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**Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, 18th Session,
Vienna, Austria, 16-24 April 2009**

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

Mister Chair,

Distinguished members of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ),

Thank you for giving me the floor on behalf of the following members of the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice: the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Institute (UNICRI); the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); Defence for Children International (DCI); the International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates (IAYFJM); Penal Reform International (PRI); Terre des hommes – aide à l'enfance (Tdh) and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT).

1. The Panel was established by Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution 1997/30 that called for a “coordination panel on technical advice and assistance in juvenile justice.” Since July 2008 it is composed of fourteen members, including United Nations bodies and non-governmental organisations, active in child justice reform.

2. The work of the Panel is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular articles 37 and 40 thereof, and other relevant United Nations standards and norms.¹

Regarding coordination in child justice technical advice and assistance:

3. We wish to recall ECOSOC resolution 2007/23 on *Supporting national efforts for child justice reform, in particular through technical assistance and improved United Nations system-wide coordination* adopted on 26 July 2007 at the suggestion of the CCPCJ.

4. We also welcome the *Report of the Secretary-General* (E/CN.15/2009/12) as follow-up to this resolution. In particular, we wish to highlight that the report provides an overview of the work of the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice, its members and Secretariat, relating to child justice reform.

¹ Including, amongst others: the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules); the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty (JDLs); the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (the Riyadh Guidelines); the Committee on the Rights of the Child, General Comment No.10 (2007) “Children’s rights in juvenile justice” and the Vienna Guidelines for Action on Children in the Criminal Justice System (Vienna Guidelines).



5. In this respect, we further inform the CCPCJ that since the establishment of a Panel Secretariat in May 2007, the Panel has significantly increased its cooperation and effectiveness in the provision of technical advice and assistance in child justice reform. Between May 2007 and March 2009, the following activities were undertaken by the Panel Secretariat, as decided at the Panel annual meetings in New York in June 2007 and in Geneva in 2008: making information, tools and resources available on juvenile justice, notably through the Panel website in English, French and Spanish (www.juvenilejusticepanel.org) and a monthly electronic newsletter (www.juvenilejusticepanel.org/en/newsletter); developing common tools, such as a roster of juvenile justice experts; coordinating Panel representation at key events; organising Panel events and common statements including at the 17th and 18th sessions of the CCPCJ and the 10th session of the Human Rights Council; and transmitting to Panel members requests for technical advice and assistance.

Regarding child justice reform and the Crime Congress 2010:

6. We seize this opportunity to encourage Member States to pay particular attention to child justice and consider United Nations standards and norms applicable to the treatment of children in contact with justice systems, particularly children deprived of their liberty and child victims or witness of crimes, including their gender, social circumstances and development needs;

7. We wish to reiterate the invitation to Member States and their relevant institutions, expressed in ECOSOC resolution 2007/23, to adopt a comprehensive approach to child justice reform, including through legal reform, policy reform, data collection and information management systems, capacity building of all involved, including social workers and legal aid providers, strengthening of institutional capacity, awareness raising and monitoring, child-friendly procedures and institutions.

8. We also encourage Member States to adopt comprehensive national action plans on crime prevention and child justice reform containing, in particular, specific targets for reducing the recourse to deprivation of liberty of children, especially at the pre-trial stages through the use of diversion, restorative justice and alternatives, prevention of child involvement in crime, reintegration of children in conflict with the law in their communities and child-friendly procedures for all children in contact with the justice system;

9. Furthermore, we invite Member States to make use of the technical assistance tools developed by the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice and its members and to seek technical advice and assistance from Panel members, in order to design, implement and monitor comprehensive child justice policies and legislation.

Regarding the CCPCJ thematic debate on prison overcrowding:

10. We encourage Member States to pay particular attention to children deprived of their liberty and the need to implement alternatives to deprivation of liberty, including diversion and restorative justice, in compliance with United Nations standards and norms.

Thank you.