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**Use and application of United Nations standards and  
norms in crime prevention and criminal justice**

## **Use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice**

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

#### *Summary*

The present report describes progress made in 2015 by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in supporting the use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice. It outlines the development of new standards and norms and the Office's efforts to collect and analyse data, develop implementation tools and provide technical assistance at the global, regional and country levels. It also describes partnerships the Office has been involved in to promote coherent intervention in crime prevention and criminal justice reform.

## **I. Introduction**

1. In its resolution 1992/22, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was to include in its agenda a standing item on existing United Nations standards and norms in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice and their use and application. In line with that resolution, the present report describes the progress made in 2015 by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in supporting the use and application of those standards and norms.

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\* E/CN.15/2016/1.



2. The United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice<sup>1</sup> cover a vast array of criminal justice issues and cover topics such as the treatment of persons in custody, non-custodial sanctions and restorative justice; justice for children; crime prevention, violence against women and victim issues; and good governance, the independence of the judiciary, the integrity of criminal justice personnel and access to legal aid. Together with the international drug control and crime treaties, the standards and norms lie at the heart of the work of UNODC. Strengthened crime prevention and fair, humane and effective criminal justice systems are prerequisites for combating crime and violence, transnational organized crime, drug trafficking, corruption and terrorism. The standards and norms are central to the work of the United Nations in the area of the rule of law and provide detailed guidance on the application of human rights principles in crime prevention and the administration of justice.

3. In 2015, the work of UNODC in preventing crime and violence and supporting criminal justice reform was highlighted, as was the importance and relevance of the standards and norms. In February 2015, the General Assembly held the High-level Thematic Debate on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. In the discussions at the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Doha in April 2015, the need was emphasized to integrate crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider United Nations agenda to address social and economic challenges and to promote the rule of law. In September 2015, the General Assembly, in its resolution 70/1, adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which recognizes and reflects the importance of promoting the rule of law through crime prevention and criminal justice reform. Goal 5 (“Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”), Goal 11 (“Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”) and Goal 16 (“Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”) are particularly relevant to the work of UNODC in developing and promoting the use and application of the standards and norms.

## II. Setting standards

4. In 2015, UNODC continued supporting Member States in setting global standards in the areas of treatment of prisoners and violence against women.

5. An open-ended intergovernmental expert group meeting on gender-related killing of women and girls was held in Bangkok in November 2014.<sup>2</sup> The expert group adopted a set of recommendations for action against gender-related killing of women and girls that addressed issues such as data collection and analysis; prevention; investigation, prosecution and sanctions; and victim support and assistance, and provided practical guidance for Member States on ways and means to more effectively prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish gender-related killing of women and girls.

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<sup>1</sup> The *Compendium of United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice* is available at [www.unodc.org/unodc/en/justice-and-prison-reform/compendium.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/justice-and-prison-reform/compendium.html).

<sup>2</sup> See E/CN.15/2015/16.

6. On 17 December 2015, the General Assembly adopted the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules).<sup>3</sup> This revised set of the rules constituted a landmark update of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, first adopted in 1955, and reflected important advances in international law, correctional science and best practices. The Nelson Mandela Rules were the result of the work of an open-ended intergovernmental expert group established by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at the request of the General Assembly. The expert group has held meetings in Vienna (2012 and 2014), Buenos Aires (2012) and Cape Town, South Africa (2015).

### III. Analysing trends

7. Having a collection of reliable and comprehensive statistical data on crime and criminal justice is indispensable for evidence-based policies and for assessing and monitoring the criminal justice response to crime. The standards and norms thus underline the role of empirical evidence for effective crime prevention and criminal justice administration. UNODC supports Member States through the development of statistical standards and technical support, and collects, analyses and disseminates statistical data on crime and criminal justice.

8. In 2015, UNODC continued to collect data on selected crimes and on the operation of justice systems through the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems and disseminated updated data series on its website. The network of national focal points to coordinate national responses to that Survey was further extended to cover 130 countries and territories. This extension had a positive impact on the quality and quantity of the data collected and disseminated.

9. In 2015, a historical milestone was reached in the global work on improving statistics on crime and criminal justice with the adoption of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes, the standard methodological reference for the production of crime statistics and a framework for systematic crime analyses.<sup>4</sup> In March 2015, the United Nations Statistical Commission, at its 46th session, endorsed the International Classification as an international statistical standard for data collection. In May 2015, at its twenty-fourth session, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice confirmed UNODC as the custodian of the International Classification and endorsed the implementation plan, including the creation of a technical advisory group to provide UNODC with substantive advice in the maintenance of the International Classification. In view of the endorsement by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Statistical Commission of the creation of the technical advisory group,<sup>5</sup> all Member States were invited to nominate technical experts with the relevant substantive expertise to become members of the technical advisory group. By the end of January 2016, more than 50 countries had nominated technical experts.

<sup>3</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/175, annex.

<sup>4</sup> Documents related to the ICCS are available at [www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/statistics/iccs.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/statistics/iccs.html).

<sup>5</sup> See E/2015/24-E/CN.3/2015/40 and E/2015/30-E/CN.15/2015/19.

10. Important progress has also been made in the development of common standards for crime victimization surveys. As part of its programme of technical assistance to countries implementing surveys and studies on a number of crime issues, including corruption, crime victimization and access to justice, UNODC together with the UNODC-National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico Centre of Excellence for Statistical Information on Governance, Public Security, Victimization and Justice, and in collaboration with the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), leads the Latin America and Caribbean crime victimization survey initiative. Through extensive consultations conducted since 2013 with government officials, statistical offices and experts from 12 Latin American and Caribbean countries, the common survey instruments have been finalized. The core survey instrument, supplemented by an optional annex, is available in English, Spanish and French and will be tested in 2016 in the countries of the region that have volunteered for this purpose.

11. In addition, UNODC continued to provide advice, technical assistance and training to Member States aimed at strengthening administrative crime and criminal justice statistics. Activities in this area included technical assistance on crime statistics delivered in Nigeria, the United Arab Emirates, Colombia and Peru.

#### **IV. Developing tools and providing guidance**

12. In 2015, UNODC continued developing handbooks, training curricula and guidance notes to support technical assistance in various areas of crime prevention and criminal justice.<sup>6</sup> The translation of existing tools into different languages continued, making them available to a wider audience. The Office also continued to disseminate the standards and norms and to promote their use and application by organizing and participating in workshops and through its technical assistance programmes.

13. In recognition of the need for guidance to Member States in drafting laws on legal aid to implement the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems, UNODC organized an expert group meeting on the development of a model law on legal aid in criminal justice systems that was held in June 2015. The expert group provided comments and examples for inclusion in the draft for such a model law, which will be finalized in early 2016.

14. UNODC published a technical paper titled *Combating Violence against Migrants: Criminal Justice Measures to Prevent, Investigate, Prosecute and Punish Violence against Migrants, Migrant Workers and Their Families and to Protect Victims* in cooperation with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The aim of the measures included in the publication is to support States in their efforts to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish violence against migrants, migrant workers and their families, and to protect victims.

15. The Office published an introductory booklet and a checklist on the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence

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<sup>6</sup> Available at [www.unodc.org/unodc/en/justice-and-prison-reform/tools.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/justice-and-prison-reform/tools.html).

against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice<sup>7</sup> in order to aid policymakers and other professionals in reviewing their capacity to prevent and respond to violence against children.

16. Together with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and other partners, UNODC developed a set of modules on essential justice and policing services for women and girls subject to violence and on essential actions for coordination and governance of police, the justice system and social and health services. The modules are part of a comprehensive package developed in the course of a series of expert consultations held in 2014 and 2015 that identified core elements and quality guidelines for the delivery of services as part of a coordinated multisectoral response to violence against women and girls.

17. UNODC published an information note for criminal justice practitioners on non-custodial measures for women offenders and a handbook entitled *Training Curriculum on Women and Imprisonment*, developed in cooperation with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and the Thailand Institute of Justice. The curriculum consists of 12 modules that focus on the various areas of the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) and are designed for the training of criminal justice officials, policymakers and non-governmental organizations. Both tools were launched during an expert group meeting in Bangkok in 2013 and are intended to address gender-specific needs and to reduce unnecessary imprisonment of women, in line with the Bangkok Rules.

18. UNODC issued the *Handbook on Dynamic Security and Prison Intelligence* as part of its technical guidance in the field of prison reform. The handbook focuses on the contribution of dynamic security — which rests on an alert staff that knows the prisoners under their control and interacts with them — and highlights prison intelligence as one particular element of dynamic security.

19. UNODC also published the *Handbook on the Management of High-Risk Prisoners*, which provides technical guidance on managing the special category of prisoners assessed as posing a high risk to society or other individuals. It discusses the prison management challenges that high-risk prisoners pose, as well measures to ensure prison security, safety and order, and measures to protect society from criminal activities directed from within the prison.

20. UNODC organized an expert group meeting on a handbook on the management of violent extremist prisoners and the prevention of radicalization to violence in prisons. The expert group validated a scoping document and provided practical examples that will serve as a basis for the development of the UNODC handbook on this emerging priority topic.

21. UNODC published a brochure entitled “The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) — An updated blueprint for prison management in the twenty-first century”, which presents background information and explains the changes made during the four-year intergovernmental revision process.

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<sup>7</sup> General Assembly resolution 69/194, annex.

## **V. Providing sustained technical assistance**

### **A. Global**

22. The UNODC thematic programme on crime prevention and criminal justice reform focuses on assisting Member States in developing new instruments, strategies, policies and programmes for crime prevention and criminal justice reform. Support includes advocacy, research and knowledge exchange, norm-setting, legislative and legal support and technical assistance. Under the thematic programme, activities are implemented through regional and country programmes and projects as well as through global projects.

23. Under the global project “Support to crime prevention and criminal justice reform”,<sup>8</sup> UNODC provided technical assistance to 12 countries in the areas of violence against women, prison, legal aid and justice for children including restorative justice. Nine training workshops were delivered using tools relating to prison reform, justice for children and legal aid. The workshops were attended by more than 500 participants in total, 41 per cent of whom were female.

24. Prison systems around the world face growing challenges. In the light of these, and building on the momentum created by the adoption of the Nelson Mandela Rules by the General Assembly, UNODC is drafting a new global programme on addressing global prison challenges covering the period 2016-2019.<sup>9</sup> The programme has three strategic objectives: reducing the scope of imprisonment; strengthening prison management and improving prison conditions; and supporting the social reintegration of offenders upon release. These objectives will be pursued through the prevention of youth crime, the promotion of alternatives to imprisonment, access to legal aid, the strengthening of prison management, and the prevention of recidivism, with due attention paid to women offenders and women prisoners.

25. In 2015, UNODC also developed, jointly with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the Global Programme on Violence against Children,<sup>10</sup> which relates to the implementation of the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Under the new programme, technical assistance activities are delivered at the global and regional levels, and, in pilot countries, at the national level (see also paragraph 55 of the present report). The programme will help to build the capacity of Member States to protect children from violence by empowering them to demand remedies when violence occurs, and by strengthening the justice system and its capacity to prevent and respond to violence against children.

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<sup>8</sup> Project GLOT63.

<sup>9</sup> Project GLOZ85.

<sup>10</sup> Project GLOZ43.

## B. Africa

26. In East Africa, through its regional programme,<sup>11</sup> UNODC provided technical assistance in support of national criminal justice systems, in particular to Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Burundi and Uganda. Under the Maritime Crime Programme,<sup>12</sup> UNODC continued to support the criminal justice systems in the Indian Ocean region and delivered capacity-building activities through the established training platform for law enforcement officials, prosecutors, judges and prison officials.

27. In Ethiopia,<sup>13</sup> UNODC supported the development of a legal aid manual for use by practitioners, which will be validated and used in training-of-trainers activities in 2016. In the area of justice for children, in collaboration with the child justice project office of the Federal Supreme Court of Ethiopia, UNODC initiated a child justice assessment. In collaboration with civil society organizations, the Office also started an initiative for the rehabilitation and protection of vulnerable children in Ethiopia. In the area of prison reform, UNODC undertook an assessment of the implementation of alternatives to imprisonment, and developed a comprehensive training curriculum for prison officers and a manual for court users that explains the role of each actor in the criminal justice process.

28. In Kenya,<sup>14</sup> UNODC supported the development of a toolkit that incorporates all reform documents developed in 2015, for distribution to police officers. UNODC provided programming support to the development by the National Police Service of codes of conduct, a human rights strategy and a gender mainstreaming policy. The Office also supported the independent policing oversight authority, a civilian-led police oversight authority, in conducting an outreach campaign to sensitize police officers and the public on the authority's mandate and role in ensuring proper policing. The Office also provided assistance in developing a performance management system to monitor and review the authority's objectives.

29. In Somalia,<sup>15</sup> UNODC supported maritime law enforcement through the placement of mentors who work with regional coast guards and maritime police. UNODC supported the Mogadishu prison through refurbishment, provision of key equipment and training of staff. Construction of the Mogadishu prison and court complex also commenced.

30. In Central and West Africa, UNODC delivered capacity-building activities to 40 criminal justice officials from Chad, Cameroon, the Niger and Nigeria on the treatment of children who are victims of Boko Haram, witnesses of its actions or are involved with it as alleged offenders.<sup>16</sup> In Cabo Verde, UNODC also reviewed the draft law on alternative measures to detention for individuals between the ages of 16 and 21.<sup>17</sup> Moreover, UNODC contributed advisory services on social reintegration programmes for prisoners in Cabo Verde. In the Gulf of Guinea region, UNODC

<sup>11</sup> Project XEAU78.

<sup>12</sup> Projects GLOX99, GLOZ06, XAMX74, SOMZ15, SOMZ16, XEAX93 and XEAX94.

<sup>13</sup> Project ETHX97.

<sup>14</sup> Project KENZ04.

<sup>15</sup> Project SOMZ15.

<sup>16</sup> Project GLOT63.

<sup>17</sup> Project GLOZ43.

supported Member States' legal reform efforts on piracy and armed robbery, including legal assessments and legislative drafting.

31. In the Sahel region, UNODC held a second regional meeting as part of its Sahel programme<sup>18</sup> to begin the drafting process of a model law on the protection of victims and witnesses. The meeting was held in June in Niamey. Fifteen legislative drafting experts, appointed by the ministries of justice of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritania, the Niger and Tunisia, discussed their legislation and drafted an outline for the model law. The Office also organized training activities for criminal justice officials in Mali and in Burkina Faso on the proper treatment and handling of victims and witnesses of crime. UNODC further provided training to 11 senior prison officials from Burkina Faso and Mali to enhance their capacity to properly register, evaluate and classify high-risk prisoners.

32. In Liberia,<sup>19</sup> UNODC continued to support the public defender's office in ensuring access to legal aid for indigent clients. In 2015, UNODC held a series of training activities on the essential skills of a public defender, on the provision of child-friendly legal aid and on professional standards and ethics for public defenders. Moreover, the practice and training manuals for public defenders, prepared in 2014, were published and disseminated to public defenders around the country.

33. In Mali, UNODC organized the first validation meeting on the national legal aid strategy with stakeholders in partnership with the Ministry of Justice. The meeting was held in August 2015 and gave members of the Ministry and stakeholders an opportunity to provide their input on the strategy on access to legal aid on criminal matters.

34. In Mauritania, UNODC supported national efforts in developing and adopting the new legal aid legislation, which was adopted in September 2015. In October 2015, a stakeholder meeting was held to discuss and validate the national legal aid strategy. During the meeting, a five-year action plan was adopted.

35. In Chad, in June 2015, UNODC held a capacity-building workshop for 40 prison managers and 10 prosecutors from all regions of the country, in collaboration with the Directorate-General of Corrections. UNODC provided legal advisory services and policy advice on justice for children and violence against children.

36. In the Niger, in April 2015, UNODC held a workshop for representatives of national ministries and members of civil society to discuss security concerns in prisons. The topic was particularly relevant in light of the recent increase in the number of alleged Boko Haram members held in prisons. The participants discussed the draft social reintegration plan and debated the need for the establishment of a comprehensive social reintegration programme in the Niger.

37. In Nigeria,<sup>20</sup> UNODC provided technical assistance for the finalization of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act and the Violence against Persons Prohibition Act. Following their enactment in 2015, the Office provided technical assistance for

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<sup>18</sup> Project XAMZ17.

<sup>19</sup> Project LBRZ21.

<sup>20</sup> Project NGAV18.



the implementation of both pieces of legislation and supported sensitization training activities for the police and the judiciary on the content of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act. Moreover, using the new human rights training manuals for the Nigerian Police Force, UNODC delivered 10 sensitization and substantive training for the police. UNODC also finalized assessments of criminal justice institutions, including of prisons, for the development of future technical assistance.

38. In Southern Africa,<sup>21</sup> UNODC continued to support regional efforts to ensure an efficient criminal justice response for addressing gender-based violence. UNODC provided training sessions to criminal justice practitioners in the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of domestic violence cases, in providing legal support and in giving victims of gender-based violence access to justice. In 2015, UNODC co-hosted a round-table discussion with the secretariat of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and SADC member States. Based on recommendations made at that meeting, UNODC and the SADC secretariat are currently formulating a regional strategy to address gender-based violence.

### C. Asia

39. In the Asia-Pacific region, UNODC collaborated with the Ministry of Justice of Thailand to organize a regional meeting on evidence-based research to support drafting laws that criminalize the sexual abuse and exploitation of children. Moreover, UNODC, in collaboration with UNICEF and the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, conducted a seminar on awareness-raising and provided tools and technical advice for law enforcement officials on computer-facilitated crimes against children. Police, prosecutors and judges from five countries in the region attended the seminar. UNODC also delivered training activities to 240 criminal justice officials from 17 countries from the Asia-Pacific region on violence against children in conflict with the law, on diversion and alternative measures and on restorative justice for children, in partnership with the national Government, the International Juvenile Justice Observatory and UNICEF. In the area of gender in the criminal justice system, UNODC provided training activities on non-custodial measures at a workshop organized by the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules). The event was attended by criminal justice actors from eight countries in the region. The Office collaborated with the Thailand Institute of Justice in the promotion of the Bangkok Rules and contributed to an expert meeting to prepare training modules for correctional staff and for trainers on the management of women prisoners in the South-East Asia region, attended by prison officials from six countries in the region.

40. In Myanmar, UNODC conducted an assessment of the Myanmar Police Force as a follow-up to the preliminary assessment completed in 2014. In its report, the Office recommended that disciplinary measures be published and that the police code of conduct be updated in accordance with international standards and norms. Both recommendations were accepted by the Myanmar Police Force. In the area of legal aid, UNODC organized a workshop for over 50 participants in cooperation

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<sup>21</sup> Project XASV23.

with UNDP and the Office of the Attorney-General of Myanmar. The recommendations agreed upon by the participants were presented to the President of Myanmar, and the legal aid bill was amended in January 2016. In the area of prison reform, UNODC facilitated a workshop for prison staff jointly with the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, in the course of which 90 prison staff were trained on relevant international standards and norms. In the area of crime prevention, UNODC provided input to the draft national strategy on crime prevention developed by the Myanmar Police Force.

41. In Thailand,<sup>22</sup> UNODC provided technical assistance and guidance to the National Legislative Assembly on drafting revisions to the Penal Code to criminalize possession of child pornography. The bill was passed nearly unanimously in May and was enacted in December 2015.

42. In Viet Nam,<sup>23</sup> UNODC continued its work under the “One United Nations” framework. In the field of access to legal aid, UNODC gave a presentation at a national legal aid conference in June 2015 on the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems. Issues related to access to legal aid were discussed by representatives from various ministries, civil society organizations and other United Nations agencies. UNODC also provided technical assistance for the revision of the Law on Legal Aid, which will be debated in the National Assembly in 2016. In the field of gender in the criminal justice system, UNODC, in collaboration with UN-Women, conducted a legal gap analysis on the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code and provided the research findings and key joint recommendations for strengthening effective responses to violence against women to the National Assembly. In addition, UNODC, in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Security, the Ministry of Justice, UNFPA and other United Nations agencies, implemented a domestic violence minimum intervention package in two provinces. In Ben Tre province, UNODC also supported the provincial government in establishing 18 domestic violence rapid response teams. Moreover, in 2015, UNODC trained 150 law enforcement officers and legal aid providers, including 64 women, in 12 provinces and continued to provide support to the national authorities in their awareness-raising activities.

43. In Indonesia, UNODC conducted a legal assessment of the national drug policy using the Criminal Justice Assessment Toolkit on alternatives to imprisonment.

44. In Nepal,<sup>24</sup> UNODC conducted an assessment of eight prisons, including three prisons for female inmates, after which the management of those prisons requested the establishment of voluntary counselling, testing and primary health-care services. The programme will be initiated upon final approval by the Government of Nepal. The Office has been advocating the inclusion of women’s concerns in the prison agenda of the Government. In the city of Pokhara, UNODC has been supporting the establishment of primary health-care services in prisons. Following the earthquake of April 2015, UNODC has also been instrumental in coordinating humanitarian efforts in prisons in the earthquake-affected district of Kathmandu.

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<sup>22</sup> Project GLOZ43.

<sup>23</sup> Project VNMT28.

<sup>24</sup> Project NPLJ80.

45. In 2015, in Afghanistan,<sup>25</sup> UNODC actively participated in the development, by the working group on the Criminal Procedure Code, of application guidelines on the revised Code. At the same time, the working group on criminal law reform drafted and reviewed the general provisions of the Penal Code, to be made available to the Ministry of Justice in 2016. In addition, the Office trained 222 legal professionals from three provinces on various criminal justice reform issues. The Office also organized a workshop to raise awareness on the rule of law and the right to a fair trial, which was attended by 53 participants. In the area of prison reform, the Office continued to provide in-prison training and rehabilitation support in two prisons. Since its implementation, the Office, in collaboration with the Government of Afghanistan, trained over 580 prisoners on literacy and vocational skills training in two prisons. Together with a local partner, UNODC also provided monitoring support to a vocational skills workshop for 100 female prisoners.

46. In the Islamic Republic of Iran,<sup>26</sup> UNODC provided policy and technical advice to the judiciary, to law enforcement, and to prison organizations through specialized workshops in close cooperation with key partners. The workshops focused on international best practices in crime prevention, criminal justice and alternatives to imprisonment, with an emphasis on the most vulnerable groups. UNODC and the Government continued their dialogue aimed at adopting legislation and enacting a national plan of action on the protection of witnesses and victims protection.

47. In Kyrgyzstan,<sup>27</sup> UNODC provided support for the development of new criminal legislation that, inter alia, decriminalizes and depenalizes minor offences and promotes the social integration of offenders. In the area of police reform, UNODC supported civil society networks and the police oversight council to increase public awareness of procedures to handle complaints. Together with the Institute of the Ombudsman of Kyrgyzstan, UNODC also supported the nationwide development of local crime prevention plans. UNODC provided training on gender-sensitive policing and on developing local police-public partnerships to over 215 police officers. UNODC recommendations on gender policy were incorporated in the national action plan on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), which was endorsed by the Government of Kyrgyzstan. The action plan includes a mentoring programme for women in law enforcement, which has been launched in 7 regions, and establishes a roster of women for appointment to senior management positions. In the area of crime prevention, UNODC focused on policy development and local-level assessment and strategic planning based on inclusive consultation processes with key stakeholders such as local crime prevention centres, the police and civil society.

48. In Tajikistan,<sup>28</sup> UNODC carried out an assessment and programming mission focusing on prison reform and social reintegration. The mission included meetings with high-ranking Government officials and staff of the prison administration. As a result of the mission, a set of recommendations for technical assistance was developed and discussed with national counterparts.

<sup>25</sup> Project AFGK62.

<sup>26</sup> Project IRNV05.

<sup>27</sup> Project KGZT90.

<sup>28</sup> Project GLOT63.

49. In Pakistan,<sup>29</sup> UNODC continued to implement the Prisons Management Information System in 12 districts in Punjab province. This system was used to train prison administration officials from more than 20 prisons and hold a seminar on prison management and security. In 2015, a formal online peer network was established for the regular exchange of information between prisons. UNODC is developing training modules as part of a comprehensive training curriculum for prosecutors. UNODC has also established e-learning centres for prosecutors in two provinces. UNODC, together with the prosecution services in the province of Balochistan, has also established an effective case registration and monitoring system.

#### **D. Latin America and the Caribbean**

50. In Latin America and the Caribbean,<sup>30</sup> UNODC implemented the Strong Families Programme in Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras and Panama. The Programme is aimed at preventing risk factors from resulting in crime and drug abuse among young people by strengthening parenting skills. In 2015, a total of 167 facilitators were trained and 335 families benefitted from the Programme. Moreover, UNODC co-organized, with the Government of El Salvador, the first high-level congress on tourism and security for Central America and the Dominican Republic. A political declaration emphasizing Member States' commitment to supporting safe tourism in the region was signed at the high-level congress, and a request was made to UNODC and the World Tourism Organization to provide assistance in support of their efforts to develop and implement new initiatives in this field.

51. In Argentina, UNODC presented to the federal prison system the innovations introduced by the revision of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, with a view to initiating a gap analysis for the application of the Nelson Mandela Rules.

52. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia,<sup>31</sup> UNODC supported the drafting of a plan to reduce prison overcrowding, a plan for women prisoners and a national prison reform strategy. The Office facilitated the creation of technical reform committees and trained approximately 100 public officials on relevant international standards.

53. In Brazil,<sup>32</sup> UNODC renewed its partnership with the Caixa Seguradora Group, a major insurance company in Brazil, related to economic inclusion of young people as a form of crime prevention. UNODC also engaged in negotiations with the Inter-American Development Bank in order to monitor police action in territories covered by loans granted to Brazilian federal states, which resulted in a funding agreement with the state of Rio Grande do Sul. UNODC also supported the Federal District of Brazil in its homicide reduction programme (*Pacto Pela Vida*) by organizing workshops addressing crime prevention and police oversight. In the field of access to justice, UNODC worked with the Federal Public Defender's Office to train public defenders on the needs of victims of trafficking in human beings in the criminal justice process. As a result, UNODC signed a memorandum of understanding

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<sup>29</sup> Project PAKU84.

<sup>30</sup> Projects PANV28 and DOMV07.

<sup>31</sup> Project BOLV32.

<sup>32</sup> Project BRAX16.

with that Office for further training activities. In the field of prison reform, UNODC continued the implementation of a project entitled “Freedom to look”, which is aimed at developing an awareness-raising methodology on the protection of human rights in prisons.

54. In Chile, UNODC delivered training activities to prosecutors in Santiago on alternative measures to judicial proceedings.

55. In Colombia,<sup>33</sup> UNODC participated in a workshop promoting alternatives to imprisonment for cases of low-level drug trafficking and drug use. UNODC also provided assistance to a technical committee on criminal policy led by the Ministry of Justice and Law. In the area of gender in the criminal justice system, UNODC provided technical assistance to local governments to strengthen the use and application of relevant international standards and norms. In the area of justice for children, Colombia has become the first pilot country under the new Global Programme on Violence against Children.<sup>34</sup> In that context, UNODC has carried out training activities for justice professionals in four cities in Colombia working with children, capacity-building activities for judges and prosecutors on alternative measures to deprivation of liberty in three cities, a seminar on restorative justice and alternative measures to judicial proceedings for children in conflict with the law, co-organized with the city of Bogotá, and a study on the involvement of children in crime.

56. In Mexico,<sup>35</sup> UNODC carried out technical assessments and conducted training in four federal states to increase the quality and accuracy of local interventions in the areas of crime prevention, victim assistance, and support of and violence against women. In 2015, approximately 2,500 public officials participated in those activities.

57. In Panama,<sup>36</sup> UNODC implemented two projects to strengthen the capacity of prison staff and increase the quality and quantity of social integration activities for detainees. In the area of gender in the criminal justice system, UNODC launched a campaign to raise awareness of the special needs of women deprived of liberty and eradicate all forms of violence against women. In the area of protection of victims and witnesses, UNODC assisted the authorities of Panama in revising the structures of and management models for assisting and protecting victims and witnesses. Moreover, UNODC conducted a needs assessment and developed an action plan in support of the Office of the Attorney General to strengthen its normative, institutional and investigative framework. UNODC also provided training on assistance and protection of victims and witnesses to over 750 officers of the Office of the Attorney General. UNODC also supported Panama’s transition towards an adversarial system by providing capacity-building activities on topics related to the adversarial system to over 200 officers.

58. In Paraguay,<sup>37</sup> UNODC donated equipment and furniture to the penitentiary study centre of the Ministry of Justice.

<sup>33</sup> Projects COLU99, COLR52, GLOZ43 and GLOT63.

<sup>34</sup> Project GLOZ43.

<sup>35</sup> Projects MEXV27 and MEXZ14.

<sup>36</sup> Projects PANZ24 and PANTZ59.

<sup>37</sup> Project PRYX68.

59. In Peru,<sup>38</sup> UNODC was recognized by the justice committee of the Congress as a key technical and legal assistance provider on crime prevention matters. UNODC has also advised the Ministry of Justice in developing the 2016 plan for training and diffusion of the new code on criminal procedure in its transition to the adversarial system.

## **E. North Africa and the Middle East**

60. In the Gulf region,<sup>39</sup> UNODC provided technical support to the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council and particularly the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, with a view to strengthening compliance of national criminal justice responses with United Nations standards and norms.

61. In Bahrain, following the signing of two memorandums of understanding with the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs in 2014, UNODC provided capacity-building activities and legislative and policy advisory services. In collaboration with the Judicial and Legal Studies Institute and the Ministry of Interior, UNODC organized two workshops to present the international standards and norms on access to justice, administration of justice and policing. In that context, the Office produced a set of recommendations and identified further training needs for criminal justice and law enforcement practitioners. UNODC also provided advice to the Attorney General, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Justice on the establishment of a joint criminal justice board. In the area of justice for children,<sup>40</sup> UNODC conducted, upon the request of the Ministry of Justice, a legal gap analysis on the draft law on child protection and restorative justice and provided comments regarding compliance with relevant international standards and norms. UNODC also delivered training activities to 36 criminal justice officials on the strategies and measures aimed at preventing and responding to violence against children in contact with the justice system as alleged offenders. A set of recommendations was presented to the Ministry of Justice based on these activities.

62. In the United Arab Emirates, UNODC provided strategic advice to the Ministry of Interior and the Federal Criminal Investigation Department. UNODC also delivered two workshops for law enforcement and prison personnel to present international standards and norms in criminal justice, focusing on the protection of human rights and freedoms and on restorative justice. UNODC also delivered, in collaboration with the General Directorate of Punitive and Correctional Establishments, a capacity-building workshop for prison personnel from the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council with a focus on international standards and norms and evidence-based practices relating to the rehabilitation and social reintegration of prisoners.

63. In Egypt,<sup>41</sup> UNODC, in cooperation with the Office of the Prosecutor-General, contributed to the Government's strengthening of its response to violence against women and girls and began developing training and procedural manuals on the appropriate handling of cases of such violence by the police and prosecutors. In

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<sup>38</sup> Project PERZ32.

<sup>39</sup> Project XAMV12.

<sup>40</sup> Project GLOZ43.

<sup>41</sup> Project EGYZ33.

addition, UNODC has, in coordination with the forensic authority of the Ministry of Justice, procured equipment to enhance the capacity of forensic doctors dealing with cases of violence against women. In the field of justice for children, UNODC upgraded the vocational training workshops at the institution for young male offenders. In addition to reviewing the training curricula and providing equipment, UNODC developed a marketing strategy linking the workshops to markets, thereby enabling the children who participated in the workshops to generate an income once released and increasing the chances of children's reintegration upon release. UNODC also contributed to the establishment of a classification policy for children living in dormitory settings in accordance with international rules and regulations. UNODC further reviewed existing inspection mechanisms to enhance the monitoring of children's rights. UNODC contracted a non-governmental organization to sustain, in cooperation with the probation offices, the implementation of the reintegration and rehabilitation programmes that benefitted approximately 100 children.

64. In Libya,<sup>42</sup> UNODC delivered capacity-building activities to 14 criminal justice officials on diversion from the criminal justice system, alternatives to imprisonment, restorative justice and conditions and treatment of children deprived of liberty. UNODC also contributed to a review of the draft for the new counter-terrorism law, inasmuch as the draft law envisioned applicability to children. UNODC also conducted training sessions and provided technical advice on prison reform.

65. In Jordan,<sup>43</sup> UNODC supported the Government in the creation of a national committee with representatives from various government institutions, which developed 12 training investigation manuals to strengthen law enforcement capacity. In addition, the training centre of the Criminal Investigation Department was established and the Office delivered workshops and capacity-building activities to a total of 747 criminal investigation officers. In the area of justice for children, UNODC supported the Government in establishing two branches of the Juvenile Police Department in Amman and Zarqa, respectively, in addition to the branch that had already been established in 2014 in Mafraq, to ensure a child-friendly environment. UNODC also delivered an advanced training-of-trainers course attended by 20 participants. In partnership with the Turkish police and the Turkish Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime, UNODC also conducted seven specialized training-of-trainers and field training courses in Ankara and Istanbul, Turkey, from March to May 2015, which were attended by 75 participants from the Criminal Investigation Department and the Juvenile Police Department of Jordan.

66. In Lebanon, UNODC launched a new project<sup>44</sup> on improving detention conditions. The new project builds on the achievements of the previous prison reform project.<sup>45</sup> The activities proposed under the new project will be implemented in line with the prison reform strategy of Lebanon and enhance conditions of

<sup>42</sup> Project GLOT63.

<sup>43</sup> Project JORZ09.

<sup>44</sup> Project LBNZ38.

<sup>45</sup> Project LBNT94. Independent evaluation is available at [www.unodc.org/documents/evaluation/Independent\\_Project\\_Evaluations/2014/LBNT94\\_Final\\_Evaluation\\_Report\\_2014.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/evaluation/Independent_Project_Evaluations/2014/LBNT94_Final_Evaluation_Report_2014.pdf).

imprisonment in relation to food management, hygiene and safety, to facilities and services for mentally ill prisoners, and to targeted services for child refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic deprived of their liberty.

67. In Tunisia,<sup>46</sup> UNODC launched a pilot initiative to equip and train 14 crime investigation units of the interior security forces in order to build their capacity to use crime analysis techniques and computer-aided analysis tools. Twenty-two officers of the interior security forces participated in the training-of-trainers workshops on operational crime analysis. In addition, in collaboration with the judiciary, UNODC is in the process of completing a series of assessments on, inter alia, the law governing the new High Judicial Council, the judiciary's oversight of police investigations and management of criminal records.

68. In Algeria, UNODC carried out an in-depth technical advisory mission with a view to strengthening its partnership with the country.

69. In the State of Palestine,<sup>47</sup> UNODC delivered several workshops for judges, public prosecutors, police, forensic medical practitioners and civil society organizations to improve awareness and increase gender-sensitization among key stakeholders. Moreover, UNODC published a manual for forensic medical practitioners and a code of practice to aid health-care practitioners in examining victims of sexual and gender-based violence in accordance with international best practices. UNODC also delivered training to the judiciary on stereotypes regarding sexual violence to help judges better evaluate forensic medical evidence and to increase awareness of international standards.

## **F. South-Eastern Europe**

70. In 2015, the UNODC *Training Curriculum on Women and Imprisonment* was translated into all languages of the South-Eastern European region upon the request of the practitioners from the national prison systems. The curriculum is designed to help develop the knowledge and skills among criminal justice officials and policymakers to implement the Bangkok Rules and related international standards and norms.

## **VI. Partnerships**

71. As described above, UNODC develops tools and delivers technical assistance activities in partnership with many international and national governmental and non-governmental organizations, including the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network.

72. UNODC joined and coordinated efforts at the policy and implementation levels with key partners engaged in rule-of-law assistance. Within the Rule of Law

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<sup>46</sup> Project TUNX80.

<sup>47</sup> Project PSEX02.



Coordination and Resource Group of the Secretariat,<sup>48</sup> UNODC contributed to ensuring effective and coherent delivery of United Nations rule of law assistance. UNODC was also involved in the work of the global focal point for police, justice and corrections in post-conflict and other crisis situations by participating in the joint planning of field missions, in the joint programming of technical assistance and in strategic discussions at headquarters. Led by UNDP and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, in partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN-Women and UNODC, the global focal point supports United Nations country presences in mission and non-mission settings.

73. UNODC, together with UNDP and the World Health Organization (WHO), participated in the joint Global Programme on Essential Services for women and girls subject to violence, led by UN-Women and UNFPA, and is contributing to its transformation into a joint United Nations global programme. During 2015, the development of a set of modules on essential services and quality standards required to respond to violence against women and girls in the areas of health, police, justice and victim support was finalized. Joint piloting of those modules in several low and middle-income countries is envisaged. In addition, UNODC collaborated with the Thailand Institute of Justice on the promotion of the Bangkok Rules. UNODC is also part of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality and the United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict.

74. In the area of crime prevention and police reform, UNODC cooperates with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) on urban crime prevention, including the development of technical assistance activities. UNODC collaborated with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) in organizing an expert meeting on community policing to enhance urban security. Experts from around the world reflected on community-oriented policing models and strategies adopted by different Member States and identified the need for more United Nations technical guidance in this field.

75. Strong partners in the area of police reform are the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, UNDP, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces.

76. In the field of prison reform, UNODC continued its partnership with OHCHR, UN-Women, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Thailand Institute of Justice, Penal Reform

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<sup>48</sup> Members of the Group are the principals of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office, the United Nations Democracy Fund, UNDP, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNICEF, UNODC, the United Nations Office for Project Services, UN-Women and the World Bank.

International and the Open Society Justice Initiative. A memorandum of understanding was signed with the International Criminal Court to foster cooperation in matters relating to the enforcement of sentences of imprisonment pronounced by the Court, particularly with respect to increasing the capacity of States to enforce such sentences in line with international standards and norms related to the treatment of prisoners.

77. In the area of access to justice and legal aid, UNODC strengthened its partnership with UNDP in the development of a global study on legal aid, the aim of which is to provide an overview of the current state of legal aid around the world and thus to identify good practices and priorities for future technical assistance. In relation to that, UNODC collaborates with the Open Society Justice Initiative, the International Legal Foundation, the International Legal Aid Group, Inter-American Association of Public Defenders and the World Justice Project.

78. The work of UNODC in the area of justice for children and violence against children emphasizes the establishment of partnerships with other United Nations agencies, regional organizations, international non-governmental organizations and the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Network. The main United Nations partners in this field are UNICEF, OHCHR, WHO, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children in Armed Conflict. The main non-governmental organizations that are partners are: Defence for Children International, International Juvenile Justice Observatory, Terre des Hommes and Penal Reform International.

## **VII. Conclusions and recommendations**

79. In 2015, UNODC supported important normative developments in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice reform, in particular with the adoption of the Nelson Mandela Rules. Based on its continued work on data collection and analysis and the development of technical assistance tools, the Office strengthened its promotion of the use and application of United Nations standards and norms through the provision of technical assistance in an increasing number of countries.

80. Given the central role of United Nations standards and norms in guiding Member States' efforts to develop and implement crime prevention and criminal justice policies and programmes, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice may wish to:

(a) Recommend that Member States:

(i) Consider the importance of security, justice and the rule of law in achieving sustainable and equitable growth as recognized in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, include crime prevention and criminal justice reform objectives in national development plans, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, poverty reduction strategy papers and related budgets and funding systems, including specific targets and objectives for crime reduction, crime prevention and reintegration of offenders and victims;

(ii) Adopt and implement long-term crime prevention and criminal justice reform policies, strategies, plans and programmes that are knowledge-based and multisectoral, cutting across ministries and engaging public participation, to ensure the full implementation of existing standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice reform;

(iii) Use and apply relevant UNODC tools, such as handbooks, training materials and model laws, when developing and implementing crime prevention and criminal justice reform strategies, policies and programmes;

(iv) Consider requesting the technical assistance of UNODC when embarking on the development and implementation of crime prevention and criminal justice reform strategies, policies and programmes;

(v) Continue to support the role of UNODC in promoting crime prevention legislation, policies and programmes and criminal justice reform, upon request, in post-conflict and crisis situations and to provide extrabudgetary financial resources for the co-location of staff in the global focal point for the police, justice and corrections in post-conflict and other crisis situations and for UNODC participation in joint missions and programmes;

(vi) Provide financial support and expertise for UNODC technical assistance activities in support of the implementation of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice;<sup>49</sup>

(b) Recommend that UNODC:

(i) Continue to act as a centre of expertise on crime prevention and criminal justice issues in the United Nations system and fully contribute to the implementation of justice and security-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly on Goal 5 (“Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”), Goal 11 (“Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”) and Goal 16 (“Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”);

(ii) Support related data collection and the measurement of indicators by producing methodological guidance and international standards on data collection, such as the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes, and other standard methodological tools for conducting victimization surveys;

(iii) In its responses to illicit drugs and crime, make full use of and promote the implementation of the drug control and crime-related treaties and of the standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice;

<sup>49</sup> Including, in particular, recently adopted standards and norms, namely the Nelson Mandela Rules, the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems, the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Bangkok Rules.

- (iv) Continue to develop guidance and technical assistance instruments, in particular learning tools such as training curricula and e-learning tools;
  - (v) Strengthen its capacity to provide technical assistance, legal and otherwise, to Member States and regional entities in crime prevention and criminal justice matters;
  - (vi) Taking into account the recently adopted Nelson Mandela Rules, focus special efforts on providing technical assistance to Member States, upon request, in addressing the challenges of prison overcrowding, human rights and security aspects of prison management and the treatment of prisoners, including treatment of vulnerable groups, in line with international standards and norms; and
  - (vii) Continue to include crime prevention and criminal justice reform as an essential pillar in all its national and regional integrated programmes, to support countries in building a sound basis on which security and justice are pursued in a sustainable way and with full respect for human rights.
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