls for the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence in the family, within the general community and where perpetrated or condoned by the State;
4. *Stresses* that “violence against women” includes any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women;
5. *Urges* Member States to end impunity for violence against women by prosecuting and punishing all perpetrators, by ensuring that women have equal protection of the law and equal access to justice and by holding up to public scrutiny and eliminating those attitudes that foster, justify or tolerate violence;
6. *Urges also* Member States to enhance their mechanisms and procedures for protection of victims of violence against women in the criminal justice system, taking into account, *inter alia*, the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power, and to provide to this end, particularly specialized counselling and assistance;
7. *Calls upon* Member States to advance effective crime prevention and criminal justice strategies that address violence against women, including the prevention of revictimization by, *inter alia*, removing barriers that prevent victims from seeking safety, including barriers related to custody of children, access to shelter and availability of legal assistance;

8. *Calls upon also* Member States to develop and implement crime prevention policies and programmes to promote women's and girls' safety in the home and in society at large in a manner that reflects the realities of women's and girls' lives and addresses their distinct needs, taking into account, *inter alia*, the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime, and the important contribution of education and awareness initiatives to promote the safety of women and girls;

9. *Urges* Member States to evaluate and review their legislation and legal principles, procedures, policies, programmes and practices relating to crime prevention and criminal justice matters, in a manner consistent with their systems, to determine if they are adequate to combat violence against women or if they have a negative impact on women and, if they have such an impact, to modify them in order to ensure that women and girls are treated fairly, and in this regard, draw upon the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures;

10. *Invites* Member States to support and provide adequate resources to UNODC for promoting the use and application of the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures;

11. *Urges* Member States to take into account the special needs and vulnerabilities of women within the criminal justice system, especially those in detention, pregnant female inmates and children born to women in detention, including, *inter alia*, through the development of policies and programmes to address such needs, taking into account relevant international standards and norms;

12. *Further urges* Member States to assist women victims of violence when the facts evidence a legitimate self-defense response to violence or threats of violence made against them, and to ensure that these women have access to adequate legal representation;

13. *Invites* Member States to establish a multidisciplinary coordinated response to sexual assault, including specially trained police, prosecutors, forensic examiners, and victim support services to contribute to the well-being of the victim and increase the likelihood of a successful apprehension, prosecution and conviction of the offender, and to prevent revictimization;

14. *Encourages* Member States to design and support programmes to empower women, both politically and economically, to assist in

preventing violence against women and girls, in particular in decision-making process;

15. *Calls upon* Member States to set up and strengthen mechanisms for systematic data collection on violence against women with a view to assessing the scope and prevalence of violence against women as well as guiding the design of effective crime prevention and criminal justice responses to such crime;

16. *Urges* Member States and invites the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network to continue offering training and capacity building, in particular for practitioners of crime prevention and criminal justice and victim support services in the field of violence against women and to make available and disseminate information on successful practices such as intervention models and preventive programmes;

17. *Requests* UNODC to intensify efforts to ensure the widest possible dissemination of the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures, including through the development or revision of relevant tools, such as handbooks, training manuals, programmes and modules, and invites Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary contributions for these purposes in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

18. *Invites* UNODC to strengthen coordination in its activities in the area of violence against women with other relevant entities of the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Division for Advancement of Women, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR), as well as other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

19. *Invites further* UNODC to cooperate with the Department of Peace-keeping Operations to develop training material which are based on the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures for military, police and civilian personnel of peace-keeping and peace-building operations;

20. *Requests* UNODC to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.

IV. Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting

19. At its sixth meeting, on 25 March, the Intergovernmental Expert Group considered and adopted its report, including the revised and updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice contained in Annex I, and recommended that they would be submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for consideration and action at its nineteenth session.

DRAFT

Annex I

Revised and updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Preamble

1. The multifaceted nature of violence against women necessitates different strategies to respond to the diverse manifestations of violence and the various settings in which it occurs, both in private and public life, whether committed in the home, the workplace, educational and training institutions, the community or society, in custody, in situations of armed conflict and natural disaster. The Model Strategies and Practical Measures recognize the importance of adopting a systematic, comprehensive, coordinated, multi-sectoral, and sustained approach to violence against women. The practical measures, strategies and activities described below can be introduced in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice to address violence against women. Except where otherwise specified, the term “women” encompasses “girl children”.

2. Violence against women exists in every country in the world as a pervasive violation of the enjoyment of human rights and a major impediment to achieving gender equality, development and peace. Violence against women is rooted in historically unequal power relations between men and women. All forms of violence against women seriously violate and impair or nullify the enjoyment by women of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and have serious immediate and long term implications for health, including sexual and reproductive health, as well as increased vulnerability to HIV/AIDs, public safety, as well as a negative impact on the psychological, social and economic development of individuals, families, communities and States.

3 Violence against women is often embedded in and supported by social values, cultural patterns and practices. The criminal justice system and legislators are not immune to such values and thus have not always regarded violence against women with the same seriousness as other violence. Therefore, it is important that States strongly condemn all forms of violence against women and refrain from invoking any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligation with respect to its elimination and that the criminal justice system recognises violence against women as a gendered problem and as an expression of power and inequality.

4. Violence against women is defined in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and reiterated in the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women to mean any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life. These Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (*hereinafter* Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures) build

on the measures adopted by Governments in the Platform for Action, adopted in 1995 and subsequently re-affirmed in 2000 and 2005, the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice adopted in 1997, and relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 61/143 and 63/155, bearing in mind that some groups of women are especially exposed and vulnerable to violence.

5. The Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures specifically acknowledge the need for an active policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies, programmes, and practices to ensure gender equality and equal and fair access to justice, as well as establishing the goal of gender balance in all areas of decision-making including those related to the elimination of violence against women. The Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures should be applied as guidelines in a manner consistent with relevant international instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime with a view to furthering their fair and effective implementation. The Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures reaffirm the commitment of States to promote gender equality and empower women, pursuant to Goal 3 of the Millennium Development Goals.

6. The Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures should be endorsed by national legislation and implemented by Member States and other entities in a manner consistent with the right to equality before the law, while recognizing that gender equality may sometimes require different approaches which acknowledge the different ways violence impacts on women as compared to men by ensuring that women have equal protection of the law and equal access to justice, in order to facilitate the efforts by Governments to prevent and sanction the occurrence of violence against women through comprehensive and coordinated policies and strategies, and to deal with all forms of violence against women within the criminal justice system.

7. The Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures recognise that crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women must be focused on the needs of victims, and empower individual women who are victims of violence. The Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures aim at ensuring prevention and intervention efforts that not only stop and appropriately sanction the violence, but also restore a sense of dignity and control to the victim.

8. The Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures are aimed at contributing to *de jure* and *de facto* equality between women and men. The Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures do not give preferential treatment to women but are aimed at ensuring that any inequalities or forms of discrimination that women face in achieving access to justice, particularly in respect of acts of violence, are redressed.

9. The Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures recall the recognition of sexual violence as an issue of international peace and security as outlined in Security Council resolutions 1325 and 1820 on women and peace and security, particularly the need for parties to armed conflict to adopt prevention and protection measures in order to end sexual violence.

10. The Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures recognise that some special groups of women are particularly vulnerable to violence including those based on nationality, ethnicity, religion or language, indigenous women, migrant women, stateless women, refugee women, women living in underdeveloped, rural or remote communities, homeless women, women in institutions or in detention, women with disabilities, elderly women, widows, as well as women living in conflict and post-conflict and disaster situations and as such they require special attention, intervention and protection in the development of crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women.

11. The Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures recognise advances in crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women and the importance of investing in the prevention of violence against women.

12. The Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures recognise that States have the obligation to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including women, and must exercise due diligence and take relevant measures to prevent, investigate and punish the perpetrators of violence against women, to eliminate impunity and to provide protection to the victims, and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

I. Guiding Principles

13. Member States are urged:

- (a) To be guided by the overall principle that effective crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women are human rights-based, manage risk and promote victim safety and empowerment while ensuring offender accountability;
- (b) To develop mechanisms to ensure a comprehensive, coordinated, systematic and sustained approach for their implementation at the national, regional and international levels;
- (c) To promote the involvement and participation of all relevant sectors of government and civil society and other stakeholders in the implementation process;
- (d) To commit adequate and sustained resources and develop monitoring mechanisms to ensure their effective implementation and oversight;

(e) To take account of the varying needs of women subjected to violence in their implementation.

II. Criminal Law

14. Member States are urged:

(a) To review, evaluate and update their national laws, policies, codes, procedures, programmes, and practices, especially their criminal laws, on an on-going basis to ensure and guarantee their value, comprehensiveness, and effectiveness in eliminating all forms of violence against women and to remove provisions that allow for or condone violence against women or that increase the vulnerability or re-victimization of women victims of violence;

(b) To review, evaluate and update their criminal and civil laws, in order to ensure that all forms of violence against women are criminalized and prohibited and, if not, to adopt measures to do so including prevention, protection, survivor empowerment and support, adequate punishment of perpetrator as well as available remedies for victims;

(c) To review, evaluate and update their criminal laws in order to ensure that:

(i) Persons who are brought before the courts on judicial matters in respect of violent crimes or who are convicted of such crimes can be restricted in their possession and use of firearms and other regulated weapons, within the framework of their national legal systems;

(ii) Individuals can be prohibited or restrained, within the framework of their national legal systems, from harassing, intimidating or threatening women;

(iii) The laws on sexual violence adequately protect all persons against sexual acts that are not based on the consent of both parties;

(iv) The law protects all children against sexual violence, sexual abuse, commercial sexual exploitation and sexual harassment, including crimes committed through the use of new information technologies including the Internet;

(v) Harmful traditional practices, including female genital mutilation, in all of their forms are prohibited by criminal laws as serious offences;

(vi) Trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, is criminalized;

(vii) Individuals who are serving in the armed forces or in United Nations peacekeeping operations should be investigated and punished for committing acts of violence against women abroad;

(d) To continually review, evaluate and update their national laws, policies, practices and procedures taking into account all relevant international legal instruments in order to effectively respond to violence against women including to ensure that such measures complement and are consistent with the criminal justice system's response to such violence, as well as ensuring that civil law decisions reached in marital dissolutions, child custody and other family law proceedings for cases involving domestic violence or child abuse adequately safeguard victims and the best interest of their children;

(e) To review and, where appropriate, revise, amend, or abolish any laws, regulations, policies, practices and customs that discriminate against women or have a discriminatory impact on women, and ensure that provisions of multiple legal systems, where they exist, comply with international human rights obligations, commitments and principles, in particular the principle of non-discrimination.

III. Criminal Procedure

15. Member States are urged to review, evaluate and update their criminal procedure, as appropriate and taking into account all relevant international legal instruments, in order to ensure that:

(a) The police and other law enforcement agencies have, with judicial authorization where required by national law, adequate powers to enter premises and conduct arrests in cases of violence against women, and take immediate measures to ensure the safety of the victim;

(b) The primary responsibility for initiating investigations and prosecutions lies with the police and prosecution authorities and does not rest with women subjected to violence, regardless of the level or form of violence;

(c) Women subjected to violence are enabled to testify in criminal proceedings through adequate measures that facilitate such testimony, protect their privacy, identity and dignity; ensure safety during legal proceedings; and avoid "secondary victimization"⁵. In such jurisdictions where safety cannot be guaranteed to the victim, refusing to testify should not constitute a criminal or other offence;

⁵ Secondary victimization" means victimization that occurs not as a direct result of a criminal act but through the response of institutions and individuals to the victim.

(d) Evidentiary rules are non-discriminatory and all relevant evidence can be brought before the court and rules and principles of defence do not discriminate against women and such defences as honour or provocation do not allow perpetrators of violence against women to escape criminal responsibility;

(e) The credibility of a complainant in a sexual violence case is understood to be the same as the credibility of a complainant in any other criminal proceeding; the introduction of the complainant's sexual history in both civil and criminal proceedings should be prohibited where it is unrelated to the case; and no adverse inference should be drawn solely from a delay of any length between the alleged commission of a sexual offence and the reporting thereof;

(f) Perpetrators who, while voluntarily under the influence of alcohol, drugs or other substances, commit acts of violence against women are not exempted from criminal responsibility;

(g) Evidence of prior acts of violence, abuse, stalking and exploitation by the perpetrator is considered during court proceedings, in accordance with the principles of national criminal law;

(h) Police and courts have the authority to issue and enforce protection, restraining orders, or barring orders in cases of violence against women, including removal of the perpetrator from the domicile, prohibiting further contact with the victim and other affected parties, inside and outside the domicile, child support and custody orders and to impose penalties for breaches of these orders. If such powers cannot be granted to the police, measures must be taken to ensure timely access to the court decisions so as to ensure swift action by the court. Such protective measures should not be dependent on initiating a criminal case;

(i) Comprehensive services and protection measures are taken when necessary to ensure the safety, privacy and dignity of victims and their families at all stages of the criminal justice process, without prejudice to the victim's ability or willingness to participate in investigation or prosecution, and to protect them from intimidation and retaliation, including establishing comprehensive witness-victim protection programmes;

(j) Safety risks, including the vulnerability of victims are taken into account in decisions concerning non-custodial or quasi-custodial sentences, the granting of bail, conditional release, parole or probation, especially concerning repeat and dangerous offenders;

(k) The claims of self-defence by women who have been victims of violence, particularly in cases of battered women syndrome⁶, are taken into account in investigation, prosecution and sentencing against them;

(l) All procedures and complaint mechanisms are accessible to women who are victims of violence without fear of reprisal or discrimination.

⁶ Battered women syndrome is a syndrome suffered by women who, because of repeated violent acts by an intimate partner, may suffer depression and unable to take any independent action that would allow her to escape the abuse, including refusing to press charges or offers of support.

IV. Police, Prosecutors and other Criminal Justice Officials

16. Member States are urged, within the framework of their national legal systems, as appropriate and taking into account all relevant international legal instruments:

- (a) To ensure that the applicable provisions of laws, policies, procedures, programmes and practices related to violence against women are consistently and effectively implemented, by the criminal justice system, and supported by relevant regulations as appropriate;
- (b) To develop mechanisms to ensure a comprehensive, multidisciplinary, coordinated, systematic and sustained response to violence against women so as to increase the likelihood of a successful apprehension, prosecution and conviction of the offender, contribute to the well being and safety of the victim and prevent secondary victimization;
- (c) To promote the use of specialized expertise in the police, prosecution and other criminal justice agencies including through the establishment, where possible, of specialized units or personnel and specialized courts or dedicated court time; as well as to ensure that all police, prosecution and other criminal justice officials receive regular and institutionalized gender and child sensitivity training and capacity building on violence against women;
- (d) To promote the development and implementation of appropriate policies among different criminal justice agencies to ensure coordinated, consistent and effective responses to the commission of violence against women by personnel within such agencies and to ensure that attitudes of criminal justice officials that foster, justify or tolerate violence against women are held up to public scrutiny and sanction;
- (e) To develop and implement policies and appropriate responses regarding the investigation and collection of evidence that take into account the unique needs and perspectives of victims of violence, respect their dignity and integrity and that minimize intrusion into their lives, while maintaining standards for the collection of the evidence;
- (f) To ensure that criminal justice officials and victim advocates conduct risk assessments that indicate the level or extent of harm victims may be subjected to based on the vulnerability of victims, threats, the presence of weapons and other determining factors;
- (g) To ensure that laws, policies, procedures and practices pertaining to decisions on the arrest, detention and terms of any form of release of the perpetrator, take into account the need for the safety of the victim and others related through family, socially or otherwise and that these procedures also prevent further acts of violence;
- (h) To establish a registration system for judicial protection, restraining or barring orders, where such orders are permitted by national law, so that police or criminal justice officials can quickly determine whether such an order is in force;

- (i) To empower and equip the police, prosecutors and other criminal justice officials to respond promptly to incidents of violence against women, including drawing on a rapid court order where appropriate and taking measures to ensure fast and efficient case management;
- (j) To ensure that the exercise of powers by police, prosecutors and other criminal justice officials is undertaken according to the rule of law and codes of conduct and that such officials are held accountable for any infringement thereof through appropriate oversight and accountability mechanisms;
- (k) To ensure gender equitable representation in police forces and other justice system offices, particularly at the decision making and managerial level;
- (l) To provide victims of violence, where possible, with the right to speak to a female officer, whether it be the police or any other criminal justice official;
- (m) To develop or improve and disseminate model procedures and resource material to help criminal justice officials to identify, prevent and deal with violence against women, including to assist and support women subjected to violence in a manner that is sensitive and responsive to their needs;
- (n) To provide adequate psychological support to police, prosecutors and other criminal justice officials to prevent their vicarious victimization.

V Sentencing and Corrections

17. Recognizing the serious nature of violence against women and the need for commensurate crime prevention and criminal justice responses, Member States are urged, as appropriate:

- (a) To review, evaluate and update sentencing policies and procedures in order to ensure that they;
 - (i) Hold offenders accountable for their acts related to violence against women;
 - (ii) Denounce and deter violence against women;
 - (iii) Stop violent behaviour;
 - (iv) Promote victim and community safety including by separating the offender from the victim, as well as from society where necessary;
- (v) Take into account the impact on victims and their family members of sentences imposed on perpetrators;

(vi) Provide sanctions that ensure that the perpetrators of violence against women are sentenced in a manner commensurate with the severity of the offence;

(vii) Provide reparations for harm caused as a result of the violence;

(viii) Promote the rehabilitation of the perpetrator, including a sense of responsibility in offenders and, where appropriate, reintegration of the perpetrator into the community;

(b) To ensure that their national laws take into account specific circumstances as aggravating factors for sentencing purposes including, for example, repeated violent acts, abuse of a position of trust or authority, or violence against a spouse, a person in a close relationship to the perpetrator, or a person under the age of 18 years;

(c) To ensure that a victim subjected to violence has the right to be notified of any release of the offender from detention or imprisonment;

(d) To take into account in the sentencing process the severity of the physical and psychological harm and the impact of victimization, including through victim impact statements;

(e) To make available to the courts through legislation a full range of sentencing dispositions to protect the victim, other affected persons and society from further violence, as well as rehabilitate the perpetrator, as appropriate;

(f) To develop and evaluate offender treatment and reintegration / rehabilitation programmes for different types of offenders of violence against women which prioritize the safety of the victims;

(g) To ensure that the judicial and correctional authorities, as appropriate, monitor the perpetrator's compliance with any treatment ordered;

(h) To ensure that there are appropriate measures in place to eliminate violence against women who are detained for any reason;

(i) To provide adequate protection to victims and witnesses of acts of violence before, during and after criminal proceedings.

VI. Victim Support and Assistance

18. Member States are urged, as appropriate, taking into account all relevant international legal instruments, in particular the United Nations Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power:

- (a) To make available to women who have been subjected to violence relevant information on rights, remedies and victim support services and on how to obtain them, in addition to information about their role and opportunities to participate in criminal proceedings and the scheduling, progress and ultimate disposition of the proceedings, as well as any orders against the offender;
- (b) To encourage and assist women subjected to violence in lodging and following through on formal complaints, by providing protection to the victims and by advising victims that the responsibility to pursue charges and prosecute offenders rests with police and the prosecution service;
- (c) To take appropriate measures to prevent hardship during the detection, investigation and prosecution process in order to ensure that victims are treated with dignity and respect, whether or not the victim participates in the criminal proceedings;
- (d) To ensure that women subjected to violence have access to prompt and fair redress for the harm that they have suffered as a result of violence, including the right to seek reparation and restitution from the offender or compensation from the State;
- (e) To provide court mechanisms and procedures that are accessible and sensitive to the needs of women subjected to violence and that ensure the fair and timely processing of cases;
- (f) To provide efficient and easily accessible procedures for protection and restraining orders or barring orders to protect women and other victims of violence, and ensure that they are not held accountable for breaches of such orders;
- (g) To recognize that children who have witnessed violence against their parent or someone else who is in a close relationship to them are victims of violence and are in need of protection, care and support;
- (h) To ensure that women subjected to violence have full access to the civil and criminal justice systems, including free legal aid, where appropriate, court support and interpretation services;
- (i) To ensure that women subjected to violence have access to qualified personnel who can provide victim advocacy and support services throughout the entire criminal justice process, as well as access to any other independent support persons;
- (j) To ensure that all services and legal remedies available to victims of violence against women are also available to immigrant women, trafficked women, refugee women, stateless women and all other women in need of such assistance and that specialized services for such women are established, where appropriate;
- (k) To refrain from penalizing trafficked victims for their illegal entry into the country or for their involvement in unlawful activities to the extent that the victims were forced or compelled to do so.

VII. Health and Social Services

19. Member States, in cooperation with the private sector, relevant non-governmental organizations and professional associations are urged, as appropriate:

(a) To establish, fund and coordinate a sustainable network of accessible facilities and services for emergency and temporary residential accommodation, health services, including counseling and psychological care, legal assistance and other basic needs for women and their children who are victims of violence or who are at risk of becoming victims of violence;

(b) To establish, fund and coordinate services such as toll-free information lines, professional multi-disciplinary counselling and crisis intervention services and support groups in order to benefit women who are victims of violence and their children;

(c) To establish better linkages between health and social services, both public and private, particularly in emergency situations, and criminal justice agencies for purposes of reporting, recording and responding appropriately to acts of violence against women, while protecting the privacy interests of women subjected to violence;

(d) To design and sponsor sustainable programmes to prevent and treat alcohol and substance abuse, given the frequent presence of alcohol and substance abuse in incidents of violence against women;

(e) To ensure that violent acts and sexual crimes against children are reported to the police and other law enforcement agencies when suspected by the health and social services;

(f) To promote collaboration and coordination among relevant agencies and services, including through the establishment, where possible, of specialized units especially trained to deal with the complexities and victim sensitivities involved in cases of violence against women and where victims can receive comprehensive assistance, protection and intervention, including health and social services, legal advice and police assistance;

(g) To ensure that adequate medico-legal-social services sensitive to the needs of victims are in place to enhance criminal justice management of cases involving violence against women, and to encourage the development of specialised health services, including comprehensive, free and confidential forensic examinations by trained health providers and appropriate treatment including HIV specific treatment.

VIII Training

20. Member States, in cooperation with relevant non-governmental organizations and professional associations are urged, as appropriate:

- (a) To provide for or to encourage mandatory cross-cultural, gender and child sensitivity training modules for police, criminal justice officials, and professionals involved in the criminal justice system on the unacceptability of all forms of violence against women, and their harmful impact and consequences on all those who experience such violence;
- (b) To ensure adequate training, and continuing education of police, criminal justice officials, and other professionals involved in the criminal justice system, regarding all relevant domestic laws, policies and programmes as well as international legal instruments;
- (c) To ensure that the police, criminal justice officials and other relevant authorities have adequate training to be able to identify and respond appropriately to the specific needs of women victims of violence, including victims of trafficking in persons; to receive and treat all victims respectfully and also to avoid secondary victimization; to handle complaints confidentially; to conduct safety assessments and risk management; and to use and enforce protection orders;
- (d) To encourage relevant professional associations to develop enforceable standards of practice and behavior and codes of conduct, which promote justice and gender equality.

IX. Research and Evaluation

21. Member States and the institutes comprising the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, relevant entities of the United Nations system, other relevant international organizations, research institutes, non governmental organizations and professional association, are urged, as appropriate:

- (a) To set up and strengthen mechanisms for systematic and coordinated data collection on violence against women;
- (b) To develop both modules and dedicated population-based surveys, including crime surveys, for assessing the nature and extent of violence against women;
- (c) To collect, analyze and publish data and information, including on a gender disaggregated basis, for use in needs assessment, decision-making and policy-making in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, in particular concerning:
 - (i) The different forms of violence against women, its causes, risk factors, levels of severity, as well as consequences and impacts, including on different population sub-groups;
 - (ii) The extent to which economic deprivation and exploitation are linked to violence against women;

- (iii) The patterns, trends and indicators of violence against women, women's feelings of insecurity in the public and private sphere and factors which can reduce such insecurity;
 - (iv) The relationship between the victim and the offender;
 - (v) The effect of various types of intervention on the individual offender and on the reduction and elimination of violence against women, as a whole;
 - (vi) The use of weapons, drugs, alcohol, and other substances in cases of violence against women;
 - (vii) The relationship between victimization or exposure to violence and subsequent violent activity;
 - (viii) The relationship between violence against women and vulnerability to other types of abuse;
 - (ix) The consequences of violence on those who witness it, particularly within the family;
- (d) To monitor, and publish annual reports, on the number of cases of violence against women reported to the police as well as other criminal justice agencies, including arrest and clearance rates, prosecution and case disposition of the offenders, the prevalence of violence against women, making use of data derived from population based surveys. Such reports should disaggregate data by type of violence, including information on the sex of the perpetrator and the relationship to the victim;
- (e) To evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice system in fulfilling the needs of women subjected to violence, including the treatment of victims and witnesses of acts of violence by the criminal justice system, and different intervention models, and the cooperation between criminal justice and victim / witnesses services, as well as to evaluate and assess the impact of current legislation, rules and procedures regarding violence against women;
- (f) To evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of offender treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration programmes, in consultation with relevant stakeholders including victims and victim service providers;
- (g) To be guided by existing ongoing efforts at the international level to develop a set of indicators to measure violence against women and to ensure multi-sectoral coordinated approach with regard to the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of data collection initiatives;
- (h) To ensure that data on violence against women is collected in a way that respects confidentiality and the human rights of women and does not jeopardize the safety of women;
- (i) To encourage and provide sufficient financial support for research on violence against women;

X. Crime Prevention Measures

22. Member States and the private sector, relevant non-governmental organizations and professional associations are urged, as appropriate:

- (a) To develop and implement relevant and effective public awareness and public education as well as school programmes and curricula that prevent violence against women by promoting respect for human rights, equality, cooperation, mutual respect and shared responsibilities between women and men;
- (b) To develop codes of conduct for personnel in public and private entities that prohibit violence against women including sexual harassment, with safe complaint and referral procedures;
- (c) To develop multidisciplinary and gender-sensitive approaches within public and private entities that seek to prevent violence against women, especially through partnerships between law enforcement officials and the services that are specialized in the protection of women victims of violence;
- (d) To develop programmes to assess perceptions of public safety, and develop safety planning, environmental design, and management of public space so as to reduce the risk of violence against women;
- (e) To set up outreach programmes and provide relevant information to women about gender roles, the human rights of women, and the social, health, legal and economic aspects of violence against women, in order to empower women to protect themselves and their children against all forms of violence;
- (f) To set up outreach programmes for offenders or persons identified as potential offenders in order to promote non-violent behavior and attitudes, and the respect for equality and the rights of women;
- (g) To develop and disseminate information and awareness raising materials on the different forms of violence against women and the availability of relevant programmes which include provisions of criminal law, the functions of the criminal justice system, available victim support mechanisms, and programmes concerning non-violent behavior and peaceful resolution of conflicts, in a manner appropriate to the audience concerned, including in educational institutions at all levels;
- (h) To support all initiatives, including those of non governmental organizations and other relevant organizations seeking women's equality, to raise public awareness of the issue of violence against women and to contribute to its elimination;
- (i) To facilitate the work at lower levels of government, including cities and local community authorities, to promote an integrated approach with the range of local services and institutions and civil society in developing preventive strategies and programmes.

23. Member States and the media, media associations, media self-regulatory bodies, schools and other relevant partners, while respecting the freedom of the media, are urged, as appropriate, to develop public awareness campaigns and appropriate measures and mechanisms, such as codes of ethics and self-regulatory measures on media violence, aimed at enhancing respect for the rights and dignity of women while discouraging both discrimination and gender stereotyping.

24. Member States and the private sector, relevant non-governmental organizations and professional associations are urged to develop and improve, where appropriate, crime prevention and criminal justice responses in relation to the production, possession and dissemination of games, images and all other materials that depict or glorify acts of violence against women and children, and their impact on the public attitudes towards women and children as well as the mental and emotional development of children, particularly through new information technologies, including the Internet.

XI. International Cooperation

25. Member States, in cooperation with the United Nations bodies and institutes and other relevant organizations, are urged, as appropriate:

(a) To continue exchanging information concerning successful intervention models and preventive programmes in eliminating all forms of violence against women and to update the Resource Manual and Compendium as well as providing information to the United Nations Secretary General's database on violence against women;

(b) To cooperate and collaborate at the bilateral, regional and international levels with relevant entities to prevent violence against women, to provide safety, assistance and protection for the victims, witnesses of violence and their family members, as appropriate, and to promote measures to effectively bring perpetrators to justice, through strengthened mechanisms of international cooperation and mutual legal assistance;

(c) To develop provisions to provide for safe and voluntary, to the extent possible, repatriation and reintegration of the victims of violence against women when they have been trafficked or kidnapped across borders;

(d) To contribute to and support the United Nations system in its initiatives and activities to eliminate all forms of violence against women;

(e) To take appropriate preventative action and to ensure full accountability in cases of sexual exploitation and abuse involving their troops and police in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

26. Member States are also urged:

- (a) To condemn all acts of violence against women in situations of armed conflict, to recognize them as being violations of international human rights, humanitarian law and international criminal law and to call for a particularly effective response to violations of that kind, including, in particular, murder, systematic rape, sexual slavery and forced pregnancy, as well as to implement United Nations Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008) on women and peace and security;
- (b) To work actively towards universal ratification of or accession to all relevant treaties and to promote their full implementation including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, its Optional Protocol, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;
- (c) To limit the extent of any reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to those that are formulated as precisely and as narrowly as possible and that are not incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention;
- (d) To work actively towards ratification of or accession to existing regional instruments and agreements concerning the combating of violence against women as well as their implementation;
- (e) To include in the periodic reports to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women information on their efforts to implement the Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures;
- (f) To cooperate with the International Criminal Court, ad hoc international criminal tribunals and other internationalized criminal tribunals in their investigations and prosecutions of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, particularly those involving gender-based violence and to facilitate the testimony of women subjected to violence and their participation in all stages of the Court's and other tribunals' proceedings while protecting their safety, interests, identity and privacy;
- (g) To cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children, in the performance of their mandated tasks and duties, to supply all information requested and to respond to the Special Rapporteurs' visits and communications.

XII. Follow-up Activities

27. Member States, United Nations bodies, the institutes comprising the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, other relevant international and regional

organizations, research institutes, non-governmental organizations, and professional organizations, including organizations seeking women's equality, are urged, as appropriate:

- (a) To encourage the translation of the Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures into local languages and to ensure their wide dissemination and inclusion for use in training and education programmes;
- (b) To draw, as appropriate, on the Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures in the development of legislation, procedures, policies and practices in response to violence against women;
- (c) To assist countries, upon request, in developing strategies and programmes to prevent violence against women and in reviewing and evaluating their criminal justice systems, including their criminal legislation, on the basis of the Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures;
- (d) To support the technical cooperation activities of the institutes comprising the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network in eliminating all forms of violence against women;
- (e) To develop coordinated national, regional and sub-regional plans and programmes to put the Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures into effect;
- (f) To design standard training programmes and manuals for the police and other criminal justice officials, based on the Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures;
- (g) To periodically monitor and review, at the national and international levels, progress made in terms of plans, programmes and initiatives to eliminate all forms of violence against women;
- (h) To periodically review and update, if necessary, the Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures.

Annex II

List of participants

Member States

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