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Briefing on the revised UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules)

Thursday 4 February 2016, 3 – 5.00pm, Room XXV, Palais des Nations, Geneva
With informal reception

Following four years of negotiations, the revised Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners – to be known as the Nelson Mandela Rules – were unanimously adopted by the UN General Assembly on 17 December 2015 (Resolution A/RES/70/175).

Their adoption marks a historic event: the revision updates the key set of standards on the treatment of prisoners and detention conditions adopted 60 years ago, and consolidates human rights and criminal justice standards in one document.

At this briefing, the expert panel will provide an overview of the revision process and the significance of this set of standards, and then focus on a number of critical areas of the Rules that were updated. It will seek to initiate discussion on the implementation of the 'Nelson Mandela Rules' and to start collecting recommendations and good practice in this regard.

Should you require a grounds pass to the UN please RSVP at the latest on 29 January by emailing dcullen@quno.ch.

Please note the event is webcast via: <https://goo.gl/9gLqeA>

Moderator: Laurel Townhead, Quaker United Nations Office

Welcome

Barbara Fontana, Chief Human Rights Section of the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN in Geneva

Background and significance

Introduction

Miriam Minder, Head of the Swiss Delegation at the 4th IEGM in South Africa

Summary of the review process

Philipp Meissner, UN Office on Drugs and Crime

Significance of the Rules for the rights of the detainees

Robert Husbands, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Substance of revisions to the Rules

Disciplinary sanctions and investigations

Nigel Rodley, Chair, Essex University Human Rights Centre

Rules relating to health-care

Stefan Enggist, World Health Organization

Legal representation and inspection

Andrea Huber, Penal Reform International

Q&A, followed by final remarks

The panel will be followed by a reception.