

Green Prisons:

A Guide to Creating Environmentally Sustainable Prisons

26 SEPTEMBER 2026

13.00-14.00 (GMT+4)
Room 2C

HYBRID EVENT

Background

Prisons are rarely at the centre of discussions on environmental sustainability, yet correctional institutions can have significant environmental footprints and are themselves increasingly exposed to the effects of climate change. At the same time, measures to improve energy and resource efficiency, strengthen environmental management and introduce nature-based activities can create opportunities to improve prison conditions and support rehabilitation and reintegration.

In May 2024, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and Penal Reform International (PRI) launched the research initiative “Exploring the Intersection of Environmental Sustainability and Rehabilitation in Prisons”. The initiative examines how environmental sustainability can be incorporated into prison management and rehabilitation in ways that generate social as well as ecological benefits.

This ancillary meeting will present the resulting “[Green Prisons: A Guide to Creating Environmentally Sustainable Prisons](#)” and bring together policymakers and practitioners to consider how environmental sustainability can contribute to more humane, resilient and rehabilitative prison systems. Through examples from different national contexts, the discussion will explore practical approaches that place human dignity, rehabilitation and social inclusion at the centre of environmentally sustainable prison reform.

Objectives

1.

Present the key findings and recommendations of the Green Prisons Guide, developed through the UNICRI–PRI research initiative.

2.

Showcase practical approaches from different national contexts demonstrating how environmental sustainability can improve prison management and living conditions and support rehabilitation.

3.

Promote dialogue on a rights-based and rehabilitation-oriented approach to environmentally sustainable prisons, including on how promising practices can be adapted across different legal, economic and climatic contexts.

Agenda

13:00	OPENING REMARKS ➤ Mr Hisahiro Morikawa, Special Assistant to the Director, General Affairs Division, Ministry of Justice, Japan ➤ Mr Leif Villadsen, Acting Director, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)
13:10	GREEN PRISONS: KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE UNICRI-PRI RESEARCH INITIATIVE ➤ Mr Jerome Mangelinckx, Global Policy Manager, Penal Reform International (PRI)
13:20	FROM CONSERVATION TO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: JAPAN'S EXPERIENCE WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND BIODIVERSITY IN CORRECTIONAL SETTINGS ➤ Dr Mana Yamamoto, Ministry of Justice, Japan / Former Research Expert, UNICRI ➤ Dr Tetsuro Urabe, Professor Emeritus, University of Tokyo / Earthwatch Japan
13:32	CONNECTING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY WITH REHABILITATION, REINTEGRATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ➤ Ms Claire Machan, Rehabilitation, Reintegration & Community Portfolio Coordinator, Innovative Prison Systems (IPS)
13:40	PRACTITIONER PERSPECTIVE: ➤ Mr Olukemi Ibikunle, Corrections Officer, United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), and 2025 UN Trailblazer Award recipient
13:45	MODERATED DISCUSSION WITH THE FLOOR – Q&A
13:55	CLOSING REMARKS ➤ Mr Jan Austad, Policy Director, Ministry of Justice and Public Security, Norway

For any questions regarding this event, kindly contact
Mr Matthew Burnett Stuart, UNICRI (matthew.burnettstuart@un.org).

THE EVENT CAN ALSO BE ATTENDED ONLINE AT



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DIRECT LINK