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Strengthening the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as its governing body

Administrative and budgetary questions

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Item 7 of the provisional agenda**

Policy directives for the crime programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as its governing body, including administrative, strategic management and budgetary questions

Programmes and initiatives to be implemented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the bienniums 2008-2009 and 2010-2011

Report of the Executive Director***

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 50/14, paragraph 9 (b), and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 16/6, paragraph 9 (b), in which the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was requested to submit to the commissions an annual report on the programmes and initiatives to be implemented by UNODC in the bienniums 2008-2009 and 2010-2011 and how they conformed with the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for UNODC (Economic and Social Council resolution 2007/12, annex), as reflected in the proposed strategic framework of the United Nations for the period 2010-2011. This first report provides an overview of the programmes and initiatives to be pursued in 2008 and supplements the information provided in the consolidated budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

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** E/CN.15/2008/1.

*** This report was prepared pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 50/14, adopted on 27 November 2007, and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 16/6, adopted on 29 November 2007.



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I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 9 (b) of Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 50/14 and paragraph 9 (b) of Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 16/6, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was requested to submit to the Commissions a report on the programmes and initiatives to be implemented by UNODC in the bienniums 2008-2009 and 2010-2011 and how they conform with the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for the Office (Economic and Social Council resolution 2007/12, annex), as reflected in the proposed strategic framework of the United Nations for the period 2010-2011. In line with the consolidated budget for the biennium 2008-2009 for UNODC (E/CN.7/2007/17-E/CN.15/2007/18) and specifically with the allocation of special-purpose voluntary contributions by region and by thematic area, several key programmes and initiatives will be pursued that reflect the growth of the programmatic work of UNODC at the country, regional and global levels. Supplementing the information provided in the consolidated budget, the present report provides an overview of the programmes and initiatives to be pursued in the course of 2008.

II. Programmes

A. Treatment and rehabilitation programme

2. In 2008, UNODC intends to launch a far-reaching treatment and rehabilitation programme with the goals of stopping or reducing drug abuse, reducing the health and social consequences of drug abuse and, consequently, improving the well-being, rehabilitation and reintegration into society of people undergoing treatment for drug dependence. The programme strategy comprises three key approaches: (a) raising awareness about drug dependence as a multifactorial relapsing disease and about the core principles of effective treatment and rehabilitation as a health intervention and as a tool for HIV/AIDS prevention and care among drug users; (b) building capacity to deliver evidence-informed treatment and rehabilitation services; and (c) promoting the implementation of community-based, geographically distributed and evidence-informed treatment and rehabilitation services. The programme will reach out to key partners in order to ensure concerted action and will build on prior UNODC achievements, a comprehensive training package and good practice documents developed through Treatnet, the international network of drug dependence treatment and rehabilitation resource centres.

3. The programme, which will be launched initially in 12 countries in 2008 with progressive growth subsequently as further funding becomes available, has three central components at the national and regional levels: (a) awareness-raising and advocacy to mobilize key governmental, non-governmental and civil society partners for the development or reinforcement of the essential elements of drug-dependence treatment as part of a health-care system; (b) capacity-building of professionals who deliver generalist and specialized services at different stages in their careers; and (c) support for the development of low-threshold treatment and rehabilitation services distributed throughout the country in order to ensure access for those living in rural or remote areas. Contingent upon the availability of funding

and in collaboration with appropriate partners, UNODC will develop additional training modules and good practice documents on priority topics not yet covered, such as treatment for young people, treatment of stimulant dependence or treatment of mental and drug-dependence disorders.

4. The programme will contribute to achieving the results identified under result area 3.5 (Treatment and rehabilitation of drug-dependent persons) of the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for UNODC.

B. West Africa: Guinea-Bissau

5. A programme to combat and prevent drug trafficking to and from Guinea-Bissau and to promote the rule of law and the effective administration of justice for the period 2008-2010 has been developed by UNODC in close cooperation with the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS). This strategic programme framework, which comprises an integral part of the UNOGBIS effort to support security sector reform, was presented to the international community for funding and to the Security Council in December 2007. The programme document was presented to the international donor community for funding consideration in Lisbon in December 2007. The programme has two strategic objectives: (a) to combat trafficking through the territory of Guinea-Bissau, and (b) to improve the administration of justice and the rule of law by promoting reform of the prison system. Of the total programme budget of approximately US\$ 19 million, roughly US\$ 7 million was pledged following the Lisbon conference.

6. UNODC was named to act as the executing agency, on behalf of the Government, for the coordination and implementation of the various components of this operational programme. Pending the response of the donor community, a UNODC international law enforcement adviser has been recruited and is based at the UNOGBIS office. The adviser will pave the way for the implementation of the strategic programme framework, making it a key operational instrument in the fight against transnational organized crime and drugs.

7. The programme responds to result area 1.2 (International cooperation in criminal justice matters), result area 1.3 (Criminal justice systems: more accessible, accountable and effective) and result area 3.6 (Prison reform) of the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for UNODC.

C. Victim Empowerment Programme of South Africa

8. In pursuit of the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for UNODC and specifically result area 3.8 (Assistance to victims), UNODC is working to strengthen and implement the Victim Empowerment Programme of South Africa, which is a priority programme of the Government and is in line with its National Crime Prevention Strategy. The overall objective of the Programme for the period 2008-2010 is to contribute towards building safe and peaceful communities, strengthening the human rights culture and providing more effective, multisectoral and coordinated responses for victims of crime and trauma, with a special emphasis on child victims.

9. Under the agreement that has been signed, the European Union committed over 18 million euros to the Victim Empowerment Programme as part of the 2007-2013 National Indicative Programme of the European Union for South Africa, which totals 980 million euros and is the largest support programme of its kind in that country. As executing agency, UNODC will manage the funding in collaboration with the Department of Social Development of the Government of South Africa, which will be responsible for appointing victim empowerment coordinators in the various provinces.

10. Over its three-year span, the Programme will address the country's high rate of criminal victimization through a five-pronged approach that will: (a) implement and disseminate to service providers and to the public the plan on victim empowerment policies, including the Victims' Charter, the Anti-Rape Strategy, minimum standards and the Integrated Victim Empowerment Policy; (b) improve cooperation between civil society organizations and Government departments engaged in victim empowerment; (c) strengthen the capacity of Government authorities to implement policies and comply with minimum standards; (d) strengthen the capacity of the national and provincial social development departments and victim empowerment coordinators to manage the Programme; and (e) improve the capacity of civil society organizations to deliver services to victims of crime.

11. While primarily seeking to improve the institutional capacity of both State and civil society organizations dealing with victim empowerment, a number of one-stop centres are foreseen specifically for adult and juvenile victims of gender-based violence.

D. Latin America and the Caribbean

1. Central America

12. In cooperation with the Inter-American Development Bank and the Organization of American States, UNODC published in May 2007 the report *Crime and Development in Central America*,¹ which underscores the increasing vulnerability of the region as a direct passageway of the illegal drug trade between producer and consumer markets in the hemisphere and beyond.

13. UNODC is coordinating with the Central American Integration System (SICA) on the presentation of the 2008 report. As follow-up and subject to the availability of funding, national workshops will be organized with civil society and relevant national institutions in the most affected States of Central America, with a view to providing the necessary input to design and formulate national action plans and a regional Central American strategy to combat drugs and crime.

2. International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala

14. Following years of preparation and negotiation – under the auspices of the United Nations – with the two most recent administrations of Guatemala, the Government of Guatemala and the United Nations signed an agreement in December 2007 establishing the International Commission against Impunity in

¹ *Crime and Development in Central America: Caught in the Crossfire* (United Nations publication, Sales No. B.07.IV.5).

Guatemala. The Commission, an independent body, will bring in technical knowledge and international experts to assist the national judiciary and law enforcement institutions. Currently, discussions with the Commission are seeking to tap UNODC know-how in the identification and recruitment of experts and in the configuration of customized training modules to strengthen Guatemalan institutions and promote the rule of law and citizen security.

3. Caribbean

15. A report entitled “Crime, Violence, and Development: Trends, Costs, and Policy Options in the Caribbean” (www.unodc.org/pdf/research/Cr_and_Vio_Car_E.pdf) was jointly produced by the World Bank and UNODC and was launched in Washington, D.C., in 2007.

16. The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) intends to make a regional presentation of the study in 2008 prior to the Fifth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of National Security and Law Enforcement. In 2008, CARICOM also intends to develop a plan of action, for which it will request UNODC to provide key technical assistance for implementation of the plan.

E. States in the Persian Gulf area

17. Since 2005, the States members of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf have sought technical advice and expertise from UNODC, mainly to enhance coordination and cooperation between their law enforcement agencies in order to effectively tackle cross-border trafficking in drugs and to combat drug abuse, money-laundering and human trafficking. Those activities contribute to result area 1.2 (International cooperation in criminal justice matters) and result area 3.1 (Community-centred prevention) of the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for UNODC.

18. Four key initiatives developed by UNODC for the area are expected to be continued in 2008:

(a) Implementation of the Global Sport Fund project, based in Doha, which is aimed at young people worldwide to encourage them to use sports as a way to improve their lives and to avoid taking drugs and becoming involved in crime;

(b) Establishment and further enhancement of the Gulf Centre for Criminal Intelligence, in Doha, as a state-of-the-art facility for law enforcement personnel of member States of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf to coordinate operations against cross-border organized criminal networks operating in the region;

(c) Implementation of a multisectoral assistance programme with the Government of Bahrain to address the increasing problem of drug abuse and trafficking in that country by improving the capacity of the Government in the areas of drug demand reduction and drug law enforcement;

(d) The Dubai Police project to build law enforcement capacity and prevent drug abuse among young people, which aims to strengthen the capacity of the Dubai Police to organize and conduct drug control training at both the regional and country

levels and to develop and implement drug control strategies and demand reduction activities focusing on young people in the United Arab Emirates.

F. The Rainbow Strategy: addressing the regional dimensions of the opiate threat from Afghanistan

19. In the bienniums 2008-2009 and 2010-2011, UNODC will assist Afghanistan and neighbouring States in implementing the so-called Rainbow Strategy, a concerted operational regional strategy to tackle the threat posed by the production of and trafficking in opium in Afghanistan.

20. With the principles of the Kabul Declaration on Good-neighbourly Relations of 22 December 2002 (S/2002/1416, annex), the Berlin Declaration on Counter-Narcotics of 1 April 2004 and the Doha Declaration on Border Management in Afghanistan of 28 February 2006 serving as an overall framework, UNODC developed the Rainbow Strategy in 2007 to translate the outcomes and recommendations of the Paris Pact expert round tables into seven action plans, of which four were completed in 2007 and three are under development.

21. One of the action plans (the “blue paper”) aims to increase the number of provinces free of opium poppy and to improve governance in Afghanistan. That dual-purpose approach is enshrined in the Good Performance Initiative of the Government of Afghanistan and is fully in line with the Afghan National Drug Control Strategy and with the Afghanistan National Development Strategy. The paper, which is updated on an ongoing basis, identifies priority provinces in Afghanistan and contiguous areas to be targeted through incentives and positive rewards, building areas of synergy among all stakeholders and partners.

22. Enhancing border management cooperation in drug control among Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan is the objective of another of the action plans (the “green paper”). With an initial total budget of approximately US\$ 28 million, the plan was developed by UNODC and approved by the three States in June 2007 at a ministerial meeting to strengthen cross-border cooperation in drug control. The three-year action plan will be carried out through a step-by-step approach that includes confidence-building measures, information exchange and operational activities with a view to reinforcing border control.

23. Another action plan is aimed at securing the borders between Afghanistan and neighbouring States (the “yellow paper”) by strengthening narcotic interdiction efforts at the point of entry to the so-called northern trafficking route. In particular, the action plan looks at developing and coordinating intelligence using both conventional and non-conventional means, strengthening overall interdiction capacity through the development of a cross-border liaison mechanism between Afghanistan and its Central Asian neighbours and developing operating standards for the “green” (or non-controlled) borders. All UNODC counter-narcotics enforcement projects in the region have realigned their activities to the plan, which takes into account gaps in existing mechanisms and synchronizes efforts on both sides of the Afghan border. The action plan is structured around three pillars: (a) intelligence analysis and sharing; (b) establishment of border liaison offices; and (c) development of mobile interdiction teams.

24. Another of the action plans (the “purple paper”) promotes cross-border cooperation in counter-narcotics enforcement in the Caspian Sea region and among Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Turkmenistan. The plan is made up of two components: (a) the Caspian Sea initiative, which was approved at a meeting of the Paris Pact held in Turkmenbashi, Turkmenistan, in September 2007 and combines the efforts of the European Union and UNODC with a clear focus on the Container Control Programme of UNODC and the World Customs Organization with a leading role assigned to the Turkmen authorities; and (b) the Turkmen border initiative, which envisages the creation of a drug control agency in Turkmenistan, capacity-building at the country’s borders and cross-border cooperation with Afghanistan and Iran (Islamic Republic of). A partner of the action plan to secure Central Asian borders (see para. 23 above), the Government of Turkmenistan agreed in principle to self-finance the Turkmen border initiative in the amount of US\$ 14 million. Not 10 days after the visit of the Executive Director of UNODC on 10 and 11 January 2008, the President of Turkmenistan issued a decree establishing the drug control agency.

25. The action plan referred to as the “red paper”, developed by UNODC in May 2007, addresses a key element of any successful counter-narcotics enforcement strategy in the region: the smuggling in and around Afghanistan of acetic anhydride, a key chemical used in the conversion of morphine into heroin. The plan, which was approved by Paris Pact partners at an expert round-table meeting held in May 2007, called for the launch of time-bound operations targeting acetic anhydride in Afghanistan, China, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan, in collaboration with several Paris Pact partners. As a result, the Targeted Anti-trafficking Regional Communication, Expertise and Training (TARCET) initiative was launched in November 2007 with a twofold objective: (a) to educate key law enforcement officers in methods used to identify and intercept consignments of smuggled chemicals; and (b) to intercept consignments of smuggled chemicals using modern methodologies. The TARCET initiative will be supported through UNODC technical assistance projects in the region and by Paris Pact partners.

26. Two other action plans – one on opium production and trafficking and financial flows to and from Afghanistan and one on fighting opiate addiction and the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries – will be developed and reviewed by Paris Pact partners in 2008.

27. The seven components of the Rainbow Strategy were designed in such a way as to allow local alliances to converge around shared interests, thus facilitating constructive engagement not only by the international community at large but especially by key regional actors, reflecting the essence of the Paris Pact principles. The action plans are designed to operate in a pragmatic and incremental way, starting in early 2008, as incubators for novel concepts and for building trust and confidence among all stakeholders.

28. The Rainbow Strategy does not offer a comprehensive solution but has been designed to supplement existing interventions of Governments and technical assistance providers; its operational impact will benefit from further coordination and synergy. Currently UNODC has established working relations with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, the Border Management Task Force, the European Union Police Mission, the European Community, the United Nations

Development Programme, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the World Customs Organization and Interpol.

29. This pipeline programme contributes to result area 1.2 (International cooperation in criminal justice matters) of the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for UNODC.

G. Assistance to post-conflict States and participation in peacekeeping and other integrated field missions of the United Nations

30. In response to repeated requests by peacekeeping missions and mandates given by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, UNODC will continue to assist post-conflict States in its areas of expertise as part of an integrated United Nations field presence. Those efforts contribute to result area 1.3 (Criminal justice systems: more accessible, accountable and effective), result area 3.6 (Prison reform) and result area 3.7 (Juvenile justice) of the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for UNODC.

1. United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

31. In response to requests by the Transitional Government of Haiti and by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, UNODC conducted, in collaboration with the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), a needs assessment and programming mission in Haiti in 2006. The mission identified technical assistance requirements in areas of the UNODC mandate, with a focus on corruption, organized crime (trafficking in human beings, drug trafficking, kidnapping and trafficking in firearms) and juvenile justice.

32. Subsequently, a programme of action to strengthen the rule of law in Haiti and a project idea with a phased approach were developed. Funding is currently being sought for UNODC to start providing support to MINUSTAH and to start implementing this inclusive programme in partnership with other United Nations agencies. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat has agreed to assign a MINUSTAH post to a UNODC adviser.

2. United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi

33. At the request of the United Nations Development Programme and in coordination with the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB), a needs assessment and programming mission in the areas of juvenile justice reform and penal reform was conducted in 2006. Two projects totalling approximately US\$ 3 million were developed in those areas; funding is currently being sought, and BINUB will act as the executing agency through the Human Rights and Justice Office.

3. United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

34. At the request of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNODC fielded an assessment mission to that country to provide technical assistance in the areas of strengthening of the rule of law and

criminal justice reform. In coordination with the Mission, a comprehensive programme was developed focusing on data collection, corruption, police and judicial capacity-building and violence against women and children.

4. International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy

35. A programme financed by the Government of Canada – totalling US\$ 1.2 million and focusing on result area 3.6 (Prison reform) of the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for UNODC – aims at building the capacity of the Government of Southern Sudan in the area of prison management. The activities planned for 2008 will focus on a three-pronged approach to support the prison reform process and help meet three of the core prerequisites of sustainable reform in that area: (a) building capacity to manage prisoner data; (b) ensuring the availability of qualified human resources and a leadership element within the prison service with skills and knowledge to manage the change process; and (c) supporting the development of a strong, locally owned and comprehensive legislative and policy framework. Programme implementation will be completed in 2008 and a longer-term set of objectives will be identified for a second phase.

H. Global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Report and Trends programme

36. In 2008, UNODC will launch the global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Report and Trends (SMART) programme, which is aimed at improving the understanding of the illicit synthetic drugs situation globally and in selected key regions and at providing the international community with an evidence base for effective operational interventions and responses to the problem of illicit synthetic drugs.

37. UNODC is in the process of designing the framework for the programme, focusing on establishing links with and between existing monitoring systems around the world and on designing and establishing monitoring activities where none currently exist. National laboratories will represent a key source of information.

38. The need for such a programme has arisen because, despite the increasing awareness of the situation of illicit synthetic drugs (specifically amphetamine-type stimulants) and the adoption by the General Assembly of the Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors (Assembly resolution S-20/4 A), there is still no mechanism for gathering data to be used for the systematic global monitoring of illicit synthetic drugs. That applies specifically to information related to the range of products available on illicit markets, typical abuse and trafficking patterns and the materials used for the illicit manufacture of synthetic drugs. Relevant data are not systematically gathered and, where data are available, they are often not comparable between countries or regions or between years.

39. Once operational, the global SMART programme will contribute to improving the design of programmes and responses and will provide a foundation for improved understanding and effective assessment of the synthetic drugs situation and the patterns of their distribution and use.

40. The programme responds to result area 2.1 (Threat and risk analysis) of the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for UNODC.

I. Forensic science programme

41. In 2007, UNODC started work on the design of a forensic science work programme focused on strengthening the worldwide availability of quality forensic science services, from the crime scene to the forensic science laboratory. Such services will ensure accurate and timely provision of information to criminal justice systems and consequently will support effective and fair criminal investigations and trials.

42. The strategy for achieving that goal comprises three key approaches: (a) improving national forensic capacity and capabilities; (b) integrating forensic science services into national and regional drug control and crime prevention frameworks; and (c) increasing the use of forensic data and information in strategic operations, policy and decision-making at the national, regional and international levels. Building on past and current UNODC activities in the scientific and laboratory sector and responding to the need to extend the focus from solely drugs to include other, related crime issues, the priorities of the programme are to set standards and to provide worldwide quality assurance support and technical assistance to build forensic capacity.

43. Specific activities will continue to raise forensic awareness – from the crime scene to the courtroom – and to explore partnerships with international bodies and associations of forensic science institutes to create areas of synergy in the development of standards and best practices and to help streamline the coordination of technical assistance activities worldwide. Activities are expected to include a needs assessment for the development of tailored projects addressing regional and thematic issues.

44. This programme responds to result area 2.2 (Scientific and forensic capacity) of the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for UNODC.

III. Initiatives

A. United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking: follow-up to the Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking

45. The United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT), formally launched in March 2007, has the stated aim of mobilizing State and non-State actors to prevent and counter human trafficking by reducing both the vulnerability of potential victims and the demand for exploitation in all its forms, ensuring adequate protection and support to those who do fall victim and supporting effective prosecution of the criminals involved, while respecting the fundamental human rights of all persons.

46. UN.GIFT has adopted an inclusive approach that covers the various facets of human trafficking, including crime, socio-economic development, migration, human rights, children's rights, labour and health.

47. Pursuant to Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice decision 16/2, in which the Commission endorsed the decision made at its intersessional meeting held on 1 August 2007, a major step forward within the UN.GIFT framework was the organization of the Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking, to be held from 13 to 15 February 2008. The Forum is intended to raise awareness of all forms of human trafficking and facilitate cooperation and partnerships among the various stakeholders.

48. The Forum is being organized around three central themes that need to be addressed by any comprehensive anti-trafficking response:

- (a) *Vulnerability and root causes*: why human trafficking happens;
- (b) *Impact*: the human and social consequences of human trafficking;
- (c) *Action*: innovative approaches to solving complex problems.

49. As follow-up to the Forum, specific activities and milestones would include continued development and distribution of awareness-raising materials, the holding of consultative group meetings with key stakeholders and the development and dissemination of capacity-building tools to combat human trafficking through expert group initiatives. UN.GIFT will also enable a deeper understanding of the scope and nature of trafficking in persons by means of data collection and analysis, better sharing of data, joint research activities and evidence-based reports on global trafficking trends.

50. All the aforementioned activities contribute to the main outputs of UN.GIFT, including increased awareness-raising, strengthened capacity of Member States to implement the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,² mobilization of resources for the responses required to combat trafficking at the international, regional and national levels and increased support through non-governmental organizations and other service providers for victims of human trafficking. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at its seventeenth session, and the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, at its fourth session, will be informed of the outcome of the Vienna Forum.

51. The research component of UN.GIFT will continue through 2008 and a situational analysis report on human trafficking will be finalized.

52. UN.GIFT contributes to result area 3.1 (Community-centred prevention), and particularly to result 3.1.5 (Increasing awareness of human trafficking among relevant authorities, general public and vulnerable groups), of the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for UNODC, whereby UNODC is called upon to increase awareness of human trafficking among relevant authorities, the general public and vulnerable groups.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

B. Paris Pact initiative

53. The Paris Pact initiative is a partnership of more than 60 countries and international organizations aimed at countering trafficking in and consumption of opiates from Afghanistan. Through a technical assistance project spanning the period 2007-2009, UNODC is facilitating periodical consultations between partners and strategic thinking at the expert and policy levels in order to jointly discuss, identify and set in motion concrete measures to stem the increasing level of trafficking in opiates from Afghanistan and to address the drug abuse situation in priority countries. In addition, the Paris Pact initiative promotes the coordination of technical assistance in the area of counter-narcotics efforts through the use of an Internet-based tool, the Automated Donor Assistance Mechanism (ADAM). Finally, the initiative will continue to strengthen data collection and analytical capacity in priority countries, thus providing essential information for strategic planning and action, thanks to the work of a team of Paris Pact national strategic analysts established in early 2007.

54. In 2008, three Paris Pact expert consultations will be held on priority countries or thematic areas. The meeting of experts on trafficking in and consumption of opiates in Belarus, Moldova and the States bordering on the Black Sea will be preceded by a joint exploratory visit focusing on counter-narcotics enforcement in selected locations of the Black Sea area, with a view to preparing the ground for a well-focused and results-oriented discussion at the round table. A meeting of experts on the smuggling of opiates into and through East Africa is to be held in Kenya in the third quarter of 2008. An expert round table on financial flows linked to the production of and trafficking in Afghan opiates is planned for the last quarter of 2008. A working group of experts will be established in 2008 with a view to ensuring a well-focused and result-oriented meeting of experts. The working group will be composed of representatives of the UNODC Anti-Money-Laundering Unit, the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and a few other Paris Pact partners to prepare the expert round table on financial flows.

55. In order to make the Paris Pact more action-oriented, in 2007 UNODC translated the recommendations of the Paris Pact expert round tables held over the period 2004-2007 into seven action plans, which make up the Rainbow Strategy. The implementation of the Rainbow Strategy will continue to be a priority in 2008 and in subsequent years (see paras. 19-29 above).

56. Other important Paris Pact activities in 2008 include: (a) validation of partner data in ADAM; (b) launch of a marketing campaign at headquarters and in the field; and (c) designation of national and agency ADAM focal points by Paris Pact partners. In addition, the UNODC project office in Turkmenistan will be strengthened in 2008 with a view to improving data collection and analytical work in the Caspian Sea area.

57. The Paris Pact priorities for 2009 will be set by policymakers at a meeting to be held in Vienna in early December 2008.

58. The activities under the Paris Pact initiative are cross-cutting and respond to result area 1.2 (International cooperation in criminal justice matters), result area 2.1

(Threat and risk analysis) and result area 3.3 (HIV/AIDS prevention and care) of the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for UNODC.

C. Stolen Asset Recovery initiative

59. Launched jointly by UNODC and the World Bank in 2007, the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) initiative is intended to address the theft of public assets from developing countries and to promote direct Government-to-Government assistance. That includes working towards the practical implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (General Assembly resolution 58/4, annex). Specific activities to be carried out include developing and strengthening partnerships and implementing pilot programmes to recover stolen assets through the provision of technical assistance, including the promotion of mutual legal assistance.

60. UNODC and the World Bank plan to provide technical assistance to at least five developing countries in the current biennium, at the request of those countries and with a specific focus on the implementation of the Convention against Corruption. That assistance will include long-term institution-building efforts to strengthen national legal, financial and public financial management systems. Assistance will encourage the pilot countries to involve civil society organizations and the media in monitoring activities. The technical assistance provided by UNODC and the World Bank may include assistance tailored to specific country-level efforts (upon request), advocacy for the recovery of stolen assets and sponsoring a forum among developing countries to share experiences and practices in the recovery of stolen assets.

61. The StAR initiative responds directly to result area 1.1 (Ratification and implementation of conventions and protocols), result area 1.2 (International cooperation in criminal justice matters) and result area 3.2 (Corruption prevention) of the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for UNODC.
