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

Statement submitted by the International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates (IAYFJM), a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/CN.15/2010/1.

Eighteenth Congress of the International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates

Tunis Declaration

The participants at the Eighteenth Congress of the International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates (IAYFJM), organized from 21 to 24 April 2010 in Tunis in partnership with the Tunisian Association for the Rights of the Child (ATUDE), with the general topic “United in Diversity: Juvenile Justice and Child Protection in the Principal Legal Systems”,

Taking as their starting point the totality of the principles that guide the work of IAYFJM and ATUDE,

Recommend the following:

I. Ratification, adaptation of legislation, lifting of reservations

(a) Promotion of the universal ratification by all States of the relevant international and regional instruments and, in particular, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two Optional Protocols, that on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and that on the involvement of children in armed conflict, and the adoption of a legislative framework in conformity with these instruments.

(b) Promoting inter-State cooperation with regard to private international relations, including cooperation among judicial institutions, through the conclusion of bilateral or multilateral agreements or accession to existing agreements, and, in particular, encouraging the ratification and implementation of the relevant Hague international conventions.

(c) Encouraging States to adopt systematic preventive legislation to protect children against all forms of violence, exploitation and discrimination.

(d) Supporting the proposal for IAYFJM to establish a database containing examples of good practices — such as the adoption by some countries of special codes or legislation for the protection of children — and a list of selected experts able to provide appropriate technical assistance.

(e) Encouraging States to reconsider their reservations and declarations contrary to the spirit and objectives of the Convention and its two Optional Protocols, with a view to their withdrawal.

II. Coordination of prevention systems, protection mechanisms and data collection

(a) Encouraging States to establish a multisectoral and inter-institutional system for coordinating long-term preventive action and measures for the protection of boys and girls against difficult situations of all kinds.

(b) Encouraging States to develop an integrated approach to the collection of data and the following up of cases of children in difficult situations, inter alia through the periodic enrichment of the relevant database.

III. Mechanisms for investigation, receipt of complaints and sanctions

(a) Encouraging States to introduce effective mechanisms for the receipt of complaints, for follow-up and for investigation — and consolidate or strengthen the mechanisms already existing in some countries — in the form of an independent human rights body to monitor and evaluate the application of the Convention at national and local levels, including its application by the private sector and by non-governmental organizations as providers of services for children;

Ensuring, at the same time, that this institution is empowered to receive individual complaints concerning violations of the rights of children, investigate them, with full respect for children's sensitivities, and deal with them in an effective manner;

Encouraging States, in addition, to establish an independent national institution specializing in the rights of children.

IV. Police enquiries/justice systems/protection of child victims and witnesses

(a) Setting up, including through multilateral agreements between countries, a system for technical and financial assistance and the exchange of information and good practices, particularly with regard to police enquiries within the context of combating organized crime.

(b) Encouraging States, at the same time, to adapt the justice system to the needs of children, notably by establishing special measures and appropriate mechanisms and programmes to ensure the protection of child victims or witnesses of crime and their social reintegration, in application of the Guidelines on Justice in Matters Involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime (Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/20 of 22 July 2005).

V. Favourable environment/strengthening of capacities/training and dissemination of the Convention

(a) Guaranteeing a protective and secure environment for children within families, communities, schools and institutions, with the encouragement, in particular, of positive and non-violent education methods.

(b) Organizing specialized, multidisciplinary training for judicial personnel, police forces and all professionals working with and for children, particularly through the strengthening of partnerships among professionals and the networks and agencies representing them.

(c) Encouraging IAYFJM to develop its activities in the area of the provision of appropriate technical assistance in all fields relating to capacity-building and the training of judicial personnel and other professional groups working with and for children.

VI. Private enterprises/media/information and communication technologies/personal data

(a) Making the private sector (the Internet, telecommunications, the tourist industry, etc.) and the media aware of their responsibilities in regard to the combating of violence against children, trafficking in children and the exploitation of children.

- (b) Preventing the use of the Internet and other technologies for the recruitment of children for purposes of sexual abuse online or offline or for purposes of commercial or other exploitation of personal data.
- (c) Detection and dismantling of financial mechanisms permitting the conclusion of transactions whose aim is trafficking in children and the exploitation of children.
- (d) Developing public-private partnerships in support of the development of education and awareness campaigns.
- (e) Encouraging IAYFJM to contribute its field experience in all the areas mentioned above and promote the exchange of good practices among justice professionals and other professional groups working with and for children.

VII. Follow-up to the Tunis Congress

The International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates will encourage all activities directed towards following up the Tunis Congress, and will in particular facilitate:

- The establishment of a network bringing together resource persons and organizations that have participated in the activities of the Tunis Congress and other activities of IAYFJM concerned with children's rights;
- The promotion of exchanges of information, documentation, databanks and training and research activities related to children's rights.

Done in Tunis on 24 April 2010