



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
16 March 2020

Original: English

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Twenty-ninth session

Vienna, 18–22 May 2020

Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

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

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Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report describes progress made in 2019 by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in promoting and supporting the use and application of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice. It has been prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/22 and outlines the efforts by the Office to collect and analyse data, develop implementation tools and provide technical assistance at the global, regional and national levels. It also describes partnerships that the Office has been involved in to promote coherent interventions in crime prevention and criminal justice reform.

* E/CN.15/2020/1.



I. Introduction

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/22, in which the Council decided that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice should include in its agenda a standing item on existing United Nations standards and norms in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice¹ and their use and application.

2. During 2019, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) stepped up its promotion of the use and application of the standards and norms at the global, regional and national levels. In doing so, UNODC provided technical assistance to more than 60 Member States and provided tools and practical guidance on various thematic areas covered by the standards and norms, which include: crime prevention; police reform and use of force and firearms by law enforcement officials; justice for children and responses to violence against children; gender-sensitive criminal justice systems and responses to violence against women; access to legal aid in criminal justice matters; the use of alternatives to imprisonment; restorative justice programmes; prison reform; and prisoner rehabilitation. By mainstreaming the application of the standards and norms in its technical cooperation activities, UNODC effectively promotes human rights-compliant and gender-sensitive crime prevention and criminal justice reforms.

3. This progress built on the momentum created by the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation, which was adopted at the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in 2015. By placing a focus on previously less prioritized areas, such as crime prevention through sports, education for justice and the social reintegration of prisoners, the declaration was instrumental in channelling resources and political will for reform and technical support provided by UNODC to advance the implementation of relevant standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice.

4. The promotion of the standards and norms contributes directly to the advancement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular its Goals 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), 11 (Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable) and 16 (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels). In line with Goal 5, UNODC supports police and justice responses to address violence against women and girls. By promoting urban safety through the adoption of crime prevention and community-oriented policing strategies, UNODC contributes to the advancement of Goal 11. Lastly, by supporting Member States in building accountable, fair and effective criminal justice systems, UNODC contributes to the achievement of Goal 16 and its targets related to access to justice for all and ending violence against children.

5. The importance of the standards and norms in preventing crime and building effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems was underscored during the 2019 thematic discussion of the Commission on the responsibility of effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems in preventing and countering crime motivated by intolerance or discrimination of any kind. Participants expressed concern about the rising levels of this type of crime, violence and killings on account of gender, race and other factors, as well as the underlying factors associated with discrimination and intolerance.

¹ The *Compendium of United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice* is available at www.unodc.org/unodc/en/justice-and-prison-reform/compendium.html.

II. Collecting and analysing data

6. Reliable statistical data on crime and criminal justice are needed for evidence-based policies and for monitoring the criminal justice response to crime. Capacity development activities were implemented through regional and national workshops on the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes and on specific tools, such as victimization and corruption surveys, and new methodologies to collect data on trafficking in persons and firearms. In August 2019, the new UNODC-Statistics Korea (KOSTAT) Centre of Excellence for Statistics on Crime and Criminal Justice in Asia and the Pacific was inaugurated in Daejeon, Republic of Korea. This Centre, following the example of the UNODC-National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) Centre of Excellence for Statistical Information on Governance, Victims of Crime, Public Security and Justice based in Mexico City, will act as a regional hub to support countries of Asia and the Pacific with strengthening their national systems on crime and criminal justice statistics.

7. In the context of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, UNODC is the custodian of 16 indicators related to violence, crime, trafficking, access to justice and corruption, and the Office regularly collects and makes available data on those indicators. Furthermore, it continues to develop methodologies and good practices to improve the measurement of relevant indicators.

III. Developing tools and providing guidance

8. During the reporting period, UNODC and its partners developed tools, including handbooks, guidelines, model laws and training materials, designed for use by policymakers, legislators, criminal justice practitioners, technical assistance providers and other stakeholders to address gaps and meet demands in emerging areas of crime prevention and criminal justice and to facilitate the application of the standards and norms. UNODC has partnered with other United Nations agencies and civil society organizations and systematically involved experts and practitioners representing all regions of the world, as well as a wide variety of legal systems and levels of development, so as to reflect a diversity of viewpoints and practices on the issues at hand. UNODC endeavours to broadly disseminate the tools online, through its field office network and by other means, and to make them available in the official languages of the United Nations and other languages.

9. In 2019, UNODC finalized and launched an innovative and practice-oriented e-learning course on the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules). The course, which is available free of charge and geared towards front-line prison practitioners, includes interactive management scenarios filmed in selected prison facilities in Algeria, Argentina and Switzerland. During the twenty-first annual conference of the International Corrections and Prisons Association for the Advancement of Professional Corrections, in Buenos Aires, the UNODC e-learning course on the Nelson Mandela Rules received the Correctional Excellence Award 2019 of the Association in the category of prison management and staff training.

10. At the regional workshop on prison-based rehabilitation programmes in the Middle East and North Africa, UNODC launched the *Practical Guide to Creating a Brand of Prison Products*, which raises awareness about international standards applicable to work programmes developed in prisons and provides guidance on the creation of prison brands. UNODC also started to develop a practice-oriented handbook on the classification of prisoners, to be published in 2020.

11. UNODC finalized the *Handbook for the Judiciary on Effective Criminal Justice Responses to Gender-based Violence against Women and Girls*, a practical tool designed to enhance the knowledge, skills and institutional capacity of the judiciary in dealing with cases of gender-based violence against women and girls. In cooperation with the Thailand Institute of Justice, UNODC developed a draft *Toolkit*

on *Gender-Responsive Non-custodial Measures* to support countries in their efforts to strengthen the capacity of police, prosecutors and judges in applying non-custodial measures.

12. UNODC also developed the *Handbook on Ensuring Quality of Legal Aid Services in Criminal Justice Processes*, a guide for policymakers and practitioners to enhance access to justice, in particular for marginalized and vulnerable groups. The Handbook outlines relevant regional and international obligations, including the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems, and tools for quality assurance, monitoring and evaluation, and provides examples for programme design. It was field-tested as a training tool for 12 Asian countries, and 90 per cent of participants agreed that it had improved their ability to respond to national needs related to the provision of legal aid. In cooperation with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), UNODC developed a training-of-trainers manual to enhance the skills of legal aid practitioners in delivering services to women offenders and victims. The manual was field-tested in training-of-trainers workshops with practitioners from government, civil society and the private sector in three countries in West Africa. The practitioners strengthened their skills and will act as trainers for their peers in 2020 to expand the pool of experts in the legal and paralegal sector.

13. UNODC updated its *Handbook on Restorative Justice Programmes* to reflect new developments in the field of restorative justice and include national examples from all regions of the world.

14. Responding to an increasing demand for guidance on the treatment of children associated with terrorist and violent extremist groups, UNODC developed three training manuals: (a) *Prevention of Child Recruitment and Exploitation by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups: The Role of the Justice System*; (b) *Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Child Victims of Recruitment and Exploitation by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups*; and (c) *Justice for Children in the Context of Counter-terrorism*. Together with the *Handbook on Children Recruited and Exploited by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups: The Role of the Justice System*, these manuals form part of a comprehensive training package on how such children should be treated to ensure that their best interests and rights are protected, while addressing national security concerns.

15. UNODC also developed and launched a road map on the treatment of children associated with terrorist and violent extremist groups, which emphasizes the 10 overarching principles to inform action in relation to this complex phenomenon. These principles include the following: there is no dichotomy between security interests and child rights; child recruitment is a serious form of violence against children; children recruited and exploited by terrorist and violent extremist groups should be considered and treated primarily as victims; and rehabilitation and reintegration must be the primary objective of any interventions concerning such children.

16. UNODC translated the training manual on *Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Child Victims of Recruitment and Exploitation by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups* into Arabic.

IV. Providing sustained technical assistance

A. Global initiatives

17. In order to ensure a coherent and sustainable promotion, use and application of standards and norms, UNODC is implementing global technical assistance programmes and other global initiatives that harness the potential of education and sports to prevent crime and provide integrated solutions to prison challenges and specific responses to violence against children and women.

18. Under the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, UNODC supported 11 Member States, with the involvement of civil society organizations, to make use of sport as a vehicle for youth crime prevention. Using the UNODC Line Up Live Up training tool, more than 300 teachers and coaches were taught how to incorporate individual and social skills training into their sport programmes, from which approximately 5,000 young people benefited globally. Some 200 policymakers received support on using sport and sport-based learning in the context of crime prevention, leading to the integration of sport into several local crime and violence prevention initiatives.

19. Under the Education for Justice initiative (E4J), UNODC delivered a series of capacity-building activities² to support university lecturers in teaching on topics that promote the practical application of the standards and norms on crime prevention and criminal justice. Seven E4J university modules on crime prevention and criminal justice were translated into French and adapted to the regional context of francophone West Africa with a view to their use by academics in that region.

20. Under the Global Programme on Addressing Prison Challenges, UNODC continued to support comprehensive penal reform with a focus on three strategic areas: (a) reducing the scope of imprisonment and preventing crime; (b) strengthening prison management and improving prison conditions; and (c) supporting the social reintegration of offenders and preventing recidivism. During the reporting period, UNODC provided training to more than 800 criminal justice practitioners, thereby assisting several national prison administrations in managing violent extremist prisoners more effectively and preventing radicalization to violence in prisons.³

21. Under the Global Programme to End Violence against Children, UNODC continued to support Member States in addressing challenges related to the prevention of the victimization of children and the rehabilitation and reintegration of children recruited and exploited by terrorist and violent extremist groups. This included interregional events to build capacity and enhance south-south cooperation.⁴

22. Under the Global Programme on Strengthening Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses to Violence against Women, UNODC provided support to relevant activities at the national and regional levels. In order to assist countries more effectively in preventing and responding to violence against women, a new UNODC professional network on violence against women was established, composed of staff working on gender-based violence across UNODC.

B. Africa

Southern Africa

23. In Southern Africa, UNODC conducted a situational assessment of criminal justice processes related to gender-based violence in the States members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). In addition, in cooperation with SADC, UNODC coordinated the drafting of a strategy for prison services of SADC member States committed to ensuring the implementation of the Nelson Mandela Rules.

² These activities included presentations made by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) at academic conferences in Vienna, as well as in Belgium, Oman and the United States of America, and guest lectures given to university students of law in China and Italy.

³ Specifically, in Tunisia, Kazakhstan and Uganda, UNODC enhanced the skills of more than 800 criminal justice practitioners (35 per cent of whom were women) to strengthen security and safety mechanisms and capacities in prisons, improve the capacity of prison administrations to assess the risks and needs of prisoners as a basis for their allocation and to deliver interdisciplinary disengagement interventions for violent extremist prisoners.

⁴ A workshop was held in Japan with the participation of 45 justice professionals from Bangladesh, Iraq, Lebanon, Maldives, Morocco, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Tunisia.

24. As a result of the UNODC awareness-raising activities promoting international norms in prison settings, Malawi and Namibia conducted a self-assessment on compliance with the Nelson Mandela Rules, using a checklist prepared by UNODC, and developed a road map, which included training on rules and guidelines for prison staff. UNODC also supported prison staff in both countries to improve the capacity of prison farms to produce food for prisoners. By doing so, UNODC contributed to increasing food security in prison settings and facilitated income generation from the surplus food, which in turn could be used for further prison reform activities.

25. In Zambia, UNODC handed over to the prison administration of the Government two new facilities, namely the Multipurpose Vocational Skills Training Centre managed by the Zambia Correctional Service, and the Ex-Prisoner Registration Centre supported by the Prisoner Reintegration Empowerment Organization (a non-governmental organization), offering a unique and inclusive approach to reducing reoffending through in-prison skills training and post-release support.

26. In Namibia, UNODC enhanced awareness and court support in cases of gender-based violence. The Office trained 103 participants (76 women and 27 men) in national training-of-trainers workshops on court support and preparation and trial advocacy. Following national training workshops on gender-based violence organized by UNODC for members of the criminal justice sector, the Government developed a documentary entitled “U-turn to hope” on the specific needs and experiences of women in the justice sector.

27. In Lesotho and South Africa, UNODC enhanced police responses to gender-based violence by conducting specialized training for 70 police officers on investigation and case management of cyber- and gender-based violence. UNODC also developed a new training module for prison staff on sexual reproductive health and the rights of women prisoners.

Eastern Africa

28. In Uganda, UNODC trained more than 150 participants from Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Guinea, Haiti, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Africa, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe on evidence-based strategies and programmes to prevent violence against children at the first INSPIRE Implementation Jamboree.⁵

29. In Kenya, UNODC partnered with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the implementation of its multi-year Programme for Legal Empowerment and Aid Delivery in Kenya, aimed, inter alia, at enhancing access to justice and legal aid, especially for the poor and vulnerable; strengthening court administration and case management; and improving cooperation within the justice sector. Criminal justice practitioners from judiciary, public prosecution, probation and witness services benefited from new policies developed with the support of UNODC relating to plea bargaining, diversion and alternative justice. The policies have already been implemented in large-scale corruption cases and a number of low-level drug use cases, as well as cases concerning children in conflict with the law.

30. In Ethiopia, UNODC contributed to drafting legal norms related to the integrity of the justice system. The Office supported criminal justice professionals from the

⁵ The INSPIRE Implementation Jamboree was held by the Government of Uganda, the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children, of which UNODC is a member, the World Health Organization and the CPC Learning Network in Kampala in June 2019. The meeting, attended by more than 150 participants from government, civil society and international organizations aimed for participants to: (a) learn about the content of the INSPIRE package to adapt and implement it; (b) meet and exchange with experts and front-line implementers; (c) develop a better understanding of practitioners' needs to provide support; and (d) apply knowledge gained to implement identified INSPIRE interventions. Representatives of UNODC, as a member of the INSPIRE Advisory Group, participated as experts on a variety of panels during the meeting. The meeting report is available at www.cpcnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Jamboree-Report.pdf.

judiciary, police and prison services by improving the effectiveness of investigations and prosecutions, strengthening access to justice for vulnerable groups and ensuring the respect of fair trial standards and the humane and effective execution of penal sanctions.

31. In Eritrea, UNODC and the Government signed on 25 July 2019 a partnership framework that included cooperation in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice, in line with the Regional Programme for Eastern Africa 2016–2021.⁶

32. In Somalia, the Mogadishu Prison and Court Complex, which has been built with the support of UNODC, was inaugurated. The prison and court complex consists of a high security block, a secure courtroom and accommodations for judges and prosecutors. UNODC also delivered tailored training in all target prisons to increase staff professionalism and their capacity to uphold human rights.

33. In Seychelles, UNODC continued to provide support to Somali piracy suspects through mentorship and interpretation services. In addition to interpretation services for detainees during court proceedings, English language classes were provided to the detainees to enhance their ability to communicate with prison staff.

Sahel region

34. Contributing to the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel, in Mali and Burkina Faso, UNODC supported the development and implementation of a risk assessment and prisoners' classification scheme with the aim of preventing radicalization in six prisons of the two countries. In Mali, UNODC also supported the development of a national policy for the prevention of extremism in prisons. In Burkina Faso, at the request of the Minister of Justice, UNODC and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) jointly conducted a national workshop on violence against children associated with armed groups, including those designated as terrorist groups, which brought together participants from the justice, protection and security sectors and civil society and led to the development of an action plan presented to all relevant ministers.

35. In Niger, UNODC provided training for judges and prosecutors and facilitated access to legal aid to 613 detainees through the provision of legal assistance by national United Nations Volunteers assigned to courts and prisons. At the request of the Ministry of Justice, the Office also held a national workshop on the rehabilitation and reintegration of children in conflict with the law, bringing together all relevant actors.

36. In Nigeria, UNODC organized a consultation on the treatment of children recruited and exploited by terrorist groups with the aim of identifying national priorities for prevention, justice and the reintegration of such children and fostering multidisciplinary coordination to address those challenges. UNODC also finalized a prison assessment of three prisons likely to hold suspects and convicts of piracy.

Western Africa

37. In Liberia, Senegal and Sierra Leone, UNODC, in cooperation with UN-Women, contributed to raising the awareness of women of their right to legal aid. Eighty per cent of women leaders that have benefited from the UNODC legal awareness programmes indicated having increased knowledge of their right to legal aid and of ways to gain access to it. Approximately 85 per cent of 62 trained legal aid practitioners in all target countries reported acquiring useful knowledge and practical skills on ways to render legal aid provision more gender-sensitive. Stakeholders agreed on national action plans based on country assessments, identifying priorities and the concrete steps needed to align laws, policies and other practical measures for legal aid reform with international standards and norms on legal aid and gender equality.

⁶ See www.unodc.org/documents/easternafrika/newsletter-2019Q3.pdf.

38. In the Gambia, UNODC contributed to the development and adoption of a long-term strategy on addressing prison overcrowding. UNODC also supported the initiative by the Ministry of Justice to draft amendments to the Criminal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code and the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture bill.

C. Asia

South-East Asia

39. In Cambodia, the Philippines and Timor-Leste, UNODC enhanced the provision of community-based corrections services by training more than 150 officials, including front-line officials. To promote the effective use of restorative justice programmes, UNODC trained participants from Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam on the principles and key safeguards of restorative justice programmes and on practical skills in delivering restorative justice services. In Indonesia and the Philippines, UNODC also promoted strategies for addressing the rehabilitation and reintegration of children recruited and exploited by terrorist and violent extremist groups, providing multidisciplinary training targeting actors from all relevant sectors.

40. In Cambodia, UNODC supported the Ministry of Justice in developing two toolkits, namely, the *Operational Guidelines on Juvenile Justice Procedure in Comparison with Ordinary Criminal Procedure* and the Procedural flow chart of juvenile cases, in order to enhance criminal justice practitioners' knowledge and understanding of juvenile justice procedure.

41. In Thailand, UNODC, with the Thailand Institute of Justice and the European Forum for Restorative Justice, trained criminal justice actors with a view to ensuring the sustainability of training programmes on restorative justice. UNODC also built the capacity of the criminal justice authorities in terms of the treatment of children recruited and exploited by armed and criminal groups.

42. In Viet Nam, UNODC, together with UNDP, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UN-Women and the World Health Organization (WHO), continued to implement pilot activities using the *Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence*. To reinforce national efforts in building organizational capacity to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls, UNODC trained 265 police officers, prosecutors and legal aid professionals on best practices in the provision of legal assistance to women and girls survivors of gender-based violence. UNODC supported the Government in the finalization of procedure manuals for the investigation and prosecution of child sexual exploitation and capacity-building activities for 372 police officers, prosecutors and relevant government officers working on child sexual exploitation cases. UNODC also supported the development of the Judicial Council of the Supreme People's Court resolution on sexual offences and child sexual exploitation.

43. In Indonesia, UNODC piloted the new *Handbook on Ensuring Quality of Legal Aid Services in Criminal Justice Processes: Practical Guidance and Promising Practices* for senior legal aid managers from 12 countries in South, East and South-East Asia. Participants reported that they would make use of the acquired knowledge in national reform efforts to enhance access to justice for women, children and victims; facilitate early access to a lawyer in police detention; and increase use of new technology for reaching rural communities.

44. In Myanmar, UNODC, in collaboration with UNFPA, UN-Women and UNICEF, strengthened the capacity of the Myanmar Police Force to respond effectively to incidents of gender-based violence, training 1,300 officers across 13 States and regional capitals. In addition, UNODC implemented a two-stage training programme in collaboration with the Office of the Attorney General, starting with a training of trainers for senior prosecutors and subsequent regional roll-out training activities. The roll-out, led by the Office of the Attorney General, demonstrated the growing

sustainability of the efforts by UNODC to train prosecutors in the effective handling of gender-based violence cases.

South Asia

45. In Bangladesh, UNODC assisted the Government in setting up an advanced prisoner database management system in two pilot prisons. In addition, 120 prison officers and administrators were trained on the prevention of violent extremism and prison incidence preparedness. UNODC also assisted Bangladesh in the development of a prison reform strategy.

46. In Nepal, UNODC built the capacity of prison authorities to enhance prison-based rehabilitation programmes in line with the Nelson Mandela Rules. UNODC joined other United Nations agencies in marking the 16-day campaign on eliminating violence against women with awareness-raising activities.

47. In Pakistan, UNODC contributed to the development of “rule of law road maps” to introduce sustainable, evidence-based reforms of the criminal justice system of Balochistan and Sindh States. An inter-institutional collaboration between criminal justice institutions led to the identification of priority policy areas, such as the reduction of pretrial detention and the improvement of conviction rates for serious, violent and organized crime.

Central Asia and Southern Caucasus

48. At the subregional level, UNODC strengthened the capacity to prevent, rehabilitate and reintegrate children recruited and exploited by terrorist groups by delivering a training to 32 participants from various backgrounds, including the security and justice sectors, from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. UNODC also conducted an in-depth technical assistance needs assessment in Kazakhstan on the same issue and carried out assessments in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan to identify physical, procedural and other capacity needs to effectively manage, rehabilitate and reintegrate violent extremist prisoners, including returning foreign terrorist fighters.

49. In Kyrgyzstan, following a local diagnosis of crime and safety problems, UNODC supported the adoption and implementation of crime prevention action plans for three districts and 10 new settlements in Bishkek. UNODC also provided support for building the monitoring capacity of the Government in the implementation of policies in support of the new criminal justice legislation. With the aim of enhancing the rehabilitation and social reintegration of prisoners as one of the most vulnerable population groups, UNODC, in collaboration with local authorities and social services, facilitated the transformation of the probation service into a civil organization. A monitoring centre was also established under the responsibility of the prison administration using an online tracking system to prevent violations of the human rights of offenders. UNODC also worked with local prison authorities on developing and modernizing a bakery in a women’s prison close to the capital, with a view to teaching women prisoners skills that they could use after their release. UNODC partnered with UNFPA and UNICEF to facilitate public consultations on access to justice and the promotion of civic rights.

50. In Tajikistan, UNODC, together with Penal Reform International, launched a platform for practitioners and experts to discuss and plan penal practices and policies. In addition, UNODC provided expert advice to the development of a training curriculum for prison officers endorsed by the Ministry of Justice. UNODC facilitated the sharing of promising practices and lessons learned on gender-responsive non-custodial measures and on post-release rehabilitation and reintegration services for women prisoners. Thirty-seven sport and physical culture trainers were certified through a Line Up Live Up training-of-trainers programme, while more than 900 young people (including 450 girls) enrolled in the Line Up Live Up curriculum, aimed at mainstreaming a healthy lifestyle among young people through sport. At the

request of the national authorities, UNODC carried out in Bishkek a scoping mission on children recruited and exploited by terrorist groups.

51. In Uzbekistan, UNODC supported the development of new penal legislation based on participatory public discussions and meetings, involving State agencies, lawyers and non-governmental organizations. UNODC also collaborated with the Government to promote the rights of women within the framework of existing laws related to gender issues. UNODC developed and disseminated to more than 600 students age-appropriate education materials on crime prevention and criminal justice, including tertiary education modules relating to the various standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice. The Office also conducted nation-wide capacity-building on crime prevention for school educators. Lastly, an in-depth technical assistance needs assessment was conducted on the issue of children recruited and exploited by terrorist groups.

D. Latin America and the Caribbean

North America, Central America and the Caribbean

52. UNODC, UNICEF, the Pan American Health Organization, Save the Children and Together for Girls implemented the first INSPIRE regional workshop for Central America, with representatives of Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama, to share experiences in preventing and responding to violence against children and adolescents. UNODC also provided in-person training to officials of the judiciary of Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Honduras on judicial ethics based on the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct.

53. In Mexico, UNODC provided training on crime mapping and spatial analysis and supported local government officials in conducting participatory crime assessments and developing evidence-based policies and interventions for urban crime prevention. The Office also piloted an evaluation tool to guide compliance with international standards and national legislation by prisons and to improve prison systems by adopting a human rights-centred approach.

54. In El Salvador, UNODC supported the General Directorate of Prisons in promoting the rehabilitation and social reintegration of prisoners. In partnership with local universities, UNODC initiated the establishment of tertiary education programmes in two prisons, with the refurbishment of classrooms and the procurement of equipment for computer-based distance learning.

55. In Guatemala, support by UNODC for the National Civil Police under the United Nations Joint Global Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence resulted in a specialized criminal investigation model and protocol for cases of violence against women and the adoption of general instructions that enabled citizen service offices to strengthen attention to victims of gender-based violence.

56. In the Dominican Republic, UNODC provided technical support to the Directorate for Crime Prevention of the Office of the Attorney-General in drafting a national crime prevention plan. UNODC also supported youth crime prevention activities, in which 567 young people and 84 facilitators were certified in the Line Up Live Up programme.

South America

57. In Colombia, UNODC provided training on crime mapping and spatial analysis and supported local government officials in conducting participatory crime assessments and developing evidence-based policies and interventions in the area of urban crime prevention. UNODC also trained prison staff on international standards and supported prison-based rehabilitation activities for prisoners to foster their reintegration into society upon release and reduce recidivism.

58. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, UNODC trained prison staff and other stakeholders on the application of the Nelson Mandela Rules, the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules) and promoted alternatives to imprisonment. With a view to improving their employability and facilitating their reintegration upon release, 50 women prisoners were trained in the field of construction under the UNODC “Building Freedom” project. UNODC also conducted a nationwide prison survey aimed at assessing the legal situation of people deprived of liberty. UNODC presented ways of measuring gender-based killings of women and girls to criminal justice officers and other authorities gathered to discuss gender-based violence and femicide.

59. In Brazil, UNODC, together with UNDP and the National Justice Council, initiated the implementation of a project aimed at providing a holistic response to the challenges faced by the Brazilian penitentiary system, in particular the high incarceration rates. UNODC addressed the strengthening of custody hearings in order to reduce the number of pretrial detainees. One special advisor was allocated to each of the 27 Brazilian States to provide technical assistance based on international standards and best practices. UNODC also created a network of magistrates to exchange experiences and deliver training for professionals working in custody hearings.

60. In Peru, more than 8,000 students and teachers participated in activities in the framework of the Education for Justice initiative,⁷ while the Line up Live up programme was implemented in nine neighbourhoods, involving more than 300 teenagers.

E. North Africa and the Middle East

61. Under a regional project to disrupt terrorist and organized criminal operations, including the spreading of violent extremism in North Africa and the Middle East, UNODC promoted exchanges and learning among practitioners working with children recruited and exploited by terrorist and violent extremist groups in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. UNODC also continued to improve prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women and girls in the Middle East and North Africa through a regional project and the United Nations Joint Global Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls subject to Violence, which includes Egypt and Tunisia as pilot countries.

62. In Egypt, UNODC continued to support the rehabilitation and reintegration of boys and girls in conflict with the law in eight juvenile justice institutions. As a result, 130 children benefited from medical services, 95 children participated in vocational training, 70 children participated in literacy classes, 31 boys were re-enrolled in the schooling system and 26 children were reunited with their families. UNODC also introduced approximately 5,500 children to edutainment (a combination of education and entertainment) activities promoting positive social and moral values, and refurbished and equipped three medical clinics in the girls’ institutions, allowing them to provide services to some 420 girls. In addition, UNODC provided reintegration support, including legal services, to 39 children, of whom 25 got a job, eight boys were supported in opening their own small business and six boys received support with housing or refurbishing of their homes.

63. In Morocco, UNODC engaged 68 experts from various sectors and levels of Government and civil society in a practical reflection and training on ways to prevent young people from being involved in crime, violence against children and young people and drug use among them.

⁷ For further detail, see www.unodc.org/e4j.

64. UNODC conducted an assessment of the prison system in Iraq, which included visits to detention facilities under the authority of the Ministry of Justice and the Kurdistan Regional Government that hosted violent extremist prisoners and children associated with violent extremist groups.

65. In the State of Palestine, UNODC launched a technical training for prisoners on electrical installations at the Jericho Correctional and Rehabilitation Centre, with a view to supporting their social reintegration upon release.

66. In Qatar, UNODC strengthened the capacity of the Ministry of Justice by providing training for 37 officers (80 per cent of which were women) on international standards and norms relating to crime prevention and criminal justice, judicial integrity and international cooperation in criminal matters.

67. In Saudi Arabia, UNODC supported the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, training 51 female officers on the elimination of violence against children and 50 male officers on prison management in line with the Nelson Mandela Rules. In addition, officers from the General Directorate of Prisons of the Ministry of Interior participated in a training programme jointly implemented with Naif Arab University for Security Sciences and the Siracusa International Institute for Criminal Justice and Human Rights. The programme included a study visit to the Italian Department of Penitentiary Administration, which facilitated discussions and the exchange of experiences between the two countries in the area of prison management and human rights.

F. Eastern Europe

68. Within the context of the UNODC-Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Joint Action Plan for 2018–2019, UNODC and the OSCE Mission to Serbia trained 19 sports coaches from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia on how to incorporate sport-based life skills training in their work, including the UNODC Line up Live up training curriculum.

V. Partnerships

69. During the reporting period, UNODC worked collaboratively with 26 partner entities, including 13 entities, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, in line with the United Nations “Delivering as one” initiative and Sustainable Development Goal 17, to promote the implementation of the standards and norms in a coherent and cooperative way.

Key partner entities collaborating with UNODC in 2019 to promote the use and application of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice

<i>Partner entity</i>	<i>Crime prevention and education for justice</i>	<i>Restorative justice and alternatives to imprisonment</i>	<i>Access to justice and legal aid</i>	<i>Prison reform and social reintegration</i>	<i>Violence against children</i>	<i>Violence against women</i>
Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate				x		
Department of Economic and Social Affairs	x					
Department of Peace Operations				x	x	
Office of Counter-Terrorism				x	x	
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights			x	x	x	x
United Nations Children’s Fund					x	x
United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre		x		x	x	

<i>Partner entity</i>	<i>Crime prevention and education for justice</i>	<i>Restorative justice and alternatives to imprisonment</i>	<i>Access to justice and legal aid</i>	<i>Prison reform and social reintegration</i>	<i>Violence against children</i>	<i>Violence against women</i>
United Nations Development Programme			x	x		x
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	x					
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)			x			x
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)	x					
United Nations Population Fund						x
World Health Organization					x	x
Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe	x					
Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders				x		
Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative			x			
Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association						x
European Forum for Restorative Justice		x				
European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control				x		
International Association of Women Judges						x
International Legal Aid Group			x			
Naif Arab University for Security Sciences				x		
Open Society Justice Initiative			x	x		
Penal Reform International				x		
Siracusa International Institute for Criminal Justice and Human Rights				x		
Thailand Institute of Justice	x	x		x		x

70. Examples of such partnerships include:

(a) A joint project with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to promote evidence-based crime prevention and urban safety policies and programmes through participatory crime diagnosis;

(b) An initiative with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to promote sport as a tool for peace and development;

(c) Activities on education for justice in crime prevention, in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, including education and skills training through sport;

(d) A joint project with UN-Women on access to legal aid for women, in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and joint events with UN-Women;

(e) A partnership with the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in the area of preventing violent extremism in prison settings;

(f) Collaboration with the Department of Peace Operations, the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate under the UNODC Global Programme on Addressing Prison Challenges;

(g) Participation in the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law, co-chaired by UNDP and the Department of Peace Operations;

(h) The UN-Women, UNFPA, UNODC, UNDP and WHO Joint Global Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence;

(i) Implementation of the European Union-United Nations Spotlight Initiative against gender-based and sexual violence in Kyrgyzstan and Mexico, together with UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN-Women, to provide a comprehensive approach to developing institutional capacities across sectors, using existing policy frameworks, systems and coordination mechanisms, while deepening government ownership and buy-in of actions against violence against women and girls to ensure long-term sustainability;

(j) A partnership with UNICEF, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, OHCHR and the Department of Peace Operations to prevent and respond to violence against children;

(k) A memorandum of understanding with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre to adopt a human rights-based approach to the treatment of children affected by the foreign terrorist fighter phenomenon;

(l) Participation in the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children, comprised of United Nations agencies, Member States, civil society organizations and the private sector, as well as the INSPIRE Working Group Advisory and Operational Support Team;

(m) A partnership with the International Legal Aid Group, the Open Society Justice Initiative and the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, whose experts were instrumental in developing and distributing across the globe the UNODC most recent practical guidance materials on access to justice through legal aid;

(n) Preparation for the meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2019, through participation in various expert group meetings with relevant United Nations partner agencies;

(o) Participation in United Nations country teams, including to develop a new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and revise existing partnership frameworks in accordance with the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework guidance.

VI. Conclusions and recommendations

71. In line with the 2030 Agenda, the evidence-based technical assistance provided by UNODC and its partners in 2019 promoted a holistic approach to crime prevention and criminal justice reform in accordance with the standards and norms. This has proven positive in terms of strengthening access to justice and the rule of law, providing inclusive services to victims, women, children, prisoners and other groups that are often neglected and left behind.

72. Effective crime prevention and fair, transparent, accountable and well-functioning justice systems play a key role in the realization of the 2030 Agenda. The Agenda includes numerous crime- and violence-related targets, reflecting the importance of reducing crime and violence for social and economic development. I urge Member States to include crime prevention and criminal justice reforms in their national plans and national budgets allocated to the implementation of the Agenda.

73. In order to reap the benefits of prevention, Member States should consider investing in early and developmental crime prevention strategies with a focus on children and young people, developing policies and programmes aimed at reducing crime and violence that empower young people, and using their resourcefulness; and developing policies and programmes to bring criminal justice systems closer to

citizens and build trust in institutions, including through community-oriented policing and partnerships with local communities.

74. The period under review has witnessed a significant strengthening of the work of UNODC in the area of violence against women and girls at the national and regional levels. It is expected that such trend will continue in the years ahead in recognition of the relevance and importance of preventing and responding to gender-based violence as pillars of societies. Member States should consider developing comprehensive and integrated strategies to prevent and eliminate violence against women, including by ensuring their access to justice and essential services. The criminal justice system should be adequately represented by women professionals, in particular at the senior leadership level.

75. Access to legal advice, assistance and representation through the provision of legal aid to those without means and where the interests of justice so require, such as in cases involving imprisonment or the death penalty, is essential to ensure the enjoyment of rights, such as the right to a fair trial and equal access to justice for all. Member States should consider implementing comprehensive and budgeted policies and programmes to increase access to justice for all, in particular for the more marginalized and vulnerable, and to bring criminal justice systems closer to the population, including in remote and rural areas. Legal aid should be effective, sustainable and accessible to all without discrimination, as well as provided at all stages of the criminal justice process.

76. Member States should prioritize support for and the protection of victims of crimes, including through the use of sufficiently funded restorative justice programmes, at every stage of the criminal justice process.

77. Recognizing that the advancement towards target 16.2 (End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children) of Sustainable Development Goal 16 is an accelerator for many other Goals, Member States should consider strengthening the capacity of justice systems and support mechanisms that uphold the specific rights, needs and protection of children and advance multidisciplinary approaches bringing together security, education, health, child protection and other relevant systems to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against children.

78. The significant momentum for prison reform created by the adoption of the Nelson Mandela Rules in 2015 should be maintained and accompanied by tangible efforts to reduce resort to imprisonment, improve prison conditions, strengthen prison management and enhance the social reintegration prospects of prisoners upon release. Member States should consider ensuring sufficient allocation of funds in national budgets for comprehensive penal reforms, including for the recruitment, training and equipment of prison officers to enhance professional service delivery and for the effective implementation of non-custodial measures and social reintegration programmes. Effective measures to address prison overcrowding and reduce excessive use of pretrial detention should be prioritized, as well as to manage high-risk prisoners and violent extremist prisoners and prevent radicalization to violence in prisons.