

## Group C

### **Presentation title: Multi-stakeholder Approaches for Effective Supervision and Support of Offenders**

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Chairperson	Ms. Nayomi Thamara WICKRAMASEKERA	(Sri Lanka)
Rapporteur	Ms. Fathimath Naheeda THOHIR	(Maldives)
Co-Rapporteur	Mr. Fidelis Obi AJUKURA	(Nigeria)
Member	Mr. Hemal Prashantha DEMATAHERA GAMAGE	(Sri Lanka)
Advisers	Prof. OTSUKA Takeaki	(UNAFEI)
	Prof. HOSOKAWA Hidehito	(UNAFEI)

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#### Summary

Group C presented on 1) overcrowding of prisons, 2) rehabilitation of offenders and 3) stigmatization.

Overcrowding prevents prisons from providing rehabilitative environments for prisoners and is, among other reasons, caused by delays in the investigatory and judicial processes and by the failure to make adequate use of non-custodial measures. It is necessary to review and evaluate sentencing laws and sentencing practices and to assess the impact and cost of available options. To make use of non-custodial measures, it is necessary to empower a specialized organization to supervise and monitor offenders with the help of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders.

Regarding rehabilitation of offenders, international standards and norms relating to treatment of offenders should be observed. Instead of simply committing people to prison, mechanisms to facilitate rehabilitation of offenders should be developed and sufficiently resourced by the government. Rehabilitation programmes for prisoners should provide structured education and vocational training programmes that fulfil the needs of the labour market. For effective supervision and support of offenders, a multi-stakeholder approach should be adopted. This approach should consider the use of community volunteers to observe and guide released offenders, such as the volunteer probation officer system in Japan.

Regarding stigmatization, the label of ex-convict prevents offenders from successful social reintegration. Criminal records are obstacles to employment, which leads to an increased risk of reoffending. Further efforts should be made to mitigate the negative impact of stigmatization.