**Expert Group Meeting on the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners**

**Buenos Aires, 11 to 13 December 2012**

**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 second meeting of the Expert Group was authorized to continue its work by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2012/13, operative paragraph 8.

In the same resolution, the Council took cognizance of the recommendations of the first meeting of the Expert Group,² and noted that it had identified the following preliminary areas for possible consideration:

- (a) Respect for prisoners’ inherent dignity and value as human beings;
- (b) Medical and health services;
- (c) Disciplinary action and punishment, including the role of medical staff, solitary confinement and reduction of diet;
- (d) Investigation of all deaths in custody, as well as any signs or allegations of torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of prisoners;
- (e) Protection and special needs of vulnerable groups deprived of their liberty, taking into consideration countries in difficult circumstances;
- (f) The right of access to legal representation;
- (g) Complaints and independent inspection;
- (h) The replacement of outdated terminology³; and
- (i) Training of relevant staff to implement the Standard Minimum Rules.

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² Meeting of the Expert Group, held from 31 January to 2 February 2012 in Vienna, Austria.
³ Preliminary area (h) on outdated terminology is a cross-cutting issue and should therefore be taken into account when considering items (a) to (g) and item (i) of the provisional agenda.
Provisional agenda and proposed organization of work

Tuesday, 11 December 2012

08.00 - 09.00  Registration of participants

09.00 – 10.00  1. Opening of the Meeting

2. Election of officers:
   Chairman
   Vice-Chairman (3)
   Rapporteur

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

10.00 – 10.15  Coffee break

10.15 – 13.00  4. Exchange of information on best practices

13.00 – 15.00  Lunch break

**13.00 – 14.00**  Parallel side events on best practices: Event 1: Room 1

**14.00 – 15.00**  Parallel side events on best practices: Event 2: Room 1

15:00 – 17:00 5  5. Consideration of the preliminary areas of the existing standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners identified by the first Expert Group Meeting:
   *Area (a) Respect for prisoners’ inherent dignity and value as human beings*
   *Area (b) Medical and health services*

   Introduction of the topic by UNODC Secretariat
   Expert presentation

17.00 – 18.00  Continuation of item 5: Area (c) Disciplinary action and punishment, including the role of medical staff, solitary confinement and reduction of diet

   Introduction of the topic by UNODC Secretariat
   Expert presentation

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4 Parallel side events organized by interested parties.

5 Coffee will be available in the room throughout the afternoon for the duration of the meeting.
**Wednesday 12 December 2012**

09.00 – 10.30  Continuation of item 5: *Area (c) Disciplinary action and punishment, including the role of medical staff, solitary confinement and reduction of diet*

10.30 - 11.00  Coffee break

11.00 – 13.00  Continuation of item 5: *Area (d) Investigation of all deaths in custody, as well as any signs or allegations of torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of prisoners; Area (g) Complaints and independent inspection*

Presentation by UNODC Secretariat
Expert presentation

13.00 – 15.00  Lunch break

**Parallel side events on best practices:**  

13.00 – 14.00  **Event 3: Room 1**
14.00 – 15.00  **Event 4: Room 1**

15.00 – 17.00  Continuation of item 5: Areas (d) and (g)

17.00 – 18.00  Continuation of item 5: *Area (e) Protection and special needs of vulnerable groups deprived of their liberty, taking into consideration countries in difficult circumstances*

Introduction of the topic by UNODC Secretariat

**Thursday 13 December 2012**

09.00 – 10.30  Continuation of item 5: *Area (e)*

10.30 - 11.00  Coffee break

11.00 – 13.00  Continuation of item 5: *Area (f) The right of access to legal representation*

Introduction of the topic by UNODC Secretariat

13.00 – 15.00  Lunch break

**Parallel side events on best practices:**  

13.00 – 14.00  **Event 5: Room 1**
14.00 – 15.00  **Event 6: Room 1**

15.00 – 16.30  Continuation of item 5: *Area (i) Training of relevant staff to implement the Standard Minimum Rules*

Introduction of the topic by UNODC Secretariat

16.30 – 17.30  6. Recommendations and conclusions

17.30 – 18.00  7. Closing of the Meeting