



**Economic and Social Council, Substantive Session,
Geneva, 25 July 2007**

**Oral Statement on behalf of the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice
(IPJJ)**

Mister President,

Distinguished members of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC),

I would like to begin by thanking you for giving me the floor on behalf of the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice (IPJJ).

The Panel was established by ECOSOC resolution 1997/30 to act as a “coordination panel on technical advice and assistance in juvenile justice.” Its current members are: OHCHR; UNICEF; UN DPKO; UNDP; UNODC; the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Defence for Children International (DCI), Penal Reform International (PRI), Save the Children UK, Terre des hommes – aide à l’enfance (Tdh) and World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT).

The Panel would like to welcome the draft resolution of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice entitled *Supporting national efforts for child justice reform, in particular through technical assistance and improved United Nations system-wide coordination*, adopted at its sixteenth session in Vienna in April 2007 and now under consideration by ECOSOC.

In particular, the Panel supports the draft resolution’s focus on comprehensive national action plans on crime prevention and child justice reform that set specific targets for the reduction of detention of children, including through the use of restorative justice, alternatives to imprisonment and diversion strategies to reduce unnecessary exposure to the criminal justice system for children who have committed minor offences, whilst ensuring accountability.

The Panel welcomes the draft resolution’s explicit support for the work of the Panel, including the Panel publication *Protecting the rights of children in conflict with the law*, the Panel website and the UNICEF/UNODC *Manual for the Measurement of Juvenile Justice Indicators* (draft resolution, paragraph 4).

The Panel acknowledges the draft resolution’s request to the members of the Panel to provide assistance to Members States, upon request, in the area of child justice, subject to extrabudgetary resources (paragraph 6).

The Panel would also like to underline that it has sought to increase its cooperation and effectiveness on juvenile justice issues by establishing a permanent Secretariat based in Geneva (paragraph 10).



Finally, we would like to encourage the members of ECOSOC to adopt the draft resolution to support national efforts for child justice reform in compliance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (Beijing Rules) and other relevant UN standards and norms.

Thank you.