



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
6 January 2020

Original: English

## **Commission on Narcotic Drugs**

**Sixty-third session**

Vienna, 2–6 March 2020

Items 4 and 6 of the provisional agenda\*

**Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions**

**Follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem**

## **Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**

**Twenty-ninth session**

Vienna, 18–22 May 2020

Items 4 and 8 of the provisional agenda\*\*

**Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions**

**World crime trends and emerging issues and responses in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice**

## **Activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**

### **Report of the Executive Director**

#### *Summary*

The present report contains an overview of the activities conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in 2019. It also contains a set of recommendations for consideration by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The report also contains information submitted pursuant to the requests set out in resolutions 56/9, 62/3, 62/7 of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and resolution 2019/23 of the Economic and Social Council.

\* E/CN.7/2020/1.

\*\* E/CN.15/2020/1.



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## I. Introduction

1. The present report provides an overview of the key activities conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in 2019. Section II contains an update on policy developments, new technical cooperation initiatives, efforts to mainstream gender into UNODC activities and the progress made by the innovation and technology task forces. Section III focuses on the implementation of UNODC mandates relating to: (a) effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem; (b) effectively preventing and combating crime; and (c) conducting research and analysing trends, as well as providing scientific and forensic support. Section IV contains an overview of measures taken to strengthen UNODC capacity in the areas of strategic planning, evaluation and fundraising. Recommendations for consideration by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as the governing bodies of UNODC, are contained in section V.

## II. Strategic orientation

2. At its sixty-second session, held in March 2019, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs held a ministerial segment to take stock of the implementation of the commitments made over the past decade to jointly address and counter the world drug problem. The Commission adopted by consensus the 2019 Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem. With the adoption of the Declaration, Member States agreed to focus on the practical implementation of the joint commitments made over the past decade.<sup>1</sup> During the period under review, UNODC supported Member States through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, in follow-up to the Declaration, using a comprehensive and inclusive approach, and facilitating the exchange of information on good practices, challenges and lessons learned in putting into practice the commitments made by the international community. In October 2019, the Commission, pursuant to the 2019–2023 multi-year workplan it had adopted in June 2019, held a thematic session addressing three of the challenges identified in the Declaration. In addition, the secretariat to the governing bodies developed a new website dedicated to the follow-up to the Declaration ([www.unodc.org/hlr](http://www.unodc.org/hlr)). Also in 2019, the secretariat held workshops on the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, in follow-up to the Declaration, in Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Mauritius, Nigeria, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. At the 2019 meetings of the heads of national drug law enforcement agencies and of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, participants discussed the topic “Follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, to address and counter the world drug problem” as a stand-alone agenda item, thereby contributing a regional perspective to the implementation of all international drug policy commitments.

3. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 73/184, from January to April 2019, UNODC organized regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in all five United Nations regions, including a regional preparatory meeting in Europe, which was the first such meeting held in the region in 25 years. Meeting participants identified action-oriented recommendations for the Fourteenth Congress, which were brought to the attention of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-eighth session, held in May. UNODC held briefings, together with the Permanent Mission of Japan, in the margins of the integration segment of the

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<sup>1</sup> The commitments stem from the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the 2014 Joint Ministerial Statement and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, held in 2016.

2019 session of the Economic and Social Council, held in July, and the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly, held in October, with a view to updating Member States, United Nations entities and international and non-governmental organizations based in New York on the status of preparations for the Fourteenth Congress. UNODC supported the organization of a governmental expert group meeting, held in Kyoto, Japan, in September, and informal consultations, held in Vienna in October and November, on the development of a draft political declaration, including by preparing a dedicated reference document providing a snapshot of the outcomes of the regional preparatory meetings.

4. UNODC also continued to implement the Global Programme on Promoting a Culture of Lawfulness, which had been launched in follow-up to the Thirteenth Congress, held in 2015, thereby providing a continuity between the Thirteenth and the Fourteenth Congresses in practical and programmatic terms. Under the Education for Justice Initiative, UNODC developed, validated and disseminated university modules to academic institutions worldwide. It also produced a series of comic books and electronic and non-electronic games to educate young people aged 13 to 18 on trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants; trafficking in firearms; crime prevention and criminal justice; organized crime; wildlife, forest and fisheries crime; and cybercrime and terrorism.

5. In the period under review, UNODC:

(a) Developed a new strategy to assist Member States in preventing criminal organizations and terrorist groups from acquiring firearms through illicit trafficking;

(b) Supported Member States in the establishment of a mechanism to review the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, along with a dedicated global programme to administer the mechanism;

(c) Launched a new global programme on urban safety governance in Kenya, Mexico and Uzbekistan, with the aim of promoting the use of a strategic, multi-dimensional approach to urban safety and good governance, based on an in-depth understanding of how crime and victimization at the local level interact with transnational illicit flows to create insecurity and undermine community safety and well-being;

(d) Expanded its presence in south-eastern Europe by strengthening its office in North Macedonia, which, as of September 2019, has focused on countering serious and organized crime in the region. The second phase of a regional programme for south-eastern Europe for the period 2020–2023 was also launched;

(e) Re-established its presence in Iraq and initiated the process of building a country programme in close consultation with various Iraqi authorities, while ensuring coherence across various UNODC regional projects and global programmes seeking to re-engage in the country;

(f) Launched a three-year programme to build the capacity of four countries in North Africa to dismantle organized criminal networks involved in human trafficking and smuggling of migrants, while protecting the rights of the victims;

(g) Integrated the Airport Communication Project into the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme, which has been focused on the implementation of passenger data systems by the Office of Counter-Terrorism, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the Office of Information and Communications Technology, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and UNODC.

6. UNODC, in line with the ongoing United Nations reforms, recognizes the demand for strengthened evaluation provisions at all levels, with special emphasis on evaluating results at the strategic level, developing innovative evaluation-based knowledge products and services, and supporting evaluation capacity-building at the national level.

7. To enhance gender equality, UNODC continued to implement the UNODC Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (2018–2021). Key outputs included the establishment of a gender strategy focal point network comprising staff from headquarters and field offices. Training materials and practical tools have been developed on systematically mainstreaming a gender perspective in programmes, and efforts to build staff capacity in that regard are under way. UNODC also continued to work towards gender parity among its staff by promoting an inclusive organizational culture and intensifying outreach to strengthen diversity within applicant pools. In addition, UNODC continued to support the Commissions in contributing to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 5, on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls.

8. UNODC launched an action plan to support the implementation of the Secretary-General's strategy on new technologies, which is aimed at harnessing the opportunities of new technologies while safeguarding against their inherent risks. A dedicated task team was set up to coordinate activities, and initial awareness-raising activities were carried out. In addition, to further integrate innovation into its work, UNODC also established a cross-functional innovation team, whose activities focused on staff capacity-development related to artificial intelligence, machine learning, blockchain and big data. UNODC completed an innovation-mapping exercise and continued to engage with technology providers and academia.

### **III. Progress made by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in implementing its mandates**

#### **A. Effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem**

##### **1. Demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as other health-related issues**

###### **(a) Prevention of drug abuse**

9. UNODC increased the knowledge of 680 policymakers from 59 countries on evidence-based methods for preventing and treating drug use and disorders. UNODC also supported the organization by the International Society of Substance Use Professionals of the International Conference on Drug Prevention, Treatment and Care on the theme “Inspiration and direction”, held in July 2019, thereby improving the skills of 600 service providers from 123 countries and delivering a new curriculum to develop the skills of 40 global drug demand-reduction trainers from 20 countries.

10. UNODC contributed to the prevention of drug use, youth violence and child maltreatment through the implementation of evidence-based programmes for families in 14 countries and for schools in five countries, reaching a total of 31,675 people. Two new prevention programmes were piloted: “Strong Families” for families in difficult situations and “Families United” for all families.

11. In the context of the UNODC Youth Initiative, more than 6,000 young people from 43 countries participated either in a youth forum in the margins of the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs or in online and community-based prevention activities. A group comprising youth representatives, researchers and policymakers met in October 2019 to identify good practices with respect to involving young people in the development of drug policy and prevention activities.

###### **(b) Treatment of drug-use disorders, rehabilitation, recovery and social reintegration: prevention, treatment and care in relation to HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and other blood-borne infectious diseases**

12. UNODC and the World Health Organization (WHO) concluded the field testing of the International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders. Related tools for drug treatment quality assurance were strengthened through pooling resources

with other international organizations and piloting the implementation of the standards in Nigeria.

13. UNODC and WHO jointly supported the strengthening of drug treatment in 17 countries, including for children exposed to drugs at a very young age in humanitarian crisis settings and for stimulant-use disorders. In addition, UNODC and WHO undertook a feasibility study on the community management of opioid overdoses in four countries; analysis of the resulting data is under way.

14. UNODC promoted rights-based, public health-focused and gender-responsive HIV prevention, treatment and care for people who use drugs and people in prisons. UNODC disseminated normative guidance on HIV services for women who use drugs in 24 high-priority countries, and provided training on mainstreaming a gender perspective in those services, including for monitoring and evaluation purposes.

15. UNODC, in conjunction with WHO and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), developed and promoted guidance on HIV and hepatitis C treatment and testing for people who use stimulant drugs, addressed barriers to scaling up hepatitis C services and provided training to key partners from 20 countries. In addition, UNODC finalized the document “Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in prisons: technical guide” and disseminated guidance on maintaining continuity in HIV, tuberculosis and hepatitis C services for people in prisons.

## **2. Ensuring the availability of and access to controlled substances exclusively for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion**

16. UNODC worked with partners in four countries and held a regional strategic planning meeting with teams from seven countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to increase access to essential controlled medicines while preventing their diversion and potential non-medical use. As a follow-up to the regional meeting, officials from Belize participated in a session focused on strengthening control systems while increasing the availability of pain medication for patients. In addition, participants from Costa Rica focused on the establishment of an electronic data system to track and monitor medications, as well accurate data collection and monitoring.

17. In Nigeria, the Federal Ministry of Health and UNODC developed a curriculum that was delivered to 250 health-care professionals, including physicians, pharmacists and nurses, to develop their capacity to manage rational use of and access to controlled medicines. In Panama, palliative care specialists acquired competencies in the rational use of pain medication within the control system to protect patients, while 175 policymakers, educators, regulators and health-care workers participated in briefing sessions. In Timor-Leste, UNODC worked with WHO to increase the capacity of nurses to monitor patients and chart their pain. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNODC trained health-care workers from four provinces.

18. UNODC continued to work with international partners, including the International Narcotics Control Board and the International Atomic Energy Agency, in the framework of a joint global programme of UNODC, WHO and the Union for International Cancer Control to increase access to controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing diversion, misuse and abuse.

## **3. Supply reduction and related measures: effective law enforcement, responses to drug-related crime, countering money-laundering, and promoting judicial cooperation**

19. UNODC continued to support countries in South Asia in establishing a regional intelligence and coordination centre on transnational organized crime and advised countries in Latin America on strengthening the Regional Counter-Narcotics Intelligence Centre.

20. The Global Programme for Strengthening the Capacities of Member States to Prevent and Combat Organized and Serious Crime continued to support the Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network, the Network of Prosecutors and Central Authorities from Source, Transit and Destination Countries in Response to Transnational Organized Crime in Central Asia and Southern Caucasus, and the West African Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime. In 2019, 18 cases were facilitated by these regional judicial cooperation networks and 31 interregional cases were facilitated by the Global Programme team.

21. The Container Control Programme of UNODC and the World Customs Organization (WCO) continued to support and expand activities in more than 50 Member States to improve trade-supply security and strengthen border controls. Since 2004, more than 100 national inter-agency targeting units, established through the Container Control Programme, have intercepted more than 300 tons of cocaine, 6 tons of heroin, 72 tons of cannabis, 1,720 tons of precursors for drugs and explosives, 2.7 tons of psychotropic substances, 320 tons of tramadol and 170 tons of opium seeds. In 2019 alone, more than 64,000 kg of cocaine, 550 kg of heroin, 45 kg of cannabis, 120 kg of psychotropic substances and 36,600 litres of precursor chemicals for drugs and explosives were seized. In addition, 90 shipments of strategic and dual-use goods were detected, 152 environmental crime cases were investigated and 3,500 officers were trained through 242 activities.

22. Through its programme on strengthening criminal investigation and criminal justice cooperation along the cocaine route in Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa, UNODC bolstered interregional cooperation between critical criminal justice institutions in Latin America, West Africa and Europe to facilitate the intelligence-sharing needed to efficiently coordinate transnational post-seizure investigations. UNODC supported the prosecution of seven interregional cases and was requested to facilitate the exchange of evidence-based best practices in the prosecution and adjudication of 26 interregional cases involving Latin America and Europe.

23. At an expert meeting on illicit financial flows hosted by the Government of India in New Delhi in June 2019, the partners of the Paris Pact initiative reaffirmed their commitment to continue the valuable work carried out under the initiative.

#### **4. Cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, children, women and communities**

24. UNODC participated in the development of a policy framework entitled “RESPECT women: preventing violence against women”, under an initiative led by WHO and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Population Fund. The framework outlines a set of action-oriented steps to guide the design, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of interventions and programmes to prevent violence against women.

25. UNODC participated in a number of events leading up to the 2019 high-level political forum on sustainable development, including the Justice Partners Forum, hosted by the Netherlands in February 2019, as well as an expert group meeting on the theme “Peaceful, just and inclusive societies: Goal 16 implementation and the path towards leaving no one behind”, organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and International Development Law Organization in Rome in May 2019.

26. UNODC initiated an implementation study for TreatNet Family Intervention, targeting adolescents with drug-use disorders and/or involved in crime in Indonesia. UNODC also piloted training materials for the provision of drug treatment services to pregnant women with drug-use disorders in Argentina and Ukraine.

**5. Cross-cutting issues in addressing and countering the world drug problem: evolving realities, trends and existing circumstances, emerging and persistent challenges and threats, including new psychoactive substances**

27. The UNODC early-warning advisory on new psychoactive substances included information on their adverse health consequences based on toxicology data, with a view to informing Member States and WHO about the most harmful, persistent and prevalent substances among more than 900 new psychoactive substances, through a new biannual document series “Current NPS threats”. UNODC continued to raise awareness of the risks posed by the rapidly growing supply of synthetic drugs.

28. As part of its integrated strategy for a timely and comprehensive organization-wide response to the global opioid crisis, UNODC continued to support integrated programming and inter-agency collaboration in leading a global response to the opioid crisis on the basis of a five-pillar approach. To further support Member States, a toolkit on synthetic drugs was launched as an online, interactive platform housing a wide range of practical tools, resources and guidance from across the United Nations system, including from WHO, the International Narcotics Control Board and the Universal Postal Union.

29. The *World Drug Report 2019* provides an overview of the demand and supply of drugs, which are grouped by psychopharmacological effect. It includes an in-depth analysis of the multifaceted global opioid crisis and provides an overview of the latest developments.

**6. Strengthening international cooperation based on the principle of common and shared responsibility**

30. In Latin America and the Caribbean, UNODC continued to facilitate the operational coordination and exchange of experiences among States in alternative development, drug demand and supply reduction, and research and trend analysis to support the development of evidence-based national policies and strategies, activities to combat money-laundering, and standards related to prison conditions. UNODC supported the building of partnerships between local associations and the private sector with a view to, among other things, facilitating trade in alternative development products. In addition, UNODC also supported Member States in strengthening transnational cooperation in countering illicit drug trafficking, including through intelligence-sharing, by means of various global and subregional initiatives.<sup>2</sup>

31. In Central Asia, UNODC continued to support States in fostering an integrated approach to regional cooperation, as part of which it organized the Eleventh Meeting of the Parties to the Memorandum of Understanding on Subregional Drug Control Cooperation, held in Tashkent in May 2019, with the participation of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and the Aga Khan Development Network. In 2019, UNODC, Japan and the Russian Federation jointly backed the establishment of a counter-narcotics canine unit in Kabul to support counter-narcotics efforts in Afghanistan. In October 2019, UNODC and the Islamic Republic of Iran signed a memorandum of understanding designating the Iranian National Centre for Addiction Studies, in Tehran, as a regional centre for promoting evidence-based treatment of drug-use disorders and improving public health and public safety.

32. UNODC and Thailand held a high-level regional conference on synchronizing trade and security plans in support of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), at which participants identified the need for a regional road map for cross-border cooperation to prevent transnational organized crime networks from taking advantage of opportunities arising from ASEAN integration. A border

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<sup>2</sup> For example, the Container Control Programme, the Airport Communication Project, the Regional Counter-Narcotics Intelligence Centre, and programme on strengthening criminal investigation and criminal justice cooperation along the cocaine route in Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa.

management road map, developed with UNODC support, was endorsed at the fifty-second meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers. In addition, UNODC, in coordination with India, organized a conference for 125 high-level representatives from central drug law enforcement, security and border management agencies in South Asia, which catalysed the development of a capacity-building project for possible roll-out in 2020. A trilateral workshop among Ghana, India and Nigeria on addressing the tramadol problem was also convened, in collaboration with the Narcotics Control Bureau of India, resulting in the establishment of a dedicated working group comprising officials from the three countries.

33. In the framework of the West Africa Coast Initiative, Côte d'Ivoire launched a post-seizure investigation with support from UNODC and in cooperation with the police and customs services of Brazil, France and Italy. In addition, in cooperation with Gambia, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal, UNODC launched the Open Roads project to reinforce the use of specialized investigative techniques to counter illicit drug trafficking. A similar project involving Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Mali, Operation Benkadi, was also implemented. Furthermore, UNODC developed a security cooperation platform to enable the exchange of information on security-related issues and to support cross-border police collaboration among Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and the Niger.

**7. Alternative development: addressing socioeconomic issues through regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented and balanced drug-control policy**

34. UNODC provided technical assistance and promoted policy dialogue with a view to supporting Member States in their efforts to design and implement alternative development programmes, in line with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development. Technical assistance delivered to Afghanistan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Peru created opportunities for vulnerable populations to earn a sustainable and licit livelihood.

35. UNODC continued its partnership with Germany, Peru and Thailand to promote dialogue on lessons learned and the sharing of good practices and expertise, including through the organization of an expert group meeting in December 2019 in Thailand, focusing on key elements of the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, notably the rule of law and lessons that can be drawn from alternative development practices to address urban drug issues. UNODC also worked with entities in the Mekong River subregion to co-host an expert group discussion in May, with a view to identifying challenges and potential solutions based on best practices in scaling up alternative development programmes in the subregion.

36. UNODC continued to support partnerships and innovative cooperation initiatives, including public-private partnerships, to strengthen cross-regional ties and to build on success stories by replicating good practices, such as providing support to cooperatives in the production of high-quality cash crops. For example, in 2019, UNODC supported the Green Gold Cooperative of Myanmar, which in cooperation with the Malongo coffee company, launched the Shan Mountain coffee brand in France. It was also the first coffee cooperative in Myanmar to receive fair trade certification.

**B. Effectively preventing and combating crime**

**1. Countering transnational organized crime**

**(a) United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto**

37. UNODC actively supported States in making preparations for the roll-out of a mechanism to review the implementation of the United Nations Convention against

Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto. This included the drafting of guidelines for conducting country reviews and the creation of blueprints for the lists of observations and their summaries, together with a self-assessment questionnaire pertaining to the Convention, all of which were finalized in October 2019 by the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Group of the Conference of the Parties established pursuant to Conference resolution 9/1. The self-assessment questionnaire pertaining to the Convention is subject to harmonization with the questionnaires pertaining to the Protocols. UNODC is also developing a new secure module, within the Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC) knowledge management portal, to support information-gathering and communication during the review process.

38. With the support of China, UNODC organized in April 2019 an informal expert meeting on international cooperation in criminal matters, during which 36 experts and practitioners from 19 countries exchanged best practices and built mutual trust. Officers from Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Turkmenistan were trained in the use of the revised Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool.

39. UNODC continued to expand the SHERLOC platform, which now covers 15 types of crime and contains information on more than 2,938 cases from 127 countries and more than 9,539 legal provisions from 198 countries.

**(b) Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants**

40. The Working Group on Trafficking in Persons and the Working Group on the Smuggling of Migrants met in September 2019 and adopted recommendations to improve efforts to counter trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants worldwide. UNODC pursued technical assistance and capacity-building efforts in almost 60 countries, including in Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Europe. In addition, UNODC and the European Union launched the initiative Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants in Asia and the Middle East, covering the period 2018–2022.

41. Pursuant to Security Council resolutions [2331 \(2016\)](#) and [2388 \(2017\)](#), UNODC conducted training jointly with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali to enhance national responses to trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.

42. UNODC also continued to coordinate the work of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons. An issue brief on the intersection between trafficking in persons and technology was released, and a flagship initiative was launched to assist the Procurement Network of the High-level Committee on Management in enhancing measures to mitigate the risks of trafficking within United Nations supply chains.

43. Within the United Nations Network on Migration, UNODC supported the work of its Executive Committee to implement the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

**(c) Trafficking in firearms**

44. Through its Global Firearms Programme, UNODC supported the Central African Republic and Côte d'Ivoire in developing comprehensive legislation on firearms. UNODC also developed a set of guiding templates for recording firearms-relevant information and continued to roll out training courses, including on the investigation and prosecution of firearms trafficking and related offences and on the detection of firearms at land border crossings, thereby enhancing the capacity of more than 200 criminal justice practitioners in the western Balkans, West and Central Africa and Latin America. In addition, UNODC, together with INTERPOL, continued to provide support to Member States in West Africa and Latin America in relation to transnational law enforcement operations targeting firearms trafficking. As part of its initiative to monitor illicit arms flows, UNODC collected quantitative data on seized

and trafficked firearms from more than 70 countries, creating a basis for the analysis of illicit arms flows at global, regional and national levels.

**(d) Money-laundering**

45. The UNODC Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism continued to provide operational mentoring to investigators, prosecutors and judges globally, including female experts.

46. The Global Programme's financial disruption methodology and investigative capacity-building enabled Member States to identify and prosecute terrorists, disrupt the transnational organized crime business model and promote economic prosperity. In addition, UNODC supported Member States in discussions aimed at understanding the benefits and challenges of cryptocurrency regulation.

**(e) Other issues related to organized crime**

47. UNODC continued to provide secretariat services and substantive support to the Expert Group to Conduct a Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime, which held its fifth meeting in March 2019, at which participants discussed law enforcement, investigations, electronic evidence and criminal justice.

48. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [73/187](#), UNODC prepared the report of the Secretary-General on countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes ([A/74/130](#)), conveying the views of Member States on the challenges that they faced in that area.

49. Through its Global Programme on Cybercrime, UNODC continued to provide policy advice to the numerous political processes under way in the areas of cybersecurity and cybercrime, in New York, Vienna and across the United Nations system, including the New Technology Reference Group and the cybersecurity review group. In respect of digital forensic evidence acquisition, cryptocurrency investigative mentoring and darknet analysis, UNODC continued to assist Member State investigators, prosecutors and judges in countering cyber-dependent and cyber-enabled crime and terrorism at the local, regional and international levels.

50. Pursuant to Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 27/5, UNODC continued to cooperate with relevant partners, such as INTERPOL, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and WCO, to deliver technical assistance through several workshops held between March and September 2019. The workshops improved the knowledge and capacity of the participants to strengthen national mechanisms to counter trafficking in cultural property and related offences.

51. UNODC also developed a guide to good legislative practices in combating crime relating to falsified medical products.

**2. Countering corruption**

52. The eighth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, held in Abu Dhabi from 16 to 20 December 2019, resulted in the adoption of 15 resolutions on, among other things, strengthening prevention and the work of anti-corruption bodies, improving data collection, and preparations for the first-ever special session of the General Assembly against corruption, to be held in April 2021. Some 46 special events were held in the margins of the eighth session, including a series of meetings on the work of the joint UNODC-World Bank Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative. The Implementation Review Group under the United Nations Convention against Corruption held meetings in May, September and December 2019. The Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery and the open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the United Nations Convention

against Corruption held meetings in May 2019. The Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption held a meeting in September 2019.

53. Progress was made under the first and second cycles of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, with 184 States involved in the review process. Many States indicated that they had adopted new laws to strengthen their anti-corruption legislative frameworks.

54. In 2019, UNODC implemented more than 320 activities at the national, regional and global levels, through which it provided direct country-level support to more than 70 countries. Approximately 12,000 participants (including anti-corruption practitioners) benefited from such assistance, which included advisory services for legislative and policy drafting, workshops, training events and expert meetings aimed at building capacity in the public and private sectors and within civil society.

55. UNODC continued to provide case-related and general capacity-building support on asset recovery to 22 countries, including through the StAR Initiative, and supported various regional asset recovery networks. In January 2019, the Initiative published “International partnerships on asset recovery: overview and global directory of networks”, a resource to help asset recovery specialists identify and access the appropriate networks and facilitate international cooperation with respect to the forfeiture of criminal proceeds.

56. In May, the Initiative issued a report entitled “E-filing asset declarations: benefits and challenges”, a resource for policymakers and practitioners on the transition to electronic filing of asset declarations.

57. UNODC continued to raise awareness about the importance of implementing the United Nations Convention against Corruption in a variety of regional and international forums, including during the meetings of the Group of 20 Anti-Corruption Working Group and Business 20. A range of activities were carried out jointly with the Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Group of States against Corruption of the Council of Europe, and the Mechanism for Follow-up on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption of the Organization of American States, with the specific aim of enhancing synergies among anti-corruption review bodies.

58. Within the framework of the UNODC Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, which is focused on promoting a culture of lawfulness, the Global Judicial Integrity Network organized more than 20 capacity-building activities.

### **3. Preventing terrorism**

59. Through its Global Programme on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism, UNODC delivered more than 150 activities and trained more than 3,000 criminal justice officials in 2019.

60. UNODC continued to deliver technical assistance to countries in Central, South and South-East Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. It continued to provide legislative advice to several Member States, including Iraq, Mali, Nigeria and Sri Lanka.

61. In sub-Saharan Africa, UNODC and Mozambique developed a road map for providing comprehensive technical assistance. In addition, UNODC supported criminal justice officials and law enforcement officers in Mali in formulating mutual legal assistance and extradition requests, which led to an increase in the number of executed letters rogatory. Furthermore, UNODC collaborated with authorities in Nigeria to develop a plan of action for its criminal justice response to terrorism.

62. UNODC launched two new projects for countries in South and South-East Asia on strengthening legal and institutional frameworks to counter the financing of terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, as well as to prevent

women and youth from engaging in violent extremism and to support their de-radicalization and social integration.

63. Regional cooperation facilitated through a UNODC-supported platform for the exchange of information among States, the Multi-Agency Task Force for the Middle East and North Africa Region, led to the extradition of a terrorist suspect. A practical guide to drafting cooperation requests to States members of the Multi-Agency Task Force was also developed.

64. Following training sessions provided by UNODC in Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon, officials in those countries reported an increase in human rights compliance in investigations through the use of special investigative techniques. UNODC continued to support Iraq in holding Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) accountable for its crimes, which led to an increase in the number of related cases being brought to the judiciary.

65. UNODC developed several tools, including *Guidelines for the Central Asia PVE Network* and, together with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the International Association of Prosecutors, the *Practical Guide for Requesting Electronic Evidence Across Borders*.

66. UNODC advanced efforts in mainstreaming gender in terrorism prevention by launching the first-ever United Nations “Handbook on gender dimensions of criminal justice responses to terrorism” and by developing a tailored manual for Nigeria. A project to support female Iraqi officials in terrorism prevention was also launched.

67. UNODC developed a tool on the international legal framework against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism, as part of its continued promotion of adherence to and implementation of the 19 international conventions and protocols related to terrorism.

68. UNODC, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the Office of Counter-Terrorism launched a global initiative on the prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of persons associated with terrorist groups. Furthermore, UNODC, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Office of Counter-Terrorism signed a memorandum of understanding to enhance their cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

#### **4. Crime prevention and criminal justice**

69. UNODC assisted Member States in developing knowledge-based policies and programmes on crime prevention at the national and local levels in Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Mexico and Uzbekistan. UNODC supported cities in Latin America, Central Asia and Africa in conducting local safety audits, allowing for the development of crime-prevention action plans, which included measures to address the specific safety needs of women.

70. UNODC assisted 11 Member States in using sports as a vehicle to strengthen youth resilience and prevent crime. It developed a tool for addressing risks related to violent extremism through youth sport-based programmes.

71. Under the UNODC Education for Justice Initiative, seven university modules on crime prevention and criminal justice were translated into French and adapted for use within West Africa. UNODC also adapted the crime prevention module for use in Latin America and delivered crime prevention modules to postgraduate students at various learning institutions.

72. UNODC finalized the “Handbook for the judiciary on effective criminal justice responses to gender-based violence against women and girls”.

73. At the twenty-eighth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, UNODC launched the “Handbook on ensuring quality of legal aid services in criminal justice processes”, on the basis of which it organized a regional training workshop in Indonesia for legal aid practitioners from 12 countries. In the

framework of a joint project with UN-Women, UNODC developed a training tool and organized training-of-trainers events for legal aid service providers working with women offenders and victims in Liberia, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

74. UNODC developed three training manuals on the prevention of and justice responses to the recruitment of children by terrorist groups, along with a road map on the treatment of children associated with terrorist and violent extremist groups and conducted nine capacity-building events for participants from 32 countries.

75. UNODC delivered two regional workshops in Bangkok in cooperation with the Thailand Institute of Justice, equipping criminal justice practitioners from Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam with practical skills to enhance public participation in restorative justice.

76. UNODC received the 2019 Correctional Excellence Award from the International Corrections and Prison Association for a scenario-based e-learning course on the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules). UNODC strengthened the capacity of 20 countries to manage violent extremist prisoners and prevent radicalization in prison.

77. UNODC developed a handbook on the classification of prisoners and a technical guide to assist States in creating brands of products emanating from prison-based work programmes. It provided technical assistance to Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, El Salvador, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Namibia, the State of Palestine, Tajikistan and Zambia on the implementation of prison-based rehabilitation programmes focused on education, vocational training and work programmes.

78. UNODC published the second edition of *Maritime Crime: A Manual for Criminal Justice Practitioners*. It also provided training in visit, search, board and seizure procedures at training centres in Seychelles and Sri Lanka to maritime law enforcement officials from agencies in various regions.

## **C. Research, trend analysis and scientific and forensic support**

### **1. Data collection, research and trend analysis**

79. In 2019, UNODC published regional and global research documents to highlight the threats and challenges posed by crime. The “Global study on homicide revealed the latest trends in homicidal violence, its drivers, characteristics, contexts and links to development. In a study of global firearms trafficking, UNODC presented information on flows, patterns and characteristics of firearms trafficking. At the regional level, UNODC produced an assessment of the threat of wildlife crime in West and Central Africa, an assessment of the threat of transnational organized crime in South-East Asia, a regional report and a research brief on organized crime in the western Balkans and a research brief on opiate trafficking along the Caucasus route.

80. Through a second expert group meeting organized by UNODC to strengthen the annual report questionnaire, the content and structure of the draft questionnaire were revised, and a pilot exercise was undertaken by more than 50 countries before submission of a final version for consideration by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its sixty-third session.

81. In partnership with Statistics Korea (KOSTAT), UNODC established the Centre of Excellence for Statistics on Crime and Criminal Justice in Asia and the Pacific, in Daejeon, Republic of Korea. UNODC also supported surveys on drug use and corruption in Afghanistan, Nigeria, Pakistan and Uzbekistan; on the illicit cultivation of crops in Afghanistan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Mexico, Myanmar, Nigeria and Peru; and on alternative development impact assessments in Afghanistan. UNODC also supported countries in Latin America and Central Asia in improving the quality of crime statistics and the conduct of victimization surveys.

82. UNODC contributed to the monitoring and methodological development of several Sustainable Development Goal indicators, focusing on Goal 16, and partnered with UNDP and OHCHR to develop a survey module on Goal indicators.

## **2. Scientific and forensic support**

83. In 2019, representatives from 282 national drug testing laboratories in 90 countries participated in the biannual UNODC international collaborative exercise programme, which assists laboratories in continuously monitoring their performance and in taking corrective action, where required. In addition, UNODC provided laboratories with 2,700 chemical reference standards and manuals on recommended methods of laboratory analysis of substances under international control.

84. A supplement to the *Multilingual Dictionary of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances under International Control* was published to include the 12 substances scheduled by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2018.

85. UNODC published revisions to “Recommended methods for the identification and analysis of synthetic cathinones in seized material” and *Methods for Impurity Profiling of Heroin and Cocaine*, to support Member States in building capacity to detect and identify new psychoactive substances and to profile traditional drugs in order to have a greater understanding of the methods used to manufacture them. It also dispatched more than 900 drug and precursor field-testing kits to priority locations worldwide.

86. Through its global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends (SMART) programme and the Global Scientific and Forensic Services Programme, UNODC strengthened national forensic capacity to detect newly emerging synthetic drugs and their precursors using Raman handheld field-testing devices. Through both programmes, regional training was provided in countries in West Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. The UNODC laboratory was also renovated and refurbished in 2019.

## **IV. Strengthening the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**

### **A. Strategic planning**

87. UNODC continued to generate new and innovative approaches to support Member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, within its mandates, in particular through integrated programming approaches to ensure complementarity within the normative and operational pillars of its work at the global, regional, national and local levels. UNODC also developed annual programme plans that showcase instances in which significant progress was made against well-defined aims.

88. UNODC continued to strengthen its programme-cycle management and results-based management, through, inter alia, refining the roles of programmes and their related procedures and improving monitoring and reporting mechanisms. To further facilitate harmonized results-based management approaches within UNODC, the Office is developing e-learning modules on results-based management and the 2030 Agenda. UNODC continued to strengthen formal and informal links with partner agencies through the United Nations Strategic Planning Network.

### **B. Evaluation**

89. The Independent Evaluation Section produced a meta-synthesis of all UNODC evaluation reports, to increase utilization of recurring recommendations and lessons learned. In cooperation with the Enterprise Applications Centre Vienna, the Independent Evaluation Section developed Unite Evaluations, an innovative

web-based evaluation management application, to provide aggregate results with respect to the Sustainable Development Goals and to systematically track the implementation of recommendations.

90. Three in-depth strategic evaluations were finalized and five are under way. Evaluation results were presented to senior management and to Member States, thereby contributing to a culture of evaluation and learning. The Independent Evaluation Section also backstopped numerous project evaluations.

91. Gender equality and human rights were fully mainstreamed in all evaluations, and guidance material was developed to ensure that evaluations supported transformative change. The Independent Evaluation Section also contributed, in coordination with the United Nations Evaluation Group, to strengthening national evaluation capacity, including through the development of a master's module on evaluation and the organization of a dedicated workshop as a side event in the margins of the twenty-eighth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

### **C. Finance and partnerships**

92. UNODC continued to support the meetings of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the Office by providing information on financial and budgetary matters; on United Nations reform and its implications for UNODC; on the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the practices, policies and programmes of the Office; on geographical representation and gender balance in the composition of UNODC staff; and on progress made by UNODC in the implementation and evaluation of its global and regional programmes.

93. UNODC continued to work towards the conclusion of new memorandums of understanding with key partners and continued to operationalize existing partnership arrangements, with a view to promoting synergies, reducing overlaps and complementing efforts in relevant areas. Notable efforts included a strategic partnership framework with the Office of Counter-Terrorism, a joint action plan with United Nations Volunteers, and a joint action plan for a global partnership with INTERPOL. As a follow-up to the memorandum of understanding with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) signed in 2018, UNODC is developing a joint strategic partnership framework to further shared goals and objectives relating to urban governance and safety within the context of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda.

94. UNODC continued to actively engage with donors, in national capitals as well as through the permanent missions to the United Nations in Vienna and counterparts in the field, which resulted in an increase in the number of partners at the national and subnational levels. In 2018, nine new donors pledged a total of \$45.7 million, and overall special-purpose contributions totalled \$326.2 million, surpassing the previous all-time high of \$320.6 million set in 2017.

95. The diversification of funding partnerships beyond traditional sources, reflecting the fact that UNODC mandates straddle the peace and security, development and human rights pillars, is intensifying with increased commitments at the level of United Nations inter-agency and multi-partner trust fund arrangements that reached an all-time high of \$19.2 million in 2018. Modest progress has also been made in engaging the private sector.

96. The United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking in persons, managed by UNODC, received contributions from multiple supporters, including Member States, the private sector and individual donors. In 2018, pledges to the trust fund reached \$2.2 million, while approximately \$750,000 was disbursed for essential services and assistance to victims through 19 non-governmental organizations and grass-roots organizations worldwide.

97. Despite those efforts, the financial situation of UNODC remained vulnerable. The decline in unearmarked funds persists, with general-purpose income predicted to reach 1.2 per cent of total income in 2019. The low level of unearmarked or soft-earmarked funding is a key challenge to the effective implementation of the mandates and programmes of UNODC. The situation has put a strain on the Office's management, coordination and normative functions.

98. The programme delivery of UNODC is expected to grow from \$616.7 million in the biennium 2018–2019 to \$697.9 million in the biennium 2020–2021, representing a 13.2 per cent increase. The growth in programme delivery relates mainly to the expansion of alternative livelihood programmes in Colombia; the global maritime crime programme; the global programme for combating wildlife and forest crime; and efforts to counter transnational organized crime and illicit drug trafficking and to prevent terrorism in Central Asia.

## V. Recommendations

99. The Commissions may wish to provide further guidance, in the context of their respective mandates, and consider requesting Member States to implement the recommendations below.

### **Effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem**

100. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs may wish to consider requesting Member States:

(a) To continue to implement, in line with the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, all international drug policy commitments made by the international community since 2009;

(b) To continue to make good use of the Commission as a forum for inclusive dialogue and exchange among all relevant stakeholders on the various aspects of the world drug problem; and to actively participate and share good practices, challenges and lessons learned in the practical implementation of all international drug policy commitments, including through the annual thematic sessions, in accordance with the workplan adopted in 2019;

(c) To increase the coverage and quality of drug prevention, treatment, care and rehabilitation strategies, thus addressing the challenge of increasing drug use and disorders, in particular among the most vulnerable population;

(d) To increase access to controlled drugs for medical purposes, by strengthening health systems, ensuring education, raising awareness and ensuring the sound management of supply chains, while preventing their diversion and abuse;

(e) To fast-track their response to HIV/AIDS among people who use drugs and people in prisons, including by promoting the use, as appropriate, of the technical guide for countries to set targets for universal access to HIV prevention, treatment and care for injecting drug users, issued by WHO, UNODC and UNAIDS, when designing and implementing national HIV and drug strategies;

(f) To further support integrated responses to the opioid crisis and promote the use of the United Nations toolkit on synthetic drugs;

(g) To expand the coverage of alternative development assistance to reach a greater number of communities, and to undertake significant efforts to facilitate market access for products stemming from alternative development.

### **Effectively preventing and combating crime**

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

#### **Countering transnational organized crime**

(a) To use existing international, regional and bilateral mechanisms, including the network of foreign police liaison officers, to enhance law enforcement coordination and cooperation in the investigation of drug trafficking cases;

(b) To strengthen the procedures and capacities of law enforcement authorities with regard to opening parallel investigations into the origin of illicitly trafficked firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and to call upon UNODC to continue its work to support integrated approaches to preventing, detecting and addressing illicit firearms trafficking and its links to related forms of crime;

(c) To identify and implement technology-based criminal justice system measures to prevent, investigate and prosecute trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, and to support UNODC in accelerating the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and other relevant international instruments;

(d) To add their legislation and case law to the SHERLOC portal, with a view to supporting the implementation review mechanism, currently being developed, under the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto;

#### **Countering corruption**

(e) To continue to support the work of UNODC to assist States in preventing and combating corruption;

#### **Terrorism prevention**

(f) To develop and participate in regional inter-agency judicial and law enforcement cooperation platforms or networks to foster operational and timely information-sharing and evidence-gathering concerning acts perpetrated or prepared by terrorists, including foreign terrorist fighters, returnees, relocators and known ISIL members;

(g) To strengthen inter-agency cooperation and increase the use of international cooperation mechanisms in terrorism-related cases;

#### **Crime prevention and criminal justice**

(h) To promote a comprehensive and integrated approach to crime prevention and criminal justice reform, based on baseline assessments, regular data collection and analysis, focusing on all sectors of the justice system and including a gender perspective;

(i) To develop crime prevention policies, strategies and programmes, including those that focus on the prevention of recidivism, in close cooperation with all stakeholders, including civil society;

(j) To call upon UNODC to continue its work related to the promotion of a culture of lawfulness and to support Member States in developing programmes to convey key values based on the rule of law;

(k) To prioritize the prevention of, and age- and gender-sensitive justice responses to, all forms of violence against women and violence against children.

### **Research, trend analysis and scientific and forensic support**

102. The Commissions may wish to consider requesting Member States:

(a) To strengthen the capacity of national authorities to collect accurate, reliable and comparable data on crime and illicit drug production, trafficking and use, with a view to increasing their capacity to contribute to data-collection tools such as the crime trends survey, the questionnaire underlying the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, the illicit arms flows questionnaire, the annual report questionnaire and individual drug-seizure reports;

(b) To further support the work of UNODC to strengthen national data-collection capacity to monitor progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, especially in the fields of drug use and resulting health consequences, alternative development, rule of law and access to justice, and combating organized crime, violence, trafficking in persons, firearms trafficking, wildlife trafficking, corruption and illicit financial flows;

(c) To establish national early-warning mechanisms, to actively participate in early-warning networks in respect of new psychoactive substances and emerging drug threats at the regional and international levels, and to strengthen the use of established international reporting and information-exchange systems;

(d) To strengthen the capacity to measure the threats posed by organized crime at the national, regional and international levels through better disaggregated crime and criminal justice statistics, enhanced cooperation in data exchange, improved analytical methods, and the use of, among other things, the framework for transnational organized crime threat assessments.

### **Strengthening the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**

103. The Commissions may wish to consider requesting Member States:

(a) To support UNODC in building the capacity of staff to respond holistically to efforts by Member States to implement the 2030 Agenda, including with respect to effective result-based management and reporting;

(b) To support UNODC in undertaking strategic evaluations to increase accountability and transparency, in line with United Nations reforms, in promoting the use of evaluation results and related knowledge products, including the new evaluation management application *Unite Evaluations*, in supporting evidence-based decision-making, furthering the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and building national evaluation capacity within the mandated areas of UNODC;

(c) To provide UNODC with adequate, predictable and stable resources, including additional regular budget resources, to enable the Office to implement its mandated work in a sustainable manner;

(d) To provide greater general-purpose (unearmarked) and soft-earmarked funding to enable UNODC to effectively respond to the increasing demand for technical assistance and to continue its technical cooperation in close coordination with partner countries and regional bodies.

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