Guidelines for the thematic discussions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

At its 14th meeting, on 24 April 2009, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice:

(a) Decided that the discussion on the prominent theme at its nineteenth session would have a duration of one day and would be based on a discussion guide including a list of questions to be addressed by participants, such guide to be prepared by the Secretariat in the six official languages of the United Nations not later than one month in advance of the session;

(b) Urged Member States and regional groups to put forward their nominations for panellists not later than two months in advance of each session of the Commission and decided that the panellists would be selected one month in advance of the session, bearing in mind that five seats on the podium would be allocated to the regional groups;

(c) Decided that independent experts, such as private sector representatives and academics, may be invited, pursuant to the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, to contribute to the thematic discussions of the Commission, taking into account, inter alia, regional considerations and legal frameworks;

(d) Decided also that the guidelines for the thematic discussions of the Commission would be as follows:

(i) Each thematic discussion should be moderated under the authority of the Chairperson and the bureau of the Commission and should be conducted under the Chairperson’s authority as set out in the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council;

(ii) Introductory presentations by panellists should be brief, not exceeding 10 minutes, and panellists should be encouraged to share their presentations in advance;

(iii) Participants should be prepared to focus on the theme and subthemes agreed upon by the Commission in order to allow for a dynamic and interactive exchange during the thematic discussion;

(iv) In their statements, speakers should touch upon national experiences of their Governments in relation to the subthemes. Within the framework of the rules of procedure applicable to the Commission, the views of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations would be welcome;

(v) Statements by participants should be limited to a maximum of five minutes;

(vi) The moderator should intervene to enforce time limits and should keep a list of speakers but may use his or her discretion to select speakers according to the thrust of the discussion;

(vii) At the end of the thematic discussion, the Chairperson should prepare a summary including the most salient points discussed.