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Policy directives to the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

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Items 4 and 7 of the provisional agenda**

World crime trends and responses: integration and coordination of efforts by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and by Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice

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 and follow-up on resolutions

Activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

The present report on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime during 2008 outlines the links between, on the one hand, drug control, crime prevention, terrorism prevention and criminal justice and, on the other, the rule of law, development, security and peace. During the period under review, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime supported Member States in their efforts to achieve a world safe from crime, drugs and terrorism through the three pillars of its work programme: (a) research to increase knowledge and understanding of drug and crime issues and to expand the evidence base for policy and operational decisions;

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** E/CN.15/2009/1.



(b) normative work to assist States in the ratification and implementation of international treaties, the development of domestic legislation on drugs, crime and terrorism, and the provision of substantive and secretariat services to treaty-based and governing bodies; and (c) field-based technical cooperation projects. The report also provides information on the implementation of Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 50/8, entitled “Strengthening international support for Haiti in combating the drug problem”.

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I. Rule of law, development, security and peace

1. Drug control, crime prevention, terrorism prevention and criminal justice are crucial to the development of safe, just and healthy societies and they are closely intertwined with the rule of law, development, security and peace. An architectural design for a safer world would include the rule of law as the framework, development as a strong social foundation and security to keep it safe, while peace would maintain good neighbourly relations. A fair, effective and credible criminal justice system promotes long-term socio-economic and human development and shields society from the effects of crime, trafficking, corruption and instability.

2. Terrorism has become a major threat to international security and that has a detrimental impact on development, security and justice. The rule of law is the basis for countering terrorism and it includes comprehensive legislation that is in line with the universal legal regime against terrorism, a strong criminal justice system and effective international cooperation. Corruption corrodes development and the rule of law and can pose a threat to security by facilitating various forms of trafficking and terrorist acts. Anti-corruption strategies are based on a combination of public attitudes, preventive measures, effective institutions of control, punishment of wrongdoers and recovery of stolen assets.

3. Development is essential to reducing the world's supply of illicit drugs. Poverty, marginalization, insecurity and lack of opportunities to earn sustainable livelihoods are important reasons for illicit crop cultivation. In the past decade, significant progress has been made in reducing illicit crop cultivation in certain regions and countries, but efforts have not led to a significant overall reduction in illicit drug production. Long-term national and international political and financial commitment to the development of the areas and communities affected by illicit crop cultivation is needed to enable the affected States to sustain the gains achieved and to work towards the elimination of illicit drug crops.

4. The three pillars of the work programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) are (a) research to increase knowledge and understanding of drug and crime issues and to expand the evidence base for policy and operational decisions; (b) normative work to assist States in the ratification and implementation of international treaties, the development of domestic legislation on drugs, crime and terrorism, and the provision of substantive and secretariat services to treaty-based and governing bodies; and (c) field-based technical cooperation projects to enhance the capacity of Member States to counteract illicit drugs, crime and terrorism. The present report describes how UNODC supports Member States in their efforts to achieve development, security and justice for all by working towards a world safe from crime, drugs and terrorism.

II. Drug control

A. Sustainable livelihoods

1. Illicit drug crop monitoring

5. UNODC has assisted States by supporting illicit drug crop monitoring and alternative development programmes within the framework of poverty eradication and sustainable development and in accordance with General Assembly resolution S-20/4 E. During the period under review, UNODC and its national counterpart agencies conducted monitoring surveys in Afghanistan, Bolivia, Colombia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Peru. In Ecuador, an initial assessment of coca bush cultivation conducted in 2006 had found the extent of such cultivation to be limited; however, in the light of concerns about such cultivation extending across the Colombian border, UNODC is developing a monitoring system, and new estimates for 2008 and 2009 will be produced.

6. In 2008, Afghanistan accounted for 93 per cent of global production of opium poppy, with opium production reaching 7,700 tons (a decrease of 6 per cent compared with 2007). The 2008 opium survey¹ indicated that opium poppy cultivation had decreased to 157,000 hectares (ha), a decrease of 19 per cent compared with 2007. UNODC has strengthened the capacity of the Ministry of Counter Narcotics of Afghanistan, which has implemented many of the opium survey activities.

7. The area under opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar has decreased significantly over the years, from 130,300 ha in 1998 to 21,500 ha in 2006 (a decrease of 83 per cent). However, the downward trend stalled in 2007 and cultivation increased by 3 per cent in 2008. Despite the strong decline over the past decade, Myanmar remains the second-largest opium poppy grower in the world.

8. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the area under opium poppy cultivation decreased from 26,800 ha in 1998 to 1,600 ha in 2008, a reduction of 94 per cent. The country accounted for less than 1 per cent of global opium poppy cultivation in 2008. The figures reported by the Government of Thailand also indicated a reduction in the area planted to opium poppy, from 1,486 ha in 1998 to 288 ha in 2008. Coca bush cultivation in Bolivia, Colombia and Peru occupied a total area of 181,600 ha in 2008, equivalent to a 16 per cent increase over 2007 (the increase was largest in Colombia and smaller in Bolivia and Peru).

2. Illicit crop cultivation and poverty eradication

9. In 2008, 18 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces were poppy-free, compared with 13 in 2007. However, in the past three years, especially in the south and south-west of Afghanistan, there has been an increase in opium poppy cultivation associated with insurgent interests and corruption. UNODC has supported the Government in building institutions and capacity for alternative livelihoods, criminal justice, cross-border operations and illicit crop monitoring.

¹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Afghanistan: Opium Survey 2008* (November 2008).

10. In Bolivia, Colombia and Peru, UNODC supported alternative development programmes designed and implemented to respond to national needs. The programmes have focused on poverty alleviation through environmental conservation, sustainable production management, support for the marketing of alternative development products and diversified employment. In Peru, UNODC supported conservation efforts and initiated a reforestation project aimed at poverty reduction. UNODC also provided assistance to enable farmers to engage in commercially viable and sustainable licit activities; as a result, in 2008, the product sales of 13 enterprises reached \$73 million, an increase of 23 per cent over 2007. In Colombia, the alternative development programme – with UNODC support – expanded the family forest warden initiative and supported licit crop cultivation and the sustainable management of forests.

11. In the framework of its project “Global partnership on alternative development”, UNODC assisted Myanmar in addressing poverty reduction issues related to opium poppy cultivation.

12. UNODC, in collaboration with partner intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions and the donor community, has promoted the mainstreaming of drug control approaches and strategies into broader development agendas. In 2008, UNODC finalized a manual, based on its experience in the Andean subregion, to provide guidance on best practices, lessons learned, evaluation and regional case studies.

B. Supply reduction

13. A weak rule of law provides fertile ground for drug traffickers, whose criminal activities undermine economies and institutions and thus worsen corruption. UNODC has strengthened the rule of law through its support for criminal justice and prison reform and its work to combat kidnapping. Through its technical assistance projects and on the basis of appropriate needs assessments, UNODC has helped Member States to improve border control practices, introduce witness protection programmes and address issues relating to the proceeds of crime, corruption and the countering of money-laundering.

14. Pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 50/8, in January 2008 UNODC provided advice to the Government of Haiti in support of legislative reform, ratification of the United Nations conventions on drugs, crime and terrorism, the country’s institution-building process and the preparation of a new statute on judicial officers. A judicial affairs officer was recruited through the Secretariat to implement the joint programme of action of the Government of Haiti, UNODC and the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti to strengthen the rule of law. The expert will provide advice to the Government on the ratification process and on matters relating to international judicial cooperation in the fight against drugs and crime.

15. UNODC has prepared a regional programme for promoting the rule of law and human security in the Caribbean for the period 2009-2011. The regional programme was to be presented and discussed with Governments and relevant stakeholders at a ministerial conference on security, illicit drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and terrorism as challenges to development in the Caribbean, to be held in

Santo Domingo from 17 to 20 February 2009. The event, organized in cooperation with the Government of the Dominican Republic, would focus primarily on the regional strategy for strengthening security and the fight against drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and terrorism in the Caribbean. As an outcome of the conference, UNODC intends to intensify its support to the Government of Haiti in combating drugs and crime. The priority activities for 2009 include judicial cooperation and the fight against organized crime and trafficking in persons.

16. With a view to strengthening regional cooperation among law enforcement authorities in the fight against drug trafficking, a number of meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs were held in 2008: the Eighteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Yamoussoukro from 8 to 12 September; the Eighteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Tegucigalpa from 13 to 17 October; and the forty-third session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, held in Tehran from 16 to 20 November.

17. In addition, UNODC has assisted States in Central Asia and in the Persian Gulf area in the establishment of agencies to counter cross-border drug trafficking.

C. Drug demand reduction and drug abuse treatment and rehabilitation

18. Although illicit drug use has been contained since the late 1990s, there are still about 26 million severely dependent drug users in the world.² UNODC has expanded its initiatives, which are based on scientific evidence and respect for human rights, to promote the prevention and treatment of drug abuse and dependence. Moreover, UNODC has continued its efforts to promote programmes that have proved effective, such as education based on life skills in drug abuse prevention campaigns in schools and in the workplace.

19. UNODC has also been developing a joint programme of action with the World Health Organization and through consultations with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders at the global, regional and national levels. The programme will promote treatment and care for drug abusers through strong advocacy action to fight discrimination against drug-dependent people and to promote those people's rights to evidence-based treatment; capacity-building through training and development of national and regional networks of professionals; and development of low-cost evidence-based treatment services for drug-dependent persons.

20. UNODC, in partnership with the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs, facilitated a series of regional and online consultations with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that culminated in a global forum entitled "Beyond 2008", held in Vienna in July 2008. The key issues raised at the forum were the increased engagement of NGOs in reducing illicit drug use and the need to focus more on the most affected individuals, families and communities.

² *World Drug Report 2008* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.XI.1), p. 1.

III. Crime prevention

A. Human trafficking and smuggling of migrants

21. UNODC has been assisting States in the implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,³ and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,⁴ in order to prevent and prosecute those crimes and protect the victims of such trafficking. UNODC has implemented technical assistance projects in all regions to combat trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants.

22. In addition, UNODC updated its toolkit to combat trafficking in persons and released an online version (<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/electronic-toolkit-to-combat-trafficking-in-persons---index.html>). The toolkit helps governmental authorities, NGOs and other stakeholders to tackle the problem of trafficking in persons more effectively. UNODC has also developed advanced training modules for combating trafficking in persons; the modules, which cover all aspects of that crime, are to be released in the second quarter of 2009.

23. A key element of the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) – the Vienna Forum – was held in February 2008. The objectives of the Forum were to raise awareness about human trafficking, forge new partnerships and facilitate cooperation. Within the three themes of vulnerability, impact and action, the Forum participants discussed the various dimensions of human trafficking and its relation to security, development and human rights and highlighted innovative approaches. In the framework of UN.GIFT, research was conducted on national responses to trafficking in persons; the primary data collected in 2007 and 2008 will be included in a report to be released in early 2009. UNODC has initiated activities to support States in tackling the smuggling of migrants. In 2008, UNODC organized an expert group meeting with law enforcement authorities and prosecutors to draft training material on the smuggling of migrants; that material will be further developed over a series of such meetings. An informal expert group meeting would be held in the first quarter of 2009 to draft a comprehensive model law on trafficking in persons, for both common law and civil law jurisdictions, in compliance with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime⁵ and the Migrants Protocol.

B. Transnational organized crime

24. One of the main priorities of UNODC is to support the ratification and implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto. As at 2 January 2009, the Convention had been ratified by 147 States, the Trafficking in Persons Protocol by 124, the Migrants Protocol by 117 and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 2241, No. 39574.

⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,⁶ by 77. UNODC has published the *travaux préparatoires* (official records),⁷ which provide background information on the negotiation of the instruments.

25. During 2008, UNODC offered training to prosecutors to support national authorities in addressing the increasingly sophisticated *modus operandi* of traffickers. A guide and training manual are being developed with input from experts.

26. In October 2008, the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime was held in Vienna. The Conference examined the measures taken by States parties in implementing the Organized Crime Convention and its Protocols, and the difficulties they encountered in doing so. The Conference noted with satisfaction the improvement of information-gathering efforts since its third session, particularly the development of a user-friendly checklist and the ongoing efforts to develop a computer-based self-assessment tool. The Conference also noted the persisting gaps in the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and acknowledged the need to explore options regarding a possible mechanism to assist the Conference in the review of implementation. In its decision 4/1, the Conference requested UNODC to convene at least one open-ended intergovernmental meeting of experts by September 2009, which should present a report to the Conference at its fifth session, in October 2010, on mechanisms, as appropriate, for reviewing the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols.

27. The Conference also decided to establish an open-ended interim working group to, *inter alia*, facilitate the implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol (decision 4/4), and to hold, during the fifth session of the Conference, open-ended intergovernmental expert consultations on the implementation of the Migrants Protocol (decision 4/5). The mandate of the working group on the implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol included making recommendations to the Conference on how States parties could better implement the provisions of the Protocol and assisting the Conference in providing guidance to its secretariat on its activities relating to the implementation of the Protocol.

28. In its decision 4/2, the Conference recalled its decision 3/2, in which it had decided that an open-ended working group of government experts on extradition, mutual legal assistance and international cooperation would be a constant element of the Conference; noted that the Organized Crime Convention was being successfully used by an increasing number of States as a basis for granting requests for extradition, mutual legal assistance and international cooperation for the purposes of confiscation; encouraged States parties to continue to make use of the Convention as a legal basis for international cooperation; and requested the Secretariat to support the strengthening of networking among authorities at the interregional level and to explore ways to facilitate communication and problem-solving among such authorities by considering the establishment of a discussion forum on a secure network.

⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 2326, No. 39574.

⁷ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.V.5.

29. In its decision 4/3, the Conference developed a set of principles that should underpin all future technical assistance projects. Among those principles were the importance of recipient States carrying out needs analyses, taking into account information given in response to questionnaires; the importance of technical assistance providers taking such needs analyses into account when designing programmes of assistance; and the need for a partnership approach, common goals and commitment on the part of those receiving and providing technical assistance.

30. In its decision 4/6, regarding the Firearms Protocol, the Conference stressed the priority areas for the provision of technical assistance with respect to implementation of the Protocol; requested the Secretariat to develop technical assistance tools to assist States parties in the implementation of the Protocol; and urged States parties to consider the advisability of establishing an open-ended intergovernmental working group on the Protocol.

31. The institutes comprising the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network have been cooperating in the organization of practical workshops and events in support of the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice; for instance, at the seventeenth session of the Commission, in 2008, a workshop was organized on eliminating violence against women: forms, strategies and tools. The network exchanged information, conducted research, training and specialized education activities, and started preparations for the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in Salvador, Brazil, in April 2010. The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute has been developing an applied research programme focused on four main thematic areas: justice reform; security governance and counter-terrorism; countering human trafficking and emerging crimes; and studies, training and courses (see the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network (E/CN.15/2009/6)).

C. Corruption

32. The fight against corruption is part of a broader agenda to achieve development, democracy and justice. UNODC is the custodian of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,⁸ which had 140 signatories and 129 States parties as at 18 December 2008. The Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption held its second session in Nusa Dua, Indonesia, from 28 January to 1 February 2008.

33. In 2008, UNODC provided numerous States with technical assistance for anti-corruption activities, including in the framework of the Anti-Corruption Mentor Programme. The Programme, launched in 2007, provides top-level and long-term specialized expertise through the placement of anti-corruption experts in government institutions tasked with the control and prevention of corruption, including in conflict and post-conflict contexts, such as in Southern Sudan. In Iraq, UNODC and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have launched a

⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

joint programme on strengthening the capacity of that country's anti-corruption bodies.

34. With a view to strengthening the integrity and capacity of judicial institutions in several States, UNODC has supported judicial reform programmes and the development of a guide on this subject. In addition, UNODC has published training manuals on alternative dispute resolution, restorative justice and judicial ethics.

35. The joint Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) initiative of UNODC and the World Bank, launched in 2007, continued in a number of pilot countries, including Bangladesh, Haiti, Indonesia and Nigeria. The two organizations have established the institutional framework of the initiative, comprising a joint secretariat located in Washington, D.C., a multi-donor trust fund and the "Friends of StAR" group.

36. On 13 October 2008, UNODC and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) signed an agreement to establish the International Anti-Corruption Academy in Austria. The Academy will be the world's first educational institution dedicated to fighting corruption; it will offer training courses and anti-corruption education for up to 600 students per year from law enforcement agencies, the judiciary, government, the private sector and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

IV. International cooperation against terrorism

37. The counter-terrorism activities of UNODC are implemented in the framework of a thematic programme on terrorism prevention that was developed in 2008. The thematic programme seeks to enhance the specialized legal services provided to States in the framework of the UNODC project on strengthening the legal regime against terrorism and the various cross-cutting aspects of other areas of UNODC work that are relevant to the global counter-terrorism effort.

38. In 2008, UNODC further strengthened its technical assistance work in the area of counter-terrorism. In the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (General Assembly resolution 60/288), it was emphasized that effective prevention required the sustained commitment of all countries to build a strong criminal justice response, based on the universal legal regime against terrorism. UNODC was encouraged to enhance its technical assistance delivery in the area of capacity-building in the legal and related aspects of countering terrorism. The General Assembly, in its review of the implementation of the Strategy in September 2008, called upon Member States, the United Nations and other appropriate international, regional and subregional organizations to step up their efforts to implement the Strategy in an integrated manner and in all its aspects (General Assembly resolution 62/272).

39. Since January 2003, UNODC has assisted 164 States in ratifying and implementing the international conventions and protocols related to terrorism, it has trained more than 7,700 criminal justice authorities and it has developed a dozen technical assistance tools. In 2008, 45 States received tailor-made direct assistance; another 84 were assisted through 16 regional and subregional workshops, including 2 at the ministerial level; and more than 1,600 criminal justice authorities received

training. In States having received such assistance, an estimated 469 new ratifications have occurred since 2003, including 71 in 2008.

40. The increased demand for building and transferring specialized knowledge and expertise to apply the legal regime against terrorism has triggered new initiatives, such as the development and testing of an online training course on global norms against terrorism at work. UNODC has also increasingly provided in-depth training assistance in specialized areas, such as international cooperation in criminal matters, nuclear terrorism, financing of terrorism and rule-of-law aspects of countering terrorism.

41. UNODC works closely with the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Security Council and its Executive Directorate. In 2008, UNODC participated in nine country visits of the Committee and it organized a subregional workshop to assist East and North African States in complying with their reporting obligations to the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004). UNODC has also contributed to the work of the multiagency Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and co-chaired two of its working groups.

V. Emerging issues

A. Drugs

42. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as the leading policymaking bodies of the United Nations under their respective mandates on drugs and crime, consider emerging policy issues. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided to convene a high-level segment at its fifty-second session, in 2009, to conduct a global assessment of the implementation of the declarations and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, in 1998, as well as emerging issues, and to renew commitments to action by Member States. The high-level segment will be of major significance for the global structure of international drug control, requiring the full and high-level participation of all Member States.

1. Vulnerable transit areas

43. In recent years, UNODC has drawn the attention of the international community to vulnerable areas located along major transnational drug trafficking routes, including in the Caribbean, Central America, Central Asia, South-Eastern Europe and West Africa. The corrupting and destabilizing effects that the flow of drugs has on those regions can be devastating and must be countered through support from the international community and donor countries.⁹

⁹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and World Bank, *Crime, Violence, and Development: Trends, Costs, and Policy Options in the Caribbean* (March 2007); *Crime and Development in Central America: Caught in the Crossfire* (United Nations publication, Sales No. B.07.IV.5); United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Crime and Its Impact on the Balkans and Affected*

2. Oversupply of heroin

44. UNODC estimates that Afghanistan has produced far more opium than required to satisfy global illicit demand for opiates in recent years. The surplus, however, has not resulted in the expected decrease in prices for opiates. There are recent indications that opium poppy farmers, drug traffickers and possibly insurgents have been stockpiling opium, thereby maintaining higher prices than the laws of supply and demand would normally dictate. Data on abuse, particularly in the major outlets for Afghan opiates, are required in order to improve estimates of the size and value of stocks and to monitor the flows of heroin from Afghanistan.

3. A new approach to synthetic drugs

45. In *Amphetamines and Ecstasy: 2008 Global ATS Assessment*,¹⁰ launched in September 2008, it was reported that the stabilization of amphetamine-type stimulants at the global level was related to an apparent stabilization in the markets of some large developed countries, a phenomenon that masked the significant shift of manufacture, trafficking and use to developing countries. The global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends (SMART) programme was launched in 2008, along with a report to address the scarcity of data on synthetic drugs and enhance the capacity of Member States and authorities in priority regions to generate, manage, analyse and report synthetic drug information and apply the knowledge to the design of policy and operational programme interventions.

B. Crime

1. Organized crime and the impact of the financial crisis

46. Many of the social consequences of the financial crisis experienced by the world economy in 2008 and the subsequent economic recession have yet to unfold. Apart from a recrudescence of conventional crime that could be fuelled by the loss of jobs and legitimate income opportunities for millions of people all over the world, there is also concern that organized criminal groups may take advantage of depressed share and real estate prices to further penetrate the licit economy. To address this issue, increased vigilance and stringent money-laundering controls and asset recovery arrangements are required. Greater commitment to integrity, based on the rule of law, and greater oversight are essential for restoring confidence in the financial sector: the implementation of the United Nations conventions against crime (the Convention against Corruption and the Organized Crime Convention) would also contribute to curbing economic crime.

2. Africa's special vulnerabilities

47. The Revised African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2007-2012) and the related mechanism for implementation, follow-up

Countries (March 2008); United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Cocaine Trafficking in West Africa: the Threat to Stability and Development (with Special Reference to Guinea-Bissau)* (December 2007); United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Drug Trafficking as a Security Threat in West Africa* (November 2008).

¹⁰ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.XI.12.

and evaluation were endorsed at a conference of ministers for drug control and crime prevention from African Union member States held in Addis Ababa from 3 to 7 December 2007 and approved at the African Union Heads of State Summit held in January 2008. Building on the request of the African Union Commission for UNODC support to implement the Plan of Action at the continental, regional and country levels, a memorandum of understanding providing a strategic framework for collaboration between the Commission and UNODC was signed and a joint three-year project was developed. The project is ready to be launched in 2009 and will support the involvement of the regional economic communities in implementing the Plan of Action.

48. During the seventeenth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in April 2008, a number of West African ministers invited the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and UNODC to take the lead in devising a concerted response, including national and regional initiatives, to be discussed at a regional high-level conference. Organized in partnership with UNODC, the United Nations Office for West Africa and the European Commission, the ECOWAS Ministerial Conference on Drug Trafficking as a Security Threat to West Africa, held in Praia on 28 and 29 October 2008, resulted in a political declaration and an action plan that were subsequently adopted at the summit of Heads of State of ECOWAS member States held in December 2008. The action plan will be supported by an implementation plan to be formulated with assistance from UNODC and other partners. It has been recommended that implementation of the action plan should be monitored by the Security Council.

49. Hosted by the Government of Kenya, an expert round table for East Africa, held within the framework of the Paris Pact initiative, was held in Nairobi from 22 to 24 September 2008 to discuss effective ways to counter trafficking in and abuse of Afghan opiates in East Africa. The round table brought together experts from East Africa and from Egypt, France, Germany, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Morocco, Nigeria, the Russian Federation and the United States of America. The African Union Commission, the Eastern African Police Chiefs Organisation, the European Commission, INTERPOL, UNODC and the World Customs Organization were also represented. The recommendations emerging from the round table were presented at the Paris Pact Policy Consultative Group meeting held in Vienna on 15 and 16 December and will be used to develop and implement targeted priority actions for East Africa.

3. Identity-related crime

50. The core group of experts on identity-related crime, established in the framework of the consultative platform launched by UNODC in 2007, held a meeting in Vienna in June 2008 to streamline the response to transnational economic fraud and identity-related crime. Building on the recommendations of that group, UNODC prepared a discussion paper on the typology of identity-related crimes and the formulation of elements that may need to be considered for criminalization purposes.

4. Cybercrime

51. UNODC has worked towards developing a comprehensive programme to address computer-related crime and, in partnership with relevant international

organizations, prepare training materials on the investigation and prosecution of computer-related crime, including the use of information and communications technologies, in particular the Internet, for child sexual exploitation and abuse. In addition, UNODC, together with the Korean Institute of Criminal Justice Policy, will further develop a virtual forum against cybercrime to provide technical assistance to developing countries (see <http://www.kicjp.re.kr/english/index.asp>).

5. Trafficking in forest products

52. International trafficking in forest products has serious environmental, social and economic consequences. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2008/25, noted the need for holistic and comprehensive national multisectoral approaches to preventing and combating such trafficking and for international coordination and cooperation in support of such approaches, including through technical assistance activities.

53. In March 2008, UNODC organized an open-ended expert group meeting on international cooperation in preventing and combating international trafficking in forest products, including timber, wildlife and other forest biological resources. Given the connection between environmental crime and organized crime, corruption and money-laundering, UNODC is engaged in dialogue with INTERPOL, the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant stakeholders.

6. Piracy

54. In November 2008, UNODC participated in an expert working group convened by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia to develop a response to Somali pirates operating in the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean. The expert working group developed short-, medium- and long-term proposals to address piracy and the root causes of instability in Somalia.

55. Pursuant to the International Conference on Piracy around Somalia, held in Nairobi on 11 December 2008, and to Security Council resolutions 1816 (2008), 1838 (2008), 1846 (2008) and 1851 (2008), in particular with regard to the provision of training and technical assistance to countries in the region to investigate and prosecute piracy in waters off Somalia, UNODC has proposed a programme of action for consideration by regional partners.

VI. Building a safer world together

A. Criminal justice

1. Justice reform

56. In 2008, UNODC further strengthened its technical assistance portfolio in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice through its field office network and a strategy to integrate crime prevention, criminal justice and governance and integrity into its activities. The current UNODC project portfolio in these areas includes 24 projects in 13 countries, and it is being expanded to other substantive areas, such as access to justice and legal aid, police oversight and integrity, and justice for children. In the area of prison reform, new projects focus on the prevention of

torture in prisons, protection of vulnerable groups, strengthening of prison management and social rehabilitation of offenders. The portfolio of projects to combat violence against women has been expanded beyond the Southern African region to include a project in Viet Nam.

57. UNODC has continued to build strong partnerships with other United Nations agencies, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations. A request was received from the Caribbean Community secretariat to provide technical assistance in the formulation of a crime prevention strategy and a plan of action that focus on reducing violence, fostering social inclusion, promoting social reintegration, empowering victims and protecting environmental and economic resources.

2. Technical tools to assist States in the use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice

58. UNODC has developed tools for policymakers and professionals in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice. The criminal justice assessment toolkit has been translated into French and Spanish, and a software version of the toolkit has been launched; other new tools on crime prevention, gender and forensics are under development. The Criminal Justice Handbook Series now comprises seven handbooks, including one on planning and action for crime prevention in Southern Africa and the Caribbean and one on women and imprisonment, intended for prison managers and policymakers. UNODC also finalized its review of a handbook on United Nations criminal justice standards for United Nations police, which will be published in early 2009, and it is currently finalizing a handbook on lessons learned from strengthening and reforming criminal justice systems in post-conflict and transitional States.

59. In May 2008, UNODC, in cooperation with the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat, organized an expert group meeting in Vienna on good practices in legislation on violence against women. In July 2008, UNODC organized a technical consultative expert group meeting in Berlin on making the United Nations crime prevention guidelines work, which reviewed the draft crime prevention assessment tool and the outline of a manual on making the United Nations crime prevention guidelines work.

B. Law enforcement

1. Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre

60. The Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC) is a subregional drug control initiative that is being implemented in cooperation with the Governments of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. During the pilot stage, CARICC established operational cooperation among the States of the subregion, and tangible results were achieved by drug law enforcement agencies in the area of drug control.

2. Container Control Programme

61. Under the Container Control Programme of UNODC and the World Customs Organization, special operational units to profile containers for inspection were established in Ghana, Pakistan and Senegal. A similar unit is expected to be set up in Turkmenistan. The Programme has been expanded to include other seaports and dry ports in the Central Asian region, and regional concept notes have been developed for the Caribbean, the Caspian Sea, Central America and South America. It is anticipated that the regional approach will make the Programme more effective and ensure improved coordination and cooperation among national law enforcement agencies.

3. Witness protection

62. In 2008, UNODC produced a guide entitled “Good practices for the protection of witnesses in criminal proceedings involving organized crime” (<http://www.unodc.org/documents/organized-crime/Witness-protection-manual-Feb08.pdf>). The good practices were identified at regional expert group meetings and include information about forms of procedural protection and about the establishment of covert witness protection units. In the development of the good practices, UNODC consulted with more than 60 Member States and international organizations.

63. To address the issue of temporary or permanent relocation, UNODC developed a model witness protection law and a model international relocation agreement. Also in 2008, UNODC organized in Athens a regional conference on witness protection for South-East Europe and the Caucasus and training events on witness protection in Azerbaijan, Kenya and Mexico; and it engaged with the Governments of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia to strengthen the capacity of the judicial process in order to protect witnesses in organized crime cases.

64. UNODC assisted the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors (AIAMP) in the drafting of a set of guidelines for the protection of victims and witnesses, which, together with the UNODC good practices for the protection of witnesses in criminal proceedings, were formally presented at the AIAMP General Meeting held in the Dominican Republic on 9 and 10 July 2008.

4. Countering of kidnapping

65. The Government of Colombia continued to support the UNODC counter-kidnapping programme and, together with the Serious Organised Crime Agency of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, lent active technical support to training events and technical needs assessments. The United Nations *Counter-Kidnapping Manual* continues to be regularly sought out by Member States for use in their national responses to this issue.

5. Firearms

66. In 2008, UNODC organized a second expert working group meeting on the implementation of the Firearms Protocol. At the meeting, participants provided input and guidance on draft technical guidelines for the implementation of the Protocol and discussed draft model provisions for the legislative implementation of the Protocol. UNODC has also developed a strategy on combating illicit firearms

manufacturing and trafficking, which involves assessing and strengthening the legislation and institutional capacity to implement the Protocol in 10 pilot countries.

67. In April 2008, UNODC organized in Zagreb a regional training seminar on measures to prevent and combat trafficking in firearms. Participants at the seminar discussed issues related to the implementation of the Protocol, exchanged views and shared experiences with other law enforcement authorities from South-Eastern Europe responsible for firearms control.

C. Data collection, research and monitoring of drug and crime trends

68. In the *World Drug Report 2008*, it was noted that the stability of world drug markets appeared to be under strain.¹¹ The report also traces the history of international drug control since it started a century ago in response to the Chinese opium epidemic. That overview shows how the multilateral response has helped the world to contain the drug problem over time. In December 2008, illicit opium survey reports were published for South-East Asia (Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Thailand) and the findings point to an overall stabilization of opium production in the Golden Triangle. New data on coca bush cultivation in the Andean countries in 2007 were published in June 2008 and showed a stabilization of global cocaine production, despite an increase in coca bush cultivation.

69. In 2008, UNODC published a study entitled *Crime and its Impact on the Balkans and Affected Countries* and analysed the situation in West Africa in a new report entitled *Drug Trafficking as a Security Threat in West Africa*. UNODC also completed a new global report on trafficking in persons, based on data collected from more than 150 countries and territories, and launched a new study on the threat of transnational trafficking in Afghan opiates. Data on crime were collected through the Tenth United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (85 country responses had been received as of November 2008). An analysis of global levels of intentional homicide was finalized by UNODC and published in a report entitled *Global Burden of Armed Violence*.¹² Further guidelines and standards for crime statistics were elaborated with the finalization of a manual on victimization surveys prepared jointly by UNODC and the Economic Commission for Europe. UNODC has remained involved in the wider United Nations effort to develop standard indicators on violence against women in a workshop on crime statistics in Africa, organized jointly by UNODC and the Economic Commission for Africa, and held in Addis Ababa from 8 to 12 December 2008, and in a regional workshop on development of juvenile justice systems, held in Nepal in November 2008. UNODC also lent support for crime victim surveys in African countries, including Egypt, Nigeria and Uganda and, together with UNDP, provided technical support for the design and implementation of pilot assessment surveys of judicial capacity and integrity in Afghanistan.

¹¹ *World Drug Report 2008 ...*, p. 7.

¹² Geneva: Geneva Declaration Secretariat, September 2008.

D. Scientific and forensic support

70. Pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 50/4, entitled “Improving the quality and performance of drug analysis laboratories”, UNODC has provided support to institutions and individuals from over 85 Member States in the form of quality assurance support, guidelines and best practice manuals, reference samples and field identification test kits. The international collaborative exercise, a proficiency testing scheme offered to Member States by the UNODC for the analysis of controlled substances in seizures and biological fluids, has recorded an increase of 30 per cent in the number of participating laboratories. In addition, UNODC has completed a manual on the implementation of quality management systems in drug testing laboratories.

71. In 2008, UNODC extended its scientific support to cover not just drugs but also related forensic investigations. Increased attention was given to forensics with respect to best practices in countering human trafficking and the integrity of criminal justice systems. In Asia and in Southern Africa, UNODC continued to foster regional cooperation between forensic laboratories, which resulted in the establishment of the Asian Forensic Sciences Network and the Southern Africa Regional Forensic Science Network respectively. In addition, an innovative model for mentoring scientific staff at the drug-testing facility of the Counter-Narcotics Police of Afghanistan was initiated in 2008 and is expected to improve the capacity of that agency.

VII. Strengthening the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

A. Strategy for the period 2008-2011 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

72. The three subprogrammes under programme 13 of the strategic framework of the United Nations for the period 2010-2011 correspond broadly to the three themes identified in the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for UNODC (see para. 4 above). That strategy has been incorporated into the strategic framework, and the consolidated budget for the biennium 2008-2009 for UNODC (E/CN.7/2007/17–E/CN.15/2007/18) was aligned with the three basic themes and 14 result areas identified. Standard tools have been prepared for formulating regional, country and thematic programmes that will translate results into measurable targets with corresponding resource estimates.

73. UNODC has developed five draft regional programmes covering East Asia and the Pacific, East Africa, the Caribbean, Central America and the Balkans. The regional programmes are in line with the medium-term strategy for UNODC and mark the evolution of UNODC work from project-based assistance to a more flexible programme-based approach. While implementing the regional programmes, UNODC will continue to work, in 2009, on the elaboration of new programmes in other areas of the world. Consultations are under way with national counterparts to reach agreement on the development, in the coming months, of regional

programmes for West Africa, North Africa and the Middle East, and the Southern Cone.

74. At the project level, UNODC conducted regional training courses on result-based management and evaluation for participants from South-Eastern Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. One such training event was conducted for the field offices in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan. Capacity-building activities for the offices in the African and Latin American regions are under preparation.

B. Partnerships

1. Broadening the donor base and increasing contributions

75. As indicated by the Joint Inspection Unit in its report entitled “Voluntary contributions in the United Nations system organizations: impact on programme delivery and resource mobilization strategies” (A/62/546), UNODC is highly dependent on voluntary earmarked funding (90 per cent), and that creates a lack of predictability of resources, lack of flexibility and a potential for the distortion of programme priorities. Although the work of UNODC is mandated by a broad range of international, legally binding instruments and the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, its regular budget resources amount to less than 1 per cent of the regular budget of the United Nations. Given the discrepancy between its multifaceted mandates and its weak regular-budget resource base, UNODC has redefined its strategic priorities, as reflected in the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for UNODC (see paras. 4 and 72 above), to allow it to engage in more strategic dialogue with its stakeholders and to promote more flexible funding methods.

76. Voluntary donor contributions for the drug and crime programmes together in 2008 totalled \$258.8 million,¹³ representing an increase of 43.7 per cent over the 2007 level. Special-purpose or earmarked programme funding came to \$245.5 million, and general-purpose funding was \$13.3 million (5.1 per cent of total voluntary funding).

77. In 2008, a marked shift occurred in the composition of UNODC funding. The group of major donors¹⁴ provided about 52 per cent of all voluntary funding in 2008, compared with 72 per cent in 2007, while the group of emerging and national donors accounted for about 40 per cent of that funding. Other contributors, such as United Nations agencies, international financial institutions and private foundations, donated about 8 per cent. In 2008, significantly higher pledges were received from Brazil, China, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, India, Peru, Poland and the United States.

78. Key institutional support for general-purpose funding in 2008 was pledged primarily (91 per cent) by a group of major donors including Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Norway, Sweden, Spain, Turkey

¹³ Total is from signed funding agreements and does not necessarily equal revenue actually received by UNODC.

¹⁴ Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States and European Union.

and the United States. Brazil, Colombia and Mexico provided significant cost-sharing for the local support budget of UNODC.

79. In 2008, UNODC intensified cooperation with its major and its emerging and national donors. Twenty-one informal meetings were held with major donors on such issues as policy, funding and operational priorities. Four meetings were held with emerging and national donors, and focused on the implementation of the medium-term strategy, the budget and the financial situation of UNODC.

2. European Commission, international financial institutions and other partnerships

80. In 2008, UNODC held two rounds of policy consultations with senior officials of the European Commission to discuss the review of the achievement of the goals and targets set by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, drug demand reduction and HIV/AIDS prevention, crime prevention, counter-terrorism, governance and ways to strengthen field-based cooperation. In operational terms, cooperation between UNODC and the European Commission remained at the same high level as in 2007.

81. UNODC also engaged at the senior policy level with the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Caribbean Community to explore the potential for joint operational activities, particularly in the areas of crime prevention, judicial and criminal justice reform, countering money-laundering, terrorism financing and sustainable livelihoods. In the context of the Revised African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2007-2012), UNODC initiated a strategic policy exchange with the African Development Bank in the areas of governance, anti-corruption, countering money-laundering, drug control and crime prevention.

82. Of growing importance is the cooperation between UNODC and the private corporate sector and private foundations. This cooperation encompasses advocacy, marketing support, project management, training and also direct sponsorship of UNODC programmes, including research and publications, in the area of drug abuse prevention, crime prevention, countering money-laundering and anti-corruption.

3. Entities of the United Nations system

83. UNODC has strengthened its partnerships and coordination with other United Nations entities as part of the One United Nations initiative and in order to step up its engagement with coordinating bodies across the United Nations system, in particular through the United Nations Development Group.

84. In July 2008, UNODC signed the One Plan Fund for Viet Nam; and, given its specialized technical expertise, UNODC has played a leading role in the rule-of-law coordination group. UNODC is also taking the lead in the areas of anti-corruption work, fighting transnational organized crime, including trafficking in human beings and in drugs, and victim and witness protection and assistance.

85. With a view to consolidating UNODC expertise in anti-corruption efforts and criminal justice, UNODC and UNDP signed a memorandum of understanding in 2008. Activities will include joint and strengthened anti-corruption efforts in Iraq, the western Balkans, Nigeria and the Arab States.

86. In 2008, UNODC and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) developed a plan to implement a memorandum of understanding whose provisions included the development of a technical assistance tool on policing in urban spaces to be used for joint development of programmes. UNODC is a full partner of the UN-Habitat Safer Cities Programme. Joint assessment missions have been carried out with the Safer Cities Programme in Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, UNODC participated as a partner organization in the International Youth Crime Prevention and Cities Summit held in June 2008 and in the Fourth World Urban Forum, held in November 2008.

87. UNODC, as a co-sponsor of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), is studying HIV/AIDS and injecting drug use in prison settings and in connection with human trafficking and is working at the country and regional levels with UNAIDS and other co-sponsors.

88. UNODC has strengthened its partnership with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, specifically through the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti. In addition to its engagement in Cape Verde on law enforcement issues, UNODC is exploring possibilities for working with the United Nations Office in Guinea-Bissau, particularly in the area of prison reform.

89. In 2008, UNODC engaged with the Multi-Donor Trust Fund Office of UNDP and mobilized resources from the Peacebuilding Commission for a prison reform project in Guinea-Bissau. This is in line with the One United Nations approach of national ownership and adheres to the principles set out in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

90. UNODC continued its advocacy and fund-raising activities with the private sector, working with representatives from the media, the entertainment industry, the international press, NGOs and foundations. Two major public relations events on human trafficking, co-sponsored by the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships, were organized in New York, at which UNODC, the Fund and the United Nations Foundation signed a cooperation agreement intended to facilitate resource mobilization from private sources.

VIII. Conclusions and recommendations

91. It is recommended that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in the context of their respective mandates, and Member States should consider:

(a) Supporting the design and implementation of a new generation of UNODC regional programmes, in line with the guiding principles outlined in a note on UNODC regional programmes presented to the open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC. The regional programmes will ensure full ownership by the States concerned and will be endorsed at regional high-level meetings, with the participation of the States concerned, United Nations partners, key stakeholders and international funding partners;

(b) Supporting the current reconfiguring of UNODC field operations, with a view to engaging more effectively with the United Nations system at the field level

by including UNODC mandates and priorities in the new generation of development assistance frameworks; taking the lead in thematic groups on transnational organized crime, corruption and drugs; maximizing joint programming efforts; reinforcing the UNODC partnership with UNDP; and participating actively in the regional directors teams to provide strategic guidance and support to resident coordinators and country teams in the respective regions;

(c) Supporting effective integration of UNODC with the United Nations system in post-conflict settings, thus contributing to a coherent and comprehensive United Nations approach to the conflict-crime nexus. In particular, UNODC would contribute to the integration of peacemaking and peacekeeping activities with efforts to develop the rule of law and to contain criminal activities. The promotion of a regional approach by UNODC would also be essential to preventing instability and organized crime in fragile States from spreading outside the societies concerned;

(d) *Sustainable livelihoods:*

(i) Strengthening cross-border, subregional and regional technical assistance and cooperation in the area of sustainable livelihoods, including South-South cooperation;

(ii) Helping States to design and improve systems to monitor cultivation and production of illicit drugs and assess the qualitative and quantitative impact of alternative development and eradication programmes; and to share the results with the broader development community;

(iii) Including alternative development objectives in broad-scale development strategies and programmes;

(e) *Demand reduction:* expanding and improving the coverage of demand reduction programmes and services, including in the areas of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, as well as reducing the negative health and social consequences of drug abuse;

(f) *International drug control:* reflecting upon the achievements attained in reaching the targets set by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session and deciding on priorities for future concerted action; States facing significant drug control challenges could make voluntary public commitments to tackling them by setting targets and timelines and others could pledge support;

(g) *Transnational organized crime:*

(i) Encouraging Member States to commit resources to enable UNODC to provide technical assistance for further implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and its Protocols, in particular legislative assistance;

(ii) Encouraging Member States to use the drug and crime conventions as a legal basis for extradition and mutual legal assistance and to consider ways to strengthen the role of UNODC as a provider of training and legal services to further judicial cooperation;

(h) *Human trafficking:* taking into consideration the recommendations of the Inter-Agency Cooperation Group against Trafficking in Persons, providing the necessary financial resources for the establishment and maintenance of an online

information-sharing system to provide information on technical assistance activities to both donor and beneficiary States and to international organizations, identifying and compiling best practices, existing guidelines and training materials, and defining needs for technical assistance;

(i) *Smuggling of migrants*: providing the necessary financial resources for the establishment and maintenance of a technical assistance programme for Member States to implement the Migrants Protocol;

(j) *Terrorism*: providing further guidance to strengthen the work of UNODC in the area of counter-terrorism, including by contributing to the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the development of new initiatives, and inviting recipient and donor States and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to work closely with UNODC in this area;

(k) *Scientific and forensic capacity*: giving higher priority to the development of sustainable forensic science services and of networks of laboratories and scientists with a view to ensuring a more effective exchange of expertise;

(l) *Data collection*:

(i) Continuing to strengthen drug and crime data collection activities and reporting to the United Nations through the periodic questionnaires and individual seizure reports, as well as supporting the dissemination of drug and crime statistics to Member States and the international community, including the production of reports such as the *World Drug Report*;

(ii) Encouraging Member States to commit resources to help developing countries to design and improve systems for the generation, management, analysis, reporting and use of information on synthetic and other drugs that is necessary for policy and programme development;

(m) *Standards and norms*:

(i) Encouraging Member States and other entities of the United Nations system to use existing manuals and handbooks showing how the standards and norms can be applied in different circumstances and providing information on desirable practice;

(ii) Encouraging Member States to commit resources for the provision of assistance to developing countries and to countries with economies in transition or in post-conflict situations in applying standards and norms and introducing criminal justice reform;

(iii) Encouraging the use of model legislation and legislative guides, best practice guidelines in extradition and mutual legal assistance case work, as well as other tools developed by UNODC and its partners;

(n) *Emerging policy issues*: keeping apprised of emerging policy and legal issues and possible responses, for example, in the areas of piracy, cybercrime, fraud and identity theft, vulnerability of States located on major drug trafficking routes and environmental crime, including international trafficking in forest products;

(o) *Financial support*: emphasizing the importance of providing regular and adequate resources to enable UNODC to fully implement its mandates and to provide support in accordance with the increasing demand for technical assistance.