



Promoting fair and
effective criminal justice

Oral Statement: Sustainable Development Goals and criminal justice reform

UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Agenda Item 7: World crime trends and emerging issues and responses in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice

Vienna, 25 May 2017

Dear Chairperson, Distinguished delegates,

Noting with interest the UNODC report on 'World crime trends and emerging issues and responses in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice', Penal Reform International would like to draw your attention to our organisation's new report, *Global Prison Trends 2017*, published in collaboration with the Thailand Institute of Justice.

Global Prison Trends 2017 identifies topical developments and challenges in criminal justice and prison policy and practice over the past 12 months, and highlights some significant reports and jurisprudence.

A Special Focus section is dedicated to the links between the Sustainable Development Goals and criminal justice. It summarises why criminal justice and prison reform must play a part in achieving the goals set out in the 2030 Agenda.

We note that limited consideration has been paid and little data collected so far on the impact of criminal justice policies on development. In this regard, PRI welcomes efforts by UNODC and Member States to revise the collection of data on crime trends and operations of criminal justice systems to support new data requirements for SDGs monitoring.

Beyond Goal 16, which recognises peaceful and inclusive societies and access to justice as essential to sustainable development, our report highlights specific issues addressed in the targets and indicators of other Goals.

For example, Goals 2, 3 and 6 on hunger, health and water and sanitation are all related to basic needs of prisoners that are not met in many prison systems around the world. Goals 1, 4 and 8 on poverty, education and economic growth and work are closely linked to preventing crime and reducing recidivism through social reintegration of offenders. Finally, as inequalities in society are mirrored in criminal justice systems, Goals 5 and 10 on gender equality and inequality within and among countries are also directly relevant.

To conclude, the commitment to 'leave no one behind' in implementing the SDGs must include people in prison. Penal Reform International recommends member states recognise the relevance of prison reform for achieving the SDGs and include information progress in their Voluntary National Reviews.

More information:

Download *Global Prison Trends 2017* at www.penalreform.org or using this QR code.

