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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 [76/187](#). It contains a summary of the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to support Member States in their efforts to counter transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism, as well as to prevent crime and reinforce criminal justice systems, including with regard to emerging policy issues.

The report includes information on the activities undertaken by the Office to address the challenges posed to crime prevention and criminal justice systems by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

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\* [A/77/50](#).



## I. Introduction

1. More than five years into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the overall picture in relation to the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals pertaining to crime and criminal justice is mixed. Target 16.3, on promoting the rule of law and ensuring equal access to justice for all, has seen very little improvement. For example, despite the dramatic reduction in the global prison population recorded during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, from 11.8 million people in 2019 to 11.2 million people by the end of 2020, the share of prisoners held in detention without being sentenced for a crime remained relatively unchanged globally.<sup>1</sup> There has been some progress in terms of reducing criminal violence, in line with target 16.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals. Between 2015 and 2020, the global homicide rate decreased by 5.2 per cent.<sup>2</sup> However, impunity for such crimes remained widespread. Globally, for every 100 homicide victims recorded, only about 53 persons were convicted of homicide.<sup>3</sup> Hence, the work on crime prevention and criminal justice remains in high demand.

2. UNODC launched a new publication series called “Data Matters”, which includes three research briefs, on the topics of the global prison population, Sustainable Development Goal 16, and the gender-related killing of women and girls, respectively. In addition, UNODC published research briefs on the impact of the war in Ukraine on its mandated areas of work, which included “Conflict in Ukraine: key evidence on drug demand and supply” and “Conflict in Ukraine: key evidence on risks of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants”.

3. The present report 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, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 76/187. It addresses the activities undertaken by UNODC in the thematic areas covered by the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Kyoto, Japan, from 7 to 12 March 2021.

4. Owing to the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the intergovernmental meetings and technical assistance activities mentioned in this report were mostly conducted in online or hybrid (in-person and online) formats.

## II. Action taken by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, including follow-up to Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

5. The Commission held its thirty-first session in Vienna from 16 to 20 May 2022. It recommended to the Economic and Social Council the approval of three resolutions for adoption by the General Assembly: (a) “Follow-up to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”; (b) “Reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration”; and (c) “Strengthening national and international efforts, including with the private sector, to protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse”. Furthermore, the Commission adopted resolution 31/1,

<sup>1</sup> E/2022/55, para. 155.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), “Monitoring SDG 16, a gender perspective”, Data Matters Series, No. 4 (forthcoming).

<sup>3</sup> UNODC, *Global Study on Homicide 2019*, booklet 2, p. 78.

entitled “Strengthening the international legal framework for international cooperation to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in wildlife”.<sup>4</sup>

6. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [76/181](#), the Commission held the first thematic discussion on the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration in November 2021. Moreover, pursuant to General Assembly resolution [76/185](#), the Commission held expert discussions on crimes that affect the environment in February 2022. Both thematic discussions were attended by experts from more than 130 Member States, as well as from United Nations entities, intergovernmental and international organizations and civil society.<sup>5</sup> More information on the follow-up to the Fourteenth Congress is contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the topic ([A/77/128](#)).

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

#### A. Introduction: strategic issues

7. The UNODC Strategy 2021–2025 guides the work of the Office in five thematic areas: (a) addressing and countering the world drug problem; (b) preventing and countering organized crime; (c) preventing and countering corruption and economic crime; (d) preventing and countering terrorism; and (e) crime prevention and criminal justice. The strategy defines the mission of UNODC across the three pillars of the United Nations: peace and security, development and human rights. It sets out commitments to fully embed gender equality and the empowerment of women, human rights and youth empowerment into UNODC programmes and encourages integrated programming, effective multilateral cooperation and stronger partnerships with international and civil society organizations and the private sector.

8. In the spirit of the Strategy, UNODC has been working with an increasing number of United Nations entities and international and regional organizations, assisting them in the preparation of strategic documents and in the implementation of research and technical assistance activities. UNODC is active in a number of inter-agency coordination mechanisms, including in relation to drug prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, HIV/AIDS, corruption, counter-terrorism, illicit financial flows, trafficking in persons, migration, incarceration, policing, the rule of law, gender equality, human rights issues such as racial discrimination and the protection of minorities, youth empowerment and disability inclusion.

9. UNODC continued to engage with, inter alia, non-governmental organizations, academia and the private sector, in multi-stakeholder workshops on the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. In close collaboration with the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the UNCAC Civil Society Coalition, civil society participation was ensured in all intergovernmental meetings and workshops held in 2021, which involved the engagement of 4,071 stakeholders from 1,253 organizations. New public-private partnerships were initiated, involving the participation of 75 representatives from the private sector.

10. In partnership with the Office of the President of the General Assembly, UNODC co-hosted a high-level thematic debate on the theme “Enhancing youth mainstreaming in crime prevention policies” on 6 June 2022. The aim of the event was to provide a forum for Member States to exchange views on how young people could be agents of change in their communities, as well as actors empowered to counter crime and uphold the rule of law. Special attention was given to establishing

<sup>4</sup> See [E/2022/30-E/CN.15/2022/14](#), chapter I, section C.

<sup>5</sup> See the conference room papers containing the Chair’s summaries of the thematic discussions ([E/CN.15/2022/CRP.1](#) and [E/CN.15/2022/CRP.2](#)).

crime prevention strategies that include young people as active partners together with Member States, local governments, academia and civil society.

11. As of May 2022, UNODC had a physical presence in 95 countries. In the context of the implementation of its Strategic Vision for Latin America and the Caribbean 2021–2025, launched on 7 February 2022, UNODC has reprofiled its Country Office in Colombia as the Regional Office for the Andean Region and the Southern Cone, additionally covering Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay and supervising the work of the country offices in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Ecuador and Peru. In doing so, UNODC seeks to achieve programmatic harmonization and operational optimization and promote the exchange and replication of good practices and experiences within and beyond the subregion.

12. In Afghanistan, following the takeover by the Taliban in August 2021, UNODC developed the Strategic Stability Grid to address existing and emerging transnational challenges stemming from drugs, crime and terrorism in and around Afghanistan. The Grid is aimed at promoting stability, protecting people in Afghanistan and the wider region and fostering peace, human rights and long-term, sustainable social and economic development, as well as addressing urgent needs in the humanitarian crisis.

13. Using local networks in Ukraine and in refugee shelters in host countries, UNODC developed and disseminated materials to support the needs of parents and caregivers and sustain strong families in humanitarian settings. With the support of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, UNODC has been coordinating communication between the prison authority of Ukraine and civil society organizations to address humanitarian needs in prison settings.

## **B. Advancing crime prevention**

### **1. Addressing the causes, including the root causes, of crime; evidence-based crime prevention; and tailor-made crime prevention strategies**

14. UNODC continued to support countries in enhancing the rigorous collection of evidence in support of crime prevention efforts. UNODC, together with the UNODC-National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) Centre of Excellence for Statistical Information on Governance, Victims of Crime, Public Security and Justice, in Mexico, and the UNODC-Statistics Korea (KOSTAT) Centre of Excellence for Statistics on Crime and Criminal Justice in Asia and the Pacific, in the Republic of Korea, provided capacity-building support to 150 countries relating to the indicators of Sustainable Development Goal 16, the implementation of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes, the measurement of illicit financial flows, victimization and corruption surveys, and the mainstreaming of gender in crime and criminal justice statistics. Together with the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UNODC developed the Sustainable Development Goal 16 survey initiative; with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), it developed a statistical framework for measuring the gender-related killings of women and girls (also referred to as femicide and feminicide); and with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, it developed the Conceptual Framework for the Statistical Measurement of Illicit Financial Flows. The Statistical Commission welcomed the first tool and endorsed the two others.

15. UNODC continued to use its global, regional and country programmes to support Member States in implementing crime prevention standards by providing advice on the design and implementation of strategies and programmes. That included support to achieve better qualitative data on crime and victimization through surveys or community consultation mechanisms. In Kyrgyzstan, Law No. 60, on the basics of crime prevention, outlining the role of a variety of actors and addressing victim support, was adopted in May 2021. As a follow-up, UNODC has been providing technical assistance for the implementation of the new State programme on crime

prevention for the period 2022–2028, including in the areas of local action plan development and capacity-building. UNODC provided strategic advice for the design of a regional community-based strategy to prevent maritime and other crimes in Nigeria, including by organizing consultations with local government and non-government stakeholders. The UNODC Nigeria organized crime threat assessment was discussed at a workshop with key stakeholders in May 2022. The workshop was aimed at providing information on the country's strategies to address related threats.

16. In line with the commitment made in the Kyoto Declaration to enhance multidisciplinary efforts to prevent crime, and as a follow-up to the General Assembly high-level debate on the theme "Urban safety, security and good governance: making crime prevention a priority for all", held in April 2021, the Office promoted collaboration between citizens and justice institutions in Africa, Asia and Central America to advance crime prevention at the local level. In Mexico and Brazil, UNODC supported the implementation of community-based strategies to reduce crime and violence, promoting developmental and situational approaches to prevention.

## 2. Addressing the economic dimension of crime

17. UNODC, through the Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, continued to support Member States in developing and implementing effective measures to address the economic dimension of crime and deprive criminals and criminal organizations of any illicit gains through, inter alia, identifying, tracing, seizing, confiscating, recovering and returning proceeds of crime, as well as in establishing robust domestic frameworks for financial investigations, and continued to develop strategies to prevent and combat money-laundering and illicit financial flows.

18. UNODC continued to support Member States in their efforts to counter transnational organized crime, including the laundering of the proceeds of such crime. Law enforcement, customs, immigration and border control authorities, staff of judicial authorities and financial intelligence units continued to benefit from the Office's tailor-made capacity-building activities.

19. UNODC continued to support the recovery of proceeds of corruption, including through the progress made under the second cycle of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the Convention against Corruption. At the ninth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention against Corruption, representatives of the UNODC/World Bank Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative presented the initial findings of the Initiative's survey to collect data on international asset recovery cases related to offences established in accordance with the Convention against Corruption, and launched a new publication on the direct enforcement of foreign restraint and confiscation decisions. At its sixteenth meeting, to be held in 2022, the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery of the Conference is to address issues stemming from the resolutions adopted by the Conference at its ninth session, in particular resolutions 9/2, on the follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly against corruption, and 9/7, on enhancing the use of beneficial ownership information to facilitate the identification, recovery and return of proceeds of crime.

20. The administration of frozen, seized and confiscated assets, provided for in the Convention against Corruption, is fundamental to the success of asset recovery. In 2019, the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention adopted resolution 8/1, in which it decided that the Working Group on Asset Recovery should continue to collect information on best practices from States parties, with a view to completing the draft non-binding guidelines on the management of frozen, seized and confiscated assets<sup>6</sup> and updating the study entitled *Effective Management and Disposal of Seized*

<sup>6</sup> CAC/COSP/WG.2/2018/3, annex.

and *Confiscated Assets*, of 2017. Currently, UNODC is revising the draft non-binding guidelines and the study on the basis of additional information submitted by States parties. UNODC also continues to provide technical assistance in this regard.

### **3. Mainstreaming a gender perspective, including the prevention of gender-related violence, into crime prevention efforts**

21. Mainstreaming a gender perspective is a key component of the Office's support to Member States in implementing crime prevention standards, including through surveys and community consultation mechanisms to achieve better qualitative data on crime and victimization.

22. The Office provided strategic advice for the development of a national strategy to prevent gender-based violence in South Africa.

23. In March 2022, UNODC held two online training sessions on the gender perspective in crime and criminal justice statistics. The first session involved 689 participants from 19 countries in Latin America and Europe, and the second session involved 232 participants from 36 countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

### **4. Children and youth in crime prevention and youth empowerment for crime prevention**

24. UNODC continued to strengthen youth resilience under its "Line Up, Live Up" and Education for Justice initiatives, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 76/183. In 2021, 15 Member States received policy advice and technical assistance from UNODC on integrating sport into crime prevention strategies, building the capacity of State and non-State actors in the use of sport to prevent violence and crime, including violent extremism. The assistance took the form of tailored training, thereby supporting the provision of sport-based life-skills training in schools and community settings and reaching more than 15,000 young people, as well as the creation of safe spaces in marginalized communities by refurbishing sport facilities in Lebanon, Mexico and Uganda.

25. With a view to preventing the recruitment of individuals, including children, by terrorist and violent extremist groups, the Office raised awareness among policymakers and professionals from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan through a series of technical meetings aimed at strengthening regulatory and operational frameworks pertaining to legal, policy and psychosocial matters, in compliance with international standards.

## **C. Advancing the criminal justice system**

### **1. Safeguarding victims' rights and protecting witnesses and reporting persons**

26. UNODC continued to advocate for victim-centred approaches to criminal justice and for the importance of ensuring access to assistance, protection and support for all victims, without discrimination and in line with the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power (General Assembly resolution 40/34, annex). The Office started a new project on access to justice for victims of crime in Egypt. In Burkina Faso and the Niger, UNODC organized two workshops for criminal justice professionals on effective victim support. In Panama, UNODC organized six online training sessions on investigations involving digital evidence for the Office of the Public Defender, the Department of Legal Aid for Crime Victims, the Judicial Investigation Department and the Public Prosecution Office.

27. UNODC produced an updated, second edition of the *Model Legislative Provisions against Organized Crime*, including a chapter relating to articles 24 and 25 of the Organized Crime Convention, on the protection of witnesses and victims.

28. UNODC continued to support States parties to the Convention against Corruption in strengthening mechanisms to provide effective protection for reporting

persons. UNODC provided legal advice and legislative assistance to more than 15 Member States for the development of legislative frameworks related to whistle-blower protection. UNODC also continued to work with States parties to establish or strengthen reporting and protection mechanisms in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. To that end, UNODC published new guidelines for whistle-blower protection in the health-care sector, in Arabic, English, French, Portuguese and Spanish, and supported the health-care sector in several States parties in their implementation.

## **2. Improving prison conditions, and reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration**

29. The Office, together with the Department of Peace Operations and OHCHR, led the development of the “United Nations system common position on incarceration”, launched in May 2021, which positions prison reform and the management of offenders as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

30. New prison reform projects aimed at enhancing compliance with international minimum standards were launched in Brazil, Ghana, Nigeria, the Philippines, Tajikistan and Tunisia. In another 18 Member States, the Office supported the reform of prison legislation or enhanced the training curricula for prison officers. More than 77,000 users from 160 countries have enrolled in the UNODC e-learning course on the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), which is available in 13 languages.

31. UNODC continued to provide emergency assistance to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 in prisons. In Uganda, logistical support was mobilized to ensure prisoners’ access to COVID-19 vaccines. The Office promoted the use of non-custodial measures in 10 countries. In Kenya, officials were sensitized on diversion, plea bargaining and human rights-compliant traditional justice mechanisms.

32. To enhance the social reintegration prospects of prisoners, UNODC initiated educational and vocational training programmes in Colombia, El Salvador, Morocco and Tunisia. In Tunisia, UNODC partnered with a university to develop a master’s degree programme on cognitive-behavioural therapy, with a focus on the prevention of recidivism, thereby paving the way for the sustainable use of such therapy in prisons.

33. UNODC continued to support Member States in managing violent extremist prisoners, including foreign terrorist fighters in detention, and in preventing the risk of radicalization to violence in prisons. Fifteen Member States benefited from capacity-building for prison and probation staff, the enhancement of prison security and intelligence, and the development of disengagement programmes. In Indonesia and Kazakhstan, the use of risk and needs assessment tools developed with UNODC support was adopted as official State policy.

34. In accordance with General Assembly resolution [76/182](#), UNODC, in December 2021 and April 2022, held consultative meetings with subject-matter experts to exchange information on promising practices to reduce reoffending, with a view to developing model strategies. The topics discussed included the use of non-custodial measures, fair sentencing policies, and rehabilitation and social reintegration programmes within the custodial environment and the community.

## **3. Mainstreaming a gender perspective into criminal justice systems**

35. In addition to supporting strategies and initiatives to prevent violence against women, UNODC supported 22 Member States in increasing access to gender-responsive justice for survivors of gender-based violence. Key achievements included the reform of criminal laws concerning sexual violence and the establishment of a specialized unit in the Office of the Attorney General in Nepal, the adaptation and adoption of UNODC tools by the Ministry of Public Security, the prosecution service



and the Supreme People's Court in Viet Nam, and the enhancement of national and local inter-institutional coordination mechanisms in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Nepal and Viet Nam. In Mexico, UNODC trained 6,860 police officers and 283 emergency call operators in preventing and identifying cases of gender-based violence and in the appropriate treatment and referral of survivors. In Guatemala, UNODC supported legal complaints mechanisms and improved the registration of cases involving lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex persons, older adults, people with disabilities and indigenous people. In Kenya, the Office developed a rapid reference guide for prosecutors on cases involving sexual and gender-based violence. A new Southern African Development Community model law on gender-based violence, being developed with the support of UNODC, will provide a blueprint for survivor-centred criminal justice reforms in the region. In March 2022, on the occasion of the first-ever International Day of Women Judges, UNODC launched the campaign "Women in Justice/for Justice" to promote gender balance and gender-responsiveness across the spectrum of justice. The Global Judicial Integrity Network, whose work to incorporate women's representation issues into judicial systems was noted with appreciation by the General Assembly in its resolution establishing the International Day, continued to address gender issues.

#### **4. Addressing the vulnerabilities of children and youth in contact with the criminal justice system**

36. In Brazil, in partnership with the National Council of the Public Prosecutor's Office, UNODC conducted a situation analysis of the juvenile justice system, developed a training tool, delivered a capacity-building event and launched a policy document on improving the treatment of children in conflict with the law. In Nigeria, UNODC supported the assessment of 225 individuals in one of the borstal institutions in the country, leading to the release of 218 individuals, and delivered capacity-building events on the treatment of children deprived of liberty.

37. UNODC launched the Strengthening Resilience to Violent Extremism (STRIVE) Juvenile project on preventing and responding to violence against children by terrorist and violent extremist groups in Indonesia, Iraq and Nigeria. The inception phase was concluded with the completion of the situation analyses, the establishment of national coordination mechanisms and the approval of tailored workplans for each country. A scientific advisory committee was established, a global research framework was developed and a grants programme for national research partners was established. Under the project, two capacity-building events were held: one in Indonesia in December 2021 on justice for children in the context of counter-terrorism and one in Nigeria in January 2022 on the treatment of child victims and witnesses.

38. UNODC continued to deliver technical assistance in Indonesia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan on the treatment of children associated with terrorist and violent extremist groups, and launched its "Roadmap on the treatment of children associated with terrorist and violent extremist groups" in Portuguese. UNODC delivered three regional webinars on promising practices relating to the rehabilitation and reintegration of child returnees from conflict zones and launched new e-learning training modules addressing the topic in Russian.

#### **5. Improving criminal investigation processes**

39. UNODC disseminated the Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations and Information Gathering, or the "Méndez Principles". In addition, the Office developed three online learning modules on investigative interviewing and piloted them in Nigeria and Pakistan. Furthermore, the Office, in partnership with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL), the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights and the Association for the Prevention of Torture, delivered regional and national capacity-building on effective investigations and interviews to more than 200 law enforcement and other criminal justice professionals globally. In Pakistan,



UNODC trained 1,162 police officers and prosecutors on, inter alia, forensic investigations, work ethics, and police and prosecutor cooperation, and provided training of trainers on interviewing techniques.

40. UNODC continued to support the enhancement of capacities relating to forensic sciences in the work of law enforcement and customs officials, postal services, laboratories and the judiciary. The support included the provision of standardized training courses, manuals, guidelines, e-learning tools and services relating to security document examination, crime scene investigation, drug identification and the safe and environmentally friendly handling and disposal of drugs and precursor chemicals used in their manufacture. The United Nations Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs was complemented with new specialized modules on cybercrime and postal security, providing countries with practical resources from across the United Nations system for implementing comprehensive responses to address various forms of crime related to synthetic drugs.

## **D. Promoting the rule of law**

### **1. Access to justice and legal aid**

41. UNODC continued to support reform efforts for access to justice in 22 countries. Key achievements included the completion of a joint project with UN-Women, in collaboration with OHCHR, in Liberia, Senegal and Sierra Leone, which strengthened the capacities of local legal aid providers to offer services to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, implemented campaigns on awareness and protection of legal rights, and developed a report on the impact of COVID-19 on women's access to justice and legal aid. The independent project evaluation concluded that the project had enabled legal aid providers to deliver significantly more and better gender-sensitive legal aid to women, including in remote communities and by adapting to increased demand during the pandemic. The project invested in direct, practical implementation of key aspects of the legal aid system through advocacy and the creation of locally owned, bottom-up incentives for future adoption of relevant legal frameworks. Globally, the Office raised visibility of the importance of ensuring equal access to justice for all by centring on those historically excluded and marginalized on the basis of discrimination. UNODC co-organized with the World Bank a session entitled "Poverty and racial equity in the criminal justice system: fostering development through access to justice" during the World Bank Law, Justice and Development Week in November 2021.

### **2. National sentencing policies**

42. As a measure to respond to the global prison crisis caused by the overuse of incarceration and prison overcrowding, UNODC continued to promote proportionate sentencing policies and the effective use of non-custodial measures. The Office continued its assistance to the Governments of Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam in improving the use of non-custodial measures in a gender-responsive manner, including through assessments of the current use of non-custodial measures and a series of workshops for criminal justice professionals on sentencing policies and guidelines and improving the rehabilitation and social reintegration of offenders. UNODC also advised the Government of Nigeria on fair sentencing policies in its efforts to amend the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Act.

### **3. Effective, accountable, impartial and inclusive institutions**

43. UNODC provided technical assistance with a view to ensuring the integrity and impartiality of law enforcement and other institutions comprising the criminal justice system, as well as the independence of the judiciary. This included technical assistance to States parties to the Convention against Corruption, with a view to strengthening the integrity, transparency, accountability and inclusivity of a broad range of institutions.

44. In addition to providing training on ethics and integrity to law enforcement authorities, UNODC facilitated corruption risk assessments and the development of risk-management strategies in public institutions, including in the prison system in the Central African Republic and the judiciary in the Plurinational State of Bolivia. UNODC delivered training programmes and workshops on judicial integrity and supported Member States' efforts to develop codes of ethics for the judiciary.

45. The UNODC-supported Global Judicial Integrity Network continued to create experience-sharing and peer support opportunities for judges and judiciaries. UNODC disseminated information about the Network in numerous forums and continued to enrich its website with new resources. As of April 2022, over 70 jurisdictions worldwide had become training sites for the implementation of the Network's judicial ethics training package.

46. The Office launched a new project in Kazakhstan to support the implementation of community-oriented policing, strengthen training curricula and optimize police human resources management with a view to developing a diverse and inclusive police service. UNODC supported the Dominican Republic in designing its police reform and provided recommendations to Thailand on the draft ministerial regulation on the use of force by the police. In Brazil, UNODC adapted the police compliance index used to measure the use of force in three states. In Uzbekistan, together with the National Human Rights Centre, UNODC organized three workshops on use of force for over 1,000 police officers.

47. UNODC provided technical assistance on court procedures and judicial capacity. In Lebanon, the Office established a comprehensive e-hearing system in selected courts, prisons and detention facilities. UNODC facilitated two study programmes, in Austria and Spain, for 42 judges from the Court of Cassation of Egypt. In Brazil, 16 online events, attended by 1,906 professionals, were held to increase awareness of UNODC tools on detention hearings.

#### **4. Effective anti-corruption efforts**

48. At the time of reporting, there were 189 parties to the Convention against Corruption. In June 2021, the General Assembly held its first-ever special session against corruption and adopted a forward-looking political declaration, which was negotiated under the auspices of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention against Corruption. The Conference has been tasked with following up and building on the political declaration and has, inter alia, decided to hold an intersessional meeting in September 2022 to follow up on the achievements of the political declaration.

49. The ninth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention against Corruption was held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in December 2021. The Conference was attended by more than 2,000 participants representing 154 Member States and many international and non-governmental organizations, and adopted eight resolutions. The Implementation Review Group established by the Conference held its twelfth session in June 2021 and its resumed twelfth session in September 2021. The regular and resumed sessions included meetings held jointly with the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption at its twelfth meeting, the Working Group on Asset Recovery at its fifteenth meeting and the tenth open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

50. The first cycle of the Implementation Review Mechanism is nearing completion, with 173 executive summaries of country review reports finalized. Work on the second cycle is advancing, with 59 executive summaries finalized. Addressing the gaps identified through these reviews will increase the effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts. UNODC continued to provide technical assistance in response to the observations made in the reviews, including through the drafting of action plans, anti-corruption strategies and legislation, and capacity-building.

## **5. Social, educational and other measures**

51. UNODC continued its work to prevent crime and violence under its “Line Up, Live Up” initiative, which offers a sport-based learning programme with a focus on life-skills training to complement formal education, using sport to reach at-risk young people who may not go to school and building the capacity of teachers and sports coaches to deliver interactive learning and strengthen youth resilience to crime.

52. In December 2021, UNODC launched the Global Resource for Anti-Corruption Education and Youth Empowerment (GRACE) initiative to further promote the role of education and youth in preventing and countering corruption, in line with the Convention against Corruption and the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption held in 2021. The initiative builds on the UNODC Education for Justice and International Anti-Corruption Academy initiatives, which have been globally recognized for their educational impact on youth.

## **E. Promoting international cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address all forms of crime**

### **1. International cooperation, including through capacity-building and technical assistance**

53. UNODC continued to support the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto by training over 1,500 government officials from more than 120 States parties. In May 2022, the Working Group on International Cooperation of the Conference of the Parties to the Organized Crime Convention held a discussion on the transfer of sentenced persons.

54. UNODC supported the effective implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and promoted its use as a legal basis for international cooperation in criminal matters, building on its almost universal adherence (190 parties at the time of reporting), including through a dedicated digest of cases on the topic. UNODC developed the publication entitled *Digest of Cyber Organized Crime* and further expanded its knowledge management portal, Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC), inter alia, through the addition of resources on case law, legislation and strategies.

55. UNODC intensified its support to States parties to the Organized Crime Convention in the elaboration of strategies to prevent and counter organized crime by developing the Organized Crime Strategy Toolkit and delivering strategy-related assistance across Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and South-Eastern Europe.

56. UNODC published two issue papers, on organized crime and gender, and on the Organized Crime Convention and international human rights law, respectively.

57. Under the global programme on strengthening criminal justice cooperation along trafficking routes (CRIMJUST), UNODC delivered 298 technical capacity-building activities in Latin America and West Africa, including 44 investigative case forums aimed at facilitating cooperation and information exchange to spur post-seizure investigations. The forums benefited more than 15,051 law enforcement officers, prosecutors and criminal justice actors.

### **2. International cooperation to deprive criminals of their proceeds of crime**

58. UNODC helped to create and support six asset recovery inter-agency networks through the Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism. These informal networks of law enforcement and judicial practitioners play an important role, as they facilitate the complete asset recovery process, from the start of the investigation, involving the tracing of assets, to freezing and seizure, management and forfeiture or confiscation. The networks operate in

Eastern and Southern Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, West Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and West and Central Asia.

59. UNODC continued to facilitate the work of the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities, a platform for peer-to-peer information exchange and informal cooperation among 96 anti-corruption authorities in 56 countries.

60. In 2021, under the StAR Initiative, 18 countries benefited from UNODC assistance in tracing, seizing, confiscating and recovering proceeds of crime, and more than 1,800 people were trained globally. Under the StAR Initiative, the Office contributed to 20 global policy events and held three special events on the margins of the special session of the General Assembly against corruption.

### **3. Terrorism in all its forms and manifestations**

61. In support of the ratification and implementation of conventions and protocols on terrorism, UNODC continued to advocate for universal adherence to the 19 international legal instruments against terrorism, assisting Member States in becoming party to them and in implementing them at the national level. The Member States that became parties to various international legal instruments related to terrorism in 2021 were Botswana, the Congo, Finland, France, the Gambia, Honduras, Iraq, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Switzerland and Zimbabwe. France, Portugal, Switzerland and Finland became the seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth Member States, respectively, to have become party to all 19 instruments, joining Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands and Türkiye.

62. UNODC implemented a project aimed at strengthening the expertise of stakeholders in Morocco to develop institutionalized, effective and human rights-compliant investigation and trial management for returning foreign terrorist fighters and their family members. UNODC organized briefings in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand on the screening, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters, their family members and local affiliates.

63. In March 2021, UNODC, in partnership with the Kostanai Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kazakhstan, led an expert meeting on strengthening the capacity of prison and probation officers to manage violent extremist prisoners and foreign terrorist fighters in prison in Kazakhstan.

64. UNODC developed four e-learning modules, available in English and Russian, addressing mental health considerations for the rehabilitation and reintegration of foreign terrorist fighter returnees and their families. The Office promoted the modules through four webinars for professionals from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

65. UNODC contributed to the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme, coordinated and managed by the Office of Counter-Terrorism and implemented with other United Nations programme partners. UNODC provided legislative assistance to develop normative frameworks on advance passenger information and passenger name records, as well as operational support for the establishment of multi-agency passenger information units. In 2021, Azerbaijan, Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Mongolia, Morocco, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Togo and the Caribbean Community received support from UNODC in the context of the programme.

66. In 2021, the Office initiated the development of a new global framework for providing capacity-building to requesting Member States, based on an independent in-depth evaluation and consultations with Member States, regional organizations, United Nations entities, civil society organizations, academic institutions and private sector entities.

#### 4. New, emerging and evolving forms of crime

67. UNODC continued to support Member States in their efforts to address new, emerging and evolving forms of crime. UNODC leads the international efforts to address trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants. Through its global programmes against trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants, UNODC supported 60 countries and trained more than 5,000 practitioners in 2021.

68. UNODC advanced efforts to counter trafficking in migration flows, for example, under the Transforming Alerts into Criminal Justice Responses to Combat Trafficking in Persons within Migration Flows (TRACK4TIP) initiative, reaching eight countries across Latin America and the Caribbean with actions at the national and regional levels. In Colombia, for example, labour inspectors trained by UNODC in the identification and referral of trafficking cases uncovered suspected trafficking for forced labour involving 40 Venezuelan migrants. The Office's legislative assistance on trafficking and smuggling included support to Iraq for the drafting of a judicial guidance note addressing victim's rights in the criminal justice process. Through the strengthening transregional action and responses against the smuggling of migrants (STARSON) initiative, bringing together 13 countries located along smuggling routes that run through Asia, the Gulf States, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean, UNODC mentored officials on responding to migrant smuggling cases in a human rights-informed, gender-inclusive manner, to strengthen South-South cooperation.

69. In 2021, UNODC launched its Observatory on Smuggling of Migrants and published two interactive research analyses that provide geospatial, graphic and infographic visualizations of the smuggling of migrants in North Africa, Morocco and along the central and western Mediterranean route. UNODC published an issue paper entitled "The concept of 'harbouring' in the Trafficking in Persons Protocol", which analyses the practical application of the definition of trafficking in persons and its interpretations in national jurisdictions. To foster collaboration with the private sector, UNODC published the *Compendium of Promising Practices on Public-Private Partnerships to Prevent and Counter Trafficking in Persons*. It also published a study entitled "COVID-19 and the smuggling of migrants: a call for safeguarding the rights of smuggled migrants facing increased risks and vulnerabilities", which calls for enhanced regular pathways for migration in order to prevent the smuggling of migrants. In addition, UNODC published the *UNODC Toolkit for Mainstreaming Human Rights and Gender Equality into Criminal Justice Interventions to Address Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants*.

70. The Global Firearms Programme launched a new initiative to support the implementation of the Roadmap for Implementing the Caribbean Priority Actions on the Illicit Proliferation of Firearms and Ammunition across the Caribbean in a Sustainable Manner by 2030, while continuing its work in other regions. The Office assisted 31 countries in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Central Asia and Eastern Europe with regard to legislative and policy development, preventive and security measures, criminal justice responses, and international cooperation and information exchange, as well as the monitoring of illicit firearms flows and emerging threats, training more than 4,000 practitioners. The Office coordinated a two-week operation against firearms trafficking in the Sahel, in which 850 officers from relevant law enforcement agencies seized 594 firearms and several thousand rounds of ammunition, including among suspected terrorists. The Office started to engage with countries in Africa and Latin America to promote more advanced forms of international cooperation among countries on complex firearms trafficking cases, including through the establishment of joint investigative teams.

71. UNODC continued to conduct research and provide technical assistance to Member States in their efforts to address the world drug problem.<sup>7</sup>

72. With regard to the prevention of and response to violence against children, UNODC delivered capacity-building in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Maldives and

<sup>7</sup> See [A/77/137](#).

Mozambique, and co-organized five webinars for the second regional INSPIRE workshop, involving 10 Latin American countries.

73. UNODC facilitated the expert discussions held by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in February 2022 on crimes that affect the environment (see para. 6 above). A joint thematic discussion on the more specific topic of the practical application of the Organized Crime Convention for preventing and combating transnational organized crimes that affect the environment was held by the Working Group on International Cooperation and the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance of the Conference of the Parties to the Organized Crime Convention in May 2022.

74. UNODC continued to build the capacity of Member States to prevent and address crimes that affect the environment, including by delivering training to over 2,000 criminal justice personnel; mentoring law enforcement officers and prosecutors; strengthening corruption risk management capacity in wildlife, forest and fisheries management and enforcement authorities; supporting forensic and financial investigations; awareness-raising; and supporting international cooperation. New tools were developed, including rapid reference guides for investigators and prosecutors. New projects were launched on waste trafficking and on the potential links between wildlife trafficking and zoonotic disease transmission.

75. At the time of reporting, a series of legislative guides were under development to support States in adopting legislation to criminalize trafficking in waste, metals and other minerals, as well as crimes in the fisheries sector, as serious crimes, when appropriate. The guides provide concrete legislative guidance to States to prevent, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate such crimes.

76. With regard to trafficking in falsified medical products, UNODC organized a meeting in the framework of the West African Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime (WACAP) in Dakar in November 2021, during which the roles of various organizations working on this issue were examined, tools to address the urgent need for strengthened legislation were discussed and the establishment of a working group on legal frameworks under WACAP was agreed upon. The Office developed a new standardized training course on falsified medical products and provided training, in cooperation with pharmaceutical companies and international partner organizations, to law enforcement personnel from 16 countries on identification, proper factory packaging and legitimate supply channels.

77. The Office delivered regional training sessions on combating illicit trafficking in cultural property using shipping containers in Beirut and in Panama in June 2021. It also delivered, jointly with OSCE and the Multinational Peace Support Operations Training Centre in Greece, training on the protection of cultural property to 31 participants from law enforcement authorities and the military of 11 countries.

78. With a view to addressing, inter alia, trafficking in commercial goods, 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. Currently operating in 73 countries, the UNODC-World Customs Organization (WCO) Container Control Programme provided training to front-line law enforcement personnel in profiling and inspecting cargo containers suspected of carrying illicit goods, thus enhancing their capacity to detect the smuggling of highly taxed goods, such as alcohol, tobacco and motor vehicles, as well as other illicit cargo, such as wildlife and forest products and firearms, and to counter commercial fraud, such as undervaluation and misclassification.

79. UNODC organized with CEPOL a webinar on hate crime for 100 participants and contributed to the South-Eastern Europe Conference on Hate Crime organized by OSCE. As the lead entity for the criminal justice pillar of the United Nations network on racial discrimination and protection of minorities, UNODC ensured that the prevention of hate crime, support to victims and addressing racial discrimination through access to justice and criminal justice reform were included in network

activities, which included a four-week pilot training course for 13 United Nations country teams on addressing racial discrimination in programming processes.

80. The Office continued to assist States in responding to maritime crime by supporting their criminal justice systems, from law enforcement at sea through to investigation, prosecution and trial. The Global Maritime Crime Programme offered courses on visiting, boarding and search and seizure at established maritime centres and facilitated simulated trials in which collected evidence was presented in court. Under the Programme, UNODC continued to expand its analytical courses on maritime domain awareness and strengthened partnerships with technology providers to improve sea monitoring and patrolling by Member States. Moreover, the Programme addressed crimes that affect the environment, including by supporting efforts to tackle marine pollution and crimes in the fisheries sector.

81. Through its Global Programme on Cybercrime, UNODC built capacities in detecting, preventing, investigating, prosecuting and sentencing cyber-dependent and cyber-facilitated crimes in 47 Member States, providing specialized support in developing efficient criminal justice responses to complex crimes that have been increasing in number, such as online child sexual abuse and exploitation. UNODC supported the establishment and strengthening of specialized cybercrime investigation units, digital forensic laboratories and reporting mechanisms in Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala and Peru, with a view to making a positive impact on the protection of victims, including children, women and girls. Technical support to address the relationship between cybercrime and other types of organized crime, such as drug trafficking and the illicit movement of funds by means of cryptocurrencies and the dark web, was provided in coordination with the CRIMJUST global programme and the UNODC Opioid Strategy, a five-pillar, integrated inter-agency response to the global opioid crisis.

82. The Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes, established by the General Assembly in its resolution [74/247](#), held its session on organizational matters in New York on 24 February 2022 and its first session in New York from 28 February to 11 March 2022, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [75/282](#) and General Assembly decision 76/522. At its first session, the Ad Hoc Committee approved its road map and mode of work and adopted the elements to form the structure of the future convention. The Committee also exchanged views on key elements, as well as the objectives and scope, of the convention. At its second session, held in Vienna from 30 May to 10 June 2022, the Ad Hoc Committee undertook a first reading of the provisions on criminalization, the general provisions and the provisions on procedural measures and law enforcement, in accordance with its road map and mode of work.

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

83. Information on the governance and financial situation of UNODC is presented in the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation to address and counter the world drug problem ([A/77/137](#)).

#### **V. Recommendations**

84. I urge Member States to continue their efforts to fully implement the Kyoto Declaration, including with a view to building back better from the COVID-19 pandemic.



*Advancing crime prevention*

85. The United Nations stands ready to assist Member States in addressing the causes, including the root causes, of crime. I urge Member States to strengthen, in cooperation with non-State actors, the availability and quality of evidence that can support crime prevention policies that are sustainable, community-focused and gender-responsive and that empower young people.

86. Recognizing the importance of effective prevention policies and programmes for reaching the violence- and crime-related targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, I encourage Member States to strengthen their crime prevention strategies, including by focusing on enhancing youth resilience.

*Advancing the criminal justice system*

87. I urge Member States to apply evidence-based criminal justice policies and strengthen the use of restorative justice and victim assistance, protection and support.

88. I call upon Member States to mainstream a gender perspective into their national criminal justice policies, programmes, legislation and other actions in order to, inter alia, address all forms of gender-related violence, crime and victimization, including gender-related killings.

89. In order to address the excessive resort to incarceration, prison overcrowding and the systemic neglect by prison administrations and other entities in charge of offender management in the community, I encourage Member States to re-assess and diversify their responses to criminal behaviour with a view to reducing imprisonment, making greater use of the potential offered by non-custodial measures and ensuring safe, humane and rehabilitative prison environments. I urge Member States to ensure the practical application of United Nations standards and norms in the field of offender management, in particular the Nelson Mandela Rules, the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules).

90. I call on Member States to adopt measures to integrate child justice reform into broader rule-of-law and developmental efforts, and to adopt and implement child-sensitive, gender-responsive and multi-stakeholder approaches, acknowledging that children(boys and girls) differ from adults (men and women) and are therefore entitled to specific rights, safeguards and responses in line with international law, with a view to protecting children across governmental and non-governmental institutions.

91. I encourage Member States to prioritize the strengthening of national capacity and skills in the field of forensic sciences and to support the establishment and sustainability of regional forensic science networks in order to enhance expertise and capacity in preventing and combating transnational organized crime.

92. I urge Member States to improve the effectiveness of their investigations by implementing evidence-based approaches to interviewing that are in line with international standards and best practices.

93. I urge Member States to develop victim-centred approaches to criminal justice, ensuring equal access to protection, assistance and support for victims of all types of crimes, including by implementing restorative justice approaches.

*Promoting the rule of law*

94. I urge Member States to enhance equal access to justice for all by strengthening their legal aid systems, addressing discrimination, reforming their police institutions

and increasing the effectiveness of investigations, and to improve the effectiveness, accountability, impartiality and inclusiveness of criminal justice institutions.

95. I encourage Member States to fully support the commitments and recommendations made at the special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation, held in June 2021.

*Promoting international cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address all forms of crime*

96. I call upon Member States to continue efforts in support of the effective implementation of the Organized Crime Convention, especially its provisions on international cooperation, and to provide effective contributions and support to the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto.

97. I call upon Member States to redouble their efforts to establish effective anti-money-laundering systems in accordance with relevant United Nations conventions and internationally accepted standards, including, where applicable, the recommendations of relevant intergovernmental bodies, inter alia, the Financial Action Task Force, with a view to fully implementing those standards.

98. Preventing terrorism and violent extremism requires comprehensive and inclusive approaches, which must comply with obligations under international law, including the 19 international legal instruments against terrorism and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council. I urge Member States to ensure fair, transparent and accountable criminal justice processes based on the principles of the rule of law, due process and human rights, which provide the foundation for effective measures to prevent and counter terrorism.

99. I call upon Member States to ensure that trafficked persons are not punished or prosecuted for unlawful acts committed by them as a direct consequence of being trafficked, and to establish domestic laws, guidelines, policies and capacity-building measures for criminal justice practitioners that clearly espouse the principle of non-punishment of victims of trafficking.

100. I call upon Member States to reverse the recent reduction in regular migration pathways in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as a means to prevent the smuggling of migrants and particularly aggravated forms of such smuggling involving violence, abuse, trafficking in persons, human rights violations or death.

101. I call upon Member States to foster international cooperation to effectively prevent, investigate and adjudicate illicit trafficking in firearms and ammunition, in particular to and from countries in different conflict and post-conflict phases, and to address the interconnectedness of such trafficking with other forms of organized crime and terrorism.

102. I call upon Member States to adopt and implement comprehensive strategies and measures to better protect children from serious forms of violence, including violence committed by criminal and armed groups, including those designated as terrorist and violent extremist groups, in accordance with international standards and norms, while adopting a whole-of-society approach.

103. I urge Member States to address the increase in hate crime by adopting relevant legislation, providing relevant training to criminal justice professionals and ensuring relevant data collection and access to justice for victims, in partnership with civil society and community-based organizations, including in the context of responding to hate speech.

104. I call upon Member States, in appropriate cases, to adopt or amend national legislation to criminalize offences that affect the environment as serious crimes, as defined in article 2 (b) of the Organized Crime Convention.

105. I call upon Member States to integrate emerging policy issues into their crime prevention and criminal justice policies and pandemic recovery plans. In this regard, I encourage Member States to integrate responses to crimes that affect the environment into broader national and international agendas, including those on biodiversity, climate change, and waste and pollution; to further strengthen their cooperation against cybercrime, including through active participation in the ongoing negotiation of an international convention on countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes; and to enhance national legislation and capabilities to respond to new, emerging and evolving crimes such as trafficking in falsified medical products, trafficking in cultural property and the smuggling of commercial goods.

106. I call upon Member States to provide adequate, predictable and sustainable funding to UNODC for its research, normative work and technical assistance in crime prevention and criminal justice matters.

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