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

International cooperation in combating transnational organized crime and corruption

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides information on international cooperation and technical assistance activities undertaken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to fight transnational organized crime, in all its forms and manifestations, including new and emerging forms, and corruption.

I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2022/339, in which the Council approved the provisional agenda for the thirty-second session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.
2. The report provides information on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) related to item 6, sub-items (a) and (b), of the provisional agenda for the thirty-second session of the Commission. It contains information on activities undertaken, and assistance provided to Member States at their request, by UNODC between February 2022 and February 2023 to curb transnational organized crime, including new and emerging forms of crime, and corruption.

* E/CN.15/2023/1.



II. Transnational organized crime

A. Intergovernmental processes

1. Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

3. The Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime held its eleventh session in Vienna from 17 to 21 October 2022. The session resulted in the adoption of resolutions on international cooperation, technical assistance, firearms, trafficking in persons and trafficking in cultural property, and on the outcomes of the joint thematic discussion of the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance and the Working Group on International Cooperation on the application of the Convention for preventing and combating transnational organized crimes that affect the environment.

4. The session was attended by more than 1,500 participants from over 120 States parties and approximately 200 non-governmental organizations. More than 60 side events were organized, covering a wide range of topics related to the Convention and its protocols.

2. Working groups of the Conference of the Parties

5. During the reporting period, the Working Group on Firearms, the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons and the Working Group on the Smuggling of Migrants held one meeting each.

6. The Working Group on International Cooperation and the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance also held one meeting each, as well as a joint thematic discussion on 24 May 2022 regarding the application of the Organized Crime Convention for preventing and combating transnational organized crimes that affect the environment.

3. Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto

7. UNODC provided technical and substantive assistance to States parties in relation to their participation in the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto.

8. The Office also supported the launch, in November 2022, of the third and last group of country reviews in review phase one – those reviews relating to the thematic cluster on criminalization and jurisdiction – by providing technical assistance, including the setting up of the reviews in the secure module of the Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC) knowledge management portal, known as “RevMod”, which is the online platform for country reviews,¹ and by facilitating preliminary consultations and meetings among reviewers. As a result, 189 States parties have started phase one of their country reviews.

9. At the time of reporting, the secretariat had received nominations of focal points from 161 out of 189 parties. Following the nomination of 159 focal points for the first two groups of parties taking part in the review process, 21 country reviews (out of 125 for those two groups) had been advancing. Those reviews were at the stage of written feedback, answers to the self-assessment questionnaire having been submitted to the reviewers.

10. For the third group of reviews, all focal points were in place for 25 of the 64 reviews. At the time of reporting, UNODC was preparing to facilitate preliminary

¹ The term “country reviews” is used as in the procedures and rules for the functioning of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto (Conference resolution 9/1, annex).

consultation meetings among those focal points. Thus, 11 per cent of all country reviews had been advancing since the launch of the review process in October 2020.

11. As part of its efforts to support parties to the Convention in meeting their commitments relating to the review process, UNODC facilitated the organization of 28 preliminary consultation meetings, in addition to a total of 68 training and briefing sessions in the six official languages of the United Nations and in Portuguese, for a total of 1,070 officials (including more than 360 women) from 148 States during the reporting period.

12. In order to support focal points and governmental experts in carrying out their responsibilities, UNODC developed a number of tools, including a [compilation of basic documents](#) that provides information on the framework for the review process, and made some of those tools available in various languages, such as the self-paced [e-learning module](#) on “RevMod”.

13. UNODC developed and launched on a dedicated [web page](#) the [country profiles](#) section, which includes information on States’ engagement in the review process. The secretariat continued to develop the “RevMod” portal with a view to improving the user experience. As of January 2023, a total of 1,035 users from 140 countries were registered in “RevMod”.

14. In 2022, UNODC serviced the first series of constructive dialogues to promote the engagement of non-governmental stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, academia and the private sector, in the review process. The constructive dialogues, which followed the meetings of the working groups, were held in a hybrid format and attended by over 200 non-governmental stakeholders, who received training on engagement in the process at the country and thematic review levels.

15. Since the establishment of the global programme to support the Mechanism, a total of approximately \$4,491,346 in voluntary contributions has been received. In addition, contributions in kind were provided by two States parties.

4. Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communication Technologies for Criminal Purposes

16. During the reporting period, the Ad Hoc Committee (established by General Assembly resolution 74/247 of December 2019), held a one-day session on organizational matters, four negotiating sessions and, to support the work of Member States, three intersessional consultations with multi-stakeholders.

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

17. As of 20 February 2023, there were 191 parties to the Organized Crime Convention, 181 parties to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, 151 parties to the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air and 122 parties to the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms. Their Parts and Components and Ammunition.

18. During the reporting period, Bhutan acceded to the Convention; Andorra, Bhutan and Pakistan acceded to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol; Chad acceded to the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol; and Luxembourg ratified the Firearms Protocol.

19. UNODC engaged with non-parties to promote universal adherence to the Organized Crime Convention, providing pre-accession assistance to Bhutan, Somalia, South Sudan and Papua New Guinea.

20. In support of national efforts to achieve adherence to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol and the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol, UNODC assisted in the

development of new and/or the revision of existing domestic legislation and policies on trafficking in persons in Barbados, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), the Dominican Republic, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Senegal, Somalia, Turkmenistan and Uganda. In addition, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi and Somalia were supported in developing new and/or revising their existing legislation to counter the smuggling of migrants.

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

1. Organized Crime Convention

21. In 2022, UNODC continued to develop the SHERLOC knowledge management portal and to disseminate information on the implementation of the Convention. As of January 2023, SHERLOC included 3,376 organized crime cases from 139 States and more than 11,900 pieces of legislation from 197 States, including the two permanent observer States to the United Nations (Holy See and State of Palestine) and two States in free association with New Zealand (Cook Islands and Niue).

22. During the reporting period, SHERLOC was accessed by 287,662 users. The 10 States with the largest number of users were, in decreasing order, the United States of America, the Philippines, Ecuador, India, Austria, Argentina, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canada, Australia and China.

23. In 2022, a new database on education was added to SHERLOC, which hosts teaching modules and other relevant materials to support tertiary level educators in teaching topics relating to organized crime and terrorism.

24. Also in 2022, UNODC, through its Global Programme on Implementing the Organized Crime Convention: from Theory to Practice, assisted States in developing comprehensive strategies to prevent and counter organized crime. At the regional level, over 260 key stakeholders from 45 countries, as well as representatives of international and regional organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector, were trained in the use of the “Organized crime strategy toolkit for developing high-impact strategies”. UNODC assisted Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Ecuador, Jamaica, Montenegro and Mozambique, as well as the Economic Community of West African States, in the development of strategies or policies for combating organized crime.

25. During the reporting period, the Office released two issue papers entitled, respectively, *The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and International Human Rights Law* and *Organized Crime and Gender: Issues Relating to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*, as well as two guides to good legislative practices: one on combating waste trafficking and one on responding to illegal mining and trafficking in metals and minerals.

26. A high-level conference of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean on the theme “The Palermo Convention: the future of the fight against transnational organized crime” was held in Naples, Italy, on 20 and 21 June 2022, having been organized by the Assembly in partnership with the regional government of Campania, UNODC and the Vittorio Occorsio Foundation. The declaration adopted by the Conference was brought to the attention of the Conference of the Parties to the Organized Crime Convention at its eleventh session.

27. In January 2023, UNODC conducted an online seminar for 400 Ecuadorian officials – mainly judges, prosecutors and defence lawyers – on the use of the Organized Crime Convention to support international cooperation in criminal matters. The activity was organized jointly with the Council of the Judiciary of Ecuador.

28. UNODC supported a training workshop for Somali officials on mutual legal assistance and extradition. The workshop was organized by the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law and held in Nairobi from 6 to 9 February 2023.

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

29. Through its global programmes against trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants, UNODC provided training for more than 2,811 criminal justice practitioners, government officials and civil society representatives – including 1,226 women – from more than 56 countries in 2022. The Office supported 14 countries in developing their legislation and aligning it with the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol and other relevant international standards.

30. In 2022, under the UNODC Transforming Alerts into Criminal Justice Responses to Combat Trafficking in Persons within Migration Flows (TRACK4TIP) regional initiative, 63 investigations of trafficking in persons were conducted, 493 victims were rescued, including 138 women, and 40 suspects were arrested by practitioners who participated in various activities under the initiative. In addition, UNODC organized two bilateral meetings between Ecuador and Peru, and provided technical advice in order to establish judicial cooperation between the two countries.

31. UNODC, together with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), supported bilateral talks between Colombia and the Dominican Republic on the Cattleya case, which involved a criminal network engaged in trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation. During the meeting, the Dominican Republic shared information about Operation Cattleya, which resulted in 15 arrests and the rescue of 82 victims.

32. UNODC organized a meeting with the INTERPOL General Secretariat to promote the active involvement of Uzbekistan in international police cooperation. The meeting enabled discussions and the exchange of information on possible cooperation between the Uzbek law enforcement authorities and INTERPOL, and resulted in a cooperation agreement aimed at facilitating operational activities related to cases of trafficking in persons.

33. In 2022, over 450 anti-trafficking experts from 22 countries contributed to the preparation of a new UNODC report entitled *Exploitation and Abuse: The Scale and Scope of Human Trafficking in South-Eastern Europe* by examining the root causes of trafficking in persons, the profiles of victims and perpetrators and the recruitment methods used by traffickers in South-Eastern Europe.

34. In 2022, UNODC launched Know Trafficking and Smuggling, a specialized hub for sharing, storing and creating knowledge in order to combat trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants. The hub has various functions, such as the management of networks of practitioners, capacity-building and digital and operational collaboration through the exchange of information with the aim of monitoring and evaluating UNODC activities. The Office used the hub to create remote e-mentoring networks of practitioners in the global South.

35. In 2022, UNODC launched the Spanish-language version of the publication *The Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Trafficking in Persons and Responses to the Challenges: A Global Study of Emerging Evidence* and the Arabic-, Chinese-, French-, Russian- and Spanish-language versions of the publication's executive summary.

36. On 25 October 2022, within the framework of the Global Action against Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants – Asia and the Middle East project and in collaboration with the World Health Organization, UNODC launched the *Toolkit on the Investigation and Prosecution of Trafficking in Persons for Organ Removal*, which is aimed at encouraging proactive investigations into such trafficking.

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

37. In May 2022, UNODC participated in the first International Migration Review Forum in New York, which brought together Member States and relevant stakeholders to review the progress made in implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, resulting in 215 policy and financial pledges, including pledges on trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants. At the Forum, UNODC, as a member of the Executive Committee of the United Nations Network on Migration, co-led a round-table discussion with the International Organization for Migration. The event led to the establishment of an inter-agency cooperation platform focusing on countering migrant smuggling under the auspices of the Network.

38. Over the course of 2022, within the framework of the strengthening transregional action and responses against the smuggling of migrants (STARSOM) initiative, UNODC organized and facilitated seven operational meetings between investigators, immigration officials and prosecutors from countries along the transregional migrant smuggling route from South Asia to North America in order to strengthen South-South cooperation. During the meetings, participants shared information on trends and patterns in migrant smuggling and strengthened their cooperation in the area of investigations.

39. UNODC, through the Global Action against Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants initiative, prepared the policy brief *Climate, Crime and Exploitation: The Gendered Links between Climate-related Risk, Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants*, which recognizes that the fragility of natural environments and the adverse consequences of climate change increasingly push people worldwide to move from and across territories and that there are complex links between those migratory patterns and the two forms of crime.

40. In 2022, the initiative's Women's Network of Gender Champions against Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling carried out various activities envisaged in its Road Map to Action, including a workshop addressing the sustainable reintegration of victims of trafficking and migrants in situations of vulnerability. The Network also held its second annual general meeting, at which participants discussed developments and challenges in partner countries, especially countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, including Afghanistan.

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

41. As part of an internal process to restructure UNODC, effective 1 April 2022, the Firearms Trafficking Section was created as a new section within the Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch. The Office provided tailored legislative support to 25 countries and developed an integrated firearms registry system, "goIFAR", a record-keeping software application that States can implement as a firearms registry to track firearms throughout their life cycle. In Senegal, where the software will be piloted, the Office conducted a workshop with relevant arms control authorities to tailor the registry to national needs.

42. The Office also supported national firearms marking capacity and provided marking machines and related training to Paraguay. In addition, it supported national authorities of the Niger in marking more than 6,500 weapons in national stocks, bringing the total number of weapons marked in the subregion with UNODC support to more than 90,000. In the Central African Republic and the Niger, the Office supported the establishment of storage facilities for the safe and secure management of seized, recovered and surrendered arms and ammunition. In the Niger, UNODC supported the second phase of a firearms awareness and collection campaign, which resulted in the collection of more than 500 firearms, bringing the total number of weapons collected in the country with UNODC support to more than 1,300.

43. UNODC provided training for approximately 600 practitioners in 20 Member States in carrying out activities related to the detection, investigation, prosecution and

adjudication of firearms trafficking cases. The Office also drew up guidelines for the investigation and prosecution of firearms trafficking and related offences. In the Western Balkans, UNODC identified firearms trafficking through postal and express courier services as a priority issue and trained customs authorities and postal operators in the analysis of X-ray images in order to detect firearms, and in particular their parts and components and ammunition, in packages.

44. The Office promoted regular exchanges between firearms control and criminal justice practitioners and organized two regional meetings of practitioners from 12 countries in West and Central Africa and 16 countries in Latin America. Within the framework of the Community of Practitioners against Firearms Trafficking and Related Crimes, one regional meeting was organized in Central Asia, giving participants a platform for sharing, discussing and analysing cases of firearms trafficking and related offences.

45. In the context of its Monitoring Illicit Arms Flows initiative, UNODC launched the fifth data-collection cycle on seized and trafficked firearms and associated items as part of efforts to monitor the achievement of target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals. With a view to strengthening national capacities to systematically collect and analyse such seizure data, including for investigative purposes, the Office organized workshops in 10 countries, which were attended by 135 participants in total.

D. Networking to combat transnational organized crime

1. Law enforcement networking

46. The Container Control Programme is now active in more than 70 Member States, 130 port control units and air cargo control units having been established. Over 300 training activities were carried out under the Programme during the reporting period, benefiting more than 4,400 officials. The aforementioned units seized more than 275 metric tons of cocaine, in addition to a range of other illegal goods.

47. The Airport Communication Programme (AIRCOP), implemented by UNODC in partnership with INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization, continued to implement activities in more than 40 Member States, including through the operationalization of more than 30 joint airport interdiction task forces, which are inter-agency units trained and equipped to combat all forms of trafficking at airports, with the authority to inspect passengers, cargo and mail.

48. During the reporting period, AIRCOP initiated the operationalization of 11 new task forces, which are currently at various stages of development in the following countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Niger (second task force in Agadez), Serbia and Trinidad and Tobago. Through the interception of high-risk passengers and seizures of cargo and mail, AIRCOP task forces seized more than 1.2 tons of drugs and counterfeit medicine, almost \$2 million in undeclared currencies, various types of ammunition and weapons, and commodities protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. AIRCOP developed a training component dedicated to gender mainstreaming in law enforcement, through the deployment of a new e-learning module and several training activities.

49. UNODC, through its Global Programme on Criminal Network Disruption, facilitated nine transregional investigative forums, during which information on 62 drug seizure cases was shared and post-seizure investigative measures were developed and promoted. As of 2022, the Programme has supported a total of 26 transregional investigative forums, including through information exchange in 201 drug-related cases.

2. Judicial networking

50. In 2022, contact points for the Judicial Cooperation Network for Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus intervened in a total of 10 mutual legal assistance or extradition matters with States in other regions. The Network facilitated consultations and negotiations of bilateral treaties between two of its members and other States.

51. The Network secretariat organized eight events aimed at capacity-building or networking and a virtual meeting with the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust) on 31 March 2022, to discuss ways to strengthen judicial cooperation among the members of the two networks. A regional seminar on cybercrime investigations took place in Astana from 22 to 24 November 2022.

52. On 17 and 18 March 2022, the Judicial Cooperation Network for Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus conducted a regional hybrid workshop on trafficking in women in Tbilisi, resulting in the endorsement of the “Tbilisi recommendations”, which call for creating a regional advisory/working group of contact points to coordinate action against trafficking in persons. A workshop on mutual legal assistance in trafficking in persons cases was organized jointly with the UNODC Programme Office in Turkmenistan, the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Safe Migration in Central Asia activity on 19 and 20 July 2022.

53. UNODC continued coordinating with the South-East Asia Justice Network, which expanded from 12 to 14 member countries. The Office promoted the Network within and beyond South-East Asia, procured machine translation services and facilitated the preparation and transmission of and follow-up to mutual legal assistance and extradition requests. UNODC implemented capacity-building activities at the request of Network member countries in relation to mutual legal assistance and extradition, the sharing of electronic evidence across borders, corruption, money-laundering, the financing of terrorism, and crimes that affect the environment.

54. In July 2022, the secretariats of the West African Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime and the West African Police Chiefs Committee held a coordination meeting in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, resulting in the signing of a memorandum of understanding by 15 members of the Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS) and Chad and Mauritania. On 7 July 2022, the Network working group on falsified medical products was launched in Abidjan, following the meeting.

55. The training of trainers programme has been one of the pillars of the work of the West African Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime. This initiative created a pool of experts for the region able to sensitize their peers to the need for effective international cooperation. In November 2022, 42 judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officers from 11 countries of the subregion benefited from such training in Dakar.

56. The eleventh plenary meeting of the West African Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime was held in Lomé in November 2022, and brought together experts from the German Agency for International Cooperation, the Global Programme on Criminal Network Disruption and the Global Maritime Crime Programme. The discussions led to the creation of the Network’s working group on maritime crime-related issues.

57. In 2022, 89 mutual legal assistance cases were facilitated within the West African region and at the global level.

58. UNODC, through its Global Maritime Crime Programme, continued supporting judicial networks under the auspices of the prosecutors’ networks of the Indian Ocean Forum on Maritime Crime, the Caribbean Forum on Maritime Crime and other regional platforms in order to facilitate cooperation and exchange among prosecutors handling cases of maritime crime.

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

59. UNODC supported Member States in strengthening responses to crimes that affect the environment, by training more than 4,000 criminal justice officials and supporting over 150 investigations. In cooperation with AIRCOP, the Global Programme on Crimes that Affect the Environment and Climate developed a training component on trafficking in minerals by air, for the benefit of AIRCOP task forces in West and Central Africa.

60. Through its Global Programme on Implementing the Organized Crime Convention: from Theory to Practice, and in addition to releasing two legislative guides, UNODC provided technical assistance to 22 jurisdictions by training drafters of legislation, policymakers and criminal justice officials in developing robust normative responses to crimes that affect the environment. The Office supported Côte d'Ivoire and the Lao People's Democratic Republic in reviewing their national legislation on wildlife crime.

61. UNODC collaborated with INTERPOL on the implementation of the Law Enforcement Assistance Programme to Reduce Tropical Deforestation, which focuses on combating illegal deforestation and related crimes, through cooperation with prosecutors and civil society and within the framework of multiple UNODC programmes.

62. Through its Container Control Programme and Global Maritime Crime Programme, UNODC provided specialized training in detecting trafficking in plastic and hazardous waste, timber trafficking and crimes in the fisheries sector.

63. The Office also supported Member States in strengthening their capacity to counter trafficking in falsified medical products and to mitigate the risk that such products pose to public health, in cooperation with the World Health Organization, the World Customs Organization and INTERPOL.

64. In 2022, the Global Programme on Cybercrime trained and mentored 122 investigators and prosecutors of the Cybercrime Prosecution Unit of Peru and established, equipped and trained staff for the Unit's first digital forensics laboratory. The Programme supported the Royal Malaysia Police in establishing the first cryptocurrency analysis laboratory in South-East Asia. It also partnered with the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children to facilitate access to and use of the case management tool of the United States National Center for Missing and Exploited Children by law enforcement units of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Ghana, Honduras, Morocco, Nigeria and Panama.

65. The Global Programme on Cybercrime, in collaboration with the UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Service, published "[The online trafficking of synthetic drugs and synthetic opioids in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)" within the framework of the Opioid Strategy.

III. Corruption

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

1. Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly against corruption

66. UNODC supported the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and its subsidiary bodies and conducted the process of follow-up to the first-ever special session of the General Assembly against corruption, held in 2021. An intersessional meeting on progress made in the implementation of the outcome document of the special session, namely the political declaration entitled "Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges

and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation” (General Assembly resolution S-32/1), was convened in Vienna from 5 to 8 September 2022. UNODC created a repository of all contributions submitted on a voluntary basis by States parties on the implementation of the Convention and the political declaration, available on the Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge (TRACK) online portal.

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

67. The Implementation Review Group held its thirteenth and its first and second resumed thirteenth sessions in Vienna from 13 to 17 June, on 8 and 9 September and from 7 to 11 November 2022, respectively. The Group considered, inter alia, the state of implementation of the Convention, the performance of the Implementation Review Mechanism, technical assistance and financial and budgetary matters. In accordance with Conference resolution 4/6, a briefing chaired by the Vice-President of the Conference was held for non-governmental organizations on the margins of the thirteenth session of the Implementation Review Group.

68. UNODC provided technical and substantive services to facilitate the efficient functioning of the Implementation Review Mechanism in 2022, providing training and assistance to governmental experts from States parties under review and reviewing States, supporting the country reviews and producing thematic reports on implementation trends and related technical assistance needs identified during the reviews.

69. At the time of reporting, 174 executive summaries of the country reports under the first cycle and 66 under the second cycle of the Implementation Review Mechanism had been completed and published. UNODC also provided technical assistance in response to the observations emanating from the reviews, including through the drafting of action plans, anti-corruption strategies and legislation, capacity-building and other ad hoc activities. During the review process, UNODC supported two States parties in completing their self-assessment checklists.

70. Since 2010, a total of \$18,443,200 in voluntary contributions has been received in support of the activities of the Implementation Review Mechanism. In-kind contributions to the operation of the Mechanism have been provided by 56 States parties.

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

71. The thirteenth meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption was held in Vienna from 15 to 17 June 2022. The Group discussed promotion of the use of information and communications technologies for the implementation of the Convention, as well as challenges to, and good practices in, anti-corruption awareness-raising, education, training and research.

4. Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery

72. The sixteenth meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery was held in Vienna from 7 to 11 November 2022. In line with Conference resolutions 9/2 and 9/7, the Working Group discussed good practices and challenges with respect to beneficial ownership and how it can foster and enhance the effective recovery and return of proceeds of crime, taking into consideration article 63 of the Convention. The Group also discussed challenges and good practices in the collection of information on international asset returns.

5. Open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the United Nations Convention against Corruption

73. The eleventh open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the Convention was held in Vienna from 7 to 11 November 2022. At the meeting, the implementation of chapter IV of the Convention was discussed, including good practices and challenges concerning international cooperation in combating corruption during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery.

B. Promoting ratification and implementation of the Convention against Corruption

1. Tools and knowledge-building

74. UNODC developed and disseminated guides, handbooks and other publications. An advance version of a publication that analyses asset return was presented as a background document during the International Expert Meeting on Asset Return and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, held in Nairobi on 28 and 29 November 2022.

75. Under the umbrella of the Global Judicial Integrity Network, UNODC published a report entitled “Exploring linkages between judicial well-being and judicial integrity”, which was based on a global survey carried out by the Network.

76. UNODC contributed to the work of the Group of 20 (G20) Anti-Corruption Working Group, which issued high-level principles on enhancing the role of auditing in tackling corruption, a compendium of good practices regarding public participation and anti-corruption education and a compendium of good practices relating to regulatory frameworks and supervisory measures for legal professionals to mitigate corruption-related money-laundering risks, as well as its *Accountability Report 2022*.

77. In order to promote transparency and accountability in the management of public finances and greater cooperation between auditing and anti-corruption authorities, UNODC published *Enhancing Collaboration between Supreme Audit Institutions and Anti-Corruption Bodies in Preventing and Fighting Corruption: A Practical Guide*. The guide, developed in cooperation with the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions, was launched at the twenty-fourth International Congress of Supreme Audit Institutions in November 2022.

78. The TRACK online portal, which serves as a repository of anti-corruption resources and houses a legal library primarily comprising legislation collected through the Implementation Review Mechanism, and a variety of resources arranged by Convention chapters and by thematic areas, was expanded in 2022 and now features a database of publications related to gender.

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

79. UNODC provided tailored capacity-building and advisory services at the global, regional and national levels. The Office provided technical assistance, including through its anti-corruption advisers, to 92 States parties by supporting the drafting of anti-corruption laws, strategies, policies and codes of conduct; assisting in the analysis and strengthening of asset declaration systems; supporting the prevention of corruption in the private sector; and organizing workshops on whistle-blower protection, international cooperation, and capacity-building in criminal and financial investigations.

80. The Office deployed experts and advisers to respond more effectively to the increasing number of requests for technical assistance. The establishment of regional anti-corruption hubs consisting of teams of experts with experience in coordinating and responding to technical assistance requests at the regional and subregional levels,

including in Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean and in Africa, enabled UNODC to support the fast-tracking of implementation of the Convention closer to the point of delivery and fostered subregional and South-South cooperation. Experts and advisers with regional responsibilities were stationed in Fiji (for the Pacific), Kenya (for East Africa), Senegal (for West and Central Africa), Serbia (for South-Eastern Europe), South Africa (for Southern Africa), Thailand (for South-East Asia) and Uzbekistan (for Central Asia). Country experts and advisers were stationed in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Honduras, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, the Philippines and Somalia.

81. UNODC worked with States in South-East Asia, East Africa, Southern Africa, South America and Mexico and the Western Balkans to implement priority recommendations through the regional platforms established to fast-track the implementation of the Convention. A sixth anti-corruption platform covering six countries in West Africa and the Sahel was launched in November 2022.

82. The Office promoted regional cooperation in South-East Asia and supported the efforts of countries in that region in countering corruption and other serious crimes. In August 2022, a regional conference in Bangkok brought together more than 200 officials from 12 countries, including heads of anti-corruption agencies, law enforcement and prosecutorial authorities, financial intelligence units and central authorities. The recommendations adopted at the conference were presented at the eleventh open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the Convention.

83. UNODC supported States' efforts to address corruption in the health sector, in particular with regard to the assessment and management of corruption risks, the protection of whistle-blowers and transparency in public procurement. Assistance was provided to Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Ghana, Mexico, South Africa and Timor-Leste.

Investigation and prosecution of corruption

84. UNODC worked with States to build capacity in their criminal justice systems, including by providing investigators, prosecutors and law enforcement officials with training on integrity in law enforcement, corruption investigations (including the use of open-source information to support such investigations), financial investigations and special investigative techniques. State-specific and regional training events were held in Argentina, Ecuador, Honduras, Qatar and the State of Palestine.

85. In South-East Asia, UNODC supported countries in building their anti-corruption and financial investigation capacities. Tailored training events were held for anti-corruption authorities, including in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.

86. National-level training in financial investigations was provided to South Sudan in January 2022.

87. In Southern Africa, UNODC supported countries in strengthening inter-agency cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of corruption cases. Several workshops were held in Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Judicial integrity

88. The Global Judicial Integrity Network played a leading role in promoting experience-sharing among judges and judiciaries and as a platform for peers to discuss and address challenges. In March 2022, the Network organized various awareness-raising activities on the first-ever International Day of Women Judges to promote the participation of women in the judiciary. In April 2022, the results of a global survey conducted by the Network were published in the report entitled "Exploring linkages between judicial well-being and judicial integrity", which provided insights into judges' experiences and needs with regard to physical and

mental well-being in connection with their judicial duties. The Network continued to disseminate its thematic knowledge products and tools, including non-binding guidelines on the use of social media by judges, a paper on gender-related judicial integrity issues, a guide to developing codes of judicial conduct and a package of practical judicial ethics training tools. The Network enriched its website (www.unodc.org/ji) with new content, including opinion pieces, webinar recordings and other thematic resources. Its judicial ethics training tools served judiciaries around the world as national ethics training activities were rolled out. As of February 2023, over 70 jurisdictions had become “training sites” for the implementation of the judicial ethics training package. In 2022, under the umbrella of the Network, UNODC supported the provision of training on judicial integrity in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Spain, Thailand and the Caribbean region.

Prevention of corruption

89. UNODC provided legislative support for the preparation of 11 regulatory instruments and 7 policies in 17 countries, covering whistle-blower protection, integrity in the public sector and the establishment of anti-corruption bodies. The Office also assisted Mali in incorporating anti-corruption measures in its action plan for preventing and responding to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. In addition, it provided assistance to Chile, the Cook Islands, Ecuador, Fiji, Honduras, Jamaica, Kiribati, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu in the development of national anti-corruption strategies, and supported Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, the Central African Republic, Colombia, Honduras and South Africa in their efforts to develop systems for preventing conflicts of interest and for asset declarations.

90. The Office supported States parties in developing measures to promote the transparency of the public service and in strengthening the protection of reporting persons, including through the regional platforms established to fast-track the implementation of the Convention. In March 2022, the platform for South America and Mexico included gender and information technology as cross-cutting thematic areas. The platform for West Africa and the Sahel, established in November 2022, mainstreamed gender for the first time throughout its action plan, indicating gender-specific measures and efforts to be taken in the agreed thematic areas, namely asset recovery, financial investigations, integrity systems and whistle-blower protection systems.

91. A regional workshop on public procurement was organized for the regional platform in East Africa and a regional workshop on whistle-blower protection and public procurement was organized in Southern Africa.

92. UNODC provided technical assistance to the countries participating in the regional platform for Southern Africa in relation to asset declarations and conflicts of interest in public procurement. It also promoted the application of information technologies and digitalization tools for combating corruption and continued to work closely with the Open Contracting Partnership. The Office’s collaboration with the Partnership was expanded in order to support technical assistance and mentorship for 22 countries with regard to open contracting and public procurement transparency, including ways to improve data quality and publish procurement data in an accessible format so as to facilitate external monitoring. Workshops on transparency and data management were held in Chile and workshops on transparency, data management and value for money in public procurement were held in Paraguay. In the Philippines, UNODC supported a validation workshop aimed at piloting the forthcoming digitization of revised procurement planning and monitoring forms.

93. The Office supported the development of beneficial ownership transparency and verification tools and launched a new implementing partnership with Open Ownership to advance that work. Ongoing support provided to the Securities and Exchange Commission in the Philippines to increase compliance with beneficial ownership disclosure requirements resulted in compliance by more than 50 per cent

of companies. A workshop on how beneficial ownership information may be used by different public authorities led seven new agencies to sign data-sharing agreements in order to obtain beneficial ownership information held by the Securities and Exchange Commission. In collaboration with Open Ownership, the Commonwealth Africa Anti-Corruption Centre in Botswana and the Open Contracting Partnership, a three-day regional workshop on advancing anti-corruption action through beneficial ownership transparency in public procurement processes was held in November 2022 for 20 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. In Indonesia, a public-private dialogue on beneficial ownership and transparency attended by representatives of the Government, businesses and civil society led to the development of an outcome document containing recommendations for improving the national framework for beneficial ownership disclosures.

94. UNODC promoted cooperation between anti-corruption authorities and supreme audit institutions. In September 2022, the first of a series of training workshops was held in Mexico with the participation of anti-corruption and auditing authorities of 20 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. The event was organized in partnership with the Organization of Latin American and Caribbean Supreme Audit Institutions.

95. The Office integrated anti-corruption efforts into the work of the Global Programme on Crimes that Affect the Environment and Climate, including by providing support to 16 authorities responsible for the management of wildlife, forests and fisheries resources across nine countries (the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Thailand and Uganda), in particular with regard to corruption risks and the implementation of risk mitigation strategies.

96. UNODC, through its Programme on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption and Crime, an integral part of the Global Programme against Corruption, worked closely with the International Olympic Committee, the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), INTERPOL, the Council of Europe and World Rugby. In 2022, the Office organized or supported over 60 activities designed to enhance the capacity of criminal justice authorities and sports organizations to tackle corruption in sport at the national, regional and global levels, with the participation of more than 1,200 beneficiaries from 140 States parties. In accordance with a memorandum of understanding signed in 2020, UNODC partnered with FIFA in the implementation of the FIFA Global Integrity Programme. By June 2022, the Programme had benefited over 400 criminal justice and integrity officers of 211 FIFA-affiliated football associations in more than 150 countries. The Office also contributed to the work of the FIFA World Cup 2022 Integrity Task Force, which had been established to monitor all matches during the competition and to detect instances of match manipulation and other integrity-related problems.

97. Meetings of experts were convened to review the UNODC-International Olympic Committee-INTERPOL draft guide on the effective investigation of competition manipulation and the UNODC advocacy paper on crime, corruption and wrongdoing in the transfer of football players and other athletes, which was published in November 2022. UNODC co-organized or contributed to four meetings of the International Partnership against Corruption in Sport and participated in the biannual meeting of INTERPOL Project Stadia on international approaches to securing major sport events.

98. The Office enhanced integrity in the private sector by promoting collective action in Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Kenya, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, the United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan. In Myanmar, UNODC worked with the private sector and business associations to strengthen companies' internal measures to prevent and counter corruption. In Colombia, it brought together the public and private sectors to prevent corruption in the energy and health-care sectors through sectoral risk assessments and the development of joint policy recommendations. In Kenya, Mexico and Pakistan,

UNODC increased collaboration between the private sector and academia by promoting anti-corruption education for private sector employees, developing training materials, facilitating guest lectures by business representatives and developing an ethics ambassador programme for students.

99. UNODC intensified its cooperation with the United Nations Global Compact. The Executive Director participated in two meetings of the four “guardians” of the Global Compact. In December 2022, UNODC and the Global Compact launched a joint series of global webinars to enhance knowledge of anti-corruption measures in the private sector and share good practices. UNODC contributed to the review and enhancement of the mechanism designed to enable Global Compact business participants to report on the implementation of the tenth principle of the Compact, “Anti-corruption”. The new mechanism will be launched in 2023. “The fight against corruption”, an interactive e-learning tool for the private sector developed by UNODC and the Global Compact and available in 31 languages, had attracted over 360,000 unique online users by the end of 2022. UNODC contributed to other private sector anti-corruption initiatives, including the Alliance for Integrity, the task force on integrity and compliance of the Business 20, the Blue Company initiative and the World Economic Forum Partnering against Corruption Initiative.

Young people, education and civil society

100. In 2022, the UNODC Global Resource for Anti-Corruption Education and Youth Empowerment (GRACE) initiative reached approximately 1,200 beneficiaries, including anti-corruption professionals, young people, educators and civil society organizations.

101. UNODC organized a series of training workshops for 54 academics from 40 higher education institutions in Africa. In June and September 2022, the Office, in cooperation with the International Anti-Corruption Academy, organized two online anti-corruption summer schools for 90 students and young people from 46 countries in Eastern Europe and the Asia-Pacific region.

102. In September 2022, UNODC organized the second edition of the “Coding4Integrity” youth anti-corruption hackathon. The event brought together 43 young software developers from Brazil and Mexico. The winning solution was aimed at utilizing technology to support small- and medium-sized enterprises in the establishment of gender-sensitive whistle-blowing systems in order to prevent and detect corruption.

103. In December 2022, the Office supported the Government of Japan in organizing the second edition of the Global Youth Forum for a Culture of Lawfulness, on the theme of “The role of youth in achieving a diverse and inclusive society”. Approximately 100 young people from more than 50 countries participated in the discussions. Their recommendations were presented to the intersessional meeting of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in December 2022.

International cooperation and asset recovery

104. UNODC maintained a list of central authorities responsible for requests for mutual legal assistance designated in accordance with article 46, paragraph 13, of the Convention against Corruption. At the time of reporting, the list contained information on authorities designated by 162 States.

105. The Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities, established in 2021 under the auspices of UNODC, comprised 132 member authorities from 72 States as at 1 February 2023. The Network implemented a secure communications solution enabling anti-corruption practitioners to exchange operational information, and organized over 65 bilateral meetings to discuss the progress of anti-corruption investigations and prosecutions within the framework of two Network plenary meetings held in 2022.

106. In 2022, UNODC, through the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative and in collaboration with the World Bank, worked with more than 15 countries (data as of October 2022) to strengthen their capacity to trace, seize, freeze, confiscate and return assets involved in cases of corruption. That work included assistance in adopting new laws or amendments related to asset recovery and in opening new asset recovery cases, and the organization of 15 national and regional capacity-building workshops.

107. The StAR Initiative contributed to 32 global policy events and launched two new publications: a report entitled “Signatures for sale: how nominee services for shell companies are abused to conceal beneficial owners” and a publication entitled *Taxing Crime: A Whole-of-Government Approach to Fighting Corruption, Money Laundering, and Tax Crimes*, on the benefits of inter-agency cooperation between tax authorities and law enforcement agencies in preventing and detecting illicit financial flows derived from tax evasion, corruption and money-laundering and in recovering related assets.

108. An international expert meeting on asset return and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was held in Nairobi on 28 and 29 November 2022, convened by the Governments of Kenya and Switzerland and UNODC. Its objectives were to encourage continued dialogue between practitioners from requesting and requested States, civil society and international organizations; to examine how asset return can contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda; and to enable participants to share and learn from the latest developments, including recent successful asset return cases.

3. Cooperation with other entities

109. UNODC worked closely on projects with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Global Compact and the Department of Peace Operations. At the global level, the Office continued to serve as co-chair of the Global Task Force on Corruption, together with UNDP and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, in order to strengthen United Nations coordination and consultation with respect to anti-corruption policy development and technical assistance further to the implementation of the United Nations common position to address global corruption. UNODC provided substantive input and participated in the opening session of a five-week online course developed by UNDP and the United Nations System Staff College on combating corruption in the context of the 2030 Agenda. In partnership with the Department of Peace Operations, the Office initiated the preparation of practical guidance for United Nations country teams on the integration of anti-corruption measures in peace operations and special political missions. The practical guidance is expected to be launched in 2023. Joint projects, such as the StAR Initiative and the United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project, jointly implemented by UNDP and UNODC, provided technical assistance and new tools and resources to States parties and stakeholders.

110. UNODC supported regional and global efforts to strengthen public and private sector standards, including in partnership with the Alliance for Integrity, the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group, the task force on integrity and compliance of the Business 20, the World Economic Forum Partnering against Corruption Initiative, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), including the Anti-Corruption Task Team of the OECD Development Assistance Committee Network on Governance.

111. UNODC continued its collaboration with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Building Integrity Programme to strengthen integrity and anti-corruption efforts in the defence sector through participation in regular training events held at NATO facilities.

IV. Recommendations

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

(a) Continue efforts to promote the effective implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto and the Convention against Corruption, including through the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of comprehensive evidence-based policies and strategic frameworks, within the wider context of promoting the rule of law and better governance structures as key components of the 2030 Agenda, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 16, while considering gender-balanced approaches and empowering young people and civil society to engage in activities to implement the 2030 Agenda, in cooperation with UNODC;

(b) Provide UNODC with adequate, predictable and sustainable funding to enable the Office to carry out its mandated work in support of intergovernmental processes, such as the mechanisms for the review of the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto and of the Convention against Corruption, as well as strengthen international cooperation and enhance the implementation of the aforementioned instruments and the observations and recommendations emanating from their implementation review mechanisms; and further support the work of the Office in the field of capacity-building to prevent and combat transnational organized crime, tackle corruption and recover valuable State assets, paying particular attention to emerging challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic that may have a lasting impact on responses to related threats;

(c) Promote the establishment and strengthening of judicial cooperation networks and the enhancement of their secretariat functions, and make full use of law enforcement networks, in cooperation with UNODC and regional organizations, and continue striving for better coordination in this field; and further strengthen South-South and North-South cooperation in addressing, in particular, transnational trafficking in persons along identified routes, through enhanced networking among competent authorities;

(d) Continue to implement a comprehensive approach to countering trafficking in persons by examining the misuse of information and communications technologies to facilitate various aspects of that crime; by strengthening the capacity of law enforcement agencies to conduct investigations in cyberspace, in accordance with international human rights law; and by increasing international cooperation;

(e) Consider mainstreaming gender and human rights-based approaches into their legislation, strategies, policies, programmes and other initiatives relating to organized crime to prevent and combat such crime more effectively;

(f) Recommend to States parties to the Organized Crime Convention to consider making crimes that affect the environment, in appropriate cases, serious crimes, as defined in article 2, paragraph (b), of the Convention; and also consider enhancing the application of the Convention against Corruption, in accordance with its terms, in order to effectively prevent, investigate and prosecute corruption offences established in accordance with the Convention, including in circumstances where those offences may be linked to crimes that affect the environment.