

International Seminar on the Treatment of Elderly Prisoners
16-19 October 2018
Jakarta, Indonesia

**Jakarta Statement
on the Treatment of Elderly Prisoners**

On 16-19 October 2018, we, the delegates assembled here in Jakarta, Indonesia for the *International Seminar on the Treatment of Elderly Prisoners*, organized by the Government of Indonesia, specifically by Directorate General of Corrections of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights.

The participants include 21 delegates from 10 countries (Indonesia, Cambodia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, and Vietnam) and also the representatives from International Committee of The Red Cross (ICRC), The Asia Foundation (TAF), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP).

The participants shared and discussed about experiences and good practices as well as the emerging issues and/or the challenges faced in implementing the treatment of elderly prisoners in their respective country.

We, the delegates of the International Seminar on the Treatment of Elderly Prisoners:

Realized that the growth of the elders' population and the life expectancy in the societies all over the world are increasing and this phenomenon is commonly known as population ageing or aging society.

Recognized that the increasing number of elderly citizen population will create its own challenge in various aspects, e.g. social, economy, and including in law enforcement. One of the indicators which can describe the implication of the increasing number of elders' population towards the law enforcement aspect is the increasing number of elderly prisoners.

Acknowledged that because of their deteriorating physical condition, elders have special needs and therefore need special treatment, and so do the elderly prisoners. Since they already lost their freedom of movement due to serving their sentences in the prison, elder prisoners are most likely more vulnerable to deal with physical and mental health problem. Therefore, elderly prisoners have special needs to attend and require special treatment.

Recognized the challenges faced by the participating countries in implementing the treatment of the elderly prisoners pursuant to their respective correctional system. And that as of the date of this Statement being made, there has not been any international regulation, standard or rules specifically regulating the ideal treatment of the elderly prisoners. In practice, there are United Nations Principles for Older Persons which was adopted in 1991, as well as the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners which was adopted in 1969. However, substantially, those two international standards do not regulate the principles on the treatment of the elderly prisoners in a strict and explicit manner. Those standards only set out general principles regarding the rights and/or necessities of the elders and the treatment of prisoners in

general. There is also the European Prison Rules which was adopted in 2006, but it also does not specifically regulate the treatment of the elderly prisoners.

Noted with appreciation the support from the participating countries and international organizations for their active roles and long-standing contribution in the efforts of promoting the protection of the rights of the elderly prisoners.

Expressed appreciation and gratitude to the Government of Indonesia, as the host country, for arranging this International Seminar on the Treatment of Elderly Prisoners.

We, the delegates of the International Seminar on the Treatment of Elderly Prisoners:

Recommend to provide the elderly prisoners with the accommodation and facilities, prisoners programs, health care, supporting human resources, access to justice, and other forms of efforts, considering and for the best interest of the elderly prisoners, with taking security and safety into account, based on risks and needs assessment.

Reaffirm our commitment to put constant effort to enforce and to improve the implementation of the ideal treatment for the elderly prisoners in order to respect, protect and fulfill the rights of elderly prisoners.

Encourage and support, to the extent possible, the efforts of countries to accelerate and strengthen international coordination for the purpose of promoting and enhancing the treatment of the elderly prisoners, including but not limited by sharing experiences and good practices, conducting policy dialogues, and developing capacity required in implementing the ideal treatment of the elderly prisoners.

Encourage relevant UN agencies and international organizations to keep supporting the efforts and to make more efforts in order to foster the implementation of the protection of the rights of elderly prisoners.

Agree that an international standard regarding the treatment of elderly prisoners is essential and necessary as an instrument to promote the fulfillment and the protection of elderly prisoners' rights.
