



American Model United Nations
Economic and Social Council

ECOSOC/II/3

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners

SUBMITTED TO: The Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council,

1 *Concerned with* the issue of prison overcrowding and subsequent inadequate
2 treatment of incarcerated persons,
3

4 *Noting* that in prison systems burdened with overcrowding, human rights abuses
5 are more prevalent,
6

7 *Acknowledging* the limited resources available for many countries to address these
8 issues and emphasizing the importance of cost-effective solutions,
9

10 *Expressing its concern* that existing practices exert disproportionate abuses on
11 juveniles, women and other vulnerable populations,
12

13 *Noting with further concern* the lack of alternatives to incarceration for nonviolent
14 offenders in less-developed legal systems,
15

16 *Aware* of the controversial nature of prison reform in domestic politics and
17 therefore under-addressed by national governments,
18

19 *Recognizing* state sovereignty in criminal justice and sentencing practices,
20

21 1. *Encourages* improvement of judicial systems in order to expedite trial
22 processes and reduce time and resources spent during trial waiting period:

23 (a) Identifies the right to a timely trial as a fundamental human right;

24 (b) Recognizes the importance of protecting the basic human rights of the
25 accused;

26 (c) Recommends judicial protections for the accused in order to promote fair
27 trials;

28 (d) Emphasizes the importance of anti-corruption measures in order to ensure
29 judicial objectivity;
30

31 2. *Urges* Member States to collaborate with Non-governmental Organizations
32 (NGOs) and foreign governments in order to reduce burden of prison reform on domestic
33 budgets;

RES:1567

34

35 3. *Suggests* the expansion of community service and other sentencing alternatives
36 for petty offenders:

37 (a) Emphasizes the role that community service may play in meeting development
38 objectives, especially in regard to building infrastructural capacity.

Passed, Yes: 21 / No: 2 / Abstain: 5