
Group Workshop Reports

Group A

Presentation title: Diversion and Rehabilitation of Vulnerable Populations

Chairperson	Ms. Noor Haslinda Binti CHE SEMAN	(Malaysia)
Co-Chairperson	Ms. Artitaya RAWEEPRAAYURABUT	(Thailand)
Rapporteur	Ms. Gina Maria LAMARCHE LEONARDO	(Dominican Republic)
Members	Mr. Hugo Antonio GONZALEZ GODINEZ	(Guatemala)
	Ms. Vilaysinh DAINHANSA	(Lao PDR)
Advisers	Prof. OTSUKA Takeaki	(UNAFEI)
	Prof. WATANABE Machiko	(UNAFEI)

Summary

Group A presented on 1) implementation of alternative sentencing for offenders and 2) rehabilitation for vulnerable populations.

Regarding the implementation of alternative sentencing for offenders, legislative reforms are necessary to introduce and widen the scope of alternatives to imprisonment. Likewise, organizational design and management processes must be established to implement non-custodial measures. Furthermore, efforts should be made to develop training curricula for judges, magistrates, prosecutors, police, probation staff and others involved in the administration of alternative sanctions and measures. Implementation requires supervision of and support for offenders to ensure that they observe all the conditions of the alternative sentence and are rehabilitated in the community.

Regarding rehabilitation for vulnerable populations, special attention should be paid to certain kinds of offenders, such as young offenders, disabled offenders, female offenders, etc. Bearing in mind the specific needs of these offenders, adequate assessment should be conducted to help identify the unique treatment needs of each offender. In the programme, providing vocational training for career skills that are required by the labour market is significant. In addition, providing programmes involving sports, art and music could be beneficial. The infrastructure for these programmes must be provided in cooperation with government and non-governmental organizations.

To make progress on the above-mentioned efforts, implementation of awareness-raising campaigns for the general public is necessary to overcome negative perceptions towards released offenders.