

**Dialogue on “The Commission on the Status of Women as a
Catalyst for Gender Mainstreaming”**
(19 March 2015)

**H.E. Ambassador Bente Angell-Hansen (Norway),
First Vice- Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**

- President of the ECOSOC, Excellencies, dear colleagues, It is a pleasure to participate in this meeting and to have this dialogue with you and colleagues from the other subsidiary bodies. The president of the CCPCJ, Ambassador de Alba, sends his best regards to you all. He is presently facilitating the work on the Doha declaration from the upcoming Crime Congress.
- We very much welcome the invitation by the Commission on the Status of Women to engage in this dialogue. This initiative is in line with the ECOSOC’s efforts to align the work of its functional commissions with that of the Council system.
- We greatly appreciate the efforts by the Commission on the Status of Women to assess the status of gender mainstreaming in the work of the functional commissions.
- As you all know, the CCPCJ acts as the principal policymaking body of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice and acts as the governing body of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. In the work of the Crime Commission, the specific needs of women, as well as equal opportunities and rights have been the subject of many of the deliberations and resolutions. This is a continuous debate and effort.
- For example, in 2013, the Crime Commission recommended for adoption by the General Assembly a resolution taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls.
- At the same session, the Commission also recommended a resolution on the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the UN development agenda beyond 2015. This resolution recognized the importance of ensuring that women, based on equality of men and women fully enjoyed the benefits of the rule of law. The Commission also committed itself to using law to uphold their equal rights and ensure their full and equal participation. Furthermore, it stressed that institutions of governance

and the judicial system should be gender-sensitive and that the full participation of women needs to be promoted.



In recent years, the Commission also recommended for adoption and/or adopted several resolutions seeking to address the needs of women. This includes the “Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”, “United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules)” and “Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women (2010). This is in addition to several resolutions on trafficking in persons, which have dealt specifically with women (and children).

➤ In 2014, the Commission recommended to the General Assembly for adoption a resolution on the “Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners” (A/RES/69/192), whereby it, inter alia, encouraged Member States to promote the implementation of the so-called Bangkok rules, as well as the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty. Last year, in another resolution to the GA, the Commission also recommended for adoption the “Rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015” (A/RES/69/195). The Assembly stressed the need for government institutions, the judicial system and the legislative system to be gender sensitive and for the continued promotion of the full participation of women in such institutions.

➤ Furthermore, the Commission has recommended to ECOSOC the adoption of a resolution on the smuggling of migrants (2014/23). In this resolution the Council expresses its deepest concern about the increase in the activities of transnational and national organized criminal entities and others that profit from the smuggling of migrants, especially women and children, and related offences, and noted the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in protecting the rights of smuggled migrants and the need to avoid approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability of, inter alia, women.

➤ Also, at the upcoming 13th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Doha, the topic of one of the workshops will be the “*Role of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice in support of effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems: experiences and lessons learned in meeting the unique needs of women and children, in particular the treatment and social reintegration of offenders.*”

➤ In its resolution 68/191 on Taking action against gender related killings of women and girls, the General Assembly encourages the CCPCJ and other UN entities and agencies to support Member States in developing and implementing strategies and policies, upon request, at the national, regional and international levels, to address and prevent gender-related killing of women and girls. It also encourages, inter alia, the UNODC to raise awareness among Member States regarding gender-related killing of women and girls. The UNODC is now preparing a report on this important matter. The report will be submitted to the 70th UNGA on the implementation of this resolution. Chair, based on reports and resolutions the UNODC evaluates and develops norms and standards, also in the health area, addressing challenges stemming from HIV/AIDS, TB and other life threatening illnesses.

➤ The documentation from UNODC shows that there is ample room for further efforts by the CCPCJ and other relevant bodies of the UN family. According to the UNODC’s global report on Trafficking in persons, 70% of victims are women and girls. We know that there are serious gaps when it comes to catering for the special needs of women and children, not least in the area of health, in the prison systems. Also, there is the strong need to focus on livelihoods and training of female prisoners in order to pave the way for reintegration in society and a sustainable life in dignity. As Member States we expect the UN to deliver as one. However, this also goes for Member States. Governments need to “deliver as one” in order to respond to complex challenges in a holistic manner.

➤ As this video conference bears testimony to, we need to work together and by doing so mutually strengthen the status of women. We need to work more on advocacy and the changing of mind-sets; we need to continue to enhance the status of women in the context of crime prevention and criminal justice. We still have a long way to go.

➤ I can assure you, that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice will endeavour to continue mainstreaming gender issues in its work. We would like to see a continuation of such dialogue meetings as this one.

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Chair, I thank you all.