Strategies to prevent and respond to violence against children who are in contact with the justice system

APJJC Second Meeting
“Towards child-friendly justice in the Asia-Pacific region: Alternatives to detention and restorative justice for children”
5-8 May, Phuket, Thailand
A New Benchmark for Action


- Background
- Objectives and scope
- The content of the Model Strategies
• The **UN Study on Violence against Children** (2006)

• The **Joint Report of OHCHR-UNODC-SRSG on VAC on prevention of and responses to violence against children within the juvenile justice system** (2012)
Background

• **Mandate** for development: General Assembly resolution (A/RES/68/189) of 18 December 2013

“requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to convene a meeting of an open-ended intergovernmental expert group (...) to develop a draft set of model strategies and practical measures on the elimination of violence against children in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, (...)” (Op. para. 8)
- **Development** of the “UN Model Strategies” by an Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, from 18 to 21 February 2014

- **Approval** by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice E-CN.15-2014-L.12 and co-sponsorship of the pertaining resolution by 44 Member States on 16 May 2014

- **Approval** by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations E/RES/2014/18 on 16 June 2014

- **Approval** by the 3rd Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations A/C.3/69/L.5 on 25 September 2014

- **Adoption** by the General Assembly of the United Nations: GA resolution A/RES/69/194 of 18 December 2014
A new mandate for UNODC

- **Mandate**: General Assembly Resolution A/RES/69/194
  
  “to take steps to **ensure the broad dissemination** of the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”. (Op. para. 11)

  “to **identify the needs and capacities of countries and to provide technical assistance and advisory services to Member States** in order to develop or strengthen, as appropriate, legislation, procedures, policies and practices to prevent and respond to violence against children and to ensure respect for the rights of the child in the administration of justice”. (Op. para. 12)
Technical assistance tools
• Is the **justice system** doing everything it can to **prevent** violence against children?

• Is the **justice system responding** to incidents of **violence against children** in an effective and **appropriate** manner?

• Is the **justice system dealing with children in contact with the law** in a manner which **reduces the risk** that they may be further victimised or abused?
Integrated violence prevention and child protection strategies

Creating a protective environment

Prevent and respond to VAC
Aims of the “UN Model Strategies”

• Improve the effectiveness of the criminal justice system in preventing and responding to VAC

• Protect children from VAC that may result from their contact with the criminal justice system
The Model Strategies provide for a Practical Framework

• to identify gaps in laws, policies and practices

• to review and design national laws and policies

• to set up institutions and mechanisms

• to guide professionals in their day-to-day practice
Organization of the “Model Strategies”

- **Part I:** General prevention strategies

- **Part II:** Strategies to improve the ability and capacity of the criminal justice system to respond to VAC

- **Part III:** Strategies to prevent and respond to VAC who are in contact with the justice system
Part I of the “Model Strategies”

1. **Prohibition** of all forms of violence against children and **criminalization** of serious forms of violence

2. Comprehensive prevention programmes

3. Data collection, research, analysis and dissemination
Part II of the “Model Strategies”

4. Establishing detection and reporting mechanisms

5. Effective protection to child victims of violence

6. Effective investigation and prosecution of VAC

7. Enhancing inter-sectoral cooperation
Part II of the “Model Strategies” (cont.)

8. Improving criminal proceedings involving child victims of violence

9. Ensuring that sentencing reflects the serious nature of VAC

10. Strengthening the capacity of criminal justice professionals
Part III of the “Model Strategies”

11. Reducing the number of children in contact with the justice system

12. Preventing VAC associated with law enforcement and prosecution strategies

13. Deprivation of liberty as a measure of last resort
14. Prohibition of **torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment**

15. Preventing and responding to **VAC in places of detention**

16. Enhancing **protection and assistance to child victims of VAC**

17. Strengthening **accountability and oversight mechanisms**
Thank you for your attention!

For further information:
Ms. Alexandra Martins
Justice for Children
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
P.O.Box 500 Vienna
A-1400 Austria
Tel.: +43(1) 26060-5124

E-mail: alexandra.martins@unodc.org
http://www.unodc.org