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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 2016 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 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 interventions in crime prevention and criminal justice reform.

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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. Together with the international drug control and crime treaties, the standards and norms lie at the heart of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and cover various topics including the treatment of persons in custody, non-custodial sanctions and restorative justice; justice for children; crime prevention, violence against women and victim issues; maritime crime and piracy; and good governance, the integrity of criminal justice personnel and access to legal aid.¹

2. In 2016, UNODC made significant progress in the promotion of the use and application of the standards and norms, thereby contributing to promoting the rule of law and human rights. The promotion of the use and application of the standards and norms also contributes to progress under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular in promoting gender equality in the criminal justice system and eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls (under Sustainable Development Goal 5); making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (under Sustainable Development Goal 11); and providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (under Sustainable Development Goal 16).

3. The importance and significance of the standards and norms was highlighted at the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016 and in the outcome document of that session, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”.² In that outcome document, it was recommended that Member States, when developing and implementing drug policies, adopt proportionate and effective policies and responses, as well as legal guarantees and safeguards pertaining to criminal justice proceedings and the justice sector, while taking into account United Nations standards and norms on crime prevention and criminal justice.

II. Setting the standards

4. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/188, entitled “The rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015”, UNODC has been providing substantive contributions to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) with regard to the ongoing development of the United Nations guidelines on safer cities.

5. In addition, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2016/17, entitled “Restorative justice in criminal matters”, UNODC sought comments from Member States and other relevant stakeholders on the use and application of the basic principles on the use of restorative justice programmes in criminal matters, and on national experiences and best practices in that area. On the basis of the information received, UNODC prepared a conference room paper for the twenty-sixth session of the Commission (E/CN.15/2017/CRP.1).

¹ The *Compendium of United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice* (New York, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2006) is available at www.unodc.org/unodc/en/justice-and-prison-reform/compendium.html.

² General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex.

III. Analysing trends

6. Reliable and comprehensive statistical data on crime and criminal justice are indispensable for the development of 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 in 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. During the reporting period, 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.

7. Following an extensive intergovernmental process to develop the global indicator framework used to monitor progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the related targets, the final list of indicators was endorsed by the Statistical Commission in March 2016. UNODC actively contributed to that process, in particular in the areas of security, justice and governance, and has been tasked with collecting official data from Member States for the monitoring of a number of indicators related to Goals 5, 8, 11, 15 and 16. In 2016, based on its global data collection, UNODC provided the first sets of data and metadata on indicators for monitoring intentional homicide and numbers of unsentenced detainees and initiated further work to improve data collection and the development of indicators where an established international methodology does not yet exist. In that context, the Office started methodological work to develop guidelines for the use of national crime surveys for the monitoring of selected indicators on violence and access to justice.

8. In 2016, activities continued for the progressive development of common standards for crime surveys. Following the endorsement in 2015 of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes by the Statistical Commission, UNODC undertook a number of activities to support Member States in the implementation of the Classification. Together with the Centre of Excellence for Statistical Information on Governance, Victims of Crime, Public Security and Justice, the Office provided technical assistance and training to Latin American countries to strengthen their capacity in collecting crime and justice statistics in accordance with the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes. Currently, Argentina, Chile, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama and Peru are using the Classification in their crime surveys, while Ecuador, Mexico and Peru are using it in their criminal justice administrative records.

9. To facilitate the adoption of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes as the international statistical standard for data collection on crime, the Classification was translated into all official languages of the United Nations. In November 2016, the Office collaborated with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Korean Institute of Criminology and the Thailand Institute of Justice to organize a workshop on crime statistics and the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals for countries in Asia and the Pacific.

IV. Developing tools and providing guidance

10. During the reporting period, UNODC developed new technical assistance tools related to various areas of crime prevention and criminal justice and translated existing ones into different languages, making them available to a wider audience.³

³ Available at www.unodc.org/unodc/en/justice-and-prison-reform/tools.html.

The Office also continued the dissemination of existing standards and norms and promoted their use and application by organizing and participating in conferences and workshops.

11. Together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNODC published the *Global Study on Legal Aid*, which provides an overview of the current state of legal aid around the world and identifies good practices and priorities for future technical assistance. In recognition of the need to provide guidance to Member States for the implementation of the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems,⁴ UNODC finalized the *Model Law on Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems with Commentaries*.

12. In its efforts to promote gender mainstreaming in crime prevention and criminal justice, UNODC collaborated with other United Nations entities to disseminate the Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence, which contains a specific module on justice and policing. That package is now being used as the basis for joint United Nations initiatives to support countries in adopting a systematic, multisectoral and sustained approach to fighting violence against women in accordance with international standards and norms. The Office is taking part in the development of a practitioners' manual on women's access to justice, coordinated by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), and contributed to the compilation of good practices for preventing and addressing sexual and gender-based violence in places of deprivation of liberty, currently being undertaken by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Together with the Council of Europe, UNODC also developed and launched an e-learning module on non-custodial measures for women offenders.

13. UNODC, together with the World Health Organization (WHO), organized an expert group meeting on the theme "Treatment and care for people with drug use disorders in contact with the criminal justice system: alternatives to conviction or punishment". The meeting, which brought together more than 60 experts from more than 30 countries, provided an opportunity to exchange experiences on effective strategies in directing people with drug use disorders who are in contact with the criminal justice system to the health-care system in appropriate cases, in line with the international drug control conventions and other standards and norms. A handbook on that topic, which is aimed at mapping existing experiences and good practices in that area, is currently under development in collaboration with WHO.

14. To assist States in addressing the security problems affecting prisons holding prisoners associated with organized crime, drug trafficking rings and terrorism, UNODC developed the *Handbook on the Management of High-Risk Prisoners* and the *Handbook on the Management of Violent Extremist Prisoners and the Prevention of Radicalization to Violence in Prisons*. Both handbooks provide a holistic approach to prison security in accordance with relevant international standards and norms, notably the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), and serve as a basis for technical assistance to numerous countries confronted with such challenges.

15. Together with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, the Pan American Health Organization, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, Together for Girls, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United States Agency for International Development, the World Bank and WHO, the Office co-developed *INSPIRE: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence against Children*, an evidence-based resource for everyone committed to preventing and responding to violence against children and

⁴ General Assembly resolution 70/174, annex.

adolescents. In December 2016, UNODC organized an expert group meeting on the treatment by the justice system of children recruited and exploited by terrorist and violent extremist groups, with a view to developing a technical assistance tool. The meeting gathered over 30 experts in the field of child rights and counter-terrorism, representing all regions of the world. The Office also supported the development of the “Neuchâtel Memorandum on Good Practices for Juvenile Justice in a Counterterrorism Context”, by the Global Counterterrorism Forum.

V. Providing sustained technical assistance

A. Global

16. As the United Nations entity entrusted with the promotion of the Nelson Mandela Rules and in line with its strategic approach to addressing the challenges brought about in many countries by severe prison overcrowding, UNODC continued disseminating and promoting the use and application of the Rules and pursued the implementation of its Global Programme on Addressing Prison Challenges. Under that Global Programme, technical assistance is foreseen in the following areas: (a) reducing the scope of imprisonment; (b) improving prison conditions and strengthening prison management; and (c) fostering the social reintegration of prisoners upon release.

17. During the reporting period, UNODC started to implement activities foreseen in the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation⁵ in the areas of youth crime prevention and social reintegration. To that end, the Office organized an expert group meeting on youth crime prevention through sports. It also developed a unique, evidence-informed life skills training programme for sports settings in cooperation with leading experts from around the world and with input from organizations working on youth sports and life skills education in connection with development and crime prevention, including Public Safety Canada, the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) and Grassroots Soccer. UNODC is working with Brazil to start and pilot a training programme called “Line Up Live Up” in Brasilia and Rio de Janeiro and to implement activities to promote sports for crime prevention more broadly. In addition, preparations were made to roll out the programme in Central Asia and Southern Africa starting in early 2017.

18. The Office continued providing technical assistance under the framework of the joint [UNODC/UNICEF](#) Global Programme on Violence against Children, which supports Member States in 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.⁶ UNODC delivered assistance at the global, regional and national levels, supporting the capacity of Member States to protect children from violence, both by empowering children to demand remedies when violence occurs and by strengthening the justice system’s capacity to prevent and respond to violence against children.

19. Within the framework of its Global Maritime Crime Programme, UNODC continued to assist coastal States from both the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Guinea regions to combat maritime crime and piracy.

⁵ General Assembly resolution 70/174, annex.

⁶ General Assembly resolution 69/194, annex.

B. Africa

20. In East Africa, UNODC continued to support piracy trials in Mauritius and Seychelles through the provision of interpretation, legal defence and transcription. Piracy repatriations from Kenya, Mauritius and Seychelles to Somalia continued with the assistance of UNODC. Detained pirates remaining in Kenya and Seychelles, and those transferred to Somalia, were also supported. The Office continued promoting effective court administration and trial efficiency in Kenya and Seychelles.

21. In Ethiopia, UNODC prepared a national training curriculum for judges and prosecutors and supported the development of a national crime prevention strategy and an action plan to implement it. A legal aid strategy prepared by UNODC and the Government of Ethiopia in 2015 was reviewed and enriched through consultations with legal experts from the judiciary and civil society. UNODC also provided technical advice to the Office of the Attorney General on the establishment of a witness protection agency to implement national legislation on the protection of witnesses. In the area of justice for children, in collaboration with civil society organizations, UNODC provided rehabilitation and protection services to over 50 street children and children at risk of being in conflict with the law, and undertook a child justice assessment in collaboration with the Child Justice Project Office of the Federal Supreme Court of Ethiopia.

22. In Kenya, UNODC supported the national police service in piloting a police reform road map in seven counties at the police station level. Some 450 police station commanders were trained in the action points that need to be accomplished in order to implement 32 reforming policies and regulations at the point of service delivery, including the human rights strategy, the gender mainstreaming policy and the anti-corruption strategy. UNODC also supported the national police service in developing a programme of “police reform champions” for the service, implementing a new training curriculum consistent with international best practices and norms and assessing the feasibility of establishing a performance management framework for the police. The Office continued to support the Independent Policing Oversight Authority through the delivery of training on investigations, forensics and monitoring of police operations.

23. In Somalia, UNODC continued its support of maritime law enforcement through both the placement of mentors within law enforcement units at the ports of Mogadishu, Bosaso and Berbera and the provision of material support to those units. Prison authorities in Somalia were assisted with the ongoing construction of the Mogadishu Prison and Court Complex and the refurbishment works at the Mogadishu Central Prison. The Office also assisted prisons in Kenya and Somalia holding high-risk prisoners, including those convicted for piracy and violent extremism-related activities, focusing on capacity-building activities for prison services and rehabilitation activities for prisoners. In order to ensure the uniformity of police training in the federal member states of Somalia, UNODC supported the federal police in developing a common training curriculum and conducted a training-of-trainers course for the Somaliland police force. The Office provided training on criminal justice responses, including investigation techniques, to gender-based violence in situations of conflict, with an emphasis on trafficking in persons. In addition, UNODC trained judges and prosecutors in Somaliland on the criminal trials process and sentencing guidelines.

24. In Central and West Africa, UNODC continued to deliver technical assistance in the areas of maritime crime and piracy, prison reform, legal aid, and assistance to and protection of victims and witnesses of crime. The Office continued its legal reform work on piracy and armed robbery in Benin, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana,

Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe and Togo, with a focus on legal assessments, drafting of legislation, training of prosecutors and judges, and coordination among countries affected by maritime piracy in the Gulf of Guinea.

25. In the Sahel region, as part of its Sahel Programme, UNODC provided assistance in the areas of legal aid, victim support and assistance, prison reform and the protection of children exploited by terrorist and violent extremist groups. In Dakar, the Office organized a subregional workshop on the treatment of children associated with violent extremist groups, including terrorist groups. In Burkina Faso, the Office also organized a validation meeting of a draft regional model law on assistance to and protection of victims and witnesses of crime. That validation meeting was attended by representatives of the ministries of justice of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Tunisia.

26. UNODC carried out security audits in several prisons in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger that house prisoners linked to terrorism. The Office shared recommendations with the relevant authorities on the improvement of security and conditions of detention in the effective management of violent extremist prisoners and the prevention of radicalization to violence in prison.

27. In Cabo Verde, UNODC provided both legislative assistance on alternative measures to deprivation of liberty for individuals aged 16 to 21 and technical assistance in tackling security challenges in prisons, especially in relation to high-risk prisoners linked to drug trafficking and gangs.

28. In Chad, UNODC provided training on assistance to and protection of victims and witnesses of crime to 38 criminal justice officials, representing the police, the gendarmerie, prosecutors, judges and lawyers. The training covered: (a) the role of victims and witnesses in the criminal justice process; (b) protecting victims from further crime or unfair treatment; (c) whistle-blowers; and (d) access to justice and fair treatment of victims and witnesses during the different phases of the judicial process.

29. In Niger, the Office trained 32 criminal justice officials from the police, the gendarmerie, prosecutors and judges on assistance to and protection of victims and witnesses of crime. In the area of legal aid, the Office carried out an assessment mission in Niger and, after a meeting with the Nigerian legal aid agency, it was decided that a training curriculum would be drafted and used for the training of paralegals in 2017. UNODC also provided technical assistance to Nigerian prison administration workers through two training workshops: one on dynamic security and prison intelligence, and one on leadership of prison directors and social reintegration of prisoners. The Office also held a national workshop on the treatment of children associated with violent extremist groups, including terrorist groups.

30. In Nigeria, UNODC continued to support the adoption of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act at different state levels. The Office supported the printing and dissemination of 3,000 copies of the Act across Nigeria and assisted Lagos State to establish a model restorative justice pilot system in line with the Act. UNODC also delivered human rights training to prison staff and supported the delivery of training-of-trainers workshops to individuals from four training institutions of the Nigeria Prison Service. To that end, the Office reviewed and developed a training curriculum for the Nigeria Prison Service. UNODC supported the launch of the national legal aid strategy for 2017-2022 and provided training to 100 paralegal staff of Legal Aid Council of Nigeria and lawyers from the Nigerian Bar Association on how to collate information regarding detainees. That training was aimed at strengthening the pro bono services of both organizations. With regard to juvenile justice, UNODC, together with UNICEF, supported the establishment and the building

of the capacity of specialized children's units at police stations in selected states and local government areas. Activities included building the capacity of family court judges and magistrates, assessors, social welfare officers and prosecutors through the development of a standardized training package.

31. In Southern Africa, UNODC continued to provide advisory services on responses to violence against women and on gender issues in the criminal justice system in Lesotho and Namibia. The Office conducted training activities to reinforce the capacity of the prosecution services and the judiciary in Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and Namibia. In Zimbabwe, UNODC conducted a legal review of prison legislation, policies and rules. Although the focus was on health in prisons, the review included issues such as prison overcrowding and sentencing regimes.

C. Asia

32. In the Asia-Pacific region, in collaboration with UN-Women and the Thailand Institute of Justice, UNODC delivered a training-of-trainers session on effective prosecution responses to violence against women, attended by prosecutors from 10 South-East Asian countries. In the area of prison reform, UNODC and the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders jointly organized a workshop for prison staff during which 90 members of staff were trained on relevant international standards and norms. The Office also delivered training to criminal justice officials from Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam on sexual abuse and exploitation of children.

33. In Myanmar, UNODC facilitated a national consultation workshop on crime prevention with a view to initiating the development of the first national crime prevention strategy. During the meeting, priority areas for action and opportunities and challenges related to data collection and analysis were identified. UNODC developed a draft strategy after the meeting that is to be sent to the authorities of Myanmar for further consultation and adoption. Moreover, UNODC supported the Myanmar police force in developing their capacity and professional skills with the integration of a new investigation syllabus into the basic training courses currently used by the police. The new curriculum was developed for junior and senior officers and includes modules on information-gathering and the development of criminal intelligence, the gathering and presenting of evidence and the interviewing of witnesses, victims and suspects.

34. In Viet Nam, UNODC continued its efforts to strengthen the capacity of law enforcement and justice officers in the prevention of and response to domestic violence. In collaboration with the Ministry of Public Security, the Ministry of Justice, the United Nations Population Fund and other agencies, UNODC implemented a domestic violence minimum intervention package in two provinces. In Ben Tre Province, the Office also supported the local government in establishing 12 new domestic violence rapid response teams. In the field of access to legal aid, UNODC trained 120 law enforcement officers and legal aid providers to provide assistance for survivors of violence against women in 12 provinces. Through the "One United Nations" framework, UNODC partnered with other United Nations agencies to provide support for the amendment of the law on legal aid, which was expected to be further reviewed and endorsed by the National Assembly in 2017. UNODC also supported advocacy activities aimed at eliminating violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres. UNODC also helped to strengthen the capacity of police officers, prosecutors and judges in investigating and prosecuting child sex offences through a training-of-trainers programme.

35. In Afghanistan, UNODC continued its efforts to strengthen the capacity of justice officials to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate criminal cases in line with

international standards and norms. As Co-Chair of the Criminal Law Reform Working Group, UNODC contributed to the review and drafting of the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code. UNODC also delivered five training workshops on the Criminal Procedure Code and in effective investigative methods of criminal offences to justice officials from Balkh, Herat and Kabul provinces, and conducted two legal awareness workshops to enhance the awareness of citizens of their legal rights and fair trials in Balkh and Herat provinces. In order to facilitate access to justice at the local level, UNODC constructed three judicial facilities and provided office equipment to the Ministry of Justice.

36. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, UNODC provided legislative support and technical assistance for the integration of crime prevention modules into the national education system. UNODC provided additional support and assistance to the judiciary and law enforcement bodies for the development of a crime prevention strategy. UNODC also provided technical support to law enforcement and customs officers on intelligence analysis, analytical charting, intelligence processing and logical briefing and reporting.

37. In Kyrgyzstan, UNODC facilitated participatory and inclusive public safety and crime prevention planning in 14 municipalities, focusing on priority crime and safety issues identified by the community that included road safety, school racketeering and other forms of youth delinquency, cattle theft, domestic violence, radicalization and violent extremism. As a result of the active participation of women in local meetings on public safety, gender-based violence was included as a priority issue in the approved local crime prevention plans in four districts. The Office provided advice on strengthening the police presence at the community level through capacity development for the improvement of internal police accountability and integrity mechanisms and the development of the capacities of independent oversight bodies. UNODC carried out a mentoring programme, providing female police officers with leadership skills. The mentoring programme was also aimed at encouraging young women to seek a career in the police force. UNODC also assisted the prison service in developing policies and piloting practical solutions to improve prison security management.

38. In Tajikistan, UNODC provided advisory services on the management of violent extremist prisoners and prevention of radicalization to violence in prison settings.

39. In Pakistan, UNODC continued its efforts to establish specialized homicide investigation units. In addition to three mobile crime scene investigation units created in Punjab Province, modern police reporting rooms were established in three police stations in the Province of Baluchistan in order to improve dialogue and collaboration between the public and law enforcement agencies. UNODC efforts in Baluchistan Province also included the introduction of training programmes on cooperation between the police and prosecutors. Furthermore, UNODC successfully implemented the Prisons Management Information System, which is now fully operational across 20 prisons in Punjab Province.

D. Eastern Europe

40. In 2016, UNODC conducted a mission to Ukraine to assess the status of penitentiary reform with a view to identifying opportunities for UNODC programmes in the field of prison management.

E. Latin America and the Caribbean

41. In Latin America and the Caribbean, UNODC disseminated the Nelson Mandela Rules and, thanks to the organization of a meeting of the Andean countries, assisted in the identification of related priority implementation areas in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

42. At the invitation of the national authorities of Chile and international partners, UNODC presented the United Nations standards and norms at an international conference on crime prevention and the resocialization of children in contact with the criminal justice system, held in Santiago. UNODC also trained prosecutors on restorative justice, recidivism and prosecution strategies relating to children in conflict with the law. UNODC continued promoting South-South cooperation in the area of justice for children, providing support for a delegation from Peru to visit Colombia and learn from the experience of the implementation in the country of the joint [UNODC/UNICEF Global Programme on Violence against Children](#).

43. In Uruguay, UNODC provided legal advisory services to the Government, in particular with regard to the development and revision of secondary legislation related to the treatment of children deprived of their liberty.

44. In Brazil, UNODC is monitoring and strengthening the functioning of mechanisms of internal and social controls of police action in the State of Rio Grande do Sul. The initiative is aimed at reducing homicides and crime rates among young people aged 15 to 29 in the municipalities of Alvorada, Porto Alegre and Viamão, and UNODC is monitoring and assessing the use of force in those territories. With regard to crime prevention, UNODC renewed its partnership with the Caixa Seguradora Group, a major insurance company in Brazil, in order to conduct research and advocacy on the economic inclusion of young people as a form of youth crime prevention. As part of that partnership, UNODC launched the Youth Ambassadors programme, which is aimed at empowering young men and women with a strong leadership profile by supporting their voices and ideas in local communities, in particular in vulnerable areas. The programme trained 25 young people from the Federal District who were chosen from among more than 1,000 applicants. Brazil is one of the pilot countries implementing the initiative on youth crime prevention through sports, under the related UNODC global programme. UNODC signed a memorandum of understanding with the Government of Federal District to implement the life skills training programme for sports centres and to promote sports for crime prevention more broadly.

45. In Colombia, UNODC continued to provide technical assistance for the promotion of restorative justice practices. UNODC also provided such assistance for the development of programmes aimed at the prevention of youth crime and violence, benefiting 341 children in six regions. In addition, a juvenile justice information management system is being developed, and formal and informal education programmes were delivered to over 250 children deprived of their liberty. The Office also conducted safety audits in the cities of Neiva and Armenia, to serve as the basis for the design of crime prevention policies and the improvement of citizen coexistence in those communities. In cooperation with UN-Habitat, UNODC commenced implementation of a project on evidence-based policies for improved community safety in the city of Cartagena. In the area of prison reform, in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice, UNODC conducted an assessment of the prison system in Colombia. Following the assessment, the Government of Colombia asked for technical assistance from UNODC to implement the Nelson Mandela Rules and design a curricular programme for prison guards.

46. In Mexico, UNODC provided technical assistance to the states of Chiapas, Coahuila, Durango, Michoacán, Nuevo León and Querétaro to address the specific needs of women with regard to crime prevention and criminal justice. UNODC activities focused on strengthening the capacity of the public security sector, prosecutors and judges in prosecuting violence against women and providing assistance to victims. The Office conducted local research studies on trafficking in women and girls and on migrant women and women in prison and undertook a risk assessment on factors for gender-based violence in indigenous communities. UNODC drafted protocols aimed at providing guidelines to justice and security officers on proper assistance to victims of gender-based violence and developed intervention models to prevent gender-based violence among young people. UNODC also started implementing a project that was aimed at developing the capacity of first response police officers and emergency services of the Mexican federal police and the police forces of 19 states to provide adequate treatment and assistance to victims of gender-based violence. Furthermore, the Office collaborated with UN-Habitat to start the implementation of a project on evidence-based policies for improved community safety in Querétaro City.

47. In Panama, UNODC supported the implementation of a prison reform strategy that led to the approval of the prison career law and the launch of “IntegrArte” (Integration and Art), a commercial brand that promotes the making and marketing of high-quality and competitive products made in prisons. In that context, two university centres have been established in different prisons to allow prisoners to study in order to promote their social reintegration. In addition, more than 500 prison officers received training with a view to strengthening the capacities of the prison training academy. UNODC is providing support to the Office of the Attorney General in order to assist the judiciary in its transition to and implementation of an adversarial system. UNODC is also providing training and coaching of judges and other staff from the judiciary and is helping to develop a jurisprudence manual on the adversarial system for prosecutors.

48. In Paraguay, UNODC conducted a technical mission with the objective of supporting the authorities in the planning of a manual for penitentiary management. The Office also supported the printing and launching of a document designed by the Ministry of Justice on the international transfer of convicts.

49. In Peru, UNODC supported the creation of a coordination network of social services providers for young offenders, aimed at encouraging alternative measures to incarceration for children in conflict with the law, through a round-table discussion with prosecutors and civil society organizations.

F. North Africa and the Middle East

50. At the subregional level, the Office conducted capacity-building activities for Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon, concerning children recruited and exploited by terrorist and violent extremist groups. Those activities were focused on the increased recruitment and exploitation of children by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and the treatment of children by the justice system, with a focus on deprivation of liberty.

51. In Egypt, UNODC continued to work on the improvement of rehabilitation and reintegration services for children in conflict with the law. The Office created and upgraded prison infrastructure and health services and developed and disseminated information booklets and standard operating procedures and manuals. UNODC also provided training to prison staff in five institutions that are currently part of a nationwide effort involving closed, semi-closed and open detention facilities that host about 550 children. As a direct result of that effort, 45 children were reunited with

their families and 200 children benefited from reintegration services, including legal, educational, sanitary and economic support. UNODC also continued to support Egypt in developing fair and effective procedures to deal with violence against women and girls, thus ensuring a victim-centred approach and the fair and just prosecution of perpetrators. In that context, the Office developed training manuals for all relevant criminal justice actors, trained 60 senior prosecutors (15 of them as trainers) and 50 forensic doctors, and supported the establishment of two specialized clinics dealing with both women victims and children victims of violence. UNODC assisted the Office of the Prosecutor General in setting up a data management system for cases involving violence against women and trained staff from the complaints office of the National Council for Women to act as advocates for victims.

52. In Jordan, UNODC provided support to the national authorities in the field of criminal justice reform, with a focus on strengthening the criminal investigation and prosecution capacities of law enforcement agencies. Furthermore, UNODC supported inter-agency coordination and international cooperation on legal matters to ensure efficient and responsive procedures. As a result, new training materials were developed on international cooperation on criminal matters and on the treatment of prisoners in line with the Nelson Mandela Rules. A national plan on rehabilitation and reintegration programmes that targets prisoners before and after they are released was also developed. UNODC also organized a training workshop on the management of violent extremist prisoners and the prevention of radicalization to violence in prisons, which was attended by officials from Iraq and Yemen. In the area of justice for children, UNODC supported the establishment and equipment of two additional juvenile police branches in Amman and Zarga, in order to ensure a child-friendly environment in line with international standards. UNODC supported the development of standard operating procedures for police officers working with juveniles, and more than 60 police officers were trained.

53. In Lebanon, UNODC continued its assistance to improve detention conditions at Roumieh Prison in Beirut. The kitchen was renovated and equipped, and staff and prisoners working in the kitchen were trained in improving food hygiene and safety. In addition, the “Blue House” facility for mentally ill prisoners was upgraded to meet basic needs. Around 650 health kits were distributed to prisoners in the Blue House and to children in the prison. UNODC also documented the pilot experience on the dispersion versus isolation approach and its influence on preventing violent extremism among children in detention. The findings were shared and discussed with its main counterparts in order to validate the dispersion approach and to build on its positive results. Those results demonstrate that education delivered using multiple physical and pedagogical activities that empowers people through the improvement of social and personal skills can induce disengagement from violent and extremist behaviours.

54. In the State of Palestine, UNODC assisted the Government in establishing the first forensic science laboratory of its kind in the West Bank, making a significant contribution to the Palestinian judicial system. Staff at the laboratory, which is fully equipped with the latest scientific instruments, provide advice, reports and expert testimony to the judiciary in forensic document examination. The examination of drug and chemical evidence and firearms and tool mark evidence, in line with international standards and norms, can also be undertaken at the laboratory. In addition, UNODC contributed to the Government’s improved response to violence against women and girls through the establishment of three forensic medicine clinics in West Bank hospitals. The Office refurbished facilities, procured equipment and supplies, provided forensic nursing training to hospital nurses and developed standard operating procedures to help ensure that the clinics are operated in accordance with internationally accepted standards. Furthermore, UNODC continued to support seven

Palestinian forensic doctors in training who were in their third year of study towards a higher speciality degree in forensic medicine at the University of Jordan.

55. In Tunisia, UNODC supported the reform of the crime scene investigation and management process. UNODC experts conducted field missions across Tunisia to assess the needs of local law enforcement officers for their field work, in particular with regard to forensic equipment, operating procedures, protocols and coordination, and communication. UNODC also worked with the Tunisian magistrate training institute to enhance specialized training programmes for judges and prosecutors.

56. In the Gulf region, UNODC continued to provide technical support to the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, in particular Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, with a view to strengthening the compliance of national criminal justice responses with international standards and norms. The Office launched a small grants facility programme to promote the role of legal clinics in providing assistance to the victims of trafficking in persons.

57. In Bahrain, UNODC conducted training for law enforcement and criminal justice practitioners in order to support the implementation of the national criminal justice reform initiative that was launched in 2011. As a follow-up to technical assistance services that had been delivered previously by UNODC in the field of juvenile justice and that included the legislative review of a draft law and training for judges and prosecutors, the Office conducted three separate training workshops for judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officers on the standards and norms applicable for the protection of victims of crime, with a focus on women and children. UNODC conducted consultations with relevant national counterparts and reviewed the 2015 law on domestic violence. Based on that legislative review, the Office also developed and submitted observations and recommendations aimed at strengthening criminal justice responses to violence against women and girls in Bahrain. UNODC also delivered a training activity for judges and prosecutors on combating violence against women.

58. In the United Arab Emirates, UNODC relied on its solid partnership with the Ministry of the Interior to continue disseminating international standards and norms on crime prevention and criminal justice and human rights and advising national authorities on their application. UNODC also supported the Ministry of the Interior in the strengthening of its capacity for data management in relation to crime and criminal justice administration with the aim of developing and implementing better informed policies and strategies on crime prevention and criminal justice.

VI. Partnerships

59. During the reporting period, UNODC developed tools and delivered technical assistance activities in partnership with many international, governmental and non-governmental organizations and actively participated in a number of formal and informal partnerships, both within and outside the United Nations system.

60. In the area of access to justice and legal aid, UNODC strengthened its partnership with UNDP in finalizing the *Global Study on Legal Aid*. For that project, UNODC also collaborated with UNICEF, the World Bank, the American Bar Association, the Open Society Justice Initiative of the Open Society Foundations, the International Legal Foundation, the International Legal Aid Group, the Inter-American Association of Public Defenders, and the World Justice Project. Moreover, in November 2016, UNODC, together with the Government of Argentina, the Office of the Federal Public Defender of Argentina, the International Legal Foundation and UNDP, co-hosted the Second International Conference on Access to Legal Aid in

Criminal Justice Systems, held in Buenos Aires. At the Conference, the Buenos Aires Declaration on the Implementation of the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems was adopted.

61. The work of UNODC in the areas of justice for children and prevention of violence against children also encompasses partnerships with other United Nations agencies, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice network. UNODC worked with various United Nations entities, including UNICEF, the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, WHO, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. UNODC also worked with non-governmental organizations, including Defence for Children International, International Juvenile Justice Observatory, Terre des Hommes and Penal Reform International. In 2016, UNODC continued to participate as a member of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force for the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, which consists of UNODC, the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, UNICEF, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict.

62. With regard to promoting gender mainstreaming in crime prevention and criminal justice, UNODC, together with UN-Women, the United Nations Population Fund and WHO, organized a meeting on multisectoral services to respond to gender-based violence against women and girls in Asia and the Pacific. The Office also collaborated with other United Nations agencies in the development and piloting of various tools, including the *Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence* and the development of the publication of a practitioners' manual on women's access to justice.

63. With a view to promoting crime prevention in the context of city safety and security, the Office continued its cooperation with UN-Habitat in the field of urban crime prevention. In that context, it developed a joint programme, which received funding from the United Nations Development Account, to support participatory crime diagnosis and policy development in cities in Colombia, Mexico and South Africa. UNODC also jointly organized a high-level event at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III). The event, organized in cooperation with UN-Women and UN-Habitat, was aimed at raising awareness of the need for action in the area of urban crime prevention. The event also highlighted the Office's commitment to supporting the implementation of the new urban agenda.

64. UNODC continued its partnership with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat in the framework of the global focal point for the police, justice and corrections areas of the rule of law in post-conflict and other crisis situations, in particular in the field of prison reform in the Central African Republic and Mali.

65. UNODC and WHO organized an expert group meeting on alternatives to conviction or punishment in the treatment and care of people with drug use disorders in contact with the criminal justice system (see para. 13 above).

66. In November 2016, UNODC signed a memorandum of understanding with the Africa Prosecutors Association during the Association's eleventh annual conference, held in Angola. That agreement reinforces the commitment of UNODC and the Association to jointly undertaking activities aimed at reducing transnational crime. The agreement also serves as a formal basis for cooperation between the two entities.

The partnership between UNODC and the International Association of Prosecutors was also strengthened.

VII. Conclusions and recommendations

67. In 2016, the Office continued its work on data collection and analysis and the development of technical assistance tools and strengthened its promotion of the use and application of United Nations standards and norms through the provision of technical assistance in over 40 countries, in part with a view to supporting the implementation of the Doha Declaration.

68. The reporting period also saw an increased demand for technical assistance and guidance from Member States in the implementation of the Nelson Mandela Rules, in particular in addressing human rights and security challenges created by prison overcrowding and radicalization to violence in prisons. The Office also received increased requests for technical assistance in the areas of violence against children and the use and exploitation of children by violent extremist and terrorist groups.

69. Given the central role of the 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) 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 United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice reform;⁷

(ii) Include crime prevention and criminal justice reform objectives in their national plans towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, national drug policies, poverty reduction strategy papers and related budgets and funding systems, including specific targets and objectives for crime reduction, crime prevention and the reintegration of offenders and victims, violence against women, violence against children and good governance in the criminal justice area;

(iii) Ensure that young people are involved in crime prevention efforts and promote evidence-based policies and programmes that build the resilience of at-risk youth;

(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 and make full use of relevant UNODC tools, such as handbooks, training materials and model laws;

⁷ Including, in particular, the most 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 updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules).

(v) 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 in order to ensure progress towards the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), 11 (Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable) and 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);

(vi) Recognize the role of UNODC in providing technical assistance in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice reform, in particular in post-conflict and crisis situations, and provide extrabudgetary resources to enable the Office's full participation in the global focal point for police, justice and corrections areas in the rule of law in post-conflict and other crisis situations and its participation in joint missions and programmes;

(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 Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goals 5, 11 and 16, and the targets thereunder;

(ii) Support relevant 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 crime surveys;

(iii) Continue to include crime prevention and criminal justice reform as an essential pillar in all its national and regional integrated programmes and make full use of and promote the implementation of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice in its response to drugs and crime;

(iv) Continue to develop guidance and technical assistance tools to further the use and application of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice;

(v) Continue supporting Member States in their implementation of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, including through the new Global Programme on Addressing Prison Challenges, the Global Programme on Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Global Maritime Crime Programme.
