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**Use and application of United Nations standards and
norms in crime prevention and criminal justice****National and international efforts for child justice reform,
in particular through improved coordination in
technical assistance****Report of the Secretary-General***Summary*

The present report is submitted pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/26, entitled “Supporting national and international efforts for child justice reform, in particular through improved coordination in technical assistance”. It contains information provided by Member States, the secretariat of the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice and the members of the Panel. The report describes trends towards legal and policy reform, the establishment of data collection and information management systems, the strengthening of institutional capacity, and child-sensitive procedures and institutions, while underscoring that much progress remains to be made. The report also describes encouraging progress in the coordination and joint provision of technical assistance to Member States by the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/26, entitled “Supporting national and international efforts for child justice reform, in particular through improved coordination in technical assistance”, which was adopted by the Council on 30 July 2009. In the resolution, the Council invited Member States to take action in the field of child justice reform, invited the members of the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice to continue providing assistance to Member States and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at its twentieth session, on the implementation of the resolution. Eighteen Member States provided information on national efforts concerning child justice reform.¹ In October 2010, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) requested the secretariat of the Interagency Panel and, through it, its members, to provide information on the implementation of the resolution. A summary of the responses received from Member States, arranged according to thematic areas, is set out in section II below. An overview of the work of the Interagency Panel, its secretariat and the members of the Panel that have responded to the request for information is provided in section III.

II. Information received from Member States

2. The number of responses received provides an insufficient basis for drawing general or global conclusions on the subject matter of the present report. Timely submission of relevant information by Member States enables the secretariat to enhance the quality of reports. Among the responses to the note verbale sent by the secretariat to Member States on 20 October 2009, requesting information on their national efforts for child justice reform, three responses were received from Africa (all of them from North Africa). Three responses were received from the Americas (one each from North America, Central America and South America), two from Asia, seven from States of Western, Central and Eastern Europe and three from the Middle East.

3. In its resolution 2009/26, the Council urged Member States to pay particular attention to or increase the attention paid to the issue of child justice and to take into consideration applicable international instruments and United Nations standards and norms for the treatment of children in conflict with the law. In the resolution, the Council invited Member States to adopt a comprehensive approach to child justice reform, including through policy reform, legal reform, the conduct of scientific research in relation to children in conflict with the law, the establishment of data collection and information management systems, the strengthening of institutional capacity and the establishment of child-sensitive procedures and institutions. The Council also invited Member States, as appropriate, to make use of the technical assistance tools developed by the Interagency Panel and by its members and to seek technical advice and assistance in the area of child justice from the

¹ Replies were received from the following Member States: Algeria, Belgium, Cambodia, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Germany, Japan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, Qatar, Serbia and Tunisia.

members of the Panel in order to design, implement and monitor comprehensive child justice policies. A summary of the responses by Member States is provided in the paragraphs below.

A. National legislation and implementation of international obligations

4. Many of the reporting States considered their ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child to be an important milestone for reforming their child justice system and referred to their relevant national legislation. Some States referred to their reporting obligations under the Convention, in particular efforts undertaken in implementing the recommendations made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

5. Some States referred to the role of United Nations standards and norms in juvenile justice, which provide detailed provisions relating to child justice, children in detention and the prevention of involvement of children in crime. Several States explained how their Constitution provided protection for children and incorporated the provisions of international standards and norms in child justice.

6. Many States provided detailed information on their current legislation in the area of child justice, including efforts to reform the legal framework in order to make it compliant with the provisions contained in international standards and norms. While some States had adopted specific legislation covering aspects of child justice, in most countries those aspects were regulated either by the criminal code and codes of criminal procedure or by specific laws on the administration of justice. In several countries, provisions were contained in both general criminal law and special laws or in regulations relating to children and juvenile justice.

7. Egypt and Serbia reported on having recently amended their legislation relating to child justice, while some States reported that they had recently developed new national legislation on child justice. For example, Cambodia had recently developed a draft law on juvenile justice in compliance with international standards, taking into account child-sensitive procedures. Qatar referred to a draft act on children, which had been recently developed and which incorporated key provisions contained in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and in international standards and norms in child justice. In the Netherlands, new legislation will be introduced to ensure that compulsory aftercare will be provided in all cases of children in conflict with the law. The objective of the new provision will be to give young people the opportunity to receive prolonged support in a juvenile institution, which will in turn reduce the risk of recidivism.

B. National action plans in the area of child justice

8. Some States reported on national action plans on crime prevention and child justice reform. El Salvador referred to its crime prevention strategy targeting children at risk of offending, which aims to operationalize standards and norms in child justice. Latvia made reference to its national policy for the period 2007-2013, which provides guidelines for professionals dealing with juveniles deprived of their liberty and complies with principles established in international standards and

norms in child justice. The Netherlands reported on its child abuse action plan entitled “Children safe at home”, which was developed to prevent and curb child abuse and which has four primary goals: preventing parents from abusing their children; identifying child abuse more accurately and at an earlier stage; stopping child abuse; and limiting the harmful effects of child abuse.

9. Poland continued to implement its national action plan for children for the period 2004-2012, which includes activities aimed at preventing youth crime and administering child justice. Serbia referred to its national action plan for children for the period 2004-2015 as the strategic document defining the general policy of the State on issues related to child justice. A consulting working group established by the Council for Child’s Rights in 2009 prepared a proposal for implementation of the action plan for the period 2010-2015. In 2010, the Government of Serbia also adopted an action plan for the implementation of a strategy on the prevention of violence against children and their protection.

C. Data, statistics and research

10. Some States provided information on the establishment of data collection and information management systems. In Cambodia, the Ministry of Justice piloted a case registry for minors in one model court in the country. In Germany, the systems of data and statistical collection continued to be developed, and extensive data on cases of children in conflict with the law and related procedures have been collected. Issues related to child justice have also been studied and analysed in Germany by academic research institutions, in some cases with financial support from the Government and partially in collaboration with foreign and international research centres. The Netherlands reported that the exchange of information among organizations within the child justice system had improved, thereby enhancing cooperation among the various Government and judicial institutions.

11. Some countries reported on the conduct of scientific research in relation to children in conflict with the law and on measures for the rehabilitation and reintegration of child offenders. El Salvador referred to the juvenile justice unit within the Supreme Court, which has been carrying out research activities on children in conflict with the law and measures aimed at promoting their social reintegration. The Netherlands referred to the Research and Documentation Centre of the Ministry of Justice, which issues a yearly publication on monitoring juvenile crime. In 2009, the research focused on the trends in juvenile crime from 1996 to 2007, as recorded by the police, the public prosecutor and the court system. Tunisia reported on its efforts to strengthen research on matters relating to children in conflict with the law, including through the creation of a criminal justice science unit within the Centre of Legal and Judicial Studies.

D. Diversion, restorative justice and alternatives to imprisonment

12. Some States reported having reduced the use and duration of juvenile detention, especially at the pretrial stages, including through the use of diversion, restorative justice and alternatives to detention, as well as the reintegration of children in conflict with the law into their communities. In Cambodia, since 2008,

community-based prevention and rehabilitation services for children accused of petty crimes have been implemented in selected communes/districts of four provinces. In 2009, training was provided on children's rights, life skills and anger management for over 100 at-risk children, and follow-up on diversion and reintegration options was provided for 31 diverted children in conflict with the law. Kuwait reported that, when deprived of their liberty, children are kept separate from adults in order to ensure that the system is responsive to the care and developmental needs of the children concerned. Latvia referred to the work carried out by the State Probation Service that focuses on promoting restorative justice and the social reintegration of children in conflict with the law. Lebanon reported that Lebanese courts are very sensitive to the status and social circumstances of minors who have committed a particular offence and in most cases impose alternative measures to imprisonment even if the law provides for a prison sentence or detention. Mexico referred to a programme on restorative justice for juveniles in conflict with the law as an initiative aimed at compensating the victims and raising the awareness of offenders of the consequences of their acts, with a view to preventing recidivism.

E. Child-sensitive procedures and institutions

13. Most countries reported on the specialization of some or all parts of their criminal justice institutions and staff responsible for children in conflict with the law. In addition, States reported on continuing efforts to develop national and local professional capacities and skills relevant to child justice reform. Algeria referred to a training programme implemented by the Ministry of Justice with a focus on youth crime prevention targeting judges and social workers. Cambodia integrated a basic training programme on children's rights, laws and justice into the training curriculum of the Royal Academy for Judicial Professions for students and incumbent judges and prosecutors. Egypt promoted several training courses, some of them in cooperation with the United Nations, targeting members of the prosecution service in order to instruct them on child-friendly procedures established by national law.

14. El Salvador referred to the recent creation of a juvenile justice unit within the Supreme Court that includes a function on enhancing coordination with other governmental institutions, civil society and international organizations in building and strengthening the capacity of professionals dealing with children in conflict with the law. Germany reported that it had been organizing various advanced training events for the relevant professional groups dealing with children in conflict with the law, and the victims and witnesses of crime. In Poland, the Human Rights Department of the Ministry of Justice conducted a series of training sessions on child justice issues targeting 1,000 judges, public prosecutors, police officers, probation officers, and social assistance workers.

15. Some States provided information on the establishment and strengthening of child-sensitive procedures and institutions for children in conflict with the law. Cambodia reported that the Ministry of Justice had prepared standards, criteria and strategies for four model courts and an action plan, and that various court registries were under development in order to pilot and put the four model courts into operation.

16. Japan reported that, as of April 2010, 197 juvenile support centres had been established throughout the country in all prefectural police departments. Approximately 1,000 juvenile guidance officials worked at the centres in close cooperation with schools, child counselling centres and other relevant institutions and organizations to implement comprehensive measures for the prevention of juvenile delinquency. In February 2007, the Netherlands established a Ministry for Youth and Families, which, in coordination with other institutions, adopted a comprehensive approach to the development of policies related to children, young people and families.

17. In 2009, the Minister of Justice of Poland established a task force to review existing legal and policy frameworks and to recommend improvements to the child justice system. In 2009, the Minister established the Council for Crime Victims to recommend measures that would benefit crime victims. Tunisia reported on the creation of a national observatory on child rights, which monitors implementation of the child protection code in coordination with other institutions responsible for related issues. Cambodia referred to its inter-ministerial regulations (*prakas*) on cooperation and coordination in child justice processes, which were developed by the Inter-ministerial Child Justice Working Group established in 2006 and which aim at strengthening cooperation and coordination among various institutions in implementing a comprehensive child justice system.

F. Bilateral and multilateral assistance

18. Some States reported on the technical assistance provided bilaterally or by the United Nations agencies involved in the area of child justice. Ecuador referred to an ongoing activity, jointly implemented with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), to assess ways to widen the scope and use of alternative measures to detention and imprisonment of children in conflict with the law. Ecuador also stressed the need to enhance cooperation among countries in the Latin-American region, with a view to exchanging good practices and developing joint tools in the area of child justice reform.

19. El Salvador referred to a project, implemented with the support of the European Union, to prevent crime involving youth and to develop national and local professional capacities and skills relevant to the social reintegration of children in conflict with the law.

20. Japan made voluntary contributions in 2008 and 2009 to UNODC for the implementation of two juvenile justice projects in Afghanistan, which, inter alia, developed comprehensive training material for judges and prosecutors on juvenile justice.

21. Under the framework of a joint programme with UNODC on security and justice, Mexico continued to support children from the Federal District who are in conflict with the law through a project that promotes crime prevention and social reintegration.

22. Serbia launched an initiative for drafting a comprehensive system for monitoring juvenile justice based on the *Manual for the Measurement of Juvenile Justice Indicators*, jointly developed by UNICEF and UNODC.

III. Technical assistance provided through United Nations system-wide coordination

A. Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice

23. The Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice, established pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/30, has the overarching objective to facilitate and enhance coordination at the country and global levels of the provision of technical advice and assistance from the members of the Panel in the area of child justice. The Panel began its work in 2000 and established a secretariat in May 2007 with the aim of further developing, strengthening and consolidating its work. Since May 2010 the Panel has been composed of six United Nations bodies and six non-governmental organizations active in juvenile justice reform.²

24. During the period under review, the Panel continued to enhance coordination in following up the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to State parties relating to technical assistance in juvenile justice, including through the preparation and dissemination to all Panel members of compilations of the related concluding observations of the Committee; organized Panel member meetings with permanent representatives to the United Nations in Geneva; disseminated the internal notes of the meetings in order to encourage coordinated follow-up action at the national level; and drafted follow-up letters providing preliminary technical advice on priorities for reform.

25. Throughout the reporting period, the secretariat continued to coordinate information flow and to reach out to Panel members and juvenile justice actors at the international, regional and country levels, requesting advice and examples of “promising practices” on matters relating to juvenile justice reform. Information was requested, for example, on programmes of social reintegration of children in conflict with the law and on sexual violence against children in conflict with the law, in preparation for the March 2010 meeting of the Human Rights Council on sexual violence against children.

26. The Panel continued to increase the availability of technical assistance tools and resources on issues related to juvenile justice. In particular, the Panel developed a set of criteria for the design and evaluation of juvenile justice reform programmes and the identification of good practices based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and relevant international standards and norms. Through its secretariat, the Panel continued to publish monthly editions of its electronic newsletter in English, French and Spanish. Each edition of the newsletter includes an editorial column and provides a list of resources related to a thematic focus. In addition, the newsletter contains information on new resources related to children in conflict with the law, a list of forthcoming Panel member events, new books on juvenile justice

² The Panel is currently composed of 12 members: the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Children’s Fund, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Defence for Children International, the International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates, the International Juvenile Justice Observatory, Penal Reform International, Terre des hommes: aide à l’enfance and the World Organization against Torture.

and links to other websites. The secretariat also continued to amend and update its website in English, French and Spanish and increased the availability of resources in other languages, including Arabic, Portuguese and Russian.³ An online version of the Panel's juvenile justice expert roster was also launched.

27. The Panel continued to raise the profile of juvenile justice issues at the international level by promoting a comprehensive approach to juvenile justice reform at the following venues during the period under review: the annual meetings of the Panel held in Amman in May 2009 and in Sion, Switzerland, in June 2010; joint Panel workshops at the First World Congress on Restorative Juvenile Justice, held in Lima in November 2009; the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Salvador, Brazil, in April 2010; and the fourteenth session of the Human Rights Council, held in Geneva from 31 May to 18 June 2010.

28. The Panel has also worked toward developing common positions. In particular, the Panel secretariat coordinated a common Panel member oral statement made to the Twelfth Congress. The statement advocated a comprehensive approach to juvenile justice reform in accordance with General Comment No. 10 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The statement was signed by nine Panel members and was delivered by the secretariat Coordinator under agenda item 3, entitled "Children, youth and crime".⁴

29. A number of delegations, including those of Nigeria and Peru, welcomed the technical assistance provided by Panel members in their statements under the agenda item, and the United States of America expressly called upon the Panel and its members to undertake evidence-based programming in the technical assistance provided.

B. Joint activities of members of the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice

30. Various members of the Panel collaborated in developing common tools and carrying out joint activities. At the global level, UNODC and UNICEF, together with the International Bureau for Children's Rights, developed and published a Model Law on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime, and the *Handbook for Professionals and Policymakers on Justice Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime*, which is available in the six official languages of the United Nations. An online training package was finalized to support law enforcement professionals, social workers, prosecutors, judges, lawyers, health professionals and informal justice providers in implementing the Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime (see Council resolution 2005/20, annex). The new tools have filled a gap on the topic and have served to support the efforts of countries in this regard. A number of regional and

³ See www.juvenilejusticepanel.org.

⁴ Signatories included UNICEF, UNODC, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, Defence for Children International, the International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates, the International Juvenile Justice Observatory, Penal Reform International, "Terre des hommes" International Federation and the World Organization against Torture.

national events were held in 2010 in which the Guidelines were highlighted. In November 2010, an event was co-organized in Brazil by the National Council of Justice and the non-governmental organization Childhood Brazil, culminating with the adoption of a recommendation to all Brazilian tribunals to adopt specific measures in line with the Guidelines, such as the use of video recording at the hearings of child victims and witnesses and the provision of specialized training for professionals and support services dealing with child victims and witnesses.

31. The *Manual for the Measurement of Juvenile Justice Indicators*, jointly prepared by UNICEF and UNODC, was translated into Russian and widely disseminated with the assistance of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Penal Reform International plans to translate the *Manual* into Arabic. Five regional workshops were jointly organized by UNICEF and UNODC in Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia and West Africa. The workshops provided methodology and tools for the measurement of 15 juvenile justice indicators, including data collection and calculation and for policy and programming purposes. The main objective was to establish a sustainable information system for Governments. Basic resources for establishing the systems were provided to Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Djibouti, Egypt, Georgia, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Maldives, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine and Yemen, as well as to the authorities of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and to Kosovo.

32. The secretariat of the Interagency Panel, in collaboration with OHCHR, prepared a draft compilation of references on juvenile justice contained in the recommendations of the United Nations human rights bodies for the period 2007-2009, including recommendations of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, the universal periodic review and treaty bodies relating to children in conflict with the justice system.

33. The Geneva-based international secretariat of Defence for Children International has been working closely with the World Organization against Torture in international advocacy, especially in relation to the Human Rights Council. They have also organized side events at sessions of the Human Rights Council with UNICEF, OHCHR and other Panel members. At the field level, for instance, the World Organization against Torture has been collaborating with Defence for Children International in Uruguay to implement of a pilot project on monitoring places where children are deprived of liberty. For the October 2010 visit to Uruguay, the monitoring group was composed of a group of national non-governmental organizations on children's rights (Comité de los derechos del niño) and was joined by a member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

C. Defence for Children International

34. Juvenile justice represents one of the thematic priorities for Defence for Children International. Since 2005, the organization has been implementing a regional programme on juvenile justice in Latin America, and almost all of its

national sections, present in 40 countries worldwide, have implemented activities related to juvenile justice.

35. During the period under review, Defence for Children International took part in some of the meetings with Member States requiring technical assistance and provided that assistance in the area of child justice at the national level, through its national sections and in partnership with other members. The organization is also co-convening a working group on children and violence with the non-governmental organization Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child and is a member of the non-governmental organization Advisory Council for the follow-up to the United Nations study on violence against children. In collaboration with other Panel members involved in the activities of the two groups (World Organization against Torture, Terre des hommes: aide à l'enfance and OHCHR), Defence for Children International focuses on following up the recommendations contained in the study, in particular those concerning children in detention. During the reporting period, Defence for Children International also issued two reports: "Education in chains: gaps in education provision to children in detention" and "Ending violence against children in justice systems: strategies for civil society: engagement in the follow-up to the United Nations study on violence against children".

36. Defence for Children International has been hosting the secretariat of the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice in Geneva since its establishment in 2007 and is a member of the Panel Steering Committee. It collaborates at the international, regional and national levels with other Panel members and implements activities in partnership with them, in particular with the International Juvenile Justice Observatory, Terre des hommes: aide à l'enfance and the World Organization against Torture.

D. United Nations Children's Fund

37. UNICEF is currently working on justice for children in over 125 countries. Its priorities in this regard are to ensure effective legislative and enforcement systems and to improve the response capacity of justice systems for child victims, witnesses and alleged offenders.

38. The United Nations common approach to justice for children has been implemented by UNICEF in many countries. It has been integrated into United Nations development assistance frameworks in Azerbaijan and Serbia, as well as in poverty reduction strategy papers in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Mauritania. In Liberia, UNICEF is leading the development of a national common approach to child justice that was endorsed by the national rule of law group in the context of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2008-2012), resulting in the establishment of a child justice forum chaired by the Ministry of Justice. A child justice joint programme has been developed, in collaboration with relevant authorities and United Nations entities working in the justice sector. In Liberia and Papua New Guinea, UNICEF has developed a national common approach to justice for children among United Nations entities.

39. Advocacy for the integration of children's issues in broader rule of law efforts and leveraging of support from other United Nations entities has shown concrete results in several countries. New legislation was submitted to and/or approved by

legislative authorities in the Central African Republic, Djibouti, Indonesia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan and Sri Lanka, creating a legal framework to protect children from situations that might lead to abuse and violence in justice systems. In Ethiopia, a national criminal justice policy focusing on special attention to children throughout all stages of the criminal justice procedure was developed.

40. As part of its legislative reform initiative, UNICEF also supported efforts to fulfil the rights enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. It recognizes that legislative reform must go beyond the letter of law to address policies and programming in order to make the laws effective and enforceable. The initiative provides papers and tools to inform legislative reform efforts and promote the sharing of global experiences, including in respect of child rights in constitutional reform, and supportive policies and practices for the implementation of laws.

41. UNICEF assisted country offices in ensuring, through adequate legal provisions and regulations, that all child victims and/or witnesses of crimes are provided the protection mandated by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and that law enforcement officers fully take into account the Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime. An increasing number of UNICEF offices have supported the establishment of child-friendly courts and police procedures, victim support units, toll-free lines, legal support and counselling. With the assistance of UNICEF, Swaziland established its first-ever child family court, while Zambia added 10 additional courts to its existing system. In Kenya, UNICEF provided support to the national “Child line”. UNICEF assisted local non-governmental organizations, lawyers and clinics in providing legal assistance to child victims and children in conflict with the law in over 30 countries. In Nigeria, a network of 214 volunteer lawyers provided free counselling to children. In Somalia, UNICEF worked with both the national bar association and the Somaliland Women in Law Association to represent children.

42. Such initiatives have been further expanded by the development of new tools for policymakers and professionals. In 2010, the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre and Harvard Law School co-authored the publication *Children and Transitional Justice: Truth-Telling, Accountability and Reconciliation*. In a recent study, *Children and Truth Commissions*, the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre and the International Centre for Transitional Justice recognized that children have a right to express their views and to be considered in such processes. The study also identified key principles for protecting the rights of children participating in transitional justice mechanisms and processes. The principles include ensuring that transitional justice mechanisms cover crimes against children and that children have a voice in the process in line with their best interests. UNICEF also provided guidance to the International Criminal Court on the protection of child victims and witnesses in the first trial held by the Court, on possible charges pertaining to the recruitment and use of children in armed forces.

43. At the global level, UNICEF developed legislative guidance on juvenile justice, and an online toolkit on diversion from judicial proceedings and on alternatives to deprivation of liberty. Diversion and alternative programmes are operating in over 20 countries. In Togo, the combination of capacity-building for alternatives to detention and for restorative justice, the establishment of alternatives

to deprivation of liberty and the provision of legal assistance resulted in an increase of 83 per cent in the use of alternatives to custodial sentences. In Albania, the establishment of a victim-offender mediation service and the promotion of capacity-building for all judges and prosecutors from the juvenile section of courts, as well as 60 per cent of probation officers and social workers, resulted in the referral of 42 per cent of all juvenile sentences to alternatives to detention. The Honduras country office reported a reduction in the number of children deprived of liberty, with 50 per cent of female and 65 per cent of male adolescents in conflict with the law receiving alternative sanctions. In Yemen, a comprehensive approach to juvenile justice, including advocacy for legislative reform, capacity-building, establishment of a monitoring system, provision of free legal assistance, awareness-raising campaigns by children themselves and development of juvenile justice information systems, resulted in 668 children (20 girls, 648 boys) receiving non-custodial measures instead of detention.

44. During the reporting period, building the capacity of justice for children professionals also remained a major strategy for UNICEF, through both pre- and in-service training and the inclusion of justice for children in regular professional curricula. Police officers in over 25 countries were trained in child-friendly procedures and interviewing skills. In Myanmar, UNICEF trained 1,900 police officials in child-friendly procedures and developed a pocket-sized book that officers could carry on the job. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, training in restorative justice was conducted, and a seminar on police and juvenile justice was held. Judges and magistrates were also trained. Magistrates in Belize and in the Democratic Republic of Congo received training in juvenile justice and child-friendly procedures. UNICEF also continued to bolster the capacity of social workers operating in the legal sector. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the country office established a partnership with the Institute of Social Work and saw the introduction of a graduate-level course on juvenile justice.

45. In terms of global partnerships, UNICEF continued to be an active member of the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group,⁵ which is mandated to coordinate rule of law efforts across the United Nations and is chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General. That partnership has allowed UNICEF to ensure that children's issues are adequately reflected in all policies and strategies developed within the Group, thereby furthering the recognition among United Nations entities of children as rule of law stakeholders. UNICEF is also part of the Better Care Network, which focuses on alternative care for children. UNICEF provided technical support for the development of case studies on family-based care.

E. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

46. The rights of the child are mainstreamed within various mandates of UNODC, with particular focus on children in the areas of crime prevention, drug abuse prevention, HIV/AIDS prevention, human trafficking prevention, victim and witness support, and child justice reform programmes. Within that framework, in 2009 and 2010, UNODC continued to address the implementation of recent resolutions of the General Assembly (in particular, resolution 65/213, entitled "Human rights in the

⁵ See www.un.org/en/ruleoflaw/index.shtml.

administration of justice”) and of the Council (resolutions 2007/23 and 2009/26), as well as the guidance note of the Secretary-General on the United Nations approach to justice for children, by integrating child rights into its programme of work in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice and by supporting child justice reform through a comprehensive approach.

47. UNODC has included child justice components in several of its recently developed regional programmes. During the period under review, UNODC provided policy advice to a number of countries on various child justice issues, including to the Government of Georgia on alternatives to detention and to the Government of Haiti on the policy decision to either prepare separate juvenile justice legislation or introduce juvenile justice elements in the draft criminal code. It also provided technical assistance in the area of child justice reform to a number of countries.

48. Well-targeted assistance requires knowledge and understanding of the complexity of issues associated with child justice reform, including in terms of the challenges faced by justice systems to deliver justice for children and by rights-holders in a position to claim their rights and access to justice. Needs assessments contribute to developing a shared understanding of such problems, including the strengths, weaknesses and gaps of relevant laws, institutions and actors within the justice system. In 2010, child justice needs assessments were undertaken in Ecuador, Panama and Peru. In January 2011, a study on recidivism of young adult offenders detained in Peru was launched with the judicial authority. Also in 2010, UNODC conducted prison reform needs assessments in 11 countries. The situation of children in detention has always been the subject of evaluation and recommendation in related assessment reports.

49. In order to promote child justice reform, countries need to adopt legislation that is in compliance with the provisions contained in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as in international standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice. During the period under review, UNODC provided legal advisory services that helped various countries make significant changes in domestic child justice law. External evaluations of projects undertaken by UNODC in Afghanistan, Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon highlighted successful legislative reform as one of the most important outcomes of the projects, including raising of the age of criminal responsibility in Egypt, establishment of a separate juvenile justice system in Afghanistan and the introduction of alternatives to imprisonment in Jordan and Lebanon. An external evaluation of an ongoing programme in Egypt, which aims at improving detention conditions of children and youth deprived of liberty was undertaken in March 2009. The evaluations concluded that the approach and the methodology used in programme development were consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and United Nations standards and norms in juvenile justice, and recommended that the lessons learned and best practices of the programme should be shared with similar projects in the Arab region.

50. The delivery of technical assistance by UNODC in the area of child justice reform focuses also on supporting countries to set up the required institutional framework and to strengthen their capacities to deliver justice for children. The current UNODC programme in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya aims to develop the child justice system in the country not only through the adoption of a comprehensive juvenile justice law but also through the establishment of an effective coordination mechanism, the improvement of the capacity of all actors

involved and the enhancement of the role of juvenile detention centres and open institutions to become better adapted to receive children in conflict with the law and prepare them for reintegration into society. In Jordan, the joint European Union-UNODC programme aims to strengthen the legislative and institutional capacity of the juvenile justice system in that country through enhancing the capacities of the judiciary to deal more effectively with cases of children in conflict with the law. In Afghanistan, as part of a broader criminal justice reform programme, three training sessions targeting lawyers defending juvenile cases were held in 2010 using a manual on strategies and tactics for advocates defending juvenile cases. Over 60 lawyers from Kabul, Kandahar, Jalalabad, Herat, Mazar and Bamyan provinces were trained. In addition, a training manual for judges and prosecutors on justice for children in conflict with the law was developed, and it is expected that in 2011 training sessions will be conducted for all judicial staff of Kandahar Province and for some of Kabul Province. Both manuals were developed by UNODC and translated into Dari and Pashto. There are also good prospects that funding will be received for comprehensive child justice reform programmes in Southern Sudan and in the Syrian Arab Republic, and that joint activities will be carried out with UNICEF in Yemen and Algeria in 2011 and 2012.

51. In the area of youth crime prevention, in the period under review, victimization surveys were carried out in Cape Verde, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. UNODC has also started to implement a local safety audit in Medellin, Colombia. Youth social crime prevention projects continued to be implemented in Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and Honduras, and a new project is expected to start in El Salvador. UNODC has been implementing inter-agency programmes of the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund, which include conflict and violence prevention components in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Honduras, Mauritania, Mexico and Panama, some of which focus on youth. In Brazil, in 2010, the first youth social prevention project with private sector support was approved. In the Caribbean region, UNODC implemented a consultative process with civil society participation in order to further develop the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) crime prevention action plan, which has a strong focus on children and youth, both as victims and offenders. UNODC also participated in a United Nations multiagency armed violence prevention programme assessment mission to Jamaica, which resulted in the development of a multiagency prevention programme.

52. During the period under review, UNODC continued to develop tools for policymakers and professionals in the area of child justice reform. In particular, the joint UNICEF-UNODC *Handbook for Professionals and Policymakers on Justice Matters Involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime* is now available in all six official languages of the United Nations, and the online training package for law enforcement professionals, social workers, prosecutors, judges, lawyers, health professionals and informal justice providers was launched. In addition, UNODC launched a crime prevention assessment tool and the *Handbook on the Crime Prevention Guidelines: Making Them Work* in 2010. UNODC has been also developing a draft model law and related commentary on juvenile justice, which will be further discussed by a group of experts from different regions and legal systems.

53. There is a growing number of requests from countries on information relating to good practices in the area of child justice. Countries want to learn from each other and to draw upon good practices when designing their own laws and policies, setting up institutions and developing programmes. The technical assistance provided by UNODC has therefore focused also on facilitating the exchange of information in relation to measures aimed at promoting fair, effective and efficient child justice systems. This has been done through the organization of regional and subregional workshops, meetings and training events. In 2010, in partnership with EuropeAid and UNICEF, UNODC organized two events in Brussels that focused on enhancing capacities, cooperation and coherence in relation to assessments in the area of child justice reform and the establishment of juvenile justice information systems. High-ranking Government officials and professionals from South-Eastern European Member States, as well as experts from the European Commission and the United Nations participated in the events.

54. The work of UNODC in the area of child justice emphasizes the establishment of partnerships with other United Nations agencies, regional organizations, international non-governmental organizations and the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network.⁶ Many tools and publications were jointly published. UNODC is also an active member of the United Nations Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group and a member of the Interagency Panel. In the area of child justice reform, the main United Nations partners are: the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Health Organization. The main non-governmental organization partners are: Defence for Children International, Penal Reform International and “Terre des hommes” International Federation.

F. World Organization against Torture

55. In 2009 and 2010, the World Organization against Torture implemented pilot projects in Benin and Uruguay to contribute to the protection of children deprived of their liberty from all forms of violence, including torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and from situations leading to such abuses. The three main activities carried out under the project are briefly described below.

56. The organization monitored juvenile detention centres in both countries, in order to assess the human rights situation of children deprived of liberty. Reports on the assessment of the conditions of children in detention in both countries were issued and included concrete recommendations.

57. The organization provided training to governmental and non-governmental professionals working with children in conflict with the law, in particular with those deprived of liberty. The objective of the training was to explain existing standards that protect children deprived of liberty from violations of their rights, including violence. In Benin, the organization and its national partner organized a five-day training workshop in Cotonou in July and August 2010. A workshop for journalists was organized in Uruguay in October 2010.

⁶ See www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/institutes.html.

58. The organization promoted policies that prevent violence against children deprived of liberty. Together with its partners in Benin and Uruguay, it met regularly with the governmental authorities of both countries in order to advocate enhancing the protection of children deprived of liberty (i.e., reforming the legislation, nominating additional judges for children and decreasing use of detention, in parallel with increasing use of alternatives to detention). A seminar was organized in Benin in December 2010 with representatives from all relevant national stakeholders in the field of juvenile justice in order to discuss concrete and realistic actions to be taken in the coming years.

59. In addition to the above-mentioned pilot project, the organization carried out activities in 2009 and 2010 related to reporting, denunciation and advocacy. It also developed and sent to OHCHR (United Nations special procedures) urgent appeals on torture and other serious violations of the rights of children in various countries, including in respect of the legality of a detention; assault, ill treatment and torture by officials; administrative detention; abusive arrest and detention; torture in police custody; sexual assault, killing, disappearance, reprisals and threats; the risk of impunity; harsh repression of peaceful demonstrations; and violations of due process.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

60. In view of the responses from Member States and information provided by the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice, the Commission may wish to consider the following actions:

(a) Welcome the development by several States of comprehensive national action plans on crime prevention and child justice reform dealing in particular with preventing child involvement in crime, ensuring access to legal assistance, especially for children with scarce resources, and reducing the use and duration of juvenile detention, especially at the pretrial stages, including through the use of diversion, restorative justice and alternatives to detention, the reintegration of children in conflict with the law into their communities and child-sensitive procedures for all children in contact with the justice system;

(b) Note with satisfaction the work of the Interagency Panel and of its members, in particular their coordination efforts to in provide technical advice on and assistance in the area of juvenile justice, and the active participation of civil society in their respective work;

(c) Encourage States that have not yet integrated children's issues into their overall rule of law efforts to do so and to develop and implement a comprehensive juvenile justice policy to prevent and address juvenile delinquency, with a view to promoting, inter alia, the use of alternative measures, such as diversion and restorative justice, and to complying with the principle that the deprivation of liberty of children should be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time, and to avoid, wherever possible, the use of pretrial detention for children;

(d) Recall that every child and juvenile in conflict with the law must be treated in a manner consistent with his or her rights, dignity and needs, in

accordance with international law, bearing in mind relevant international standards on human rights in the administration of justice, and call on States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to abide strictly by its principles and provisions;

(e) Invite States, upon their request, to benefit from the technical advice and assistance in the area of juvenile justice provided by the relevant United Nations agencies and programmes, in particular the Interagency Panel, in order to strengthen national capacities and infrastructures in the field of the administration of justice, in particular juvenile justice;

(f) Invite Member States to provide resources to the secretariat and the members of the Panel, including UNODC, so that they can continue to provide, upon request, high-level technical assistance to Member States;

(g) Encourage the Interagency Panel, its secretariat and its members to continue to provide technical assistance to Member States in implementing international standards and to further increase their cooperation in sharing information and in pooling their capacities and resources in order to increase the effectiveness of programme implementation, including through joint programming and the development of common tools and awareness-raising;

(h) Invite Member States to continue providing UNODC with information on their efforts to implement Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/26, and request the Executive Director of UNODC to report to the Commission at its twenty-third session on the implementation of the resolution.