

**DECLARATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CORRECTIONS AND PRISONS
ASSOCIATION (ICPA) ON PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS (DPKO)**

Bridgetown, Barbados, 25-30 October

PREAMBLE

We, the International Corrections and Prisons Association, at our Annual AGM and Conference in Bridgetown, Barbados from 25 to 30 October 2009, in recognition of the fact that the United Nations Secretary-General has designated the Department of Peacekeeping Operations as the global lead on corrections matters within the United Nations and

mindful of the United Nations Charter, Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the principal aim of the United Nations in the maintenance of peace and security;

guided by the international norms and standards in the management of correctional and prison systems, including the United Nations standard minimum rules for the treatment of offenders, and other international and human rights instruments;

recognizing that prison issues have, since 2003, been part of United Nations peacekeeping operations with the aim of assisting and advising post-conflict countries to re-establish and strengthen their prison systems destroyed during war; and;

noting that international corrections work in post-conflict environments contributes and serves as a bridge from security and stability operations to the establishment of rule of law and development, and further emphasizes the importance of early host state lead and ownership of reform process to ensure lasting peace and security;

commending countries that have been contributing corrections officers to peacekeeping operations but noting that in addition to sufficient quantities of staff for peacekeeping, there is an urgent need for capable prison officers with the necessary specialized skill sets and expertise required to effectively carry out prisons tasks in the context of a UN peacekeeping operation in a conflict environment and further noting the on-going efforts to develop international prisons' doctrine to provide a framework for selection, training and deployment standards and recognizing the significant contributions to date, highlight the continuing need for increased participation of female officers and officers with diverse language skills in UN peacekeeping operations.

acknowledging that conditions in prisons in a number of countries especially in post-conflict and developing countries are in crisis and need urgent attention and support from the international community to improve;

convinced that peace and justice are interlinked and complementary and that, if properly pursued, can promote and mutually reinforce each other, serving as instruments to ensure accountability, respect for human rights and rights of persons in detention, while treating persons in detention with humanity;

affirming that increase in numbers of prison officers deployed to peacekeeping needs a radically improved partnership with other stakeholders at every level to improve effectiveness and prepare national authorities to lead the prison reform process;

recognizing that the development of humane prison systems and improving upon prison conditions - especially in post-conflict countries - cannot be done by any one entity alone and that a concerted effort by the international community, international agencies, partners and stakeholders is needed in order to achieve better prisons that serve the interest of the society and looked at holistically from the rule of law perspective;

emphasizing that most prisons in developing countries and post-conflict countries are in dire need of appropriate reforms and support especially in the training of prison staff, infrastructural improvement, provision of health care, improvement in sanitation, improvement in managerial capacity and effecting a change in operational culture and the way prison business is done;

reaffirming the primary responsibility of every State to maintain and manage its prison systems in accordance with international standards and establish prison conditions that are conducive for the reformation, rehabilitation and re-integration of prisoners back into society after they have served their sentences;

noting that the protection of society from criminal activity depends on the successful re-entry of detainees into society as law abiding citizens, and ensuring that dangerous offenders are kept in secure facilities;

encouraging governments and donors to invest more in prison systems and address the many challenges facing prisons especially in post-conflict and developing countries;

stressing that the application of non-custodial measures in dealing with offenders, and using prisons as a last resort will minimize overcrowding in the prisons and address some of the numerous problems of prison systems; and

recognizing the close alignment between the goals and values of DPKO-OROLSI and ICPA, and seeking close and continuing collaboration, which will facilitate collaborative working wherever possible in the area of exchanging information and the sharing of criminal justice and corrections research and best practices throughout the international correctional community

pledge to work together with the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping (UNDPKO) in a concerted manner to address the many challenges facing prison systems, particularly in developing and post-conflict environments and hereby declare to:

1. work together with DPKO to raise the profile and awareness of the important role played by prison systems in security, peace and development of developing and post-conflict countries, and the need for donors to invest in improving prison conditions and capacity as part of the overall human rights campaign.
2. promote cooperation to ensure accountability, including technical and financial assistance for training, prison reform and strategic planning in order to build prison systems that are humane, accountable, efficient, professional and use international standards in their operations.
3. work with DPKO to develop guidance materials for peacekeeping missions to use in the re-establishment and strengthening of prisons systems in post-conflict countries and

developing countries and to develop an internationally-accepted body of doctrines to underpin initiatives in the area of prison reform and development.

4. promote a programme to identify qualified prison professionals to work in peacekeeping operations as prison staff, enhance the range skills and capacities among corrections personnel in the rule of law sector including female and francophone prisons officers and train them properly before and after deployment, make available consultants to work on *pro bono* basis to advance professional corrections in developing and post-conflict countries.
5. work jointly on strategies to support efforts to ensure the integrity of prison systems and their personnel relating to applicable human rights norms and standards, as well as professional conduct, including, *inter alia*, institutional reform, training, assisting to enact or strengthening legislation, codes of conduct, disciplinary measures and the elimination of corrupt practices in the prison systems;
6. together with other stakeholder and partner agencies, seek funding to initiate a programme of practical projects to address the key areas of overcrowding, decongestion, alternatives to imprisonment, human rights training in prison management, staff selections and training, rehabilitation interventions and leadership training.
7. agree to pursue the development of an affiliation agreement, which will promote our desire to seek out, collaborate and share best practices throughout the international corrections community.

We acknowledge our respective roles and the expertise within our organizations, and agree to exploit this potential for the advancement of corrections for the general good of society.

Declared on 26 October 2009 at Bridgetown, Barbados

For International Corrections and Prisons Association

For DPKO/OROLSI

Tony Cameron CB
President

Dmitry Titov
Assistant Secretary-General
for Rule of Law and Security Institutions