UN Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the elimination of violence against children in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice: towards implementation

Second meeting of the Sub-Committee for ASEAN, APJJC

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A New Benchmark for Action


• Background
• Objectives and scope
• The content of the Model Strategies
Background

- **Mandate** for development: General Assembly resolution (A/RES/68/189) of 18 December 2013

"requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to convene a meeting of an open-ended intergovernmental expert group (...) to develop a draft set of model strategies and practical measures on the elimination of violence against children in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, (...)" (Op. para. 8)
Leadership of H.R.H. Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol and the Thai Institute of Justice

➢ High-Level Event at the UN GA in November 2014

➢ High-Level Event, 13th UN Crime Congress, Doha 2015:
• **Development** of the “UN Model Strategies” by an Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting at TIJ, Bangkok, Thailand, from 18 to 21 February 2014

• **Approval** by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice E-CN.15-2014-L.12 and co-sponsorship of the pertaining resolution by 44 Member States on 16 May 2014

• **Approval** by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations E/RES/2014/18 on 16 June 2014

• **Adoption** by the General Assembly of the United Nations: GA resolution A/RES/69/194 of 18 December 2014
A new mandate for UNODC

- **Mandate:** General Assembly Resolution A/RES/69/194

  “to take steps to ensure the broad dissemination of the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”. (Op. para. 11)

  “to identify the needs and capacities of countries and to provide technical assistance and advisory services to Member States in order to develop or strengthen, as appropriate, legislation, procedures, policies and practices to prevent and respond to violence against children and to ensure respect for the rights of the child in the administration of justice”. (Op. para. 12)
Technical assistance tools
• *Is the justice system* doing everything it can to *prevent violence against children*?

• *Is the justice system responding* to incidents of *violence against children* in an *effective and appropriate manner*?

• *Is the justice system* dealing with children in contact with the law in a manner which *reduces the risk* that they may be further victimised or abused?
The “UN Model Strategies”

Integrated violence prevention and child protection strategies

Creating a protective environment

Prevent and respond to VAC
Aims of the “UN Model Strategies”

• Improve the **effectiveness** of the criminal justice system in preventing and responding to VAC

• **Protect children** from VAC that may result from their contact with the criminal justice system
The Model Strategies provide for a Practical Framework

• to identify gaps in laws, policies and practices

• to review and design national laws and policies

• to set up institutions and mechanisms

• to guide professionals in their day-to-day practice
Organization of the “Model Strategies”

• **Part I:** General prevention strategies

• **Part II:** Strategies to improve the ability and capacity of the criminal justice system to respond to VAC

• **Part III:** Strategies to prevent and respond to VAC who are in contact with the justice system
1. Prohibition of all forms of violence against children and **criminalization** of serious forms of violence

2. Comprehensive prevention programmes

3. Data collection, research, analysis and dissemination
Part II of the “Model Strategies”

4. Establishing detection and reporting mechanisms

5. Effective protection to child victims of violence

6. Effective investigation and prosecution of VAC

7. Enhancing inter-sectoral cooperation
8. Improving criminal proceedings involving child victims of violence

9. Ensuring that sentencing reflects the serious nature of VAC

10. Strengthening the capacity of criminal justice professionals
Part III of the “Model Strategies”

11. Reducing the number of children in contact with the justice system

12. Preventing VAC associated with law enforcement and prosecution strategies

13. Deprivation of liberty as a measure of last resort
Part III of the “Model Strategies” (cont.)

14. Prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

15. Preventing and responding to VAC in places of detention

16. Enhancing protection and assistance to child victims of VAC

17. Strengthening accountability and oversight mechanisms
Towards implementation of the Model Strategies

- **Objective:** to ensure that children are better protected from violence that may occur from their contact with the justice system

  - Outcome 1: Increased global awareness and understanding on prevention and responses to violence against children in contact with justice systems

  - Outcome 2: Children in three pilot countries are better protected by practical measures on prevention and responses to VAC in contact with justice systems
Pilot country: Colombia

- Started in July 2015
- Funding provided by Colombia: 1,269,221 US$
- Working at country and departmental level

Six (6) specific objectives agreed with national counterparts:

- **Objective 1:** Contribute to youth crime prevention.
- **Objective 2:** Promote restorative justice for children and alternative measures to judicial proceedings and non-custodial measures.
- **Objective 3:** Strengthen the treatment of children in conflict with the law and conditions of detention.
- **Objective 4:** Promote the rehabilitation and social reintegration of children in conflict with the law.
- **Objective 5:** Protect child victims and witnesses of crime and violence.
- **Objective 6:** Promote peace building activities among the children at risk of committing crimes or in conflict with the law.
Public policy, legislative and technical assistance

• In 2015, jointly with the Government of the Department of Tolima, UNODC conducted a baseline study on the participation of children in crime and is currently developing a public policy based on the findings.

• With the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF), UNODC elaborated in 2015 a baseline study on the application of alternative measures to judicial proceedings.

• UNODC is currently elaborating jointly with experts of the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF) a comprehensive juvenile justice information management system for the country.
Capacity building

- **Workshops**: Since 2015, UNODC is supporting the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF) in strengthening the capacity of more than 200 detention facility staff working with children deprived of liberty in 4 regions of Colombia: Oriente (Bucaramanga - Norte de Santander, Santander, Arauca, Casanare y Boyacá); Pacífico (Cali - Caldas, Cauca, Chocó, Nariño, Putumayo, Quindío, Risaralda y Valle); Costa (Santa Marta: Atlántico, Bolívar, Cesar, Córdoba, La Guajira, Magdalena, San Andrés, Sucre); Centro (Bogotá - Cundinamarca, Amazonas, Caquetá, Guainía, Guaviare, Meta, Vaupés, Vichada, Huila y Tolima).

- Workshops on alternative measures to detention: 130 justice professionals in 7 regions of the country: Bogotá, Cali, Villavicencio, Casanare, Cauca, Antioquia, Nariño.

- Specialised juvenile justice courses: Jointly with the Departamental Government of Santander and the Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, UNODC offered in 2015 a juvenile justice course for 63 justice professionals strengthening their capacity on youth crime prevention and restorative justice for children.
Coordination mechanisms and cross-sectorial collaboration

- Jointly with the City of Bogotá, UNODC organized a seminar on juvenile justice 16-17 December 2015 with the participation of international and national experts in the area of restorative justice and alternative measures to judicial proceedings for children in conflict with the law. Approximately 200 participants.

- UNODC participated in the 2nd International Seminar on Juvenile Justice hosted by the Government of Chile in Santiago from 12-13 November 2015 where UNODC presented the Global Programme on VAC and its implementation in Colombia with the aim to foster south-south cooperation between both countries.

- 5 roundtables on restorative justice for children jointly with the City of Bogotá and Terre des Hommes.
Restorative justice for children

- **Restorative practices**: Jointly with the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF), UNODC is since 2015 implementing restorative justice practices and peacebuilding activities in 9 regions of the country working with 550 children deprived of liberty: Bolívar (Cartagena), Antioquia (Medellín), Valle (Cali) and Santander (Bucaramanga), Pasto (Nariño), Neiva (Huila), Ibagué (Tolima), Pereira (Risaralda), Armenia (Quindío).

- **Diversion**: With the Government of the City of Bogotá, UNODC is developing guidelines on the application of restorative justice for children. 5 roundtables were held in 2015 and jointly with Terre des Hommes and the Office of the Prosecutor, 7 pilot cases are presently being implemented.

- **Recovering public spaces**: In 2015, partnering with the Government of the city of Armenia, UNODC worked with 120 children in conflict with law, their family members, community leaders, and justice professionals, with the aim to symbolically repair the damage caused by facilitating community work.
UNODC supports the Government of the City of Bogotá in strengthening education and resilience of children in conflict with the law through formal and normal education programmes. 25 children deprived of liberty are attending regular technical college; more than 170 children in detention facilities participate in cultural workshops, including urban sports, BMX, yoga, dancing, and movie making.

In partnership with the Government of the City of Bogotá and a local hospital, 150 children are benefiting from a comprehensive drug treatment programme.

With the Government of the Department of Tolima, UNODC is working with 70 families whose children are deprived of liberty creating sustainable livelihoods in order to secure a safe and violent-free environment.
UNODC is partnering with the Grupo Internacional de Paz (GIP) to implement youth crime and violence prevention programmes in 6 regions of the country benefiting a wide range of children who are at risk of committing crimes or have already been in contact with the juvenile justice system as alleged, accused or recognized offenders. Through art, cultural activities, and sports (football, baseball etc.), accompanied by tailored human rights workshops, these children will be empowered to live a peaceful live in their communities: Norte de Santander, Córdoba, Cesar, Chocó, Amazonas, San Andrés.

In 2015, jointly with the Government of Armenia, UNODC elaborated targeted crime prevention strategies with 150 young football fans supported by international football star Jackson Martínez (Atlético Madrid and Colombian national team) who delivered a message of peace and non-violence.
Thank you for your attention!

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