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**Integration and coordination of efforts by the
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and by
Member States in the field of crime prevention and
criminal justice**

International cooperation in combating transnational organized crime and corruption

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides an overview of the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to fight transnational organized crime, in all its forms and manifestations, including new and emerging forms such as cybercrime, trafficking in cultural property and corruption. The report covers activities carried out between February 2018 and February 2019, and provides information on international cooperation and technical assistance undertaken by the Office to combat transnational organized crime and corruption.

* E/CN.15/2019/1.



I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2018/244, in which the Council approved the provisional agenda for the twenty-eighth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The report provides information on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) related to item 6 (a) and (b) of the provisional agenda for the twenty-eighth session of the Commission ([E/CN.15/2019/1](#)). It contains information on the activities undertaken by UNODC between February 2018 and February 2019 in relation to the fight against transnational organized crime, including new and emerging forms of crime, and corruption. The report also contains information on the activities of UNODC to promote international cooperation in criminal matters, including through the provision of technical assistance to Member States and the facilitation and hosting of meetings and events, as well as by using the Office's expertise to promote networking among law enforcement and judicial authorities to share experiences and expertise and forge partnerships. Prominence is given to action geared towards promoting the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto and the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

II. Transnational organized crime

A. Working groups of the Conference of the Parties to the Organized Crime Convention

2. UNODC continued to assist Member States in ratifying and implementing the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto. In its resolution 9/1, entitled "Establishment of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto", adopted at its ninth session, in October 2018, the Conference of the Parties to the Organized Crime Convention adopted the procedures and rules for the functioning of the Mechanism and decided to launch the preparatory phase of the review process in accordance with the thematic clusters and multi-year workplan contained in the appendix to those procedures and rules.

3. Also in resolution 9/1, the Conference requested UNODC to convene, within existing resources, at least one meeting of an open-ended intergovernmental expert group for the purpose of finalizing and harmonizing, as necessary, the self-assessment questionnaires and preparing the guidelines for conducting the country reviews and a blueprint for the lists of observations and the summaries, referred to in the annex to resolution 9/1. The outcome of the work of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group is to be submitted to the Conference for its consideration at its tenth session.

4. In 2018, the Working Group on Firearms, the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons and the Working Group on the Smuggling of Migrants held meetings. Each Working Group discussed, *inter alia*, the preparation of the questionnaire for the review of the implementation of the respective protocol to the Convention. Furthermore, the Working Group on International Cooperation and the Working Group on Technical Assistance held back-to-back meetings in May 2018 with a joint agenda item on the preparation of the questionnaire for the review of the implementation of the Convention. In addition, the Working Group on International Cooperation held a meeting in October 2018, during the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. Practical aspects pertaining to extradition proceedings were discussed at both meetings.

B. Promoting adherence to the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto

5. In its resolution [72/196](#), entitled “Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity”, the General Assembly reaffirmed that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto represented the most important tools of the international community for fighting transnational organized crime, and noted with appreciation that the number of States parties had reached 189, which was a significant indication of the commitment shown by the international community to combating transnational organized crime.

6. As at 9 February 2019, in addition to the 189 States that had become parties to the Convention, 173 States had become parties to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; 147 to the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air (with the accession of Sudan in 2018); and 116 to the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition (with the accession of Sudan in 2018).

7. In 2018, UNODC provided pre-accession support to the Congo, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan and Tuvalu. In January 2019, pre-ratification support was provided to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

C. Promoting the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto, with a focus on fostering international cooperation

1. Organized Crime Convention

8. Despite the near-universal adherence to the Organized Crime Convention, its implementation remains a challenge in many States parties. To facilitate national implementation efforts, UNODC delivered technical assistance to experts from more than 60 States parties, with a focus on promoting a better understanding of the requirements of the Convention.

9. Likewise, UNODC continued to develop the knowledge management portal known as Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC) and to disseminate information on the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention. During the reporting period, UNODC collected and analysed almost 1,600 new legal provisions and 500 new legal cases; hence, as at February 2019, SHERLOC included 2,965 cases involving organized crime from 125 countries and more than 8,070 pieces of legislation from 198 countries.

10. Between January 2018 and January 2019, SHERLOC was accessed by 289,271 users, indicating an increase in users of 54 per cent, compared with the previous year. The United States of America was the State with the largest number of portal users, followed by India, Mexico, Guatemala, Peru, the Philippines, Argentina, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Ecuador and Colombia.

11. Global access and multilingualism are important goals for the effectiveness of SHERLOC and, to that end, UNODC continued to translate SHERLOC entries into the six official languages of the United Nations. UNODC, by means of SHERLOC, also worked towards increasing the availability in the official languages of the United Nations of the legal resources hosted in its databases. Similarly, in order to assist Member States seeking to accede to or implement the Organized Crime Convention, the updated version of the *Legislative Guides for the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto* was published electronically on SHERLOC in the official languages.

12. With the addition of a fifteenth category of crime, namely terrorism, the SHERLOC databases were also expanded to include key legal resources on counter-terrorism. As a result, SHERLOC now covers almost all the Office's mandated areas of work and is becoming a one-stop shop for legal resources on crime.

13. The Office worked on the development of an additional component of SHERLOC, the external contributors' interface, which is a new, simplified web-based tool for gathering comprehensive information on the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto. The interface enables focal points around the world to directly input and upload relevant national legislation to the SHERLOC Database of Legislation. In addition, the Secretariat developed plans to extend this functionality to enable the submission of significant case law.

14. The Office continued to manage the directory of competent national authorities (CNA Directory) under the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and the Organized Crime Convention on the SHERLOC platform. The directory has been expanded to include competent authorities for judicial cooperation in terrorism cases, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2322 (2016). As of February 2019, the directory contained information on 739 authorities from 173 States and the European Union.

15. As part of its educational and training activities, in 2018, UNODC introduced 12 teaching modules on organized crime for tertiary-level educational institutions. Three more teaching modules and an e-learning module on organized crime are to be introduced in the near future. The modules were developed under the Education for Justice (E4J) initiative, which is part of the UNODC Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration. In cooperation with local tertiary-level educational institutions, the modules are being tailored to the contexts of francophone Africa, Latin America and the Pacific region to include pertinent jurisprudence, bibliographies and other useful materials. To that end, UNODC held three expert workshops in 2018 to initiate the process of adapting the modules to the three regions. The first workshop, for Latin America, was held in Mexico City in May, the second, for francophone Africa, in Bamako in September, and the third, for the Pacific region, in Suva in November. The series of modules on organized crime adapted for Latin America was launched during an expert workshop held in Buenos Aires in November 2018, and, in that context, was used for the first time to deliver training aimed at strengthening the capacity of participants to teach courses on organized crime and integrate the material into educational curricula.

16. UNODC also held a series of international academic conferences in 2018, with a view to stimulating new research on, and an improved understanding of, complex global problems. The conferences, held in three different cities, were aimed at exploring the linkages between organized crime and terrorism (Doha, April 2018), organized crime and cybercrime (Seoul, June 2018) and analysing organized crime through the lens of gender (Florence, Italy, July 2018). The conferences were also instrumental in the development of new teaching modules on those topics for use in university curricula. The modules are currently being finalized by UNODC.

2. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children

17. UNODC, through its Global Programme against Trafficking in Persons, continued to provide significant and diverse support to Member States in their efforts to implement the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, in particular by carrying out technical activities and providing normative expertise.

18. Examples of technical cooperation activities conducted by UNODC under the Global Programme include an interregional workshop for countries of South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia to strengthen capacities for effective cross-border criminal justice cooperation and national reporting, referral, and coordination mechanisms in combating trafficking in persons; a judicial colloquium on prosecution and sentencing in relation to cases of trafficking in persons, held in Senegal; a regional workshop on

improving capacities and cooperation in addressing trafficking in persons facilitated by the abuse of Internet-based technologies in South-Eastern Europe; an anti-trafficking workshop on the implementation of a new national action plan, held in Cabo Verde; and a mock-investigation training programme on using a victim-centred approach in identifying, investigating and combating trafficking in persons, with a special focus on forced labour, held in Brazil.

19. At the policy level, UNODC published a thematic paper entitled “Countering trafficking in persons in conflict situations” and an issue paper entitled “The international legal definition of trafficking in persons: consolidation of research findings and reflection on issues raised”. UNODC also prepared a background paper on international cooperation in cases of trafficking in persons: considering the needs and rights of victims, for consideration by the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons. Furthermore, UNODC is currently developing a global handbook on international legal cooperation in cases involving trafficking in persons.

20. UNODC also continued its efforts to facilitate inter-agency cooperation in preventing and combating trafficking in persons. In response to Commission resolution 27/4, on strengthening measures against trafficking in persons, UNODC continued to act as coordinator of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT), whose membership grew to 23 members and partner organizations in 2018.

21. In its resolution [72/195](#), the General Assembly requested UNODC to convene a meeting of ICAT at the level of principals. The meeting, held in London on 2 May 2018, enjoyed a high level of interest, with representatives of 21 of the 23 member and partner organizations attending, including 10 at the principal level. The principals confirmed their strong determination to jointly address critical trafficking issues with a single voice and to contribute to key policy developments at the global level. The meeting provided ICAT with a solid foundation for its continued development into a robust inter-agency mechanism, equipping it to participate more effectively and efficiently in global efforts to combat trafficking in persons. As mandated by the General Assembly, ICAT member organizations held briefings for Member States in Vienna and New York in both June and October 2018. UNODC also contributed to ICAT issue briefs on the role of the Sustainable Development Goals in combating trafficking in persons and on trafficking in children. ICAT further contributed to relevant intergovernmental processes in 2018, including by providing expert input into negotiations on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

3. Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air

22. Through its Global Programme against Smuggling of Migrants, UNODC continued to assist Member States in the implementation of the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol.

23. The innovative and responsive technical cooperation carried out under the Global Programme against the Smuggling of Migrants included the development of multidisciplinary training curricula for Serbia and the Republic of North Macedonia on investigating and prosecuting the smuggling of migrants, using an innovative blended-learning methodology, and an international seminar held in Peru on the same subject. UNODC held the Africa-Europe Prosecutors Conference on International Judicial Cooperation on Investigation and Prosecution of Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling, in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, in September 2018, as well as an international seminar on investigating and prosecuting the smuggling of migrants, in Lima in April 2018.

24. In 2018, UNODC provided expertise for the development of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, in particular in relation to the objectives of the Global Compact concerning the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons. UNODC also provided regular input and guidance in the development of the United Nations Network on Migration, with a view to supporting the implementation of the Global Compact, and was named a member of the

Executive Committee of the newly established Network, which is a successor to the Global Migration Group.

4. Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition

25. UNODC, through its Global Firearms Programme, continued to promote the ratification and implementation of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, and to provide technical assistance to countries in the Balkans, Latin America and the Maghreb and Sahel regions.

26. UNODC continued its initiative to support Chad in the drafting of comprehensive legislation on firearms, concluding the initiative with an official handover ceremony in which UNODC representatives presented a draft law on firearms to national authorities. The Office also supported Bosnia and Herzegovina in improving the country's import marking regulations, resulting in the adoption of two regulations in that regard. It also provided legislative support to Côte d'Ivoire by assisting the National Committee on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the adoption of new legislation transposing provisions of the Firearms Protocol and the Arms Trade Treaty. Furthermore, UNODC contributed to the marking of more than 50,000 firearms and the voluntary surrender of more than 700 firearms in West Africa.

27. UNODC continued to roll out its comprehensive training curriculum on the investigation and prosecution of trafficking in firearms and other firearms-related crimes, providing training to more than 90 officials from Chad, Mali and the Niger. In addition, UNODC introduced a new training course on the detection of trafficking in firearms at land border crossing points, which strengthened the capacity of 50 custom officials from Bosnia and Herzegovina to detect and counter such trafficking.

28. UNODC continued to promote regular exchanges among firearms control and criminal justice practitioners, both through a community of practitioners and through its initiative to develop a digest of firearms trafficking cases. In that regard, UNODC brought together practitioners from Western Africa, the Western Balkans, Ukraine and selected States members of the European Union to share and discuss experiences, good practices and lessons learned related to the investigation and prosecution of firearms trafficking cases. The Office further supported the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) operation Trigger IV – Middle East and North Africa by promoting a proactive investigative approach and an effective criminal justice response to firearms trafficking through the provision of training and expert advice. The operation led to the seizure of more than 50 firearms and the arrest of 17 individuals.

29. UNODC introduced the Illicit Arms Flows Questionnaire in June 2018. The questionnaire serves the dual purpose of creating an evidence base on firearms trafficking trends and patterns and collecting the data necessary for reporting under indicator 16.4.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals. UNODC continued its series of outreach events on the new data collection methodology by holding regional meetings for the Western Balkans and the Middle East and North Africa.

30. At the policy level, UNODC enhanced its cooperation with stakeholders working on the nexus between organized crime and terrorism, initiating the development of a strategy to address firearms trafficking in that context. UNODC further enhanced its cooperation with the African Union and Western Balkan countries by contributing to the development of regional strategies that address firearms and interconnected security challenges.

D. Networking to combat transnational organized crime

1. Law enforcement networking

31. Implemented by UNODC in partnership with INTERPOL and Transparency International, the programme entitled “CRIMJUST: strengthening criminal investigation and criminal justice cooperation along the cocaine route in Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa (2016–2020)” carried out, with the financial support of the European Union, a total of 122 activities aimed at improving the technical capacity of criminal justice actors to fight organized crime along the cocaine route, benefiting more than 6,080 officials.

32. As part of CRIMJUST, and focusing on the intersection between corruption, transnational organized crime and drug trafficking, UNODC developed two ethics training manuals for West Africa, tailored in particular to the national contexts of Ghana and Nigeria; the manuals were rolled out through a training-of-trainers programme. Furthermore, in April 2018 it published and presented to national stakeholders an outcome document entitled “Institutional integrity of law enforcement agencies dealing with organized and drug-related crime in Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa”. The document outlines priorities for drafting standard operating procedures and developing corruption risk-mapping methodologies and institutional integrity strategies in units involved in countering drug trafficking.

33. CRIMJUST also enabled the launching of two interregional operations and two regional operations led by intelligence officials, involving more than 90 countries. The operations culminated in the seizure of more than 70 tons of drugs, the dismantling of 120 clandestine drug laboratories, and the arrest of more than 700 suspects.

34. Within the framework of the Law Enforcement TrainNet initiative of the Global Programme on Building Effective Networks against Transnational Organized Crime, UNODC continued to facilitate networking between law enforcement training and educational institutions for the exchange of curricula, training materials, tools, training methodologies, best practices and trainers. In November 2018, the Government of Saudi Arabia, represented by Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, hosted the fourth meeting under the Law Enforcement TrainNet initiative, which was focused on training initiatives related to the investigation of money-laundering by means of cryptocurrencies and urban security, among other topics.

35. The Office continued to engage with countries of South Asia to advance their initiative to establish a South Asian regional intelligence and coordination centre on transnational organized crime, as well as with a number of Latin American countries on the establishment of the Regional Counter-Narcotics Intelligence Centre (CERIAN), the regional entity in Latin America for the exchange of criminal intelligence to counter drug trafficking.

2. Judicial networking

36. In 2018, the UNODC Global Programme for Strengthening the Capacities of Member States to Prevent and Combat Organized and Serious Crime, as a global facilitator of international cooperation in criminal matters, continued to support the Network of West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime (WACAP), the Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors from Source, Transit and Destination Countries in Response to Transnational Organized Crime in Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus, and the Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network. The active involvement of the members of those networks and partnerships was pursued. For example, to address judicial cooperation to combat crimes such as migrant smuggling, trafficking in persons and drug trafficking, in 2018, WACAP collaborated with other programmes and networks, including CRIMJUST, Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants, the

UNODC Sahel Programme and the PROMIS project, as well as with the European Judicial Network and Eurojust.

37. The 2018 plenary meeting of WACAP, held in Benin, was organized jointly with the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for West Africa, the PROMIS project and the project “Strengthening the Transnational Response to Smuggling of Migrants and Maritime Crime in West, North and East Africa”. A partnership declaration was signed between Italy and most WACAP member States to enhance international cooperation in criminal matters, including through the exchange of liaison magistrates.

38. WACAP supported national efforts to strengthen judicial cooperation by assisting in the revision of the laws on international cooperation in criminal matters of Burkina Faso and Mali and provided the central authority units of those countries with office equipment. Furthermore, WACAP supported a training event for justice auditors from Benin and the Congo, held at the National School of Administration and Magistracy of Benin, and organized jointly with CRIMJUST a workshop for criminal justice practitioners of Liberia on the legal framework for international cooperation in criminal matters.

39. CRIMJUST and WACAP jointly organized four training sessions for anti-drug agencies of Nigeria and Ghana to share good practices on the investigation and prosecution of complex drug trafficking cases and enhance cross-border cooperation. The fourth training session was held in Lagos, Nigeria, in July 2018.

40. Two meetings of the Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network were held in 2018. At the meeting held in the United Republic of Tanzania, the Network discussed the need for more cooperation between central and competent authorities and prosecutors at the regional level, and the need to update laws on mutual legal assistance and extradition. At the meeting held in Uganda, contact points exchanged experiences in making requests for mutual legal assistance, including in relation to ongoing cases involving trafficking in wildlife.

41. In 2018, activities were undertaken in consultation with countries of Central Asia to establish additional operational structures and working procedures for the Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors from Source, Transit and Destination Countries in Response to Transnational Organized Crime in Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus. In addition, UNODC assisted the international departments of several general prosecutors’ offices in countries of Central Asia to identify ongoing cases of extradition or mutual legal assistance and to provide support in following up on those cases. As a result, 18 cases were identified and 90 per cent of them were resolved.

E. Activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the field of new and emerging forms of crime

42. UNODC published the *Guide on Drafting Legislation to Combat Wildlife Crime* to assist States in protecting wildlife by reviewing and amending existing legislation and adopting new legislation against wildlife crime in order to bring it in line with the Organized Crime Convention and the Convention against Corruption. The Office is preparing to publish a guide on good legislative practices in combating falsified medical product-related crime, which is intended to support States in enacting or strengthening domestic legislation to combat such crime, thereby contributing to the protection of public health.

43. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2347 (2017), UNODC continued to support Member States in their efforts to prevent and combat trafficking in cultural property. UNODC participated in a ministerial meeting on protecting cultural heritage in implementation of United Nations legal instruments, held on the margins of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly, and in capacity-building activities organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

(UNESCO) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, for countries of the Middle East and South-Eastern Europe.

44. The fourth meeting of the Expert Group to Conduct a Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime was held in Vienna from 3 to 5 April 2018. Issues related to legislation and frameworks, as well as the criminalization of cybercrime, were discussed, and the workplan of the Expert Group for the period 2018–2021 was adopted. The fifth meeting of the Expert Group is to be held in Vienna from 27 to 29 March 2019.

45. In accordance with General Assembly resolution [73/187](#), the Secretariat is raising funds to produce a report based on the views of Member States on matters related to the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes, with a view to presenting the report to the General Assembly for consideration at its seventy-fourth session.

46. UNODC, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the International Association of Prosecutors jointly published the *Practical Guide for Requesting Electronic Evidence Across Borders*. The guide is aimed at helping to identify steps to be taken at the national level to gather, preserve and share electronic evidence for the purpose of ensuring efficiency in mutual legal assistance, such as the fulfilment of practical requirements for informal (police-to-police) and formal mutual legal assistance. The guide is intended to be used for global training purposes, to share knowledge and to give practitioners the confidence to request electronic evidence quickly, legally and in a format admissible in court. Password-protected access to the guide has been made available within the CNA Directory on the SHERLOC platform.

47. The UNODC Global Programme on Cybercrime continued to assist in developing the capacity of Member States to prevent, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate all types of cybercrime and to handle digital evidence in Central America, East and West Africa, the Middle East and South-East Asia. The Programme supported Member States by providing high-level briefings and training to more than 1,000 investigators and prosecutors from 12 countries.

48. Continuing its mentorship-based approach, UNODC provided tactical advice during terrorist attacks and in relation to cryptocurrency-enabled criminality. At the policy level, advice was provided to the Secretary-General at meetings of the New Technology Reference Group and the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation.

49. Furthermore, UNODC established working groups on specific topic areas such as online child sexual exploitation – in close cooperation with INTERPOL, the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children and global private-sector companies such as Facebook – and cryptocurrencies. In the area of cybercrime prevention, under the Education for Justice initiative, UNODC collaborated extensively with government counterparts in developing multimedia materials for students and teachers, museum exhibitions and awareness-raising campaigns.

III. Corruption

A. Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption

1. Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

50. The Implementation Review Group, which oversees the work of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and which was established pursuant to resolution 3/1 of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention against Corruption, held its ninth session from 4 to 6 June 2018, its first resumed ninth session from 3 to 5 September 2018 and its second resumed ninth session from 12 to 14 November 2018 in Vienna. The Group

considered, inter alia, the implementation of the Convention, the performance of the Mechanism, technical assistance, and financial and budgetary matters.

51. Furthermore, in accordance with Conference resolution 4/6, the Secretariat conducted a briefing for non-governmental organizations on the margins of the first resumed ninth session of the Implementation Review Group. The briefing was chaired by the Vice-President of the Conference.

52. UNODC provided technical and substantive services to the Implementation Review Mechanism and the Implementation Review Group in 2018, the third year of the second cycle of the Review Mechanism. Those services included the provision of training and assistance to governmental experts from States parties under review and reviewing States, supporting the country reviews and producing thematic reports on implementation trends and related technical assistance needs identified during the review process. The Secretariat also prepared a note entitled “Set of non-binding recommendations and conclusions based on lessons learned regarding the implementation of chapters III and IV of the United Nations Convention against Corruption” (CAC/COSP/IRG/2018/9). The note provides an updated overview of the recommendations made in the country reviews. Moreover, the Secretariat prepared reports containing thematic and regional updates on the implementation of chapters II and V of the Convention, which is under review in the second cycle of the Mechanism (CAC/COSP/IRG/2018/6 and CAC/COSP/IRG/2018/5).

53. At the time of writing, 167 executive summaries of the country reports under the first cycle and 17 under the second cycle of the Mechanism had been completed and published, of which 5 under the first cycle and 14 under the second cycle were finalized during the reporting period. UNODC also provided technical assistance in response to the observations emanating from the reviews, including through the drafting of action plans, anti-corruption strategies and legislation, capacity-building and other ad hoc activities. During the review process, UNODC supported 13 States parties in completing their self-assessment checklists. In addition, the Office assisted 19 States in the drafting or amending of national legislation to prevent and fight corruption.

54. Moreover, the outcomes of the country reviews undertaken in the framework of the Implementation Review Mechanism have had far-reaching policy implications, including by contributing to the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly against corruption, to be held in accordance with General Assembly resolution 73/191, adopted on 17 December 2018.

55. Since 2010, a total of \$15,136,100 in voluntary contributions in support of Review Mechanism activities, including \$906,500 in 2018, have been received from Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, Eswatini, the European Commission, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Panama, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In-kind contributions have also been provided by Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, the Bahamas, Bahrain, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, China, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Gabon, Granada, Greece, Haiti, India, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Tajikistan, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Vanuatu.¹

2. Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption

56. At its ninth meeting, held in Vienna from 5 to 7 September 2018, the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption

¹ Information as at 18 January 2019.

addressed the use and effectiveness of asset declaration systems and conflicts of interest, in accordance with Conference resolution 7/5, entitled “Promoting preventive measures against corruption”. In addition, discussions were held on the implementation of Conference resolutions 7/5, and 7/6, entitled “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”, on national experiences in implementing the various provisions of chapter II of the Convention with a view to strengthening the prevention of corruption, and on future priorities in the area of prevention of corruption (see [CAC/COSP/WG.4/2018/5](#)).

57. At its seventh session, the Conference adopted resolution 7/6, in which it decided that the Working Group should continue its work to advise and assist the Conference in the implementation of its mandate on the prevention of corruption and should hold at least two meetings prior to the eighth session of the Conference.

3. Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery

58. The twelfth meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery was held in Vienna on 6 and 7 June 2018. It included two meetings that were held jointly with the Implementation Review Group on 6 June 2018.

59. In line with Conference resolutions 6/2 and 7/1, the Working Group discussed, inter alia, the collection of data with a view to developing non-binding guidelines on timely sharing of information to enable States parties to take appropriate action, in accordance with article 56 of the Convention, and the topic of improving communication and coordination between various asset recovery practitioner networks. UNODC prepared and presented to the Working Group for its consideration the draft non-binding guidelines on the timely sharing of information in accordance with article 56 of the Convention and improving communication and coordination between various asset recovery practitioner networks (see [CAC/COSP/WG.2/2018/5](#)) and the draft non-binding guidelines on the management of frozen, seized and confiscated assets ([CAC/COSP/WG.2/2018/3](#)).

60. At their joint meetings held on 6 June 2018, the Working Group and the Implementation Review Group discussed agenda item 5 of the Working Group, entitled “Forum for discussions on capacity-building and technical assistance”, together with agenda item 4 of the Implementation Review Group, entitled “Technical assistance”. The joint meetings were held in line with Conference resolution 6/1, in which the Conference requested the Secretariat to structure the provisional agendas of the Implementation Review Group and the other subsidiary bodies established by the Conference in such a way as to avoid the duplication of discussions, while respecting their mandates. The joint meetings were also held pursuant to the workplan agreed for the period 2017–2019.

4. Expert meetings to enhance international cooperation under the United Nations Convention against Corruption

61. The seventh open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the Convention against Corruption was held in Vienna on 8 June 2018. At the meeting, the experts took stock of country reviews on the implementation of chapter IV of the Convention against Corruption, including the findings on challenges, successes and good practices, as well as lessons learned, and technical assistance needs. The discussion was informed by a thematic panel on common challenges faced by countries when requesting and responding to requests for mutual legal assistance regarding offences established under the Convention, as well as good practices in this area. The experts also discussed international cooperation in civil and administrative proceedings for the detection of offences under the Convention and an update by UNODC of tools and services to promote international cooperation. The experts invited States parties to continue their efforts to proactively cooperate in matters related to extradition, mutual legal assistance and law enforcement, using the Convention as a legal basis and giving relevant requests priority, subject to the requirements of their domestic legal systems.

B. Promoting ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

1. Tools and knowledge-building

62. UNODC continued to develop and disseminate guides, handbooks and other tools. More than 25 publications were made available online and were reprinted and distributed on an ongoing basis, as needed, including six publications issued in 2018. Moreover, a number of publications were under preparation and were expected to be published in 2019, including guides on corruption and fraud risk assessment in government organizations, addressing corruption in the fisheries sector and addressing corruption in relation to wildlife crime.

63. The interactive e-learning tool for the private sector, entitled “The fight against corruption” is now available in 27 languages, at <http://thefightagainstcorruption.org>. To date, more than 272,500 users have visited the website and more than 76,000 users have registered for the certificate course.

64. Two corruption-related e-learning modules are available as part of the UNODC Global eLearning Programme,² which has attracted more than 35,000 users. The first, entitled “Introduction to Anti-Corruption”, is the second most popular module in the e-learning programme. The second module is entitled “Advanced Anti-Corruption: Prevention of Corruption”.

65. The UNODC online portal Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge (TRACK) is a central platform for information on anti-corruption and asset recovery.³ The TRACK portal recorded 20,564 user sessions in 2018 and, at the time of writing, contained 60,667 legal provisions.

2. Provision of technical assistance for the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

66. UNODC continued to expand the geographical and substantive scope of its technical assistance activities at the global, regional and national levels.

67. UNODC field-based anti-corruption advisers played an important role in providing rapidly deployable professional expertise to deliver on-site guidance. UNODC deploys advisers with regional responsibilities for Central America and the Caribbean, the Pacific region, South-East Asia, South Asia, West and Central Africa, and East Africa. A senior global adviser was based in Vienna. Additionally, UNODC field offices implemented anti-corruption projects on the ground in a number of States. In 2018, UNODC, including its anti-corruption advisers, provided technical assistance to 140 States in, inter alia, the following forms: support to States parties in the drafting of anti-corruption laws and codes of conduct, assistance in the analysis and strengthening of asset declaration systems, workshops on whistle-blower protection, supporting the development of ethics training for police officers, and workshops on international cooperation in criminal and financial investigations to combat corruption and money-laundering.

Investigation and prosecution of corruption

68. UNODC worked with States to build capacity in the criminal justice sector, including by providing training programmes covering such topics as abuse of power, financial investigations and special investigative techniques to investigators, prosecutors and law enforcement officials from more than 50 States.

69. UNODC provided legislative assistance to three States in the drafting of whistle-blower protection laws and organized training workshops on whistle-blower and witness protection at the national level. The regional platform for fast-tracking the implementation of the Convention in East Africa prioritized whistle-blower

² See www.unodc.org/elearning.

³ See www.track.unodc.org/Pages/home.aspx.

protection, and a regional workshop on the topic was held in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, in March 2018.

70. UNODC carried out needs assessments of the capacity of anti-corruption and law enforcement bodies to conduct financial investigations and of the related procedures for doing so, and delivered training programmes on the topic. For instance, in August 2018, the Office organized a regional training programme for Maldives and Sri Lanka on financial investigations and links to money-laundering. Furthermore, UNODC conducted a national workshop for anti-corruption authorities on criminal and financial investigations of corruption crimes and links to money-laundering in Timor-Leste.

71. UNODC supported efforts to combat corruption and money-laundering, including by holding training workshops in several States on investigations and prosecutions and legislative drafting assistance. In the Pacific region, the Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project and the Global Programme against Money-Laundering jointly delivered a regional training programme on money-laundering.

72. UNODC worked with law enforcement officials in several States to strengthen integrity, including by assisting in the drafting of standard operating procedures and in developing a corruption risk-mapping methodology and institutional integrity strategies.

73. UNODC also worked closely with the Criminal Investigations Department of the Ghana Police Service to develop a manual on integrity and ethics. The first workshop to assess the manual's content and customize it to the local context was held in January 2018. Furthermore, a training-of-trainers workshop was held in Accra, and efforts were under way to integrate the programme into all detective training schools in Ghana.

Judicial integrity

74. As part of the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, UNODC launched the Global Judicial Integrity Network at an event in Vienna in April 2018. The event brought together over 350 participants from more than 100 countries and 40 judicial associations and other relevant organizations. Since the inception of the Global Programme, more than 6,700 judges and other justice sector stakeholders from a total of 190 countries have participated in its judicial integrity-related activities, including 3,162 judges and other justice sector stakeholders from 166 countries in 2018.

75. In its workplan for the period 2018–2019, the Global Judicial Integrity Network established priority areas for action, including the development of knowledge products and global guidance on, inter alia, the use of social media by judges, broader gender-related integrity challenges in the judiciary, financial disclosure regimes for judges, and the review and possible updating of the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct.

76. UNODC developed a set of judicial ethics training tools; more than 30 jurisdictions have agreed to pilot the implementation of the tools and are benefiting from related capacity-building activities. In addition, UNODC provided technical assistance in the area of judicial integrity to 11 States parties, including with regard to reviewing and amending codes of ethics financial disclosure regimes for judges and assessing judicial integrity mechanisms.

Prevention of corruption

77. Prevention of corruption continues to be a crucial element of the Office's work. UNODC assisted 26 States in developing and implementing anti-corruption strategies, including by facilitating multi-stakeholder workshops, developing priorities and ensuring that there are effective measures for implementation and monitoring.

78. UNODC supported efforts to increase transparency and accountability in the public sector, including by assisting Barbados in the drafting of its new Integrity in Public Life Act. UNODC also delivered training to national authorities on managing conflicts of interest and asset declarations for public officials. Capacity-building events were held jointly with the Integrity Commission of Grenada to empower Integrity Commission staff members to better fulfil their core function of verifying income and asset declarations submitted by public officials.

79. In follow-up to the launch of the online training course entitled “Basic Ethics Course for Public Servants: A Tool to Prevent Corruption” in Panama City in August 2017, UNODC continued to provide support to the National Authority for Transparency and Access to Information of Panama.

80. UNODC, together with the East African Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities, convened a regional follow-up expert meeting on public procurement in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, in March 2018 and undertook several visits to assist with needs assessments related to public procurement.

81. UNODC worked to mainstream corruption prevention into its overall work by holding training sessions on the links between corruption, money-laundering and other transnational organized crimes such as drug trafficking, trafficking in persons and firearms trafficking.

82. UNODC continued to mainstream anti-corruption efforts into the work of the Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime, including by delivering training programmes, workshops and presentations to raise awareness of the topic among different stakeholder groups. In addition, the Office supported the efforts of wildlife services in Eastern and Southern Africa to carry out corruption risk assessments and implement corruption risk mitigation strategies and measures. It also worked with States to identify and investigate financial aspects of wildlife crime.

83. In collaboration with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and INTERPOL, UNODC conducted workshops for officials from anti-corruption agencies, law enforcement bodies and sports organizations in Ghana, Indonesia, Malaysia and Nigeria on developing anti-corruption strategies to promote governance in sport at the national level and to prevent corruption and competition manipulation.

84. UNODC, together with Brazil, China, India, the Russian Federation and South Africa, co-organized a conference held in Vienna in June 2018 entitled “Safeguarding Sport from Corruption”, which was attended by more than 250 officials from more than 60 countries and international and sports organizations. In addition, UNODC contributed to a large number of conferences and meetings addressing the topic of corruption in sports, including those organized by Italy, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, IOC and INTERPOL.

85. UNODC worked with the private sector to support efforts to prevent and combat corruption and, in that connection, completed a project in Colombia, with the support of the Siemens Integrity Initiative, on public-private partnerships and strengthening the legislative anti-corruption framework for the private sector. In addition, UNODC delivered workshops in South-Eastern Europe on combating corruption in the private sector through collective action with civil society organizations and continued its partnerships with private sector anti-corruption initiatives, including the Alliance for Integrity, the International Centre for Collective Action of the Basel Institute on Governance and the Partnering against Corruption Initiative of the World Economic Forum.

Youth, education and civil society

86. UNODC continued to implement two major education initiatives: the Anti-Corruption Academic (ACAD) initiative and the E4J initiative. The ACAD model university course on the Convention against Corruption has been made available online in Arabic, Chinese, English, French and Spanish; a Russian-language version is forthcoming. In addition, ACAD continued to foster a network of academics

involved in anti-corruption education, including by holding a regional meeting for academics from Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

87. Under the E4J initiative, UNODC worked to build a culture of lawfulness among children and youth through the provision of age-appropriate educational materials on topics related to criminal justice and crime prevention, including anti-corruption and integrity and ethics. In 2018, the E4J initiative developed a series of 14 university-level learning modules on integrity and ethics that are freely available online for lecturers to use in the classroom. The E4J initiative also held two regional workshops, for Europe and Latin America, to enhance the capacity of lecturers to use the modules and deliver high-quality integrity and ethics instruction. In addition, the E4J initiative began developing a series of 14 university-level learning modules on anti-corruption, which are expected to be available online by mid-2019.

88. The Office's partnership with UNESCO, entitled "Global citizenship education: doing the right thing", is aimed at helping education professionals design and implement educational interventions that equip learners with the knowledge, attitudes and skills to constructively and responsibly engage in society, including upholding the principle of justice and helping to build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. During the reporting period, UNODC and UNESCO jointly issued the publication entitled *Strengthening the Rule of Law through Education: A Guide for Policymakers*.

89. UNODC worked to promote the role of civil society in combating corruption, including by continuing to expand its outreach efforts to civil society partners and holding training workshops on the Implementation Review Mechanism.

International cooperation and asset recovery

90. UNODC continued to maintain a list of designated central authorities responsible for requests for mutual legal assistance in accordance with article 46, paragraph 13, of the Convention. At the time of writing, the list contained information on authorities designated by 129 States, with 7 States having been added during the reporting period.

91. UNODC participated in meetings and conferences on coordinating international cooperation, including the meetings of the Group of 20 Anti-Corruption Working Group. In addition, the Office organized a regional workshop on international cooperation in financial investigations of corruption and money-laundering offences for law enforcement agencies, prosecutors and financial intelligence units in South Asia, and delivered a training programme on financial investigations and mutual legal assistance to experts from across South Asia and South-East Asia in Singapore in May 2018.

92. UNODC provided assistance to national institutions through the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative to strengthen their capacity to trace, seize, freeze, confiscate and return assets involved in cases of corruption. Twenty countries received assistance through the StAR Initiative. The Initiative continued to work with the relevant jurisdictions to facilitate international cooperation aimed at following up on asset recovery cases. In addition, the StAR Initiative worked with a number of jurisdictions through regional and international organizations in areas such as capacity-building and technical assistance.

93. Furthermore, the StAR Initiative finalized a new publication entitled *International Partnerships on Asset Recovery: Overview and Global Directory of Networks*, which examines possible strategies for international cooperation and the distinction between formal mutual legal assistance requests and informal assistance. The directory provides a list of asset recovery networks, as well as information about their membership and structure and contact information, to help asset recovery specialists access the appropriate networks and cooperate in pursuing the forfeiture of criminal proceeds. The StAR Initiative also published *Financial Intelligence Units Working with Law Enforcement Authorities and Prosecutors*, a joint publication of the

StAR Initiative, the Egmont Group, and the UNODC Global Programme against Money-Laundering.

94. In November 2018, with support from the Russian Federation, UNODC held an expert group meeting in Vienna on preventing the abuse of legal professional privilege in the context of transparency of beneficial ownership. The meeting was attended by more than 30 participants from the public and private sectors and international and non-governmental organizations.

3. Cooperation with other entities

95. UNODC continued to work closely on projects with UNDP, UNESCO, the United Nations Global Compact and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Joint projects such as the StAR Initiative and the joint UNODC-UNDP Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project provided significant technical assistance and new tools and resources to States parties and stakeholders.

96. UNODC also cooperated with a number of sports organizations, including IOC, the Union of European Football Associations, the Fédération Internationale de Football Association, the Asian Football Confederation, the Tennis Integrity Unit, World Rugby and the International Cricket Council, as well as the Hong Kong Jockey Club and the World Lottery Association. UNODC is a core member of the International Partnership against Corruption in Sport, a multi-stakeholder platform for bringing together international sports organizations, governments, intergovernmental organizations and other stakeholders to support and strengthen efforts to eliminate corruption and promote a culture of good governance in and around sport, including the efforts of its task forces.

4. Meetings and special events

97. UNODC continued to work with States parties in South-East Asia and East Africa to implement the priority recommendations formulated by the regional platforms that were established to fast-track the implementation of the Convention. The work addresses important areas such as public procurement, investigations and prosecutions, whistle-blower protection and international cooperation. Plans are in place to establish additional regional platforms to fast-track the implementation of the Convention in South America and Southern Africa in the coming year.

98. UNODC organized an expert group meeting on gender and corruption held in Bangkok in September 2018. Bringing together participants from national authorities, civil society and academia, United Nations bodies and other international organizations, the meeting resulted in a series of actionable ideas on how to mainstream gender in anti-corruption programming. One such actionable idea was to promote female anti-corruption champions within law enforcement networks and to educate women in those sectors on how to instil institutional change. Action in follow-up to the meeting is to include the development of a knowledge product showcasing good practices and success stories that demonstrate how the inclusion of a gender dimension is an important building block in the fight against and prevention of corruption.

99. Pursuant to Conference resolution 7/2, UNODC held the Global Expert Group Meeting on Corruption Involving Vast Quantities of Assets, in Lima in December 2018. At the meeting, experts shared lessons learned in the course of investigating corruption cases involving vast quantities of assets, considered the impact of such cases on security, the environment and the enjoyment of human rights, and started to identify good practices in tackling this type of corruption.

100. The Office of the Attorney General of Guatemala and UNODC jointly held an international expert meeting on the management, disposal, use and recovery of frozen, seized and confiscated assets, in Antigua, Guatemala, in May 2018. The meeting brought together experts from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States in order to promote the debate about large restitutions of stolen assets and provide a

forum to discuss the draft non-binding guidelines on the management of frozen, seized and confiscated assets ([CAC/COSP/WG.2/2018/3](#)).

IV. Recommendations

101. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice may wish to urge Member States to:

(a) Continue their efforts geared towards enhancing the effective implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and its Protocols and the Convention against Corruption;

(b) Continue contributing to the promotion of the rule of law and better governance structures as a key element in enabling the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its targets, in particular those under Goal 16, while, in this context, also encouraging UNODC to further consider the role of gender, youth and civil society in its activities to promote the 2030 Agenda;

(c) Build on the significant development represented by the establishment in October 2018 of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto, and ensure that predictable and reliable funding is in place for the functioning of both that Mechanism and the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the Convention against Corruption.

102. The Commission may also wish to encourage Member States to continue to provide resources to UNODC to support national and regional efforts to prevent and combat organized crime, including its transnational forms, and to tackle corruption and recover valuable State assets.
