

24 December 2013

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**OPEN-ENDED INTERGOVERNMENTAL EXPERT GROUP  
ON THE STANDARD MINIMUM RULES FOR THE  
TREATMENT OF PRISONERS  
VIENNA, AUSTRIA, 25 – 28 March 2014**

**RESPONSE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN  
FEDERATION<sup>1</sup>  
TO NOTE VERBALE CU 2013/129/DO/JS**

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<sup>1</sup> This document is reproduced in the form and language in which it was received.



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The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and, with reference to UNODC note CU 2013/182/DO/JS, has the honour to transmit herewith comments submitted by the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation with regard to the revision of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the International Organizations in Vienna takes this opportunity to convey to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

*[Stamp of Permanent Mission]*  
Vienna, 18 December 2013

Attachment: on 2 pages

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime  
Vienna

V.14-00144 (E)

## **Attachment**

The following comments are submitted with reference to the report on the revision of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

The grounds on which discrimination should be prohibited should be extended to include any other grounds.

In addition to the proposals set out in paragraph 18 (on disciplinary action) of the report, further consideration should be given to, and provision made for, ensuring that disciplinary action and punishment is proportionate to the severity of the disciplinary offence.

With regard to paragraph 22 (complaints and independent inspection) of the report, further consideration should be given to the question of amending the proposed requirement in subparagraph (j), regarding the submission of written reports on inspections to the competent authority, to include the provision that such reports shall be made public and also made widely available to the public.

The following proposals and comments are made on the basis of an analysis of the current version of the Standard Minimum Rules.

It is necessary to consider providing, in rule 13, for a greater number of opportunities, and a more stringent requirement, for prisoners to have a shower or bath once or twice a week in order for them to maintain good health and preserve their dignity.

The above proposal is reflected in the requirements set out in Recommendation No. 2 (2006) of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers to member States on the European Prison Rules (adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 11 January 2006 at the 952nd meeting of the Ministers' Deputies).

Consideration should be given to expanding rule 17, paragraph 2, which sets out the requirement that prisoners be provided with suitable clothing, to provide that the prison administration shall replace prisoners' clothes as necessary.

Rule 20, paragraph 2, which provides for the availability of drinking water to every prisoner, should be amended to include the word "clean" before the words "drinking water".

The phrase "reputable friends" in rule 37 should be replaced.

Consideration should also be given to the amendment of the section entitled "Work" to provide that certain categories of prisoners under sentence shall in certain circumstances not be required to work (for example, in the case of illness or injury).