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Use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice

Report of the meeting of the intergovernmental expert group to review and update the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held in Bangkok from 23 to 25 March 2009

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* E/CN.15/2010/1.



I. Introduction

1. On 12 December 1997, the General Assembly adopted the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Assembly resolution 52/86, annex) to guide Governments in their efforts to address, within the criminal justice system, the various manifestations of violence against women. The Model Strategies and Practical Measures represent a comprehensive framework to assist States in developing policies and carrying out actions to eliminate violence against women and to promote equality between men and women within the criminal justice system. The strategies and measures that the General Assembly called upon Member States to implement in accordance with the Model Strategies and Practical Measures are grouped into 10 themes: criminal law; criminal procedure; police; sentencing and correction; victim support and assistance; health and social services; training; research and evaluation; crime prevention measures; and international cooperation.

2. At its seventeenth session, held in Vienna from 14 to 18 April 2008, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice adopted its decision 17/1, entitled “Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women and girls”. In that decision, the Commission requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to convene an intergovernmental group of experts with equitable geographical representation, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, to review and update, as appropriate, the Model Strategies and Practical Measures, taking into account current developments, research, tools and the outcome of the deliberations of the Commission at its seventeenth session, and to make recommendations on addressing violence against women and girls, to be considered by the Commission at its nineteenth session.

3. In its decision 17/1, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice welcomed the offer of the Government of Thailand to act as host to the meeting of the intergovernmental expert group to review and update the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

4. In order to prepare a draft document to be discussed and reviewed by the expert group that would reflect as many views as possible and would support a full and comprehensive discussion, UNODC asked Member States to make suggestions with regard to changes and improvements to the Model Strategies and Practical Measures. The following 26 States submitted suggestions: Argentina, Austria, Bahrain, Canada, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Finland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritius, Morocco, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia and United States of America. The text of the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is contained in annex I to the present report.

II. Recommendation

5. The intergovernmental expert group to review and update the Model Strategies and Practical Measures made the following recommendation for action by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice:

Draft resolution

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice recommends to the Economic and Social Council the approval of the following draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly:

Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women¹ and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action² adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995, and, in particular, the determination of Governments to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women,

Recognizing that the term “women”, except where otherwise specified, encompasses “girl children”,

Reaffirming the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,³ held in Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994, as well as the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender, equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”,⁴ and the declaration adopted at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women,⁵

Stressing that all forms of violence against women constitute not only a violation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women but also have serious socio-economic consequences that hinder the achievement of gender equality and development,

Reaffirming its resolution 52/86 of 12 December 1997 in which it adopted the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

¹ General Assembly resolution 48/104.

² Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

³ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁴ General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

⁵ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27 and Corr.1), chap. 1, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2005/232.

Reaffirming also its resolutions 61/143 of 19 December 2006, 62/133 of 18 December 2007 and 63/155 of 18 December 2008 on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women,

Recalling the Bangkok Declaration on Synergies and Responses: Strategic Alliances in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,⁶ adopted at the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in which Governments emphasized the importance of promoting the interests of victims of crime, including taking account of their gender,

Mindful of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 and 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008 on women and peace and security,

Recalling the inclusion of gender-related crimes and crimes of sexual violence in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,⁷ as well as the recognition by the ad hoc international criminal tribunals that rape can constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity or a constitutive act with respect to genocide or torture,

Calling for the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence in the family, within the general community and where perpetrated or condoned by the State,

Expressing deep concern about the pervasiveness of violence against women in all its forms and manifestations worldwide, and reiterating the need to intensify efforts to address such challenge,

Recognizing that violence against women is rooted in historically unequal power relations between men and women and that all forms of violence against women seriously violate and impair or nullify the enjoyment by women of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and constitute a major impediment to the ability of women to make use of their capabilities,

Recognizing also that women's poverty and lack of empowerment, as well as their marginalization resulting from their exclusion from social policies and from the benefits of sustained development, can place them at increased risk of violence, and that violence against women impedes the social and economic development of communities and States, as well as the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing further that effective and integrated criminal justice responses to violence against women require close cooperation between all key stakeholders, including law enforcement officials, prosecutors, victim advocates, health professionals and forensic scientists,

Recalling the joint dialogue of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on addressing violence against women through legal reform, held in New York on 4 March 2009 in the framework of the fifty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling also Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice decision 17/1, in which the Commission requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to convene an intergovernmental group of experts with equitable geographical representation, in cooperation with the institutes of the

⁶ General Assembly resolution 60/177, annex.

⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2187, No. 38544.

United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, to review and update, as appropriate, the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work done at the meeting of the intergovernmental expert group to review and update the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held in Bangkok from 23 to 25 March 2009;

2. *Adopts* the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

3. *Strongly condemns* all acts of violence against women, whether those acts are perpetrated by the State, private persons or non-State actors, and calls for the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence in the family, within the general community and where perpetrated or condoned by the State;

4. *Stresses* that violence against women includes any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women;

5. *Urges* Member States to end impunity for acts of violence against women by prosecuting and punishing all perpetrators of such violence, by ensuring that women have equal protection under the law and equal access to justice and by holding up to public scrutiny and eliminating those attitudes that foster, justify or tolerate violence against women;

6. *Also urges* Member States to enhance their mechanisms and procedures for protecting victims of violence against women in the criminal justice system, taking into account, inter alia, the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power (General Assembly resolution 40/34, annex), and to provide to this end specialized counselling and assistance;

7. *Calls upon* Member States to advance effective crime prevention and criminal justice strategies that address violence against women, including strategies aimed at preventing revictimization by, inter alia, removing barriers that prevent victims from seeking safety, including barriers related to custody of children, access to shelter and availability of legal assistance;

8. *Also calls upon* Member States to develop and implement crime prevention policies and programmes to promote the safety of women in the home and in society at large in a manner that reflects the realities of women's lives and addresses their distinct needs, taking into account, inter alia, the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime (Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/61, annex), and the important contribution that educational and awareness-raising initiatives provide to the promotion of the safety of women;

9. *Urges* Member States to evaluate and review their legislation and legal principles, procedures, policies, programmes and practices relating to crime prevention and criminal justice matters, in a manner consistent with their legal systems and drawing upon the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures, to

determine if they are adequate to combat violence against women or if they have a negative impact on women and, if they do, to modify them in order to ensure that women are treated fairly;

10. *Invites* Member States to support and provide adequate resources to UNODC for promoting the use and application of the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures;

11. *Urges* Member States to take into account the special needs and vulnerabilities of women within the criminal justice system, especially those in detention, pregnant female inmates and children born to women in detention, including, inter alia, through the development of policies and programmes to address such needs, taking into account relevant international standards and norms;

12. *Also urges* Member States to assist women victims of violence when the facts evidence a legitimate self-defence response to violence or threats of violence made against them, and to ensure that those women have access to adequate legal representation;

13. *Invites* Member States to establish a multidisciplinary, coordinated response to sexual assault that includes specially trained police, prosecutors, forensic examiners and victim support services to contribute to the well-being of the victim and increase the likelihood of the successful apprehension, prosecution and conviction of the offender, and to prevent revictimization;

14. *Encourages* Member States to design and support programmes to empower women, both politically and economically, and to assist in preventing violence against women, in particular through their participation in decision-making processes;

15. *Calls upon* Member States to set up and strengthen mechanisms for the systematic collection of data on violence against women with a view to assessing the scope and prevalence of such violence and to guiding the design of effective crime prevention and criminal justice responses;

16. *Urges* Member States and invites the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network to continue offering training and capacity-building opportunities, in particular for practitioners working in the fields of crime prevention and criminal justice and providers of support services to victims of violence against women and to make available and disseminate information on successful intervention models, preventive programmes and other practices;

17. *Requests* UNODC to intensify efforts to ensure the widest possible dissemination of the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures, including through the development or revision of relevant tools, such as handbooks, training manuals, programmes and modules, and invites Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary contributions for such a purpose, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

18. *Invites* UNODC to strengthen coordination in its activities in the area of violence against women with other relevant entities of the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat, the United Nations

Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

19. *Also invites* UNODC to cooperate with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to develop training material based on the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures for military, police and civilian personnel of peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations;

20. *Requests* UNODC to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.

III. Organization of the meeting

A. Opening of the meeting

6. The meeting was opened by the Permanent Secretary of Justice of Thailand, who noted that violence against women had become a major impediment to the enjoyment of human rights, gender equality, development and peace. He stressed that such violence also had a negative impact on the psychological, social and economic development of individuals, families, communities and countries. He underscored that the international community was in dire need of appropriate measures that would not only stop and sanction violence, but also restore a sense of control to victims. Mention was also made of the need to meet the Millennium Development Goals in 2015, in particular goal 3 on promoting gender equality and empowering women, and of the need to promote a rights-based approach in the development of all relevant policies. He also stressed that it was important to have a set of crime prevention and criminal justice rules that aimed to prevent and stop violence against women and to enable victims of such crime to seek redress and recourse. In his opening remarks, the Permanent Secretary of Justice recalled the initiatives carried out by Princess Bajrakitiyabha, Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in Thailand, to address in a holistic and integrated manner the serious problem of violence against women. In that regard, mention was made of the support given by the Princess to the UNIFEM campaign entitled "Say no to violence against women".

7. In a videoed statement, Princess Bajrakitiyabha welcomed the experts at the meeting and drew the attention of the participants to the fact that violence against women was a violation of human rights and of gender equality. She also stressed that differences in the degree to which people could enjoy human rights was a root cause of violence against women and that addressing that issue called for taking the moral high ground. In that regard, she recalled that Thailand had joined the "Say no to violence against women" campaign organized by UNIFEM, and that more than 3 million signatures had been collected under that initiative. She also recalled that violence against women needed to be addressed in a multidimensional way and that it was vital to empower women. The Princess mentioned other relevant Thai initiatives, such as the Enhancing Lives of Female Inmates project on improving the way in which female offenders are treated. Finally, the Princess emphasized that a revised and updated version of the Model Strategies and Practical Measures would

assist States in better and more effectively preventing and combating all forms of violence against women.

8. The representative of the UNODC Regional Office for East Asia and the Pacific commended the Government of Thailand for taking the initiative to host the meeting of the expert group to review and update the Model Strategies and Practical Measures, noting that the initiative was part of a broader policy and strategy of Thailand to support the equitable treatment for women and prisoners. He then said that the current global economic crisis would have a disproportionately negative impact on women, particularly in East Asia and the Pacific, as the shrinking global demand for clothes, textiles and electronics produced in the region would mean that women would be the first to lose their jobs. Women were also expected to feel the sharp end of reduced access to microcredit and to be the first to suffer from the reduced availability of social services as Governments cut back on spending. The representative emphasized that such events would have consequences at home and that these consequences would often be violent.

9. The UNODC representative stated that the United Nations played a twofold role in terms of efforts to eliminate violence against women. First, the United Nations had helped to negotiate and adopt conventions and norms that had set the tone and quality of laws and norms adopted by Member States. Second, the United Nations worked alongside States to ensure that women's lives were made more secure and that women and girls could lead healthier lives. It was noted that, in recent years, the United Nations had paid increasing attention to strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice systems, to meeting the needs of women and girls, and to improving the treatment of victims and witnesses within the justice systems. He referred to the UNODC regional programme framework for the period 2009-2012 for East Asia and the Pacific, in which countering human trafficking occupied a central position and stressed that work to counter the phenomenon of trafficking in persons should aim at building the following: (a) strong and well-informed prosecutorial and judicial systems capable of prosecuting, punishing and convicting traffickers; (b) a quick and accurate means of identifying victims and of providing them immediately with protection and support; (c) special support in order to allow victims to serve as witnesses; and (d) systems and processes that enable effective international investigative and judicial cooperation in trafficking cases. The representative concluded by underscoring that, in order to effectively reduce and ultimately eliminate violence against women, it was important to achieve success in other areas of female empowerment, not only in those of crime prevention and criminal justice.

10. The Director of the East and South-East Asia Regional Office of UNIFEM recalled that violence against women was a global phenomenon and that, on average, one in three women had, at one time or another, been either beaten, forced to have sex or abused by an intimate partner. The Director mentioned that States members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) had ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁸ and had adopted the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the ASEAN Region, which recognizes such violence as a violation of human rights. She also recalled that 8 of the 10 States members of ASEAN had adopted legislation on

⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

domestic violence, and that several of those same States had developed national action plans to implement such legislation. Several recommendations on how to prevent, reduce and eliminate violence against women were made by the Director, including the need for the following:

- (a) Legal protection for women;
- (b) Legislation that is gender-sensitive;
- (c) Laws with a clear statement of objectives and grounded in international human rights instruments;
- (d) A comprehensive definition of domestic violence;
- (e) For the “battered-woman syndrome” to be taken into consideration in judicial matters;
- (f) Legislation with civil and criminal remedies;
- (g) A speedy and gender-sensitive means for accessing pre-litigation measures, emergency relief (i.e. shelters and medical attention) and temporary orders;
- (h) The enforcement of sanctions for violating court orders;
- (i) Support services that are speedy and easily accessible;
- (j) Victims to be empowered;
- (k) A multidisciplinary and comprehensive approach to fighting violence against women.

11. The representative of UNODC thanked the Government of Thailand for hosting the meeting, and the Government of Canada and the Government of Finland for contributing financially to its organization. The UNODC representative recalled that the Model Strategies and Practical Measures had been adopted by the General Assembly in 1997 and noted that they reflected negotiated language agreed to by consensus after full discussion by Member States. She also stressed that they continued to be relevant and useful, in part because they promoted a multidisciplinary approach to combating violence against women and because they dealt with all components of the criminal justice system. She further explained that the Model Strategies and Practical Measures needed to be revised because they had been developed over 10 years previously; it was felt that they should be updated to reflect current developments and research and to take into account new approaches, prevention tools and good practices. She underlined that in the previous decade a number of efforts had been made to combat violence against women: new practices, new thinking, new research and new international legal instruments, such as the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,⁹ the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography¹⁰ and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.¹¹ She also stressed that various

⁹ Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.

¹⁰ Ibid., vol. 2171, No. 27531.

¹¹ Ibid., vol. 2187, No. 38544.

resolutions adopted by entities of the United Nations regarding women, peace and security, crimes committed against women in the name of honour, violence against women migrant workers, and crime prevention had been adopted in the previous 10 years.

12. In introducing the draft text of the revised and updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures, the UNODC representative noted that, in addition to Governments, the following were also consulted: the Special Rapporteur on Violence against women, its causes and consequences, the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations, the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy, the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime and the Institute for Security Studies.

B. Attendance

13. The meeting was attended by experts from 15 countries. The following institutes were represented by observers: the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy and the Institute for Security Studies. The Division for the Advancement of Women, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) were also represented by observers. A list of participants is contained in annex II to the present report.

C. Election of officers

14. The following officers were elected by consensus:

Chairperson: Wisit Wisitsora-At (Thailand)

Vice-Chairpersons: Carole Morency (Canada)
Beata Ziorkiewicz (Poland)
Yenny Muñoz Torres (Chile)

Rapporteur: Koffi Hypolite Yéboué (Côte d'Ivoire)

D. Adoption of the agenda

15. At its meeting, the expert group adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of the bureau.
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
4. Review and update of the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

5. Recommendations on addressing violence against women and girls for the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.
6. Conclusion.
7. Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting.

IV. Deliberations

16. At its first six meetings, held from 23 to 25 March, the expert group considered the text of the draft revised and updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

17. Pursuant to Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice decision 17/1, the expert group considered a draft resolution containing a series of recommendations on addressing violence against women and girls, to be transmitted to the Commission at its nineteenth session for its consideration and possible action. The text of the draft resolution is contained in chapter II of the present report while the text of the updated Model Strategies is contained in annex I to the report.

V. Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting

18. At its sixth meeting, the expert group considered and adopted its report and recommended that the draft resolution contained in chapter II be transmitted to the Commission at its nineteenth session for its consideration.

Annex I

Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Preamble

1. The multifaceted nature of violence against women necessitates different strategies to respond to the diverse manifestations of violence and the various settings in which it occurs, both in private and public life, whether committed in the home, the workplace, educational and training institutions, the community or society, in custody, or in situations of armed conflict and natural disaster. In the Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the importance of adopting a systematic, comprehensive, coordinated, multisectoral and sustained approach to fighting violence against women is recognized. The practical measures, strategies and activities described below can be introduced in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice to address violence against women. Except where otherwise specified, the term “women” encompasses “girl children”.
2. Violence against women exists in every country in the world as a pervasive violation of human rights and a major impediment to achieving gender equality, development and peace. Violence against women is rooted in historically unequal power relations between men and women. All forms of violence against women seriously violate and impair or nullify the enjoyment by women of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and have serious immediate and long-term implications for health, including sexual and reproductive health, for example through increased vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, and public safety, and have a negative impact on the psychological, social and economic development of individuals, families, communities and States.
3. Violence against women is often embedded in and supported by social values, cultural patterns and practices. The criminal justice system and legislators are not immune to such values and thus have not always regarded violence against women with the same seriousness as other types of violence. Therefore, it is important that States strongly condemn all forms of violence against women and refrain from invoking any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligation with respect to its elimination and that the criminal justice system recognize violence against women as a gender-related problem and as an expression of power and inequality.
4. Violence against women is defined in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women¹² and reiterated in the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women¹³ to mean any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or

¹² General Assembly resolution 48/104.

¹³ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex 1.

suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life. The Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures build on the measures adopted by Governments in the Platform for Action, which was adopted in 1995 and subsequently reaffirmed in 2000 and 2005, the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice adopted in 1997, and relevant General Assembly resolutions, including Assembly resolutions 61/143 and 63/155, bearing in mind that some groups of women are especially exposed and vulnerable to violence.

5. The Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures specifically acknowledge the need for an active policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies, programmes and practices to ensure gender equality and equal and fair access to justice, as well as establishing the goal of gender balance in all areas of decision-making, including those related to the elimination of violence against women. The Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures should be applied as guidelines in a manner consistent with relevant international instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,¹⁴ the Convention on the Rights of the Child,¹⁵ the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,¹⁶ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,¹⁷ the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,¹⁸ the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,¹⁹ and the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime,²⁰ with a view to furthering their fair and effective implementation. The Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures reaffirm the commitment of States to promote gender equality and empower women with a view to meeting goal 3 of the Millennium Development Goals.²¹

6. The Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures should be endorsed by national legislation and implemented by Member States and other entities in a manner consistent with the right to equality before the law, while also recognizing that gender equality may sometimes require the adoption of different approaches that acknowledge the different ways in which violence affects women as compared to men. Member States should ensure that women have equal protection under the law and equal access to justice in order to facilitate efforts by Governments to prevent and sanction acts of violence against women through comprehensive and coordinated policies and strategies, and to deal with all forms of violence against women within the criminal justice system.

7. The Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures recognize that crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women must be focused on the needs of victims and empower individual women who are victims of

¹⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 2171, No. 27531.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 999, No. 14668.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, vol. 2187, No. 38544.

²⁰ Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/13, annex.

²¹ A/56/326, annex.

violence. The Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures aim at ensuring that prevention and intervention efforts are made to not only stop and appropriately sanction violence against women, but also restore a sense of dignity and control to the victims of such violence.

8. The Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures aim at contributing to de jure and de facto equality between women and men. The Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures do not give preferential treatment to women but aim at ensuring that any inequalities or forms of discrimination that women face in accessing justice, particularly in respect of acts of violence, are redressed.

9. The Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures recognize that sexual violence is an issue of international peace and security, as outlined in Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008) on women and peace and security, particularly the need for parties to armed conflict to adopt prevention and protection measures in order to end sexual violence.

10. The Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures recognize that some special groups of women are particularly vulnerable to violence, either because of their nationality, ethnicity, religion or language, or because they belong to an indigenous group, are migrants, are stateless, are refugees, live in underdeveloped, rural or remote communities, are homeless, are in institutions or in detention, have disabilities, are elderly, are widowed or live in conflict, post-conflict and disaster situations and as such they require special attention, intervention and protection in the development of crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women.

11. The Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures recognize advances in crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women and the importance of investing in the prevention of violence against women.

12. The Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures recognize that States have the obligation to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all people, including women, and that they must exercise due diligence and take relevant measures to prevent, investigate and punish the perpetrators of violence against women, to eliminate impunity and to provide protection to the victims, and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of women's human rights and fundamental freedoms.

I. Guiding principles

13. Member States are urged:

(a) To be guided by the overall principle that effective crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women are human rights-based, manage risk and promote victim safety and empowerment while ensuring offender accountability;

(b) To develop mechanisms to ensure a comprehensive, coordinated, systematic and sustained approach for the implementation of the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures at the national, regional and international levels;

(c) To promote the involvement and participation of all relevant sectors of Government and civil society and other stakeholders in the implementation process;

(d) To commit adequate and sustained resources and develop monitoring mechanisms to ensure their effective implementation and oversight;

(e) To take into account the varying needs of women subjected to violence in the implementation of the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures.

II. Criminal law

14. Member States are urged:

(a) To review, evaluate and update their national laws, policies, codes, procedures, programmes and practices, especially their criminal laws, on an ongoing basis to ensure and guarantee their value, comprehensiveness and effectiveness in eliminating all forms of violence against women and to remove provisions that allow for or condone violence against women or that increase the vulnerability or revictimization of women who have been subject to violence;

(b) To review, evaluate and update their criminal and civil laws in order to ensure that all forms of violence against women are criminalized and prohibited and, if not, to adopt measures to do so, including measures aimed at preventing, protecting, empowering and supporting survivors, adequately punishing perpetrators and ensuring available remedies for victims;

(c) To review, evaluate and update their criminal laws in order to ensure that:

(i) Persons who are brought before the courts on judicial matters in respect of violent crimes or who are convicted of such crimes can be restricted in their possession and use of firearms and other regulated weapons, within the framework of their national legal systems;

(ii) Individuals can be prohibited or restrained, within the framework of their national legal systems, from harassing, intimidating or threatening women;

(iii) The laws on sexual violence adequately protect all persons against sexual acts that are not based on the consent of both parties;

(iv) The law protects all children against sexual violence, sexual abuse, commercial sexual exploitation and sexual harassment, including crimes committed through the use of new information technologies, including the Internet;

(v) Harmful traditional practices, including female genital mutilation, in all of their forms, are criminalized as serious offences under the law;

(vi) Trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, is criminalized;

(vii) Individuals who are serving in the armed forces or in United Nations peacekeeping operations should be investigated and punished for committing acts of violence against women abroad;

(d) To continually review, evaluate and update their national laws, policies, practices and procedures taking into account all relevant international legal

instruments in order to effectively respond to violence against women, including to ensure that such measures complement and are consistent with the criminal justice system's response to such violence and that civil law decisions reached in marital dissolutions, child custody decisions and other family law proceedings for cases involving domestic violence or child abuse adequately safeguard victims and the best interest of children;

(e) To review and, where appropriate, revise, amend or abolish any laws, regulations, policies, practices and customs that discriminate against women or have a discriminatory impact on women, and to ensure that provisions of multiple legal systems, where they exist, comply with international human rights obligations, commitments and principles, in particular the principle of non-discrimination.

III. Criminal procedure

15. Member States are urged to review, evaluate and update their criminal procedures, as appropriate and taking into account all relevant international legal instruments, in order to ensure that:

(a) The police and other law enforcement agencies have, with judicial authorization where required by national law, adequate powers to enter premises and conduct arrests in cases of violence against women, and to take immediate measures to ensure the safety of victims;

(b) The primary responsibility for initiating investigations and prosecutions lies with the police and prosecution authorities and does not rest with women subjected to violence, regardless of the level or form of violence;

(c) Women subjected to violence are enabled to testify in criminal proceedings through adequate measures that: facilitate such testimony by protecting the privacy, identity and dignity of the women; ensure safety during legal proceedings; and avoid "secondary victimization".²² In jurisdictions where the safety of the victim cannot be guaranteed, refusing to testify should not constitute a criminal or other offence;

(d) Evidentiary rules are non-discriminatory; all relevant evidence can be brought before the court; rules and principles of defence do not discriminate against women; and "honour" or "provocation" cannot be invoked by perpetrators of violence against women to escape criminal responsibility;

(e) The credibility of a complainant in a sexual violence case is understood to be the same as that of a complainant in any other criminal proceeding; the introduction of the complainant's sexual history in both civil and criminal proceedings should be prohibited where it is unrelated to the case; and no adverse inference should be drawn solely from a delay of any length between the alleged commission of a sexual offence and the reporting thereof;

²² "Secondary victimization" is victimization that occurs not as a direct result of a criminal act but through the inadequate response of institutions and individuals to the victim.

(f) People who perpetrate acts of violence against women while voluntarily under the influence of alcohol, drugs or other substances are not exempted from criminal responsibility;

(g) Evidence of prior acts of violence, abuse, stalking and exploitation by the perpetrator is considered during court proceedings, in accordance with the principles of national criminal law;

(h) Police and courts have the authority to issue and enforce protection and restraining or barring orders in cases of violence against women, including removal of the perpetrator from the domicile, prohibiting further contact with the victim and other affected parties, inside and outside the domicile, to issue and enforce child support and custody orders and to impose penalties for breaches of those orders. If such powers cannot be granted to the police, measures must be taken to ensure timely access to court decisions in order to ensure swift action by the court. Such protective measures should not be dependent on initiating a criminal case;

(i) Comprehensive services and protection measures are taken when necessary to ensure the safety, privacy and dignity of victims and their families at all stages of the criminal justice process, without prejudice to the victim's ability or willingness to participate in an investigation or prosecution, and to protect them from intimidation and retaliation, including by establishing comprehensive witness and victim protection programmes;

(j) Safety risks, including the vulnerability of victims, are taken into account in decisions concerning non-custodial or quasi-custodial sentences, the granting of bail, conditional release, parole or probation, especially when dealing with repeat and dangerous offenders;

(k) Claims of self-defence by women who have been victims of violence, particularly in cases of battered woman syndrome,²³ are taken into account in investigations, prosecutions and sentences against them;

(l) All procedures and complaint mechanisms are accessible to women who are victims of violence without fear of reprisal or discrimination.

IV. Police, prosecutors and other criminal justice officials

16. Member States are urged, within the framework of their national legal systems, as appropriate and taking into account all relevant international legal instruments:

(a) To ensure that the applicable provisions of laws, policies, procedures, programmes and practices related to violence against women are consistently and effectively implemented by the criminal justice system and supported by relevant regulations as appropriate;

(b) To develop mechanisms to ensure a comprehensive, multidisciplinary, coordinated, systematic and sustained response to violence against women in order

²³ Battered woman syndrome is suffered by women who, because of repeated violent acts by an intimate partner, may suffer depression and are unable to take any independent action that would allow them to escape the abuse, including by refusing to press charges or accepting offers of support.

to increase the likelihood of a successful apprehension, prosecution and conviction of the offender, contribute to the well-being and safety of the victim and prevent secondary victimization;

(c) To promote the use of specialized expertise in the police, among prosecution authorities and in other criminal justice agencies, including through the establishment, where possible, of specialized units or personnel and specialized courts or dedicated court time, and to ensure that all police officers, prosecutors and other criminal justice officials receive regular and institutionalized training to sensitize them to gender and child-related issues and to build their capacity with regard to violence against women;

(d) To promote the development and implementation of appropriate policies among different criminal justice agencies to ensure coordinated, consistent and effective responses to violence perpetrated against women by personnel within such agencies and to ensure that attitudes of criminal justice officials that foster, justify or tolerate violence against women are held up to public scrutiny and sanction;

(e) To develop and implement policies and appropriate responses regarding the investigation and collection of evidence that take into account the unique needs and perspectives of victims of violence, respect their dignity and integrity and minimize intrusion into their lives while abiding by standards for the collection of evidence;

(f) To ensure that criminal justice officials and victims' advocates conduct risk assessments that indicate the level or extent of harm victims may be subjected to based on the vulnerability of victims, the threats to which they are exposed, the presence of weapons and other determining factors;

(g) To ensure that laws, policies, procedures and practices pertaining to decisions on the arrest, detention and terms of any form of release of the perpetrator take into account the need for the safety of the victim and others related through family, socially or otherwise and that such procedures also prevent further acts of violence;

(h) To establish a registration system for judicial protection, restraining or barring orders, where such orders are permitted by national law, so that police or criminal justice officials can quickly determine whether such an order is in force;

(i) To empower and equip police, prosecutors and other criminal justice officials to respond promptly to incidents of violence against women, including by drawing on a rapid court order where appropriate and by taking measures to ensure the fast and efficient management of cases;

(j) To ensure that the exercise of powers by police, prosecutors and other criminal justice officials is undertaken according to the rule of law and codes of conduct and that such officials are held accountable for any infringement thereof through appropriate oversight and accountability mechanisms;

(k) To ensure gender equitable representation in the police force and other agencies of the justice system, particularly at the decision-making and managerial level;

(l) To provide victims of violence, where possible, with the right to speak to a female officer, whether it be the police or any other criminal justice official;

(m) To develop new or improve existing model procedures and resource material, and then disseminate such procedures and material, to help criminal justice officials to identify, prevent and deal with violence against women, including by assisting and supporting women subjected to violence in a manner that is sensitive and responsive to their needs;

(n) To provide adequate psychological support to police, prosecutors and other criminal justice officials to prevent their vicarious victimization.

V. Sentencing and corrections

17. Recognizing the serious nature of violence against women and the need for crime prevention and criminal justice responses that are commensurate with that severity, Member States are urged, as appropriate:

(a) To review, evaluate and update sentencing policies and procedures in order to ensure that they:

(i) Hold offenders accountable for their acts related to violence against women;

(ii) Denounce and deter violence against women;

(iii) Stop violent behaviour;

(iv) Promote victim and community safety, including by separating the offender from the victim and, if necessary, from society;

(v) Take into account the impact on victims and their family members of sentences imposed on perpetrators;

(vi) Provide sanctions that ensure that the perpetrators of violence against women are sentenced in a manner commensurate with the severity of the offence;

(vii) Provide reparations for harm caused as a result of the violence;

(viii) Promote the rehabilitation of the perpetrator, including by promoting a sense of responsibility in offenders and, where appropriate, reintegrating perpetrators into the community;

(b) To ensure that their national laws take into account specific circumstances as aggravating factors for sentencing purposes including, for example, repeated violent acts, abuse of a position of trust or authority, perpetration of violence against a spouse or a person in a close relationship with the perpetrator and perpetration of violence against a person under 18 years of age;

(c) To ensure the right of a victim of violence to be notified of the offender's release from detention or imprisonment;

(d) To take into account, in the sentencing process, of the severity of the physical and psychological harm and the impact of victimization, including through victim impact statements;

(e) To make available to the courts, through legislation, a full range of sentencing dispositions to protect the victim, other affected persons and society from further violence, and to rehabilitate the perpetrator, as appropriate;

(f) To develop and evaluate treatment and reintegration/rehabilitation programmes for perpetrators of different types of violence against women that prioritize the safety of the victims;

(g) To ensure that judicial and correctional authorities, as appropriate, monitor perpetrators' compliance with any treatment ordered;

(h) To ensure that there are appropriate measures in place to eliminate violence against women who are detained for any reason;

(i) To provide adequate protection to victims and witnesses of acts of violence before, during and after criminal proceedings.

VI. Victim support and assistance

18. Member States are urged, as appropriate and taking into account all relevant international legal instruments, in particular the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power:²⁴

(a) To make available to women who have been subjected to violence relevant information on rights, remedies and victim support services and on how to obtain them, in addition to information about their role and opportunities for participating in criminal proceedings and the scheduling, progress and ultimate disposition of the proceedings, as well as any orders against the offender;

(b) To encourage and assist women subjected to violence in lodging and following through on formal complaints by providing protection to the victims and by advising them that the responsibility for pursuing charges and prosecuting offenders rests with the police and the prosecution service;

(c) To take appropriate measures to prevent hardship during the detection, investigation and prosecution process in order to ensure that victims are treated with dignity and respect, whether they participate in the criminal proceedings or not;

(d) To ensure that women subjected to violence have access to prompt and fair redress for the harm that they have suffered as a result of violence, including the right to seek restitution from the offender or compensation from the State;

(e) To provide court mechanisms and procedures that are accessible and sensitive to the needs of women subjected to violence and that ensure the fair and timely processing of cases;

(f) To provide efficient and easily accessible procedures for issuing restraining or barring orders to protect women and other victims of violence and for ensuring that victims are not held accountable for breaches of such orders;

²⁴ General Assembly resolution 40/34, annex.

(g) To recognize that children who have witnessed violence against their parent or someone else who is in a close relationship with them are victims of violence and need protection, care and support;

(h) To ensure that women subjected to violence have full access to the civil and criminal justice systems, including access to free legal aid, where appropriate, court support and interpretation services;

(i) To ensure that women subjected to violence have access to qualified personnel who can provide victim advocacy and support services throughout the entire criminal justice process, as well as access to any other independent support persons;

(j) To ensure that all services and legal remedies available to victims of violence against women are also available to immigrant women, trafficked women, refugee women, stateless women and all other women in need of such assistance and that specialized services for such women are established, where appropriate;

(k) To refrain from penalizing victims who have been trafficked for having entered the country illegally or for having been involved in unlawful activities that they were forced or compelled to carry out.

VII. Health and social services

19. Member States, in cooperation with the private sector, relevant non-governmental organizations and professional associations are urged, as appropriate:

(a) To establish, fund and coordinate a sustainable network of accessible facilities and services for emergency and temporary residential accommodation, health services, including counselling and psychological care, legal assistance and other basic needs for women and their children who are victims of violence or who are at risk of becoming victims of violence;

(b) To establish, fund and coordinate services such as toll-free information lines, professional multidisciplinary counselling and crisis intervention services and support groups in order to benefit women who are victims of violence and their children;

(c) To establish better linkages between health and social services, both public and private, particularly in emergency situations, and criminal justice agencies for the purposes of reporting, recording and responding appropriately to acts of violence against women, while protecting the privacy of women subjected to violence;

(d) To design and sponsor sustainable programmes to prevent and treat alcohol and other substance abuse, given the frequent presence of substance abuse in incidents of violence against women;

(e) To ensure that violent acts and sexual crimes against children are reported to the police and other law enforcement agencies when suspected by the health and social services;

(f) To promote collaboration and coordination among relevant agencies and services, including through the establishment, where possible, of specialized units

specially trained to deal with the complexities and victim sensitivities involved in cases of violence against women and where victims can receive comprehensive assistance, protection and intervention services, including health and social services, legal advice and police assistance;

(g) To ensure that adequate medical, legal and social services sensitive to the needs of victims are in place to enhance the criminal justice management of cases involving violence against women and to encourage the development of specialized health services, including comprehensive, free and confidential forensic examinations by trained health providers and appropriate treatment, including HIV specific treatment.

VIII. Training

20. Member States, in cooperation with relevant non-governmental organizations and professional associations, are urged, as appropriate:

(a) To provide for or to encourage mandatory cross-cultural, gender and child-sensitivity training modules for police, criminal justice officials and professionals involved in the criminal justice system on the unacceptability of all forms of violence against women and on their harmful impact and consequences on all those who experience such violence;

(b) To make sure that police, criminal justice officials and other professionals involved in the criminal justice system receive adequate training and continued education on all relevant domestic laws, policies and programmes, as well as international legal instruments;

(c) To ensure that police, criminal justice officials and other relevant authorities are adequately well trained to be able to identify and respond appropriately to the specific needs of women victims of violence, including victims of trafficking in persons; to receive and treat all victims respectfully with a view to avoiding secondary victimization; to handle complaints confidentially; to conduct safety assessments and risk management; and to use and enforce protection orders;

(d) To encourage relevant professional associations to develop enforceable standards of practice and behaviour and codes of conduct that promote justice and gender equality.

IX. Research and evaluation

21. Member States, the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, relevant entities of the United Nations system, other relevant international organizations, research institutes, non-governmental organizations and professional associations, are urged, as appropriate:

(a) To set up and strengthen mechanisms for systematic and coordinated data collection on violence against women;

(b) To develop both modules and dedicated population-based surveys, including crime surveys, for assessing the nature and extent of violence against women;

(c) To collect, analyse and publish data and information, including data and information disaggregated by gender, for use in carrying out needs assessments, taking decisions and developing policy in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, in particular concerning:

- (i) The different forms of violence against women; the causes, risk factors and levels of severity of such violence; and the consequences and impacts of such violence, including on different population sub-groups;
- (ii) The extent to which economic deprivation and exploitation are linked to violence against women;
- (iii) The patterns, trends and indicators of violence against women, women's feelings of insecurity in the public and private spheres and factors that can reduce such feelings of insecurity;
- (iv) The relationship between the victim and the offender;
- (v) The effect of various types of intervention on the individual offender and on the reduction and elimination of violence against women as a whole;
- (vi) The use of weapons and of drugs, alcohol and other substances in cases of violence against women;
- (vii) The relationship between victimization or exposure to violence and subsequent violent activity;
- (viii) The relationship between the violence experienced by women and women's vulnerability to other types of abuse;
- (ix) The consequences of violence on those who witness it, particularly within the family;

(d) To monitor, and publish annual reports, on the number of cases of violence against women reported to the police as well as other criminal justice agencies, including arrest and clearance rates, prosecution and case disposition of the offenders and the prevalence of violence against women; in doing so, use should be made of data derived from population-based surveys. Such reports should disaggregate data by type of violence and include, for example, information on the sex of the perpetrator and his or her relationship to the victim;

(e) To evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice system in meeting the needs of women subjected to violence, including with regard to the way in which the criminal justice system treats victims and witnesses of acts of violence, the use it makes of different intervention models and the degree to which it cooperates with providers of services to victims and witnesses, as well as to evaluate and assess the impact of current legislation, rules and procedures relating to violence against women;

(f) To evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of offender treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration programmes, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including victims and victim service providers;

(g) To be guided by existing ongoing efforts at the international level to develop a set of indicators to measure violence against women and to ensure a

multisectoral, coordinated approach to the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of data collection initiatives;

(h) To ensure that data on violence against women is collected in a way that respects the confidentiality and human rights of women and in a way that does not jeopardize the safety of women;

(i) To encourage and provide sufficient financial support for research to be carried out on violence against women.

X. Crime prevention measures

22. Member States and the private sector, relevant non-governmental organizations and professional associations are urged, as appropriate:

(a) To develop and implement relevant and effective public awareness and public education initiatives, as well as school programmes and curricula, that prevent violence against women by promoting respect for human rights, equality, cooperation, mutual respect and shared responsibilities between women and men;

(b) To develop codes of conduct for personnel in public and private entities that prohibit violence against women, including sexual harassment, and include safe complaint and referral procedures;

(c) To develop multidisciplinary and gender-sensitive approaches within public and private entities that seek to prevent violence against women, especially through partnerships between law enforcement officials and services specialized in the protection of women victims of violence;

(d) To develop programmes to assess perceptions of public safety and to develop safety planning, environmental design and management of public space in order to reduce the risk of violence against women;

(e) To set up outreach programmes and provide relevant information to women about gender roles, women's human rights and the social, health, legal and economic aspects of violence against women in order to empower women to protect themselves and their children against all forms of violence;

(f) To set up outreach programmes for offenders or persons identified as potential offenders in order to promote non-violent behaviour and attitudes, and respect for equality and the rights of women;

(g) To develop and disseminate, in a manner appropriate to the audience concerned, including in educational institutions at all levels, information and awareness-raising materials on the different forms of violence that are perpetrated against women and the availability of relevant programmes that include information on the relevant provisions of criminal law, the functions of the criminal justice system, the victim support mechanisms that are available and the existing programmes concerning non-violent behaviour and the peaceful resolution of conflicts;

(h) To support all initiatives, including those of non-governmental organizations and other relevant organizations seeking women's equality, to raise

public awareness of the issue of violence against women and to contribute to the elimination of such violence;

(i) To facilitate the work at lower levels of Government, including among city and local community authorities, to promote an integrated approach that makes use of the range of local services locally by institutions and civil society in developing preventive strategies and programmes.

23. Member States and the media, media associations, media self-regulatory bodies, schools and other relevant partners, while respecting the freedom of the media, are urged, as appropriate, to develop public awareness campaigns and appropriate measures and mechanisms, such as codes of ethics and self-regulatory measures on media violence, aimed at enhancing respect for the rights and dignity of women while discouraging both discrimination and gender stereotyping.

24. Member States and the private sector, relevant non-governmental organizations and professional associations, are urged to develop and improve, where appropriate, crime prevention and criminal justice responses to the production, possession and dissemination of games, images and all other materials that depict or glorify acts of violence against women and children, and their impact on the general public's attitude towards women and children, as well as the mental and emotional development of children, particularly through new information technologies, including the Internet.

XI. International cooperation

25. Member States, in cooperation with United Nations bodies and institutes and other relevant organizations, are urged, as appropriate:

(a) To continue exchanging information concerning successful intervention models and preventive programmes in eliminating all forms of violence against women and to update the resource manual and the compendium on the Model Strategies and Practical Measures, as well as providing information for inclusion in the Secretary-General's database on violence against women;

(b) To cooperate and collaborate at the bilateral, regional and international levels with relevant entities to prevent violence against women; to provide safety, assistance and protection for the victims and witnesses of violence and their family members, as appropriate; and to promote measures to effectively bring perpetrators to justice, through strengthened mechanisms of international cooperation and mutual legal assistance;

(c) To develop provisions providing for the safe and, to the extent possible, voluntary repatriation and reintegration of women victims of violence who have been trafficked or kidnapped across borders;

(d) To contribute and provide support to the United Nations system in its efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women;

(e) To take appropriate preventive action and to ensure full accountability in cases of sexual exploitation and abuse involving troops and police in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

26. Member States are also urged:

(a) To condemn all acts of violence against women in situations of armed conflict, to recognize them as violations of international human rights, humanitarian law and international criminal law, to call for a particularly effective response to such violations, in particular when they involve murder, systematic rape, sexual slavery and forced pregnancy, and to implement Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008) on women and peace and security;

(b) To work actively towards universal ratification of or accession to all relevant treaties and to promote their full implementation, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol,²⁵ the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

(c) To formulate any reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in a manner that is as precise and as narrow as possible and to ensure that any such reservations are not incompatible with the object and purpose of that convention;

(d) To work actively towards the ratification of or accession to existing regional instruments and agreements aimed at combating violence against women, and to promote their implementation;

(e) To include in periodic reports to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women information on efforts made to implement the Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures;

(f) To cooperate with the International Criminal Court, ad hoc international criminal tribunals and other international criminal tribunals in the investigation and prosecution of the perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, particularly of those crimes involving gender-based violence, and to enable women who have been subjected to violence to give testimony and participate in all stages of the proceedings while protecting the safety, interests, identity and privacy of those women;

(g) To cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children, in performing their mandated tasks and duties by supplying all information requested and responding to the Special Rapporteurs' visits and communications.

XII. Follow-up activities

27. Member States, United Nations bodies, the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, other relevant international and regional organizations, research institutes, non-governmental

²⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2131, No. 20378.

organizations and professional organizations, including organizations seeking women's equality, are urged, as appropriate:

(a) To encourage the translation of the Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures into local languages and to ensure their wide dissemination and inclusion for use in training and education programmes;

(b) To draw, as appropriate, on the Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures in the development of legislation, procedures, policies and practices in responding to violence against women;

(c) To assist States, upon request, in developing strategies and programmes to prevent violence against women and in reviewing and evaluating their criminal justice systems, including their criminal legislation, on the basis of the Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures;

(d) To support the technical cooperation activities of the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network aimed at eliminating all forms of violence against women;

(e) To develop coordinated national, regional and subregional plans and programmes to implement the Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures;

(f) To design standard training programmes and manuals for police and criminal justice officials based on the Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures;

(g) To periodically monitor and review progress made at the national and international levels in terms of plans, programmes and initiatives to eliminate all forms of violence against women;

(h) To periodically review and update, if necessary, the Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures.

Annex II

List of participants

Member States

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Eduardo Vetere	International Association of Anti-corruption Authorities
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