**CCPCJ25 oral statement**

**Item 6 – Use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice**

Thank you, Mr/ Madame Chair.

A year ago, this body approved the revised UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners by acclamation, marking the historic event it constituted. On 17 December last year, the Rules were adopted by the General Assembly as the Nelson Mandela Rules.

The significance of this adoption cannot be over-stated. Over six decades, the SMR have become the primary source of standards related to treatment in detention. They have now been brought into the twenty-first century, representing the first time that the international community has updated a set of soft law standards.

We would like to mark this occasion to express our joy about this historic accomplishment, and wish to inform delegates of initiatives we have undertaken to support the implementation of the revised Rules.

To promote the Nelson Mandela Rules and inform relevant stakeholders, we have produced a short audio-visual animation on the Rules, which is available to watch online at [www.penalreform.org](http://www.penalreform.org). We have held events in France, Japan, Kazakhstan and at the UN in New York and in Geneva, and have started to consult with prison administrations and staff in countries including India and Uganda on ideas for implementation.

Together with the University of Essex Human Rights Centre, we organised an expert meeting in April on the implementation of the Nelson Mandela Rules. The meeting sought to identify Rules and language that require further guidance as to their interpretation, and to gather practical and concrete implementation examples, drawing on existing international standards and practice. The results from this meeting will be made available on our website.

PRI is partnering with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on a project to produce a guidance document and training materials on the Nelson Mandela Rules. We expect to publish comprehensive Guidance in August next year.

Finally, at this very Commission, delegates have heard how states are implementing the Nelson Mandela Rules. At a special event on Tuesday lunchtime, representatives of Uganda, Italy, the United States of America, Jordan and Norway all explained the steps they are already taking to put the Nelson Mandela Rules into practice.

We hope that many more such initiatives will develop, and stand ready to assist states in doing so, so that the promise of the Nelson Mandela Rules becomes a reality.

Thank you, Mr/ Madame Chair.

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