



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Intergovernmental Group of Experts to revise and update the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

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**Opening address by Claudia Baroni,
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Distinguished participants, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning, welcome to Bangkok and thank of you for having taken the time from your very busy schedule to attend this Expert Group Meeting.

At the outset of our deliberations, I would like to sincerely thank the Government of Thailand for its generous hospitality in hosting this meeting as well as the Governments of Canada and Finland who have both provided a financial contribution for its organization.

As you know, last year, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, during its 17th session, adopted decision 17/1 on the basis of which the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has been requested to convene an intergovernmental group of experts 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 and to make recommendations on addressing violence against women and girls for consideration by the Crime Commission at its nineteenth session, to be held in the year 2010.

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. 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, from crime prevention, to law enforcement, to courts, sentencing and corrections.

The need to revise the Model Strategies and Practical Measures stems from the fact 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.

In the last decade, there have been a number of efforts made to combat violence against women: new practices, new thinking, and new research. Furthermore, over the last ten years, there have been new criminal justice 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.

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, such as the Council of Europe recommendations, the African Women's Protocol, and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Trafficking Convention.

In order to prepare a draft document for this 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.

To date, 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.

Some Member States' responses include specific suggested amendments to existing model strategies and practical measures, while others' provided suggestions for new additional strategies and measures. Other Member States' responses provide examples of domestic legislation, programmes, policies and practices that address violence against women.

The draft that we will review in the next days incorporates specific suggestions for amendments and new paragraphs, either fully or in summarized form or merging various suggestions, where appropriate. When the inputs and the comments received from Member States were conflicting and inconsistent with each other, UNODC has taken the liberty not to reflect them in the revised drafts document.

In preparing the draft document, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) 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.

I would also like to stress that this draft document has been drafted drawing on the principle that the revising and updating process of the Model Strategies and Practical Measures should not – in any way- weaken, diminish or “water down”, if you allow me the expression, the measures and the recommendations already agreed by the international community, at the General Assembly level, in 1997.

During the next four days you will be called to discuss, evaluate and agreed upon whether the proposals and the amendments contained in the document in front of you truly and fully reflect recent developments in research, literature reviews and evaluations of various strategies and practices to prevent and combat violence against women in the

field of crime prevention and criminal justice with a view of making sure that a comprehensive and consistent body of measures and recommendations to prevent and combat violence against women is readily available and fully used by the international community.

The task ahead of you is indeed challenging and ambitious and I wish you every success.

Thank you for your kind attention.