

**EXPERT GROUP ON THE STANDARD MINIMUM RULES
FOR THE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS
BUENOS AIRES, 11 – 13 December 2012**

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

Place, date and time:

The Conference will be held at Hotel Emperador Buenos Aires, (Av. del Libertador 420, C1001ABR, Ciudad de Buenos Aires - +54-11-4131-4000), from 11-13 December 2012, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Daily working hours 09.00 – 13:00 /lunch two hours/15:00 – 18.00)

UNODC Secretariat contact details:

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Host contact details :

The local organizers can be contacted at the Coordination Office of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice and Human Rights:

E mail: temasinternacionales@jus.gov.ar
Tel: 0054-11-5300-4013
Fax: 0054-11-5300-4013

Registration:

A registration desk will issue badges and desk name plates for delegations at the meeting venue.
Registration will take place from 08.00 to 09.00 on 11 December 2012.

Transportation:

Aeropuerto Internacional Ministro Pistarini (Ezeiza): Airport for international flights, located 35 kilometers (21 miles) from the center of the city of Buenos Aires.

From Ezeiza Airport To The City - All fares are in Argentinean pesos (ARS).

Minibus: \$70 The Manuel Tienda León Bus Company provides transportation to the center of the city and has reservation booths in the arrival hall. The minibuses depart every hour, are inexpensive and make several

stops along the way. Confirm with the operator if your destination is close to their stop.

Remise (car service): \$270. It is recommended that you use this option if you already have a reservation and the driver is waiting for you.

Taxi: \$198. Taxis have reservation booths inside the airport. Confirm the price before making the reservation (www.taxiezeiza.com). DO NOT take a taxi from a person who verbally offers the service inside the airport hall; they usually take advantage of tourists and are not authorized to carry passengers.

Visas:

Participants who require entry visas for Argentina should apply directly to the Consular authorities in their respective countries.

Hotel accommodation:

It is suggested that participants book in the hotel where the meeting will be held, or at one of the hotels listed below which are in the vicinity of the meeting venue. The following rates apply:

Hotel Emperador (venue of the meeting) (www.hotel-emperador.com.ar) Tel: (54-11) 4131-4000	Room category	Single	Twin/double
Deluxe	USD 230	USD 230	
Corner Suite	USD 327	USD 327	
Hotel Dazzler Tower Maipú (www.dazzlertowermaipu.com) Tel: (54 11) 5217 5785	Standard Superior	USD 115 USD 139	USD 115 USD 139
Hotel NH Crillon (www.nh-hotels.com) Tel: (54 11) 5173-3601	Standard Junior Suite	USD 127 USD 169	USD 127 USD 169
Dazzler Flats Basavilbaso (www.dazzlerflats.com) (breakfast not included) Tel: (54 11) 5217 5799	Standard Flat 1 or 2 pax Luxury Flat 1 or 2 pax	USD 97 USD 116	USD 97 USD 116

Delegates are requested to make their own hotel arrangements. Please make reference to the meeting when booking.

Documentation:

Participants are expected to bring their own copies of documents for the meeting which can be downloaded from the UNODC website at the following location:
<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/justice-and-prison-reform/expert-group-meetings.html?ref=menuside>.

Exchange Rate and money exchange:

The current exchange rate is approximately US\$1=4.7ARS, €1=6 ARS. Every bank has cash machines linked to international networks such as a Cirrus, Plus, MasterCard, Visa, Maestro, Citibank and others. Very few stores accept travelers checks, but they may be cashed at a bank or travel agent. Most businesses, stores, restaurants and bars accept credit cards, but it is possible that there is a 15 to 20% surcharge for credit card payments. Before paying with a credit card, ask and confirm if you will be surcharged. Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Diners Club are the most widely accepted. The best option for exchanging money is a bank (banking hours are from 10.00 to 15.00). There are also many Currency Exchange Bureaus and most hotels exchange money. In certain areas of the city it is common to see people on the streets offering money exchange at better rates, but DO NOT ACCEPT, as most are counterfeits. Some businesses and hotels accept dollar bills and usually do not have problems giving change in pesos, but the rate is always lower than banks.

Climate:

The weather in Buenos Aires from 21 September to 20 December – spring time in Argentina – has an average temperature of 17°C (64°F).

Useful tips:

Taxes on purchases is 21% and it is already included in the final sale price, unless a sign stating: \$\$\$ + IVA (Impuesto al Valor Agregado=Valued Added Tax) indicates tax is to be added.

Tips: Tipping is not mandatory, but welcome.

Safety and security:

As in any other major city, basic precautions should be taken in Buenos Aires: avoid walking alone in the dark and in isolated areas; do not have jewelry or valuables in easy reach; keep your camera hidden; always have an ID with you; have your bags and belongings in sight if traveling on a crowded subway or on crowded streets; in case of an emergency dial 101 from the nearest public phone for assistance (call is free).

It is possible to walk the streets of Buenos Aires at night without a problem. Be careful and ask the hotel staff to give suggestions on where NOT to go.

Eating out:

In Buenos Aires there are Italian, Spanish, Japanese, French, Nordic, Mexican, Chinese, Arab, Turkish and Armenian restaurants. The most popular local dish is "el asado" or "parrillada", a mixed grill of steak and other cuts. A traditional parrillada includes meat, sausages, chinchulines (small intestines), riñones (kidneys) and morcilla (blood sausage) and is prepared over charcoal or a wood fire and accompanied by chimichurri, a tasty marinade and often served with different types of salads and/or fried potatoes. There are also restaurants often referred as "Parrilladas" that serve only barbecued meat and chicken. Those called "Tenedor Libre" are "All You Can Eat" for a fixed price. There are a number of local fast-dishes called "minutas", the most popular of which are: "milanesa" (breaded meat with fried potatoes), and "empanadas" (dough filled small portions of ground meat, olives, boiled egg and spices). For dessert, fresh fruits, ice cream or flan with "dulce de leche" are common.

Argentine mate is a traditional drink very similar to the taste of 'tea'.

In Buenos Aires people eat dinner rather late, at 22.00, in both homes and public places.