
**Expert Group Meeting on the Standard
Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners
Vienna, 25-28 March 2014**

Provisional agenda and organization of work

Background

On the recommendation of the General Assembly,¹ the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice established the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Group to exchange information on best practices as well as national legislation and existing international law, and on the revision of existing Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

The Assembly, in its resolution 67/188 of 20 December 2012, took note with appreciation of the work done by the Expert Group at its meetings held in Vienna² and in Buenos Aires³.

Furthermore, the General Assembly, in its resolution 68/190 of 18 December 2013, decided to extend the mandate of the Expert Group, authorizing it to continue its work, within its mandate, with a view to reporting to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-third session.

In the same resolution, the Assembly invited Member States to continue to be engaged in the revision process by submitting to the Secretariat proposals for revision; and requested the Secretariat to prepare a working paper integrating all inputs received from Member States for consideration at this meeting of the Expert Group.⁴ The Assembly also reiterated that any changes to the Standard Minimum Rules should not lower any of the existing standards but should improve them so that they reflect the recent advances in correctional science and good practices, so as to promote safety, security and humane conditions for prisoners.

The working paper prepared by the Secretariat (E/CCPC/EG.6/2014/CRP.1) is before this meeting.

The following provisional agenda and organization of work schedule is proposed for adoption by the Third meeting of the Expert Group.

¹ A/RES/65/230 of 21 December 2010, entitled "Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice", operative paragraph 10.

² E/CN.15/2012/18.

³ E/CN.15/2013/23.

⁴ A/RES/68/190 of 18 December 2013, entitled 'Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners', operative paragraphs 8 and 9.

Provisional agenda and proposed organization of work

Tuesday, 25 March 2014

- 10.00 – 11.00 1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of officers:
 Chairman
 Vice-Chairman (3)
 Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
- 11.00 – 13.00 4. Preliminary observations
- 13.00 – 14.30 Lunch break
- 14:30 – 18.00 5. Consideration of the issues and rules identified for revision by the 2nd Expert Group Meeting⁵
- Area (a): Respect for inherent dignity and value as human beings*
 Rules 6, para. 1; 57-59; 60, para. 1
 Introduction of the topic by the UNODC Secretariat

Wednesday, 26 March 2014

- 09.30 – 13.00 Continuation of item 5:
 Area (b): Medical and health services
 Rules 22-26; 52; 62; and 71, para. 2
 Introduction of the topic by the UNODC Secretariat
- 13.00 – 14.30 Lunch break
- 14.30 – 18.00 Continuation of item 5:
 Area (c): Disciplinary action and punishment, including the role of medical staff, solitary confinement and reduction of diet
 Rules 27, 29, 31 and 32
 Introduction of the topic by the UNODC Secretariat

⁵ Area (h) on *The replacement of outdated terminology* (Rules 22-26, 62, 82-83; various others) will be addressed throughout the meeting.

Thursday, 27 March 2014

- 09.30 – 11.30 Continuation of item 5:
Area (d): Investigations of all deaths in custody, as well as any signs or allegations of torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of prisoners
Rules 7, 44 and 54bis.
- Introduction of the topic by the UNODC Secretariat
- 11.30 – 13.00 Continuation of item 5:
Area (e): Protection and special needs of vulnerable groups deprived of their liberty, taking into consideration countries in difficult circumstances
Rules 6-7
- Introduction of the topic by the UNODC Secretariat
- 13.00 – 14.30 Lunch break
- 14.30 – 16.00 Continuation of item 5:
Area (f): The right of access to legal representation
Rules 30; 35, para. 1; 37; and 93
- Introduction of the topic by the UNODC Secretariat
- 16.00 – 18.00 Continuation of item 5:
Area (g): Complaints and independent inspection
Rules 36 and 55
- Introduction of the topic by UNODC Secretariat

Friday 28 March 2014

- 09.30 – 11.30 Continuation of item 5:
Area (i): Training of relevant staff to implement the Standard Minimum Rules
Rule 47
- Introduction of the topic by UNODC Secretariat
- 11.30 – 13.00 6. Recommendations and conclusions
- 13.00 – 14.30 Lunch break
- 14.30 – 16.30 Continuation of item 6
- 16.30 – 18.00 7. Any other business