**FORUM:** Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

**QUESTION OF:** Implementing prison reforms to improve the treatment of inmates

**SUBMITTED BY:** France

THE COMMISSION,

*Deeply concerned* by the pervasive mental health problems in prisons, even in developed countries such as the United States, where roughly 75% of female inmates and 50% of male inmates suffer from mental illness— a higher percentage than in hospitals,

*Remembering* the 10.35 million people in prisons across the world,

*Having adopted* the Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners (A/RES/45/111), which outlines that prisoners must be allowed to access health services,

*Bearing in mind* the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (A/RES/70/175), which declares the inherent dignity of prisoners and emphasizes their human rights,

*Emphasizing* the deplorable prison conditions in developing countries, specifically the Sabaneta Prison in Venezuela, the Bang Kwang Prison in Thailand, the Tadmor Prison in Syria, Hoeryong Concentration Camp (“Camp 22”) in North Korea, and the Masanjia Forced Labor Camp in China,

1. Requests global implementation of universal health care in the individual Member States, benefiting both the general and imprisoned population, modeled after the French system by:
   1. setting a national strategy for health investments funded by statutory health insurance (SHI) by holding negotiations among provider representatives, the government, and SHI
   2. designating budgeted expenditures between various sectors, including hospitals, ambulances, mental health services, and disability services
   3. setting aside roughly 15 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for health care, financed:
      1. 50 percent through employer and employee payroll taxes
      2. 35 percent through income tax
      3. 13 percent through voluntary health insurance companies and taxes on tobacco, alcohol, and pharmaceutical companies
      4. 2 percent through state subsidies
   4. paying out-of-pocket for cost-sharing, such as coinsurance and copayments, which constitutes 8.5 percent of total health expenditures
   5. mandating individual coverage either under private health insurance (alternatively known as voluntary health insurance (VHI)), employers, or means-tested vouchers;
2. Affirms the necessity of increasing security by classifying prisoners for risk assessment in developing countries based on the severity of their crimes, a practice currently practiced with success in many parts of the globe;
3. Supports the discontinuation of cash bail for prisoners for lesser crimes because of the disproportionate impact on people below the poverty line;
4. Notes that prison infrastructure must be built in developing countries with the assistance of UN programs such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), as well as NGOs such as Health Through Walls, in order to stop overcrowding, based on specifications such as:
   1. requiring that for each prisoner, ten square feet of space must be provided
   2. straight-line designs for cells to allow maximum security
   3. therapeutic color schemes and public lobbies for access to the outside world to help reintegrate and lower recidivism rates
   4. identifying a maximum number of prisoners to be housed in one area as one thousand
   5. mandating that the UN Human Rights Council, under the binding International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), must inspect prisons with reported human rights abuses on a biannual basis;
5. Recommends that prisons utilize a farm-to-table system with vegetable gardens, providing prisoners with necessary nutrients and marketable skills in urban farming (a growing industry), which has been proven to lower recidivism rates by roughly thirty percent;
6. Calls upon the Security Council to condemn torture and caging prisoners to stop rates of radicalization;
7. Endorses the use of alternating furloughs for lesser crimes and model prisoners to allow prison space to be used efficiently and a reduction of sentences for standard misdemeanor charges to community service.