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### Crime prevention and criminal justice

## **Implementation of the mandates of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, with particular reference to the technical cooperation activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**

### **Report of the Secretary-General**

#### *Summary*

The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution [73/186](#). It contains a summary of the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to support Member States in their efforts to counter transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism, as well as to prevent crime and to reinforce criminal justice systems, thus strengthening the rule of law and contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It includes information on the status of accession to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, and the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The report also addresses emerging policy issues and mandates and contains information on the Office's cooperation with other entities of the United Nations system. It contains references to developments relating to the governance and financial situation of the Office and recommendations aimed at enhancing the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme.

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\* [A/74/50](#).



## I. Introduction

1. In implementing the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) continued to promote justice, the rule of law, crime prevention and reform of criminal justice institutions. That work also contributed to the United Nations development agenda, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
2. During the reporting period, UNODC implemented global, regional and country programmes supporting the ratification and implementation of the international drug control conventions, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, as well as promoting the application of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice.
3. The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution [73/186](#). It provides information on the implementation of the mandates of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme and reflects emerging policy issues and possible responses.

## II. Action taken by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, including preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

4. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held its twenty-eighth session from 20 to 24 May 2019.
5. During its thematic discussion, the Commission considered the topic of the responsibility of effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems in preventing and countering crime motivated by intolerance or discrimination of any kind.
6. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [73/183](#), entitled “Enhancing the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, a brownbag lunch series focusing on the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 16 was organized, showcasing how the Office’s work supported the implementation of Goal 16. Goal 16 is of central importance to the mandates and programme of work of the Commission, as its targets address topics such as reducing all forms of violence, countering trafficking in persons, promoting the rule of law, ensuring access to justice and legal aid, ensuring the rights of prisoners, reducing illicit financial and arms flows and combating corruption, terrorism and organized crime, all of which are discussed under the standing items on the agenda of the Commission. Furthermore, the Commission surveyed Member States to gather their views on how it could strengthen its contribution to the implementation of Goal 16 and discussed the results. Pursuant to resolution [73/183](#), those results are also to be made available to the United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 2020. Additionally, during the twenty-eighth session of the Commission, Member States shared information from their national voluntary reviews relating to implementation of Goal 16.
7. The topics addressed in the resolutions adopted by the Commission at its twenty-eighth session included, inter alia, countering child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse online, integrating sport into youth crime prevention and criminal justice strategies, international cooperation to combat cybercrime, technical assistance related to counter-terrorism, responses to illicit trafficking in wildlife, countering the smuggling of commercial goods as an emerging form of transnational organized crime, and enhancing transparency in the judicial process (see [E/2019/30-E/CN.15/2019/15](#)).

### **III. Preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and follow-up to the Thirteenth Congress**

8. At its twenty-eighth session, the Commission reviewed the progress made in the preparations for the Fourteenth Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [73/184](#), in which the Assembly decided to hold the Fourteenth Congress in Kyoto, Japan, from 20 to 27 April 2020, preparatory meetings were held in Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Western Asia, Africa and Europe between January and April 2019. The outcomes of the meetings were brought to the attention of the Commission and included recommendations from a regional perspective for consideration by the Congress (see [www.crimecongress.org](http://www.crimecongress.org)).

9. At the same session, the Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the approval of a draft resolution entitled “Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice” for adoption by the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session. By that resolution, the General Assembly would request, inter alia, the Commission to prepare a draft declaration with a political message addressing the main topics to be discussed at the Fourteenth Congress, taking into account the outcomes of the regional preparatory meetings and consultations with relevant organizations and entities.

10. To ensure programmatic follow-up to the outcome of the Thirteenth Crime Congress, UNODC continued its work under the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, translating policy directives into concrete action.

11. At the time of reporting, more than 30,000 judges, prison staff members, academics, teachers, coaches, civil society representatives and young people from more than 190 countries had benefited from UNODC activities carried out within the framework of the Global Programme aimed at, inter alia, strengthening judicial integrity, preventing corruption in the justice system and enhancing the rehabilitation and social integration of prisoners.

12. Moreover, UNODC, through the Global Programme, contributed to promoting a culture of lawfulness among children and youth, as well as to integrating aspects of crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law into primary, secondary and tertiary educational curricula.

### **IV. Action taken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in thematic areas**

13. UNODC, in implementing the mandates of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, continued assisting States in their response to the interrelated issues of transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism, as well as to emerging forms of crime such as cybercrime, and in their efforts to prevent crime and to strengthen criminal justice systems as essential enablers of both peace and sustainable development.

14. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development specifically addresses the need for partnerships, including in Sustainable Development Goal 17, and has served as a catalyst for UNODC to strengthen its cooperation and coordination with other United Nations entities and external partners.

15. In the reporting period, UNODC, as a member of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, actively participated in the implementation of United Nations reform initiatives, in particular those related to the repositioning of the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

16. In addition, UNODC helped to shape, in accordance with its mandate, new inter-agency cooperation frameworks in the areas of counter-terrorism and migration, and to raise the profile of existing cooperation mechanisms in the areas of trafficking in persons and border management. Examples of such frameworks included the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons and the memorandum of understanding between UNODC and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to enhance the security of international air transport systems to counter transnational organized crime networks and terrorist groups. Those efforts further strengthened the existing cooperation between UNODC, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the World Customs Organization (WCO).

17. UNODC further deepened its engagement on issues such as cybersecurity, illicit financial flows and urban safety, in close coordination with partner entities within the United Nations system and other international organizations.

## **A. Enhancing international cooperation and responses to transnational crime**

### **1. Transnational organized crime**

18. At the time of reporting, there were 189 States parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; 173 to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; 147 to the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; and 117 to the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

19. At its ninth session, held from 15 to 19 October 2018, the Conference of the Parties to the Organized Crime Convention adopted resolution 9/1, by which it established the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto. During the reporting period, UNODC supported Member States in carrying out preparations for the review process, which is scheduled to begin after the tenth session of the Conference, in 2020.

20. UNODC continued to support the working groups of the Conference, which held a total of seven meetings during the reporting period. Moreover, an informal expert group meeting on international cooperation was organized.

21. Through its programmes and projects, UNODC continued to support Member States in developing their operational capacities to prevent and counter transnational organized crime, including through border management, investigations, evidence-handling, controlled deliveries, intelligence analysis, intelligence-led policing and by using special investigative techniques. Under the Education for Justice initiative, UNODC launched 14 university teaching modules on organized crime.

22. A priority area in the work of the Office is knowledge management in relation to the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and its Protocols. UNODC continued to develop the knowledge management portal known as Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC) (<http://sherloc.unodc.org>). In recognition of the links that exist between transnational organized crime and other criminal phenomena, SHERLOC now includes resources classified under 15 different crime types, including terrorism, drug-related offences and money-laundering.

23. The Office continued to develop and update the online directory of competent national authorities. At the time of reporting, the directory included the contact details of more than 800 central and competent authorities in 181 countries, designated under 12 different mandates. Similarly, UNODC continued to develop the Drug Control

Repository, which is an open-source database covering laws related to the implementation of the international drug control conventions that provides access to more than 1,400 legal provisions of approximately 171 countries.

24. Through its Global Programme on Building Effective Networks against Transnational Organized Crime, and within the framework of the “networking the networks” initiative, UNODC supported regional and interregional cooperation among law enforcement cooperation organizations. In addition, the Office promoted the exchange of criminal intelligence and the coordination of multilateral operations targeting all forms of organized crime and related illicit financial flows, and work was begun on the development of informal operating procedures for coordination between those organizations. UNODC further promoted the development of a network of law enforcement training and educational institutions to support the sharing of best practices, training materials and tools, methodologies and trainers.

25. The UNODC Global Programme for Strengthening the Capacities of Member States to Prevent and Combat Transnational Organized and Serious Crime continued to act as a global facilitator of international cooperation in criminal matters, including mutual legal assistance and extradition in organized crime cases. Support was provided to the Network of West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime, the Network of Prosecutors and Central Authorities from Source, Transit and Destination Countries in response to Transnational Organized Crime in Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus, and the Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network. A “hotline” ([unodc-mla.facilitators@unodc.org](mailto:unodc-mla.facilitators@unodc.org)) was launched to provide direct and operational support to criminal justice practitioners worldwide on mutual legal assistance.

26. Through the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme, the Office continued to work with Member States to establish port control units and air cargo control units at seaports, dry ports, land borders and airports, and along railways. Staff were trained to profile and inspect cargo containers suspected of carrying illicit goods. UNODC also continued to implement the UNODC-INTERPOL-WCO Airport Communication Project to strengthen law enforcement capacities at international airports. In 2018, approximately 7 tons of smuggled goods were seized. In addition, seven victims of trafficking in persons were identified, and a criminal network engaged in smuggling migrants into Europe was dismantled.

27. The UNODC Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and Financing of Terrorism continued to provide technical assistance to Member States to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, in accordance with United Nations instruments and international standards. Where applicable, the standards and relevant initiatives of regional, interregional and multilateral organizations and intergovernmental bodies involved in the fight against money-laundering, such as the Financial Action Task Force, were referenced alongside national legislation. On the high seas, UNODC, under its Global Maritime Crime Programme, continued to assist Member States in strengthening their capacity to combat maritime crime.

## **2. Countering trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants**

28. The Office continued its efforts to strengthen coordination within the United Nations system in countering trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants, including by coordinating the work of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT), which produced several outputs in 2018, including a brief on trafficking in children and the establishment of an ICAT secretariat function within UNODC to strengthen coordinated assistance to Member States.

29. In 2018, UNODC became a member of the Executive Committee of the United Nations Network on Migration and actively engaged with United Nations entities in the development of the Network’s strategies to assist Member States in implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, which was adopted in December 2018.

30. UNODC also continued to provide support to Member States in the implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol and the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol. Within the framework of its global programmes against trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants, UNODC took part in 261 technical assistance activities at the national and regional levels, providing technical cooperation assistance to 25 countries and reaching more than 4,500 practitioners, government officials and civil society representatives.

31. The Office maintained its focus on the collection and publication of data on the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons. In the 2018 edition of the biennial *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, the Office provided an overview of patterns and flows of trafficking in persons. In 2018, the Office also published a thematic paper entitled “Countering Trafficking in Persons in Conflict Situations,” in accordance with Security Council resolutions [2331 \(2016\)](#) and [2388 \(2017\)](#).

32. In addition, UNODC continued to collect and analyse case law for the Case Law Database on migrant smuggling. By the end of 2018, the Database contained 795 cases from 43 jurisdictions. The Human Trafficking Case Law Database also continued to grow, reaching a total of 1,518 cases from 106 countries and two supranational courts.

33. The Office continued to manage the United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, which was established in 2010, thereby contributing to the protection of and direct assistance to victims through specialized non-governmental organizations worldwide.

34. In 2018, UNODC continued to support countries in harmonizing their national laws with the Protocols to the Organized Crime Convention and in developing national action plans. Furthermore, as a result of a series of UNODC training programmes and the establishment of an observatory on trafficking in persons, in 2018 the Government of Cabo Verde drafted and endorsed a national plan of action against trafficking in persons. In Malawi in 2018, 61 victims of trafficking were rescued as a result of a new anti-trafficking coordination structures established with the support of UNODC.

35. UNODC published e-learning modules on the smuggling of migrants, including modules entitled “Introduction to Smuggling of Migrants”, “Investigative Approaches to Smuggling of Migrants” and “Investigative Techniques to Counter Smuggling of Migrants”, in Serbian and the Macedonian language. Furthermore, UNODC supported the establishment of informal networks of practitioners in Latin America and West Africa. One such network was the Ibero-American Network of Specialized Prosecutors against Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants, which, with UNODC assistance, established joint investigation teams on trafficking and migrant smuggling.

36. Also in 2018, UNODC continued to deliver a training module on the smuggling of migrants to Libyan Navy personnel in the context of the European Union military operation in the Southern Central Mediterranean.

### **3. Measures against trafficking in firearms**

37. UNODC, through its Global Firearms Programme, continued to support Member States in countering the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, in accordance with the requirements of the Firearms Protocol. In doing so, it followed an integrated, five-pillar approach that addressed those phenomena through legislative and policy development, preventive and security measures, a coherent criminal justice response, international cooperation and information exchange, and the monitoring of illicit firearms flows.

38. The Office provided tailored technical assistance to countries in Africa and the Western Balkan region through regional activities. Training was organized on the topics of firearms identification and tracing, proactive investigation techniques, intelligence and forensics, detection at land border crossing points, and prosecution,

and further technical assistance was provided on the collection and marking of firearms and the refurbishment of depots. UNODC consistently advocated for the proactive initiation of parallel investigations into potential trafficking cases with a view to identifying trafficking trends and patterns to form the basis of a coherent response to the phenomenon.

39. Specialized legislative assistance was provided to 14 Member States in Africa, Central America, the Western Balkans and the Pacific region. Moreover, UNODC launched a global data collection exercise, through the 2018 illicit arms flow questionnaire, to inform a global study on firearms trafficking to be published in October 2019 and to support the monitoring of target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

## **B. Curbing corruption**

40. At the time of reporting there were 186 parties to the Convention against Corruption.

41. The Implementation Review Group held the meetings of its ninth session in June, September and November 2018. The Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption held its ninth meeting in September 2018, the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery held its twelfth meeting in June 2018, and the seventh open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the United Nations Convention against Corruption was held on 8 June 2018.

42. The first cycle of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption was nearing completion, with 168 executive summaries finalized at the end of the reporting period. Work on the second cycle was advancing, with 21 executive summaries finalized.

43. UNODC continued to provide technical assistance in response to the observations emanating from the reviews, including through the drafting of action plans, anti-corruption strategies and legislation, capacity-building and other ad hoc activities. During the review process, UNODC supported 13 States parties in completing their self-assessment checklists. In addition, the Office assisted 19 States in the drafting or amending of national legislation to prevent and fight corruption.

44. UNODC also continued to provide technical and substantive services to the Implementation Review Mechanism and the Implementation Review Group in 2018, the third year of the second cycle of the Review Mechanism. Those services included the provision of training and assistance to governmental experts from States parties under review and reviewing States, supporting the country reviews and producing thematic reports on implementation trends and related technical assistance needs identified during the review process.

45. Moreover, the outcomes of the country reviews undertaken in the framework of the Implementation Review Mechanism have had far-reaching policy implications, including by contributing to the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly against corruption to be held in 2021, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [73/191](#).

46. UNODC continued to provide a broad set of tailored technical assistance activities at the global, regional and national levels to meet the growing demands of States to prevent, detect, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate corruption offences. In 2018, the Office provided assistance to 140 States in the form of the following activities: advice and technical support to Member States in the drafting of anti-corruption policies, strategies, laws and codes of conduct; assistance in the analysis and strengthening of asset declaration systems; workshops on whistle-blower protection; supporting the development of ethics training for public officials; building the capacity to investigate and prosecute acts of corruption, including the capacity to conduct criminal and financial investigations into cases of corruption and

money-laundering; technical assistance to enhance the identification and addressing of corruption risks in national institutions and the private sector, and to build the capacity of national counterparts for effective international cooperation.

47. The Office's network of field-based anti-corruption advisers played an important role in providing rapidly deployable professional expertise upon the request of Member States. UNODC deployed advisers with regional responsibilities for Central America and the Caribbean, the Pacific region, South-East Asia, South Asia, West and Central Africa, and East Africa. A senior global adviser was based in Vienna.

48. UNODC continued its partnership with the World Bank on the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative. The return of stolen assets to their country of origin is a fundamental principle of the Convention against Corruption, and in that connection, the StAR Initiative provided assistance to more than 20 countries in their efforts to recover stolen assets, including through activities in follow-up to the Global Forum on Asset Recovery, held in December 2017. The StAR Initiative also issued new publications on asset recovery networks and on domestic coordination between financial intelligence units and law enforcement authorities and prosecutors.

49. In addition, at the time of reporting, the online directory of competent national authorities (available at [www.unodc.org/compauth\\_uncac/en/index.html](http://www.unodc.org/compauth_uncac/en/index.html)) contained, inter alia, information on central authorities for mutual legal assistance in 129 States parties.

50. UNODC continued to implement joint projects with other entities, including the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Global Compact and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

51. Under the Education for Justice initiative, a component of the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, teaching modules for university lecturers and interactive tools for secondary-level educators on anti-corruption and integrity and ethics were developed. Moreover, in the framework of the Judicial Integrity initiative, also a component of the Global Programme, the Global Judicial Integrity Network was created to assist States in strengthening judicial integrity and in implementing article 11 of the Convention against Corruption. The Network is intended to serve as a platform for addressing various existing and emerging judicial integrity-related issues, as well as to facilitate information exchange. Under the Network, a comprehensive package of training tools on judicial conduct and ethics has been developed. Information about the Network is available on a dedicated website ([www.unodc.org/ji](http://www.unodc.org/ji)), which features a podcast series, opinion pieces, an extensive online library of resources and a restricted area for Network participants.

### **C. Preventing and countering terrorism**

52. As part of his reform efforts, the Secretary-General launched the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact in February 2018. As an active member of the Compact, UNODC chairs the Working Group on Criminal Justice, Legal Responses and Countering the Financing of Terrorism and serves as a Vice-Chair of both the Working Group on Border Management and Law Enforcement Relating to Counter-Terrorism and the Working Group on Resource Mobilization, and Monitoring and Evaluation.

53. Since the reform of the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture, UNODC has significantly strengthened cooperation with other entities of the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, in particular with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism.

54. In October 2018, following a considerable increase in the development of joint projects throughout 2018, the heads of UNODC and the Office of Counter-Terrorism signed a strategic partnership agreement. UNODC and the Office of Counter-Terrorism have jointly mobilized funds for multi-year initiatives on the following topics: the

management of violent extremist offenders in prison, strengthening resilience to violent extremism in Asia (a trilateral project of the Office of Counter-Terrorism, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNODC), the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, and the use of advanced passenger information and passenger name records to strengthen aviation security (a project of Office of Counter-Terrorism, UNODC, ICAO and the Government of the Netherlands). In addition, both offices collaborated with the Inter-Parliamentary Union on a programme on the role of parliaments in addressing terrorism and violent extremism leading to terrorism.

55. UNODC continued to support Member States in the ratification and implementation of the 19 international conventions and protocols related to terrorism and to assist them in harmonizing national legislation with the requirements of those international legal instruments and relevant Security Council resolutions.

56. Technical legal assistance and guidance was provided to counterparts in Burkina Faso, Chad, Iraq, Lebanon, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, the Philippines and Uzbekistan. In Chad and Mauritania, national counter-terrorism laws were amended to bring them into compliance with international legal standards, following recommendations provided by UNODC.

57. Furthermore, UNODC strengthened its work with parliamentarians, in particular through the multi-year programme on the role of parliaments in addressing terrorism and violent extremism leading to terrorism, implemented jointly with the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Inter-Parliamentary Union. In that context, the Office continued to successfully develop its databases on treaties, legislation, case law, strategies and bibliographic resources related to counter-terrorism, all of which are accessible on the SHERLOC knowledge management portal.

58. Capacity-building assistance was provided to nearly 60 Member States. UNODC carried out more than 160 national and regional activities, through which nearly 3,500 criminal justice officials were trained. UNODC has mainstreamed human rights and gender aspects into all its counter-terrorism programmes.

59. Tangible results were achieved. For example, in Nigeria, where thousands of persons have been detained in association with Boko Haram, UNODC support resulted in the conviction of 366 terrorism suspects and the discharge of 882 suspects. The Office also supported regular deployments of federal prosecutors to the region most affected by Boko Haram, enabling them to provide legal guidance and work with the investigation unit to revise terrorism case files and effectively build cases for prosecution while respecting human rights.

60. Strengthening international cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism is one of the Office's key priorities. The Multi-Agency Task Force for the Middle East and North African Region, established by UNODC to strengthen cooperation on terrorist cases among countries in the Middle East and North Africa, helped to foil a terrorist plot in late 2018, and ensured the successful extradition of a terrorist suspect associated with Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh). Furthermore, in line with Security Council resolution [2322 \(2016\)](#), as of 2018, the UNODC SHERLOC portal has hosted the directory of competent national authorities for counter-terrorism cases.

61. UNODC continued to support countries in strengthening their capacity to prevent and suppress the activities and movement of foreign terrorist fighters. Technical assistance focused on criminalizing related activities, detecting, intercepting and investigating related travel, building mechanisms for regional collaboration among law enforcement and judicial agencies, and collecting, preserving and using evidence. For example, 2018 saw the launch of a new cross-regional technical assistance programme to support implementation of Security Council resolution [2396 \(2017\)](#) through the strengthening of investigation capacity and cooperation to counter terrorist travel in the Middle East, North Africa and Asia. In addition, UNODC advanced efforts to support countries in preventing and

responding to child recruitment and exploitation by terrorist groups and in dealing with children associated with foreign terrorist fighters.

62. The joint airport interdiction task forces established under the UNODC-INTERPOL-WCO Airport Communication Project further proved the effectiveness of the project. For example, in April 2018, the task force in El Salvador detected a high-risk passenger who had been sought by the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation and INTERPOL for 12 years on charges of terrorism.

63. Furthermore, under the Education for Justice initiative, several new technical tools and publications were developed to help university lecturers and secondary-level educators enhance their role in preventing violent extremism, as and when conducive to terrorism.

#### **D. Preventing crime and strengthening criminal justice systems**

64. UNODC supported countries, including Bahrain, the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Iraq, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Panama and Uzbekistan, in implementing criminal justice reform and strengthening crime prevention efforts, in line with relevant standards and norms. In Pakistan, the Office supported the establishment of effective cooperation mechanisms between the police and prosecution departments in Sindh Province, aimed at accelerating the prosecution of criminal cases to reduce the number of pretrial detainees.

65. UNODC conducted stocktaking exercises on the current laws, policies and practices relating to alternatives to imprisonment in Indonesia and Malaysia, as well as in Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco. In regional workshops, participants formulated national action plans to enhance their use of alternatives to imprisonment. In the Gambia, UNODC facilitated the review of the criminal code and the criminal procedure code. In addition, the Office carried out local safety audits in cities in Mexico and Colombia to inform the design of community-based prevention initiatives.

66. UNODC continued to reinforce criminal justice responses to violence against children, in particular children recruited and exploited by terrorist and violent extremist groups. In the Niger, the Office developed training modules on that topic and conducted a training-of-trainers programme. It also strengthened cooperation among national actors involved in child protection, including at the provincial level.

67. Addressing the specific root causes of crime committed by young people, including gang-related violence, the Office implemented its sports-based cognitive behavioural and social skills training programme aimed at youth crime and drug-use prevention. The training programme, which takes a social development approach to crime prevention, was delivered in Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Kyrgyzstan, Panama, Peru, South Africa, Tajikistan, Uganda and the State of Palestine. At the time of reporting, a total of 600 sport coaches and teachers had been trained in 10 countries and 4,500 young people had benefited from the initiative.

68. UNODC supported gender-sensitive crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women, with a focus on female prisoners and on responses to violence against women, including gender-related killing, in more than 20 countries. The Joint United Nations Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence is being implemented in Africa, Asia and Latin America. UNODC is developing new tools on effective criminal justice responses by the judiciary to gender-based violence against women and girls, and on gender-sensitive non-custodial measures. In Kenya, the Office started a comprehensive rehabilitation and social reintegration programme for young female prisoners. In Northern Africa and the Middle East, UNODC supported criminal justice responses to violence against women in Egypt and the State of Palestine, the training of prison managers with a view to improving the treatment of female prisoners in Libya and efforts to improve conditions in a women's prison in Lebanon. In Myanmar, UNODC strengthened the

capacity of the police force to provide effective survivor-centred responses to gender-based violence. In Latin America, UNODC supported the training of police officers in Mexico and the establishment of specialized prosecution offices and courts in Peru and promoted prison-based rehabilitation programmes in the Plurinational State of Bolivia to support the socioeconomic reintegration of female prisoners into society.

69. UNODC continued to promote the practical application of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) by developing a scenario-based e-learning course on the Rules, tailored to frontline prison officials, and by widely disseminating its series of guidance materials on prison management. In the Sahel, UNODC supported prison reform initiatives in the Niger, including the development of a reintegration strategy for adult prisoners and children in conflict with the law. The Office also strengthened the capacity of prison staff and social workers in Burkina Faso and Mali to better manage violent extremist prisoners and prevent the radicalization to violence in prisons. In Indonesia, the Office continued to assist the Government in the management of violent extremist prisoners and the prevention of radicalization to violence in prisons by supporting the development of a national action plan and conducting a training-of-trainers session on those topics. In Kazakhstan, UNODC developed a technical assistance plan to strengthen the capacity of correction officers to manage violent extremist prisoners and prevent radicalization to violence in prisons. Furthermore, the Office enhanced the skills of more than 50 prison staff members in assessing the risks posed by violent extremist prisoners and in developing suitable and gender-sensitive disengagement programmes. During the reporting period, more than 200 prison practitioners, policymakers and prisoners benefited from capacity-building events and other technical advisory services.

70. UNODC promoted access to legal aid by developing a new handbook on ensuring the quality of legal aid services, and by providing States with opportunities to exchange experiences and tools with a view to carrying out reforms in that regard. In West Africa, UNODC assessed the gender-responsiveness of legal aid systems in Liberia, Senegal and Sierra Leone under a joint project with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to improve access to legal aid for women. In the Central African Republic, UNODC partnered with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic to support the establishment of the victim and witness protection and legal aid programmes of the Special Criminal Court of the Central African Republic, and also developed payment schemes for legal aid providers.

## **E. Data collection, research and trend analysis, and international cooperation in the forensic field**

71. As mandated in the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, data were collected from 142 countries on patterns of trafficking in persons for the 2018 edition of the biennial UNODC *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*. In the *Global Study on Smuggling of Migrants 2018*, UNODC provided information about major smuggling routes and their characteristics.

72. Within the framework of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime, UNODC hosts the world wildlife seizure database, which contains data collected pursuant to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Those data provide a solid basis for the *World Wildlife Crime Report*, the second edition of which is to be published in 2019.

73. UNODC continued to support Member States in improving statistical data on crime and criminal justice matters, providing training and technical assistance in Africa, the Western Balkans, Latin America and the Caribbean and Central Asia related to the implementation of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes.

74. The annual United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems is the instrument used to implement the requirements of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes and address new data requirements for the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators.

75. UNODC worked closely with co-custodian agencies and partners such as the World Health Organization, UNDP, the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, UN-Women and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to support the global and national monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators.

76. UNODC is the custodian for global-level reporting on 15 Sustainable Development Goal indicators, in some cases jointly with other agencies, and assists States in building their capacity to track progress and report on security, justice and the rule of law, as reflected under Goal 16 (on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels). The Office provided data for the global reporting on established indicators and developed a standardized methodology to measure the indicator on illicit financial flows (16.4.1) and a global data-collection system for global reporting on that indicator. In the context of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.4.2, UNODC has collected data on firearms trafficking from more than 100 countries, forming the basis for the Global Study on Firearms Trafficking, to be published in 2019.

77. UNODC, together with UNDP and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI)-UNODC Centre of Excellence for Statistical Information on Governance, Public Security, Victimization and Justice, published the *Manual on Corruption Surveys: Methodological Guidelines on the Measurement of Bribery and Other Forms of Corruption through Sample Surveys*.<sup>1</sup> The manual outlines the methods and procedures for measuring Sustainable Development Goal indicators 16.5.1 and 16.5.2.

78. The Office conducted capacity-building activities to assist countries in gathering data for Sustainable Development Goal indicators 16.1.3, 16.1.4 and 16.3.1 through crime victimization surveys, which are an essential source of relevant data to inform crime prevention and criminal justice policies.

79. UNODC continued its efforts to support the enhancement of capacities and skills in the forensic sciences, including in the work of law enforcement officials, laboratory experts and the judiciary. This included the launch of the United Nations Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs and the provision of standardized training tools, guidelines and e-learning modules on security document examination, crime scene investigation and the safe and environmentally-friendly handling and disposal of chemicals.

80. Training of law enforcement and forensic personnel in the use of modern handheld devices for the identification of narcotic drugs, precursors, essential chemicals and new psychoactive substances was carried out both in the United Nations laboratory in Vienna and in the field. Field testing devices and training were provided to laboratory and law enforcement personnel in 13 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, more than 600 drug and precursor testing kits were provided to law enforcement officials in 10 countries.

81. The Office continued to promote regional forensic science cooperation by participating in meetings of regional and international forensic networks such as the Asian Forensic Sciences Network, the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes, the International Association of Forensic Toxicologists and the West Africa Forensic Network.

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<sup>1</sup> Available at [www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Crime-statistics/CorruptionManual\\_2018\\_web.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Crime-statistics/CorruptionManual_2018_web.pdf).

## **F. Work undertaken to address specific forms of crime**

### **1. Countering crime motivated by intolerance or discrimination, including crimes against migrants**

82. In 2018, UNODC continued to engage in inter-agency mechanisms that address trafficking in persons, including crimes against migrants. UNODC continued to serve as coordinator of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT) and was actively engaged in the development of the United Nations Network on Migration, a platform to assist Member States in the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. ICAT members provided a joint submission on the draft of the Global Compact highlighting the need to adapt migration management policies and practices to ensure that irregular migration journeys and irregular migration status do not make people more vulnerable to trafficking.

### **2. Trafficking in cultural property**

83. UNODC continued to disseminate various tools aimed at assisting States in addressing offences related to trafficking in cultural property. Among those tools were a directory of contact points designated by national authorities to facilitate international cooperation in implementing the Organized Crime Convention and a collection of national legislation and case law decisions relating to cultural property from various jurisdictions. Both tools are accessible on SHERLOC.

84. UNODC cooperates on the topic of trafficking in cultural property with relevant partners, such as UNESCO, INTERPOL, WCO and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), to deliver technical assistance aimed at strengthening national mechanisms to counter trafficking in cultural property and related offences. During the reporting period, UNODC contributed to the OSCE South-Eastern Europe Workshop on Combating Illicit Cross-Border Trafficking in Cultural Property and the UNESCO workshop on countering antiquities trafficking in the Levant. UNODC also participated in the INTERPOL tenth International Symposium on the Theft of and Illicit Traffic in Works of Art, Cultural Property and Antiquities, held in October 2018 in Hanoi.

### **3. Cybercrime**

85. Cybercrime and cybersecurity policy issues continued to emerge as distinct topics, with clear links exhibited between the two. UNODC continued to monitor and support all intergovernmental processes in those areas, including by preparing a report pursuant to General Assembly resolution [73/187](#) and continuously supporting the work of the Expert Group to Conduct a Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime.

86. UNODC works with Member States and staff throughout the United Nations system to raise awareness of the relevance of and interplay between cybercrime and cybersecurity. This effort helps Member States gain a detailed and nuanced understanding of the global threats addressed in General Assembly resolutions [73/27](#) and [73/266](#). By focusing on areas of consensus, the Office's work helps to mitigate cybercrime-related risks, builds confidence and facilitates international cooperation with a view to keeping people safe online, increasing prosperity and delivering on sustainable development objectives. In the report entitled "The Age of Digital Interdependence" of the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation, launched by the Secretary-General, the UNODC Global Programme on Cybercrime was mentioned as an example of how the United Nations is adding value in the digital transformation by developing the digital capacity of Member States and working with partners to mitigate cyberthreats.

### **4. Precious metals**

87. The UNODC Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism continued to work with partners, increasingly focusing

on the extraction of and trade in gold, in particular where such activities act as drivers of illegal deforestation and corruption, or are used to finance illegal armed groups and terrorist networks.

## **5. Environmental crime**

88. Under the Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime, UNODC conducted training courses and advisory sessions, reaching more than 1,300 law enforcement officials, prosecutors and judges, to strengthen the capacity of criminal justice systems to prevent, investigate and prosecute wildlife crime. Technical assistance included the provision of mentorship support to raise awareness and build capacity in relation to conducting parallel financial investigations; building the corruption risk management capacity of wildlife management and enforcement authorities; supporting Member States in the identification of corruption and economic crime risks in the fisheries sector; extensive awareness-raising and capacity-building in the area of fisheries crime; initiating a regional programme for Central Africa focused on eco-security; building capacity for wildlife forensic analysis, including through the African Wildlife Forensics Network; compiling legislation, case law and national strategies related to wildlife crime in an online knowledge platform (SHERLOC); conducting research and analysis at the national, regional and global levels; and supporting international cooperation among law enforcement agencies.

## **V. Governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**

### **1. Information on the work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**

89. The standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC continued to play an important role as a forum for discussions in areas including strategic and budgetary matters, evaluation, oversight, programme development and implementation, the financial situation of the Office and strengthening human resources management, and mainstreaming a gender perspective into the practices, policies and programmes of UNODC.

### **2. Information on strategic planning**

90. In line with United Nations system management reform, UNODC worked on the Secretariat-wide initiative to streamline the programming and budgeting processes. As of 2020, the new programme plan and performance document will present the work of the organization over a three-year period, featuring results for 2018 and 2019 and expected results for 2020, in line with lessons-learned and recommendations of past evaluations. In addition, UNODC is working to strengthen administrative systems to allow for a more effective and pragmatic delivery of technical assistance and cooperation.

91. UNODC continued to promote the links between its work and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda throughout its strategic planning and programming efforts. In 2018, UNODC launched a new handbook on results-based management, to support a new generation of programmes that meet Member States' development priorities, in line with United Nations development system reform.

### **3. Information on integrated programming**

92. UNODC participated in the ongoing reform of the United Nations development system that encourages strong field-based partnerships and joint programmes with other United Nations entities. UNODC expanded its technical assistance delivery under integrated global, regional and country programmes. At the time of reporting,

17 country and regional programmes were being implemented, of which many were in their second programme cycle, covering the period up to 2021. The scope of several global programmes was expanded and new field-based components were developed and implemented, together with UNODC field offices. In 2018, one new regional programme became operational in South Asia, and two new global programmes, on maritime crime and on criminal justice responses to violence against women, were launched.

#### **4. Information on evaluation**

93. United Nations reforms and the complexity of countering drugs, crime and terrorism increase the demand for evaluation to inform policy dialogue and decision-making. UNODC, through its Independent Evaluation Unit, has responded by conducting independent evaluations at the strategic level. Programmes evaluated include global research programmes, law enforcement assistance in Central Asia, the Integrative Internal Security Governance mechanism in the western Balkans, the regional programme for South-East Asia and alternative development in Colombia.

94. Moreover, UNODC invests in innovative information technology systems, such as Unite Evaluation, to fulfil the demand for aggregate evaluation results with regard to the Sustainable Development Goals and fosters partnerships and invests in evaluation capacity development, in line with United Nations Evaluation Group guidance.

#### **5. Information on fundraising and private sector cooperation initiatives**

95. Dialogue with several donors has evolved into more structured policy discussions at the capital level. This approach has resulted in increasing the number of national stakeholders interested in UNODC mandate areas and reflects continued strong support. Approximately \$300 million was committed in 2018.

96. UNODC is enhancing its outreach to the private sector with the objective of forging mutually beneficial partnerships by targeting the umbrella organizations of chambers of commerce and industry and professional associations.

#### **6. Information on the financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**

97. UNODC is actively engaged in the United Nations reform streams, including the development system and management reforms.

98. The financial situation of UNODC remained vulnerable. The decline in unearmarked funds persists, with general-purpose income predicted to reach 1 per cent of total income in the biennium 2018–2019. The low levels of unearmarked or soft-earmarked funding are a key challenge to the effective implementation of the mandates and programmes of UNODC and put a strain on its management, coordination and normative functions. UNODC continues to count on the support of Member States to ensure predictable funding for activities under the general-purpose funds.

99. The programme delivery of UNODC is expected to grow from \$450.4 million in the biennium 2016–2017 to \$648.9 million in the biennium 2018–2019, representing a 44.1 per cent increase. The growth in programme delivery relates mainly to the expansion of programmes on alternative livelihoods in Colombia; the implementation of the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation; alternative development in Afghanistan; and counter-terrorism efforts in Pakistan.

## VI. Concluding observations

100. Work on crime prevention and criminal justice plays a crucial role in ensuring peaceful, just and inclusive societies. I encourage Member States to enhance their capacity to consistently monitor and report on the implementation of relevant elements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including Sustainable Development Goal 16.

101. The General Assembly, in its resolution [72/192](#), decided that the theme of the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in Japan in April 2020, was to be “Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda”. I encourage Member States to fully support the preparations for the Fourteenth Congress and to make all efforts to ensure a fruitful and meaningful outcome.

102. Through ratifying and acceding to the Organized Crime Convention and its Protocols, the Convention against Corruption and the 19 international conventions and protocols related to terrorism, Member States have taken steps to ensure and enhance their ability to prevent and combat these crimes. I call upon Member States that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto, the Convention against Corruption and the international legal instruments related to counter-terrorism. Member States that have already ratified or acceded to these legal instruments should adopt legislative and other measures to implement them. Member States should also use these instruments as the basis for promoting and strengthening international cooperation in criminal matters.

103. In this context, I welcome the establishment of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto, as well as the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and encourage Member States to actively participate in the exchange of good practices and other forms of judicial cooperation.

104. I encourage Member States to increasingly adopt crime prevention and criminal justice strategies that meet international standards, and to include crime prevention and criminal justice reform objectives in their strategies for the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To this end, I also encourage Member States to develop concrete targets on access to justice, the prevention of violence against women and children, good governance in criminal justice systems, and the prevention of recidivism.

105. In the light of worrisome reports of an increase in hate-motivated crimes and hate speech globally, I call on Member States to enhance their efforts to prevent such crimes, including by addressing their roots causes and strengthening State institutions in line with the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech. I also encourage Member States to strengthen their responses to emerging concerns such as cybercrime and the financing of organized crime and terrorism, including financing through the trafficking in persons, cultural property and wild fauna and flora.

106. I urge Member States to review and enhance their efforts to identify victims of trafficking in persons, including among migrant populations, and ensure access to readily available and appropriate assistance and support for victims.

107. I also urge Member States to respond to the serious challenges posed by transnational organized crime with evidence-based interventions and policymaking, taking an integrated, multidisciplinary approach. The technical and methodological tools, trend analyses and studies developed by UNODC are an invaluable resource for enhancing knowledge of crime trends and assisting Member States in designing appropriate responses. Support for the implementation of forensic best practices, including the development of guidelines, reference materials and training tools, is another example of the quality-assurance support that UNODC can provide to Member States. I encourage Member States to support and further strengthen such efforts.

108. UNODC provides assistance to Member States in a full range of crime prevention and criminal justice efforts. I urge Member States to provide the Office with adequate, predictable and stable resources so as to enhance the sustainability of its efforts and ensure that it can effectively respond to the increasing demand for technical assistance.

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