

# **The Providenciales Resolution on Justice for the Next Generation The Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Children in contact with the Law**

We, the Commonwealth Magistrates' and Judges' Association and United Nations Children's Fund on the occasion of the Colloquium on the Child and the Law in Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands, 1 – 2 October 2009,

**Recalling** the Universal Declaration of Human Rights , the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and especially its articles 3, 12, 37, 39 and 40,

## **AND NOTING**

- other International Standards and Norms in crime prevention, criminal justice and the administration of justice for **juveniles and children**,
- the specific vulnerability of the child to abuse, exploitation, violence and other violations of their rights while in contact with the law, in particular while deprived of their liberty,
- the need to promote and protect the rights of all children in contact with the law.

1. **Urge** the Governments of the Commonwealth to take urgent steps to introduce and implement child justice systems in line with International Standards as established through the United Nations.
2. **Commit to** encouraging, in cooperation, governments and judiciaries across the Commonwealth in the establishment and enhancement of child justice systems in line with international standards through:
  - the development and promotion of court procedures which are child appropriate and gender and disability sensitive;
  - the systematic use of child rights principles, including as a primary consideration the best interests of the child in the administration of justice, both in civil and criminal;
  - the use of deprivation of liberty of children only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest possible time.

**Providenciales,**

**Turks and Caicos Islands, 2 October 2009**