

Individual Statement  
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Workshop on the follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice organized by United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network of Institutes

2: Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

(A): Successes and challenges in implementing comprehensive crime prevention and criminal justice policies and strategies to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and to support sustainable development

Thank you, Mr. Moderator,

On behalf of UNAFEI, I would like to introduce our recent activities for the promotion of the rule of law, which is one of the most important elements of the Doha Declaration.

We are a United Nations regional institute, established in 1962 by agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Japan, with the aim of promoting the sound development of criminal justice systems and mutual cooperation, by providing training courses and seminars for criminal justice personnel.

The Doha Declaration stresses the need to implement UN standards and norms. In this regard, UNAFEI has been focusing on the implementation of the Bangkok Rules and helped coordinate Workshop 1 at the 13th Congress, along with the Raul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI), other PNIs and the Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ).

The Bangkok Rules address many important aspects of the treatment and reintegration of women offenders, such as the elimination of violence against women, developing gender-specific health care, rehabilitation and reintegration programmes and so on. Considering all of these aspects, we helped coordinate the Workshop in order to share good practices on the implementation of the Bangkok Rules.

However, as a training institute for criminal justice personnel, we would like to re-emphasize the importance of capacity building for criminal justice personnel, including female officers. The need for such training is addressed by both the Doha Declaration and the Bangkok Rules. Thus, we think that establishing sound organizations through capacity-building is one of the keys to promoting the rule of law.

For example, even if laws or polices adopt the Bangkok Rules verbatim (word for word), and even if human rights groups are able to advocate outside of prisons for prevention of violence against woman inmates, there is no guarantee of change inside prison. In order to root out violence against women in prisons, it is crucial that the actual officers who work directly with female inmates change their mindsets and understand and respect the law and the UN standards and norms. Also it is crucial to develop senior female officers in order to provide appropriate gender specific treatment to women.

Therefore, as a training institute for criminal justice personnel, UNAFEI will not only cooperate with law and policy makers, human rights groups, and other NGO groups but also continue to organize the training courses and seminars for criminal justice personnel in order to achieve universal acceptance of the rule of law, as UNAFEI has done for the past 50 years. We believe that our network which consists of more than 5,000 UNAFEI alumni is a resource to promote the rule of law throughout the world.

In this regard, we are planning to organize various seminars both at UNAFEI and in the Asian region in cooperation with the UNODC and other organizations, with the aim of further implementation of the UN standards and norms such as the Tokyo Rules, the Beijing Rules and the updated version of the SMR.

In closing, let me reassure you of UNAFEI's continued support for the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme.

Thank you very much for your attention.