



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
18 January 2008

Original: English

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Fifty-first session

Vienna, 10-14 March 2008

Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

Policy directives to the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Seventeenth session

Vienna, 14-18 April 2008

Items 4, 6 and 7 of the provisional agenda**

World crime trends and responses: 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

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

Policy directives for the crime programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as its governing body, including administrative, strategic management and budgetary questions

Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Summary

The present report on the activities the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime during the past year focuses on how drug control, crime prevention, terrorism prevention and criminal justice interact with the themes of peace, security, development and the rule of law.

During the period under review, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime supported Member States in their efforts to achieve a world safe from crime, drugs and terrorism through the three pillars of its work programme: (a) research to

* E/CN.7/2008/1.

** E/CN.15/2008/1.



increase knowledge and understanding of drug and crime issues and to expand the evidence base for policy and operational decisions; (b) normative work to assist States in the ratification and implementation of international treaties, the development of domestic legislation on drugs, crime and terrorism, and the provision of substantive and secretariat services to treaty-based and governing bodies; and (c) field-based technical cooperation projects.

The report also contains the information requested by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2006/21 concerning implementation of the Programme of Action, 2006-2010, on strengthening the rule of law and the criminal justice systems in Africa.

Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Rule of law, development, security and peace	1-4	4
II. Drug control	5-18	5
A. Sustainable livelihoods: illicit crop monitoring, cultivation and poverty eradication	5-13	5
B. Supply reduction	14-16	6
C. Drug abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation	17-18	7
III. Crime prevention	19-29	7
A. Human trafficking and smuggling of migrants	19-23	7
B. Transnational organized crime	24-26	9
C. Corruption	27-29	9
IV. International cooperation against terrorism	30-33	10
V. Emerging policy issues	34-38	11
A. Drugs	34	11
B. Crime	35-38	11
VI. Building a safer world together	39-54	12
A. Criminal justice	39-45	12
B. Law enforcement	46-49	14
C. Data collection, research and monitoring of drug and crime trends	50-51	15
D. Scientific and forensic support	52-54	16
VII. Strengthening the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	55-72	16
A. Strategy for the period 2008-2011	55-56	16
B. Partnerships	57-72	17
VIII. Conclusions and recommendations	73	20

I. Rule of law, development, security and peace

1. Drug control, crime prevention, terrorism prevention and criminal justice are essential for building safe, just and healthy societies, interacting closely with issues of peace, security, development and the rule of law. An architectural design for a safer world would include the rule of law as the framework, development as a strong social foundation and security to keep it safe, while peace would maintain good neighbourly relations. A fair, effective and credible criminal justice system promotes long-term socio-economic and human development, and shields society from the effects of crime, trafficking, corruption and instability.

2. As a major international security threat, terrorism has many negative effects on development, security and justice, from crowding out investments to increasing feelings of insecurity and victimization among whole populations. The rule of law is the basis for countering terrorism, including comprehensive legislation in conformity with the universal instruments against terrorism, a strong criminal justice system and effective international cooperation. Corruption undermines development and the rule of law, and can pose a threat to security by facilitating trafficking and terrorist acts. Anti-corruption strategies rest on a combination of public attitudes, preventive measures, effective institutions of control, punishment of wrongdoers and recovery of stolen assets.

3. Development is key to reducing the world's supply of illicit drugs. Poverty, marginalization, insecurity and lack of opportunities to earn sustainable livelihoods are important reasons for illicit crop cultivation. In the last decade, much progress has been made in reducing illicit cultivation in certain regions and countries, but efforts have not led to a significant overall reduction in illicit drug production. Long-term national and international political and financial commitment to the development of the areas and communities affected by illicit crop cultivation is needed to enable the affected States to sustain the gains achieved and to work towards the elimination of illicit drug crops.

4. The three pillars of the work programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) are: (a) research to increase knowledge and understanding of drug and crime issues and to expand the evidence base for policy and operational decisions; (b) normative work to assist States in the ratification and implementation of international treaties, the development of domestic legislation on drugs, crime and terrorism, and the provision of substantive and secretariat services to treaty-based and governing bodies; and (c) field-based technical cooperation projects to enhance the capacity of Member States to counteract illicit drugs, crime and terrorism. The present report describes how UNODC supports Member States in their efforts to achieve development, security and justice for all by working towards a world safe from crime, drugs and terrorism.

II. Drug control

A. Sustainable livelihoods: illicit crop monitoring, cultivation and poverty eradication

1. Illicit crop monitoring

5. UNODC has assisted States by supporting illicit crop monitoring and alternative development programmes within the framework of poverty reduction and sustainable development, and in accordance with General Assembly resolution S-20/4 E. Illicit crop monitoring is used to support governmental policy development and decision-making: survey results provide national authorities and the international community with accurate data on the world's main illicit crop cultivation areas and with production estimates. UNODC and its national counterpart agencies have conducted illicit crop monitoring surveys in Afghanistan, Bolivia, Colombia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Morocco, Myanmar and Peru. In Ecuador, an initial assessment of coca leaf cultivation was conducted.

6. In 2007, Afghanistan accounted for 93 per cent of the global total production of opium poppy, with opium production reaching an unprecedented 8,200 tons. The 2007 opium survey showed that opium poppy cultivation had risen to 193,000 hectares (ha), a 17 per cent increase over 2006. UNODC has strengthened the capacity of the Ministry of Counter Narcotics of Afghanistan, which has successfully taken over responsibility for implementing many of the opium survey activities – rapid assessment surveys, annual opium surveys and monthly price monitoring – and has verified the eradication activities conducted by the Government.

7. Since 2002, illicit cultivation in Myanmar has fallen by 66 per cent, although the 2007 opium survey found a 29 per cent increase in opium poppy cultivation over 2006 after six consecutive years of decline. The survey results indicate that alternative development programmes have not yet reached many villages in the opium-producing regions and that the remarkable reduction achieved in recent years may not be sustainable.

8. In 2006, opium poppy cultivation in the Lao People's Democratic Republic remained low, while there were 156,000 ha under coca leaf cultivation in Bolivia, Colombia and Peru, similar to the levels recorded for 2005. A decline in Colombia of 9 per cent was offset by increases in Bolivia and Peru (of 18 and 7 per cent).

2. Illicit cultivation and poverty eradication

9. In 2007, 13 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces were opium-free (compared with only 6 in 2006). However, opium poppy cultivation reached unprecedented levels. Some 80 per cent of cultivation was located in the south and south-west, where security conditions have deteriorated markedly. Cultivation in Afghanistan is associated with insurgent interests and corruption. UNODC supported the Government in policy development, institution- and capacity-building for alternative livelihoods, criminal justice, cross-border operations and illicit crop monitoring. It is also working with others to draw up an opium poppy-free roadmap for Afghanistan.

10. In Bolivia, Colombia and Peru, UNODC-supported alternative development programmes are designed and implemented in accordance with national needs. The overall focus is on poverty alleviation through environmental conservation, sustainable productive management of strategic ecosystems, support for the marketing of alternative development products and diversified employment. In Colombia, UNODC programmes have given farmers technical and managerial assistance for productive activities and the rational exploitation of forest resources, and have monitored voluntary eradication, forest recovery and socio-economic development. In Peru, UNODC assisted farmer enterprises in the development of modern and commercially viable legal enterprises, with their product sales reaching \$55 million in 2006, a 38 per cent increase over 2005. In Bolivia, UNODC supported vocational training and micro-enterprise development activities in order to generate employment and livelihood opportunities for young people in the Cochabamba Tropics. A four-year agroforestry programme was launched in 2006 in that area and one in the Yungas of La Paz was continued.

11. In Myanmar, UNODC spearheaded the Kokang and Wa Initiative in partnership with government departments, United Nations entities and national and international organizations. In 2007, the Government, UNODC and other United Nations bodies agreed on a framework for transition from emergency relief to sustainable development in the Wa region in the period 2008-2011.

12. In partnership with other United Nations bodies and the Asian Development Bank, UNODC provided alternative development assistance to former opium poppy growers in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. UNODC has also assisted the Government in mapping the poorest former opium poppy-cultivating villages in order to identify gaps in support and potential partners.

13. In collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), UNODC is striving to ensure that products cultivated instead of illicit crops reach European markets by showcasing those products at food fairs.

B. Supply reduction

14. Areas where the rule of law is weak attract drug traffickers, perpetuating a vicious circle that perverts local economies, deepens corruption and erodes the integrity of public institutions. Much UNODC work aims to strengthen the rule of law: from prison reform and witness protection programmes to combating money-laundering and kidnapping. It helps establish drug control agencies, build border posts, strengthen the judiciary and improve interdiction. UNODC is helping establish counter-narcotic intelligence centres in the Persian Gulf area and Central Asia, financed by the Government of Qatar, and a trilateral initiative between Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan to facilitate border control and legal cooperation; and is assisting States in Africa to strengthen their judicial capacity.

15. As regards strengthening international and interregional cooperation among law enforcement authorities in the fight against drug trafficking, four meetings of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, for Europe, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia and the Pacific, and one session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle

East were held. Upon request, UNODC undertook needs assessment missions regarding supply reduction to China, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Pakistan and Yemen and has subsequently worked with partner government agencies to develop technical assistance programmes to strengthen their responses to drug trafficking.

16. In October 2007, in the framework of the Paris Pact initiative, UNODC organized a meeting in Kabul of senior international counter-narcotics officials to review and improve regional and international efforts to contain the Afghan opiates threat. Furthermore, UNODC has developed the Automated Donor Assistance Mechanism, an online tool that contains information on nearly 900 counter-narcotics projects in Asia and Europe.

C. Drug abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation

17. While worldwide demand for illicit drugs does not appear to be worsening, there are still 25 million drug users in the world.¹ UNODC is promoting a holistic approach to drug control in order to improve the health and welfare of mankind, promote development in regions dependent on drug crops and reduce the vulnerability of cities and States to drugs and crime. UNODC works with Member States, NGOs and municipalities to improve drug prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, and is strengthening its partnership with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to promote safer and healthier communities, seeking to reduce the spread of blood-borne diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, among injecting drug users. Community-centred prevention involves working with children, parents and teachers to ensure that young people get the support that they need to develop self-esteem, providing greater support for family-based programmes, since prevention begins at home, and creating opportunities for young people to engage in healthy activities to enhance their well-being, such as through the Global Sport Fund promoted by Qatar. The media can also raise awareness in this area.

18. Given the critical role of NGOs and civil society organizations in the prevention of drug abuse, in treatment and rehabilitation, UNODC, in partnership with the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs, has facilitated a series of regional consultations that will culminate in the “Beyond 2008” Global Forum in Vienna in July 2008. The Forum will highlight civil society’s achievements and constraints in drug demand reduction since the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, in 1998.

III. Crime prevention

A. Human trafficking and smuggling of migrants

19. Victims of trafficking – one of the most profitable crimes worldwide – are subjected to various forms of exploitation, including working in sweatshops, exploitation in the sex industry and domestic servitude. The number of irregular migrants who resort to services provided by profit-seeking smugglers has

¹ *World Drug Report 2007* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.XI.5, p. 30).

significantly increased. This in turn has driven up fees and profits, allowing for more sophisticated operations, but it has also contributed to establishing a low-cost segment of migrant smuggling where smugglers knowingly offer services that are more risky: the death toll among smuggled migrants has increased dramatically over the past few years.

20. UNODC is helping States implement the provisions of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,² in order to prevent the tragedy of human trafficking, protect the victims and bring their traffickers to justice. Fighting human trafficking has a security dimension related to the rule of law, as also a development dimension of reducing the vulnerability of people to this predatory crime. Building a broad social basis to fight human trafficking is the key to success.

21. Research by UNODC has identified a number of shortcomings in implementation of the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the Organized Crime Convention.³ Policies that aim to reduce smuggling of migrants should be at least regional in scope, and must be comprehensive, consistent and anticipatory in order to be effective, while upholding human rights and protecting the safety and lives of migrants must be central elements.

22. UNODC has been placing increasing emphasis on developing ways to facilitate, catalyse and multiply action to effectively prevent trafficking, protect victims and prosecute offenders. In March 2007, UNODC and other concerned bodies launched the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT), with support from the Government of the United Arab Emirates and under the policy guidance of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Its objectives are to increase awareness of human trafficking; to promote effective rights-based responses; to build the capacity of state and non-state actors; and to foster partnerships for joint action. A key element of UN.GIFT, the Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking, to be held in February 2008, will address human trafficking in a holistic and multifaceted manner. Within the three themes of vulnerability, impact and action, the Forum will contextualize the various dimensions of human trafficking and its relation to security, development and human rights.

23. During 2007, UNODC prepared a draft model law against trafficking in persons, which includes a comprehensive set of provisions, dealing with all relevant issues. A draft legislative checklist of complementary measures was also developed, including necessary legal measures to facilitate an effective response to trafficking in persons. The draft model law, finalized in October 2007 and soon to be published, and the legislative checklist will serve as tools to provide advisory services and assistance to countries in combating trafficking in persons and to draft, update and/or review relevant national legislation in line with the Trafficking in Persons Protocol. Furthermore, UNODC will soon launch a comprehensive programme of legislative development, policy development and institutional capacity-building, human capacity-building, international cooperation, data collection and analysis,

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 2241, No. 39574.

and awareness-raising to assist Member States in addressing the smuggling of migrants from Africa to Europe.

B. Transnational organized crime

24. A priority for UNODC is to promote the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime⁴ and its Protocols. The Convention has received 138 ratifications, the Trafficking in Persons Protocol 116, the Migrants Protocol 106 and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, 67.⁵ UNODC has published the *travaux préparatoires* (official records),⁶ which provide comprehensive background information on the drafting of the instruments.

25. In its decision 3/2, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention endorsed the Secretariat's online directory of authorities dealing with requests for international cooperation in criminal matters, and requested UNODC to organize workshops for such authorities, as well as liaison magistrates and judges, prosecutors and practitioners. In seeking the most efficient way to implement decision 3/2, UNODC formed an open-ended Steering Committee, which met in June and October 2007, to provide assistance and guidelines in the preparation and organization of the workshops. Three workshops on international legal cooperation were organized in late 2007 in accordance with the mandate of the Conference of the Parties and the guidance of the Steering Committee: one for Latin America and the Caribbean, in cooperation with the Organization of American States, and within the framework of its Third Meeting of Central Authorities and Other Experts on Mutual Legal Assistance in Legal Matters and Extradition; one for Central and East Asia; and one for the Arab States.

26. The Conference of the Parties also adopted decision 3/4, in which it stressed the need for further information-gathering on the implementation of the Convention; strengthening criminal justice responses to organized crime based on the Convention and its Protocols; international cooperation and establishment or strengthening of central authorities for mutual legal assistance and extradition; data collection; implementation of the Protocols; coordination among technical assistance providers; and determination of performance indicators in the design, management and implementation of technical assistance.

C. Corruption

27. Corruption stifles development by reducing investment and stealing much-needed public funds; it undermines democracy and the rule of law, and destroys public trust. It can even pose a threat to security by facilitating terrorist acts, enabling criminals to infiltrate state structures and weakening the security apparatus. UNODC is the custodian of the United Nations Convention against

⁴ Ibid., vol. 2225, No. 39574.

⁵ Ibid., vol. 2326, No. 39574.

⁶ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.V.5.

Corruption,⁷ which had 140 signatories and 104 States parties as at 4 December 2007. The first session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention was held in Amman in December 2006 and determined its priority areas of work. UNODC developed an online self-assessment checklist on the implementation of the Convention, which has produced encouraging results among responding States. A full review mechanism was discussed at the second session, held in Bali, Indonesia, in early 2008.

28. UNODC and the World Bank launched the joint Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative in September 2007, which will include activities in different pilot countries to promote the implementation of the Convention, assistance to developing countries in building capacity for mutual legal assistance and partnerships to share information and expertise. The Initiative will be guided by the “Friends of StAR”, an advisory group composed of influential, experienced individuals from developed and developing countries that will promote implementation of the asset recovery provisions of the Convention and cooperation between countries to recover assets.

29. Corruption within the judiciary threatens its independence, impartiality and fairness and undermines the rule of law – a key prerequisite for economic growth and the eradication of poverty. Based on the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct,⁸ UNODC has developed tools to strengthen judicial integrity and capacity, including a commentary on the Principles, a training manual on judicial ethics and a standard methodology and survey instruments for assessing integrity and capacity.

IV. International cooperation against terrorism

30. Terrorism is a dangerous security threat that has a negative impact on development, driving away investment, tourism and business, and diverting resources away from much-needed public expenditure. The rule of law is the basis on which the international community should fight terrorism and counter-terrorism legislation should include a strong criminal justice approach to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice by promoting effective international cooperation for the prosecution, adjudication and sentencing of terrorist cases, as well as respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms.

31. In 2007, UNODC further reinforced its technical assistance work on the legal and related aspects of counter-terrorism, pursuant to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.⁹ Since the launch of its global project on strengthening the legal regime against terrorism in January 2003, UNODC has helped 149 countries ratify and implement the international instruments related to terrorism. Direct assistance was provided to 114 countries, including 52 countries in 2007; 71 more countries were reached in 2007 through 13 regional and subregional workshops, including 3 at the ministerial level for Caribbean countries, French-speaking African countries and member States of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. Approximately 6,100 criminal justice officials have so far been given specialized briefings, including some 1,500 in 2007. Nine technical assistance

⁷ General Assembly resolution 58/4, annex.

⁸ Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/23, annex.

⁹ General Assembly resolution 60/288.

tools have been developed. Assisted Member States effected some 398 new ratifications. The number of States that have ratified the first 12 international instruments has risen from 26 (January 2003) to 97 (November 2007), and the number of those ratifying 6 or fewer of the first 12 instruments fell from 98 (January 2003) to 27 (November 2007).

32. UNODC works closely with the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Security Council and its Executive Directorate, and in 2007 participated in joint country visits to Armenia, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Indonesia, Turkey and Viet Nam. It also organized subregional workshops on report-writing, in Dakar (September 2007) and Gaborone (November 2007), to assist Member States in complying with their reporting obligations to the three Security Council committees dealing with counter-terrorism.

33. UNODC has contributed actively to the work of the multi-agency Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. At the initiative of the Government of Austria and in cooperation with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, UNODC organized a Symposium on Advancing the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, held in Vienna in May 2007 and attended by over 350 participants, representing 107 Member States and international organizations.

V. Emerging policy issues

A. Drugs

34. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as the leading policymaking bodies of the United Nations under their respective mandates, consider emerging policy issues. At its fifty-first session, the thematic debate of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs will be on progress made in meeting the goals and targets set by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session. The Commission will have before it the fifth report of the Executive Director on the subject,¹⁰ in accordance with the mandates set down by the Assembly and the Commission. The Commission decided to convene a high-level segment at its session in 2009 to conduct a global assessment of the implementation of the declarations and measures adopted by the Assembly in 1998, as well as emerging issues and renewed commitments to action by Member States. The high-level segment will be of major significance for the global structure of international drug control, requiring the full participation of all Member States.

B. Crime

1. Identity-related crime

35. An area of growing concern among Member States has been the substantial increase in the transnational occurrence and range of offences of economic fraud and identity-related crime. In its resolution 2007/20, on international cooperation in the prevention, investigation, prosecution and punishment of economic fraud and

¹⁰ E/CN.7/2008/2 and Add.1-6.

identity-related crime, the Economic and Social Council called for further research in this area.

36. UNODC has launched a consultative platform on identity-related crime to provide a strategic and substantive framework for further action and has established a core group of experts from Governments, private sector entities, international organizations and research and academic institutions, to provide advice on possible long-term strategies for further consideration. The group first met in Courmayeur, Italy, in November 2007, in conjunction with the International Conference on the Evolving Challenge of Identity-Related Crime: Addressing Fraud and the Criminal Misuse and Falsification of Identity, organized by the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network and UNODC.

2. Cybercrime

37. UNODC is developing activities on cybercrime, including the use of the Internet for child exploitation, Internet pharmacies and money-laundering. In addition, UNODC, together with the Korean Institute of Criminal Justice Policy and with support from the NHN Corporation of the Republic of Korea, is developing a virtual forum against cybercrime to provide law enforcement bodies, criminal justice officials and researchers with technical advice on preventing and investigating cybercrime (see <http://www.kicjp.re.kr/english/index.asp>).

3. Environmental crime

38. Environmental crime is emerging as a major international concern. UNODC has carried out research and analysis on relevant laws, resolutions and recommendations on the prevention of trafficking in protected species in connection with organized criminal groups. International trafficking in forest products is having a particularly adverse environmental, social and economic impact in many countries. In its resolution 16/1, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice encouraged Member States to provide information to UNODC regarding their use of the Organized Crime Convention and the Convention against Corruption to combat international trafficking in forest products, including timber, wildlife and other forest biological resources; and urged the Office to invite interested Member States to participate in an open-ended expert group on preventing and combating such trafficking. UNODC is preparing for a meeting of the group, in cooperation with Indonesia.

VI. Building a safer world together

A. Criminal justice

1. Justice reform

39. Strengthening criminal justice institutions is central to UNODC work, especially in States in transitional and post-conflict situations. Requests for specialist assistance in the rule of law from the field increased, in particular from peacekeeping missions, as well as States. Specialist inputs from UNODC

complement broader governance programming provided by the United Nations system, in particular with regard to the “One United Nations” approach. In 2007, UNODC led over 12 justice reform missions, in transitional, post-conflict and developing countries, including 5 large judicial programmes, mainly in Africa. Work has focused on creating, supporting and enhancing approaches that strengthen the integrity of the police, the judiciary and prisons. Primary points of intervention include access to justice (especially for women, children, minority and other vulnerable groups), including mechanisms for alternative dispute resolution, and legal aid; prison reform, including alternatives to incarceration, conditions in prisons and pre-trial detention; and strengthening judicial accountability, independence, oversight and integrity. The systemic approach to the coordination and management of criminal justice reform is reflected in a 78 per cent growth in justice reform programming, with over 20 field initiatives.

2. Technical tools to assist countries in the use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice

40. UNODC published an updated edition of the *Compendium of United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice* in the six official languages.¹¹ It is also finalizing a model law on the protection of child victims and witnesses of crime, an implementation guide and an interactive training module for professionals dealing with child victims and witnesses of crime. In cooperation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, the Office is revising the handbook *United Nations Criminal Justice Standards for Peacekeeping Police*.¹²

41. An important tool has been the *Criminal Justice Assessment Toolkit*, of which over 1,000 printed copies have been distributed, with a CD-ROM also produced in 2007.¹³ The *Handbook on Restorative Justice Programmes*¹⁴ has been downloaded frequently from the UNODC website; the *Handbook of Basic Principles and Promising Practices on Alternatives to Imprisonment*¹⁵ has also been well received. Twelve additional handbooks are in preparation, including on reintegration of female offenders, enhanced approaches to prison management, prisoners with special needs, access to justice, police accountability, oversight and integrity, gender issues, including police responses to women victims of violence, and border control. To provide practitioners with information on lessons learned, a handbook on strengthening and reform of criminal justice within post-conflict and transitional states: lessons learned was in preparation. The success and popularity of the *Toolkit* and the supporting handbooks indicate the level of demand for practical guidance and policy information from practitioners in the field.

3. United Nations conventions against crime and drugs

42. UNODC has improved international casework cooperation by providing problem-solving advice, training in best practices and software tools on

¹¹ Available on CD-ROM or at <http://unodc.org/unodc/en/justice-and-prison-reform/compendium.html>.

¹² Vienna, United Nations, 1994.

¹³ Now also available in French, Russian and Spanish.

¹⁴ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.V.15.

¹⁵ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.XI.2.

international cooperation to Member States upon request. The international conventions relating to drugs, crime and corruption contain comparable provisions on mutual legal assistance and extradition, including requirements for States parties to notify the Secretary-General about the central authority designated to receive, transmit or execute requests for mutual legal assistance and extradition. As at late November 2007, contact information for 606 competent national authorities of Member States or dependent territories had been provided to UNODC and made available to Member States on a secure website (<http://www.unodc.org/compauth/index.html>). During 2007, the directory of authorities was expanded to include those designated under the Organized Crime Convention.

43. In late 2006, UNODC launched its Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool.¹⁶ Training in the adaptation of the Tool and its database to each country's own legal framework is the next step. Preparation of a similar extradition request writer tool has begun. UNODC also regularly collects and distributes information on competent national authorities regarding extradition, mutual legal assistance and trafficking by sea.

44. In December 2006, UNODC updated its online library of national legislation, a unique source of legislation adopted by States around the world to implement the international drug control conventions (www.unodc.org/enl). During 2007, more than 2,000 laws and regulations were uploaded, enabling enhanced research into national drug control legislation. A new function allows a full-text search based on any word or combination of words.

45. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the UNODC Legal Advisory Programme's capacity-building activities, including mock trials, case management and financial internships, reached some 5,000 investigators, prosecutors and judges, with a demonstrated impact on day-to-day case work. As a result, UNODC forged several new strategic alliances (including in the private financial sector) and improved its resource mobilization. Judicial cooperation programmes enabled central authorities in Central and South-East Asia to establish partnerships allowing direct communication between law enforcement agencies investigating transnational organized crime.

B. Law enforcement

1. Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre

46. The memorandum of understanding on subregional drug control is being implemented in cooperation with Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. In November 2007, UNODC set up the Central Asia Regional Information and Coordination Centre to facilitate information exchange and analysis and to assist in the coordination of operational law enforcement activities among those countries.

¹⁶ Available at <http://www.unodc.org/mla> in English, French, Russian and Spanish. There is also a Portuguese version available, initiated and financed by the ministries of justice of Brazil and Portugal.

2. Container control programme

47. The Container Control Programme of UNODC and the World Customs Organization was implemented in Ecuador, Ghana, Pakistan and Senegal and the relevant operational units reported seizures of drugs and other illicit goods after profiling of containers for inspection. Depending on resources available, the Container Programme may be expanded to include seaports in other regions to complement and strengthen the activities already implemented. The operational inter-agency units in Guayaquil and Manta, Ecuador, will serve as centres of excellence and resource centres. It is expected that the regional approach will increase the Programme's impact and ensure improved coordination and cooperation between national law enforcement agencies.

3. Witness protection

48. UNODC developed a good practices manual on witness protection, covering procedural protection and the establishment of covert witness protection units, in consultation with more than 60 Member States and international organizations. The Office also developed a model witness protection law for Latin America and is developing a model agreement on international cooperation in the area of witness protection. UNODC held training workshops for law enforcement officers, prosecutors, members of the judiciary and legislators in Georgia, Guatemala and Panama. It also conducted assessment missions on witness protection in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Guatemala.

4. Countering kidnapping

49. With support from the Serious Organised Crime Agency of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, UNODC organized a regional teacher training course in Bogotá for 18 law enforcement authorities from Latin America and the Caribbean in the use of the United Nations *Counter-Kidnapping Manual*.

C. Data collection, research and monitoring of drug and crime trends

50. The UNODC *World Drug Report 2007* confirmed the overall stability of the global illicit drug situation, including containment of global cannabis and amphetamine-type stimulant production, but highlighted problem areas such as the increase in cocaine use in Europe and the growing opium production in Afghanistan. Despite improvements in a number of Afghan provinces, signs of a further deterioration of the overall Afghan opium problem were reported in February 2007 in *Afghanistan: Opium Winter Rapid Assessment Survey*, and confirmed by annual survey results in August and the comprehensive report, *Afghanistan: Opium Survey*, in October 2007. Illicit opium survey reports were also published in October for South-East Asia (the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Thailand), completing the global opium and heroin production picture for 2007. New numbers on the situation of coca leaf cultivation in the Andean countries in 2006 were published in June 2007 in one regional and three country survey reports.

51. In May, the World Bank and UNODC published the results of a joint study, entitled *Crime, Violence and Development: Trends, Costs and Policy Options in the*

Caribbean, which showed how high levels of crime and violence threatened growth and prosperity in the region. The UNODC report on *Crime and Development in Central America: Caught in the Crossfire*,¹⁷ released the same month, also called for greater international support to counter the severe impact of transnational drug trafficking and crime on development and governance there. UNODC conducted another study on crime in the Balkans and paid special attention to Africa, in particular the alarming increase in cocaine trafficking through Western Africa, documented in situation reports prepared in August and November 2007. An intensive and collaborative research effort was launched in the context of UN.GIFT to develop better methods of assessing human trafficking.

D. Scientific and forensic support

52. Building on Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 50/4, entitled “Improving the quality and performance of drug analysis laboratories”, in 2007 UNODC provided scientific expertise and support to Governments. More than 100 individuals and institutions worldwide benefited from assistance, including quality assurance support, guidelines and best practice manuals, training workshops and study tours, reference samples, drug and precursor field identification kits, and scientific expertise in areas related to drug analysis. Support was also provided to link laboratories at the regional level in Central, East and South-East Asia.

53. During 2007, UNODC began extending its scientific support from drugs to other related forensic investigations and two manuals and an assessment tool are in preparation. A special session on the role of forensic science laboratories was held at the meeting of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, in September 2007.

54. UNODC explored partnerships in forensic science with international bodies such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the International Committee of the Red Cross and associations of forensic science institutes, such as the International Forensic Strategic Alliance and its regional member networks, so as to create synergies in the development of standards and best practices and in technical assistance activities, and to further raise forensic awareness among non-practitioners.

VII. Strengthening the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

A. Strategy for the period 2008-2011

55. The three subprogrammes under the strategic framework correspond broadly to the three themes identified in the strategy for 2008-2011 for UNODC (see para. 4 above). That structure will provide an effective and flexible organization of resources in order to produce demonstrable results. Since the approval of the strategy by the Economic and Social Council in 2007, work has proceeded towards its implementation. The strategy has been incorporated into the strategic framework

¹⁷ United Nations publication, Sales No. B.07.IV.5.

for 2010-2011 and the consolidated budget for 2008-2009 is also in alignment with the three basic themes and 14 result areas identified. Standard tools have been prepared for formulation of regional, country and thematic programmes that will translate results into measurable targets with corresponding monetary and human costs.

56. At the project level, training courses have been developed and preliminary capacity-building carried out on effective project planning, monitoring and evaluation. Around 100 staff from all 21 field offices and headquarters have trained to use the logical framework approach to establish demonstrable links between project-level objectives and results identified at the strategy level.

B. Partnerships

1. Widening the donor base and increasing contributions

57. As indicated by the Joint Inspection Unit in its report entitled “Voluntary contributions in the United Nations system organizations: impact on programme delivery and resource mobilization strategies”,¹⁸ UNODC was very dependent on voluntary earmarked funding (90 per cent), which resulted in a lack of predictability of resources, lack of flexibility and a potential for the distortion of programme priorities. Although UNODC work is mandated by a broad range of international legally binding instruments and the many United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, its regular budget resources amount to less than 1 per cent of the United Nations regular budget. Given the discrepancy between its multifaceted mandate and its weak regular resource base, UNODC has redefined its strategic priorities in the new medium-term strategy (2008-2011) (see para. 55 above), that will allow it to engage in a more strategic dialogue with its stakeholders and to promote more flexible funding methods.

58. Concerning voluntary donor contributions, for both the drug and crime programmes, the expected level of funding in 2007 amounts to about \$185 million, representing an increase of 22 per cent over 2006. While this is a positive sign of support for the work of UNODC, this development nevertheless marks a divergence in recent funding trends for special and general purposes. Since 2004, special-purpose or earmarked programme funding increased by 93 per cent, whereas general-purpose or un-earmarked funding for core infrastructure declined on average by 5 per cent. Even though general-purpose funding in 2007 showed a slight increase for the first time in four years, the programme to support ratio will increase further. One could infer that cost-efficiency has been the hallmark of programme delivery, but on the other hand the trade-off between cost-efficiency and sustainability of programme delivery capacity has become a real challenge and an issue of effectiveness. UNODC will therefore review the merits of the voluntary indicative scale of contributions, as suggested by the Joint Inspection Unit and will propose appropriate action in consultation with Member States and donors.

¹⁸ A/62/546.

59. In 2007, the major donor group¹⁹ provided 69 per cent of voluntary resources and emerging and national donors 24 per cent, while the remaining 7 per cent originated from other sources – international financial institutions, United Nations bodies and private donations. Key institutional support for general-purpose funding came from Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the United States of America, which together accounted for 91 per cent of the un-earmarked funding. Brazil, Colombia and Mexico provided significant cost-sharing for the local support budget of UNODC.

2. European Commission, international financial institutions and other partnerships

60. In 2007, UNODC held consultations with the European Commission, the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the OPEC Fund for International Development, the United Nations Foundation (UNF) and the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) to promote private sector resource mobilization. While the focus and nature of each relationship is specific, the overall aim of UNODC is to strengthen its partnerships at both policy and operational levels and to leverage its know-how, resources and operational capacity.

61. With the World Bank, the StAR Initiative (see para. 28) was begun so as to operationalize one of the key elements in the Convention against Corruption. A joint report was published on crime, violence and development in the Caribbean (see para. 51) and a joint study was launched on drug use and HIV/AIDS in Central Asia. A number of joint project agreements were signed in 2007 with the European Commission, in particular with regard to migration and drug trafficking in West and North Africa. Consultations were held with the Asian Development Bank to explore a joint approach to fighting money-laundering and corruption in South-East Asia.

62. The Organization of American States and the Inter-American Development Bank co-sponsored the UNODC study on crime and development in Central America: caught in the crossfire (see para. 51). UNODC and the Bank also began to explore joint initiatives to fight corruption and urban crime in the region. Consultations were held with the OPEC Fund on a number of topics, such as HIV/AIDS, crime and development in Africa and alternative development in Afghanistan. One new joint project was approved to support HIV/AIDS prevention as it relates to drug abuse in Africa and Latin America.

63. UNODC worked with African countries to formulate the Programme of Action, 2006-2010, endorsed by African leaders in Abuja in September 2005. Following close consultation between the African Union (AU) and UNODC at a joint technical workshop in June 2007, the Union incorporated all the priority areas identified in the Programme endorsed in Abuja into the Revised Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2007-12), endorsed by the AU Ministerial

¹⁹ Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, together with the European Union.

Conference in December 2007 and by the AU Heads of State in early 2008.²⁰ It is of utmost importance for the donor community to mobilize increased resources to support the Union and UNODC in their efforts to implement the Revised Plan of Action at the continental, regional and national levels, in accordance with the follow-up mechanism for implementation, monitoring and evaluation approved by the Ministerial Conference.

64. A memorandum of understanding was signed between UNODC and AU identifying nine key areas for closer collaboration: drug demand reduction, drug trafficking, HIV/AIDS in prison-like settings, crime prevention and criminal justice reform, smuggling of small arms, corruption, human trafficking, smuggling of migrants and data collection.

65. UNODC continued its advocacy and fund-raising activities with the private sector involving representatives from the media and entertainment industries, the international press, NGOs and foundations. Two major public relations events on human trafficking, co-sponsored by UNFIP, were organized in New York, at which UNODC and UNF/UNFIP signed a cooperation agreement to facilitate resource mobilization from private sources.

66. In 2007, the Drug Abuse Prevention Center of Japan enabled UNODC to award 26 grants to NGOs in support of grass-roots activities in drug abuse prevention.

3. Entities of the United Nations system

67. UNODC has strengthened its partnerships with other United Nations entities to strengthen coordination in view of the “One United Nations” approach. With its specialized technical expertise in criminal justice matters, UNODC participates in the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group with other United Nations entities. It is taking the lead in fighting corruption, transnational organized crime, trafficking and drugs, as well as in promoting victim and witness protection and assistance.

68. With a view to consolidating UNODC expertise in fighting corruption and in criminal justice, a partnership agreement with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is under discussion. UNODC has been working closely with UNDP in southern Sudan for the development of a programme targeting criminal justice and prison reform, and will also work with UNDP in specific anti-corruption efforts in Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States. Partnerships are also a key element in work being pursued in conflict and post-conflict settings.

69. A memorandum of understanding was signed between UNODC and UN-Habitat in 2003, leading to the development of joint technical assistance proposals on urban crime prevention and access to justice in East Africa. UNODC is a full partner in the UN-Habitat Safer Cities Programme and negotiations are under way for research by means of crime victim surveys.

²⁰ In its resolution 2006/21, the Economic and Social Council requested that information on implementation of the Plan of Action be presented to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its seventeenth session.

70. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is also an important partner in the area of juvenile justice, where several important tools have already been developed. UNODC is a member of the Inter-Agency Panel on Juvenile Justice, which coordinates technical assistance based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child²¹ and United Nations standards and norms in juvenile justice.

71. UNODC, as a co-sponsor of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), is studying HIV/AIDS and injecting drug use in prison settings and in connection with human trafficking, and is working at the country and regional levels with UNAIDS and its co-sponsors.

72. UNODC has strengthened its partnership with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations through activities with the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, where a joint evaluation mission was conducted in July 2006 to develop a technical assistance programme strengthening the rule of law and criminal justice reform. Other country-level activities include active UNODC engagement in Cape Verde on law enforcement, exploring possible work in the area of prison reform with the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau and developing technical assistance projects in juvenile justice and prison reform through the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi.

VIII. Conclusions and recommendations

73. It is recommended that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in the context of their respective mandates, and Member States consider:

(a) *Sustainable livelihoods*:

(i) Strengthening cross-border, subregional and regional technical assistance and cooperation in the area of sustainable livelihoods, including South-South cooperation;

(ii) Helping States to design and improve systems to monitor and assess the qualitative and quantitative impact of alternative development and eradication programmes, and to share the results with the broader development community;

(iii) Including alternative development objectives into broad-scale development strategies and programmes;

(b) *Demand reduction*. Expanding and improving the coverage of demand reduction programmes and services, including in the areas of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, as well as reducing the negative health and social consequences of drug abuse;

(c) *International drug control*. Reflecting upon the achievements attained in reaching the targets set by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session and deciding on priorities for future concerted action. States facing significant drug control challenges could make voluntary public commitments to tackling them by setting targets and timelines and others could commit support;

²¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

(d) *Human trafficking*. Providing the necessary financial resources for the establishment and maintenance of an online information-sharing system to provide information on technical assistance activities to both donor and beneficiary States and international organizations, identifying and compiling best practices, existing guidelines and training materials, and defining needs for technical assistance;

(e) *Terrorism*. Providing further guidance to strengthen UNODC work on counter-terrorism, including by contributing to the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the development of new initiatives, and inviting recipient and donor countries, as well as relevant organizations at the international, regional and subregional levels, to work closely with the Office in this area;

(f) *Scientific and forensic capacity*. Giving higher priority to the development of sustainable forensic science services and of networks of laboratories and scientists with a view to ensuring a more effective exchange of expertise;

(g) *Data collection*. Continuing to strengthen drug and crime data collection activities and reporting to the United Nations through the periodic questionnaires and individual seizure reports;

(h) *Standards and norms*:

(i) Encouraging Member States and other entities of the United Nations system to use existing manuals and handbooks showing how the standards and norms can be applied in different circumstances and providing information on desirable practices;

(ii) Encouraging Member States to commit resources for provision of assistance to developing countries, countries with economies in transition and in post-conflict situations in applying standards and norms and introducing criminal justice reform;

(iii) Encouraging the use of model legislation and legislative guides, best practice guidelines in extradition and mutual legal assistance case work, as well as other tools developed by UNODC and its partners to train and assist competent authorities in drafting and executing effective requests for judicial cooperation;

(i) *Emerging policy issues*. Keeping apprised of emerging policy issues and possible responses, for example, in the areas of cybercrime, child sexual exploitation, fraud and identity theft, and environmental crime, including international trafficking in forest products;

(j) *Financial support*:

(i) Emphasizing the importance of providing regular and adequate resources to enable UNODC to fully implement its mandates and to provide support in accordance with the increasing demand for technical assistance;

(ii) Recommending that the donor community mobilize increased resources to support AU and UNODC in their efforts to implement the Revised Plan of Action at the continental, regional and national levels.