

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.: General
5 March 2021

Original: English

**Commission on Crime Prevention
and Criminal Justice****Thirtieth session**

Vienna, 17–21 May 2021

Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

**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 2020/230, in which the Council approved the revised provisional agenda for the twenty-ninth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. In line with that decision, a scaled-down regular session of the Commission was held on 3 December 2020 owing to the challenges caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Pursuant to Council decision 2020/230, the items that were contained in the provisional agenda for the twenty-ninth session, as laid out in Council decision 2019/223, were included in the provisional agenda for the thirtieth session.

2. The report provides information on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) related to item 6, in particular sub-items (a), (b) and (c), of the provisional agenda for the thirtieth session of the Commission (E/CN.15/2021/1). It contains information on the activities undertaken by UNODC between February 2020 and February 2021 to curb transnational organized crime, including new and emerging forms of crime, and corruption.

* E/CN.15/2021/1.



II. Transnational organized crime

A. Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its working groups

3. Despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its subsidiary bodies quickly adapted to the evolving situation and implemented their mandates as planned, including by changing their meeting formats to either virtual or hybrid meetings with a limited number of participants physically present in the meeting room and other participants attending online with remote simultaneous interpretation.

4. The Conference of the Parties to the Organized Crime Convention held its tenth session in Vienna from 12 to 16 October 2020, in a year that marked the twentieth anniversary of the adoption and opening for signature of the Convention. The tenth session of the Conference of the Parties resulted in the adoption of seven resolutions, including a resolution on the launch of the review process of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto (resolution 10/1). In that resolution, the Conference took note of the work carried out during the preparatory phase of the review process by the open-ended intergovernmental expert group established in accordance with Conference resolution 9/1, and adopted the guidelines for conducting the country reviews, the blueprints for the lists of observations and the summaries and self-assessment questionnaires on the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto, all of which were annexed to resolution 10/1. The Secretariat provided substantive and organizational support for the finalization of the self-assessment questionnaires by the expert group established pursuant to resolution 9/1.

5. In accordance with resolution 10/1 of the Conference of the Parties, in November and December 2020 the secretariat convened two joint intersessional meetings of the working groups of the Conference to draw lots to select the States parties under review and the reviewing States parties.

6. In line with resolution 9/1 of the Conference, the Secretariat, in close cooperation with States parties, developed “RevMod”, the new secure module of the knowledge management portal known as Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC). The module is used as the main communication tool and for hosting the documents used or generated in the review process, including the self-assessment questionnaires on the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto. The software is now available to States parties.

7. During the reporting period, the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons and the Working Group on the Smuggling of Migrants each held one meeting in September 2020. A key agenda item discussed by the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons concerned best practices in joint investigations and specialized prosecutions. The substantive agenda of the Working Group on the Smuggling of Migrants included the discussion and adoption of recommendations concerning good practices to support effective law enforcement cooperation during crises to detect, investigate and prosecute cases of smuggling.

8. The Working Group on Firearms held one meeting in July 2020. Its discussions included the responsiveness of the Firearms Protocol and national legislation to new and emerging threats relating to the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and investigative and prosecutorial approaches in countering illicit firearms trafficking and related forms of crime within and across jurisdictions.

9. The Working Group on International Cooperation also held one meeting in July 2020 and focused on the topics of joint investigations and special investigative techniques.

10. The Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance also met in July 2020. Its discussion included the topics of updating the legislative records of States parties in preparation for the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and the application of the Convention in domestic jurisprudence.

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

11. As at 3 February 2021, there were 190 parties to the Convention, 178 parties to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, 150 parties to the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, and 119 parties to the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition.

12. The actions taken by States during the reporting period to achieve adherence to the Protocols supplementing the Convention are summarized as follows: Brunei Darussalam, the Comoros and Nepal acceded to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol; the Comoros acceded to the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol; and the Plurinational State of Bolivia acceded to the Firearms Protocol.

13. During the reporting period, UNODC provided pre-accession support to Malta in relation to the Firearms Protocol.

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

1. Organized Crime Convention

14. In 2020, UNODC continued to develop SHERLOC and disseminate information on the implementation of the Convention. As of January 2021, SHERLOC included 3,076 cases involving organized crime from 132 States and more than 11,300 pieces of legislation from 197 States, including the two non-member permanent observer States (the Holy See and the State of Palestine) and two States in free association with New Zealand (the Cook Islands and Niue).

15. During the reporting period, SHERLOC was accessed by 282,283 users. The 10 States with the largest number of users of SHERLOC were, in decreasing order, Argentina, the United States of America, the Philippines, India, Ecuador, Guatemala, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Peru, Colombia and Australia.

16. Global access and multilingualism are important goals for the effectiveness of SHERLOC and, to that end, UNODC continued to provide SHERLOC entries in the six official languages of the United Nations.

17. The Office also continued to expand the SHERLOC-powered Directory of Competent National Authorities designated under the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, the Organized Crime Convention and relevant resolutions. The Directory currently includes data on 1,138 authorities from 184 States and the European Union.

18. Despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNODC also delivered legislative and technical assistance on the implementation of the Convention through webinars and online workshops, involving practitioners from over 70 countries. Moreover, UNODC partnered with counter-terrorism experts from Pakistan in holding a workshop on SHERLOC and mutual legal assistance requests in terrorism and organized crime cases. UNODC further organized an online workshop with the Naif Arab University for Security Sciences that focused on case-based teaching and the integration of SHERLOC into university curricula, paving the way for a jointly organized summer school on organized crime.

19. UNODC continued to develop tools to support international cooperation in combating transnational organized crime. The Office is currently in the process of revising its *Model Legislative Provisions against Organized Crime*, which will provide legislators with a new and improved tool to implement the Organized Crime Convention, including its provisions on international cooperation.

20. In March 2020, UNODC provided legislative assistance to Cabo Verde on the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention.

21. The Education for Justice initiative of the UNODC Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration continued to develop and disseminate pedagogical tools on organized crime for the primary, secondary and tertiary levels of education. At the primary level, UNODC disseminated in classrooms and on television educational cartoons, comics and games, accompanied by lesson plans in different languages and aimed at equipping children with skills that contribute to preventing organized crime. The initiative also developed and launched tools for secondary education. In particular, this included an animated video with a teaching guide for secondary school teachers who wish to cover the topic of organized crime.

22. Under the Education for Justice initiative, UNODC completed a series of regionalization exercises of the university teaching modules on organized crime for tertiary-level educational institutions. During the reporting period, the material was translated and made publicly available in French and Spanish. It now also integrates regional examples and considerations from Latin America, francophone Africa, East and Southern Africa and the Pacific Islands region.

23. Throughout the reporting period, the Education for Justice material was presented and promoted in various training courses and events and, in particular, as part of the Global Education Coalition for COVID-19 response, led by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Those activities included Model United Nations conferences, e-classes, “train the trainer” activities, youth competitions, online film festivals and the Education for Justice Global Dialogue Series, in which more than 2,100 participants from 109 countries came together in 38 webinars that were conducted in seven languages from 1 to 4 December 2020. The specific university modules on organized crime were used in various settings, including a presentation to university professors from the Southern African region and a workshop organized jointly with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) on organized crime, asset confiscation and the social reuse of assets.

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

24. Through its global programmes against trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants, UNODC trained (including online) more than 2,000 criminal justice practitioners, government officials and civil society representatives (approximately 40 per cent women and 60 per cent men) from more than 50 countries during the reporting period. The Office supported 10 countries in developing their legislation and aligning it with the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol and other relevant international standards, including the drafting of national action plans to address trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants in two States (see also paras. 29–31 on migrant smuggling).

25. As part of its engagement within the Global Protection Cluster Task Team on Anti-Trafficking, UNODC contributed to the development of an *Introductory Guide to Anti-Trafficking Action in Internal Displacement Contexts*, which was launched in November 2020 with the aim of supporting practitioners and humanitarian responders in identifying, assisting and referring trafficking victims who may be internally displaced persons.

26. In 2020, the UNODC Transforming Alerts into Criminal Justice Responses to Combat Trafficking in Persons within Migration Flows (TRACK4TIP) regional

initiative supported actions in Aruba, Brazil, Colombia, Curaçao, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago at the national and regional levels. UNODC also contributed to the creation of a task force on the identification of trafficking in persons among mixed migration flows in the framework of the Ibero-American Network of Specialized Prosecutors against Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants.

27. UNODC further launched the Global Action Women's Network: Gender Champions against Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling to address the heavily gendered nature of human trafficking and migrant smuggling. In addition, in February 2021, the Office launched the *UNODC Toolkit for Mainstreaming Human Rights and Gender Equality into Criminal Justice Interventions to Address Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants* to help practitioners incorporate human rights and gender equality into responses to the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons.

28. The Education for Justice initiative continued to support the development and promotion of educational materials on trafficking in persons. In addition, UNODC partnered with the private sector to offer innovative multilateral learning experiences to young people, including by organizing hackathons (technology-based competitions) to find solutions to human trafficking.

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

29. In September 2020, UNODC, in cooperation with its offices in Panama, El Salvador and Mexico, as well as the International Organization for Migration Regional Office in Costa Rica, organized a series of technical round-table discussions entitled "Regional technical exchange on migrant smuggling" for Central American countries within the framework of the Regional Conference on Migration for law enforcement and migration authorities and criminal justice practitioners.

30. UNODC supported the operation against migrant smuggling led by the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), Operation Turquesa II, which resulted in more than 200 arrests among criminal networks that were involved in the smuggling of around 3,500 migrants throughout the Americas, Africa, Europe and Asia. As many as 100 potential victims of human trafficking were rescued during the operation, which brought together authorities in 32 countries across four continents, with Brazil serving as the coordination hub. UNODC facilitated coordination between law enforcement agencies and specialized prosecutors in the preparation phase of the operation.

31. The Education for Justice initiative continued to disseminate its university modules on the smuggling of migrants among lecturers and university students. The modules were used in a post-graduate human rights course in Portugal, a course on contemporary international legal challenges in Australia and an expert workshop for university lecturers in Ethiopia, among others. In addition, the initiative developed board games and teaching materials for secondary-level educators.

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

32. UNODC, through its Global Programme on Firearms, continued to promote the ratification and implementation of the Firearms Protocol and provide technical assistance to countries upon request.

33. The Programme provided, or is currently providing, tailored legislative support to Albania, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Honduras, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan, enhancing the capacities of each of those countries to enact comprehensive legal frameworks on firearms. After a similar year-long comprehensive legislative assistance package was provided to the Central African Republic, the country adopted a new law on the general regime of conventional arms in 2020.

34. UNODC also procured marking machines for countries in Africa and South America to allow the effective marking of firearms. This assistance goes hand in hand with the ongoing efforts of the Office to develop comprehensive record-keeping software that can be used by States to maintain the information necessary for the identification and tracing of firearms throughout their life cycle. To that end, UNODC organized an expert group meeting to build upon the experiences and best practices relating to firearms registries in different regions and began to develop the software.

35. To strengthen capacities for the effective implementation of the Firearms Protocol, UNODC carried out activities related to the detection, investigation, prosecution and adjudication of firearms trafficking, reaching practitioners from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Mali, the Niger, Paraguay, Senegal and Ukraine.

36. Furthermore, the Office partnered with INTERPOL in Operation KAFO II to intercept illicit firearms, ammunition and explosives and disrupt the trafficking networks used to supply terrorists across West Africa and the Sahel. In the operation, 260 front-line officers from Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and the Niger checked more than 12,000 individuals, vehicles, containers and goods against international criminal databases, arrested a number of suspected terrorists and seized firearms and a range of illicit goods.

37. UNODC continued to promote regular exchanges among firearms control and criminal justice practitioners through its community of practitioners and organized a relevant side event on the margins of the Conference of the Parties to the Organized Crime Convention. The Office also started to set up a dedicated peer-to-peer learning portal for the community of practitioners, which is planned to be launched in 2021.

38. UNODC launched the third data-collection cycle on seized and trafficked firearms and associated items in May 2020 and collected data from more than 50 countries and territories. On the basis of the two previous data-collection cycles, and building on seizure data from 81 countries, UNODC published its *Global Study on Firearms Trafficking 2020* and disseminated the findings contained in the study in a series of regional and subregional webinars. UNODC also trained practitioners in Paraguay and Ukraine in the use of the Office's guiding templates for firearms-related investigations.

39. In addition, UNODC, jointly with the Office of Counter-Terrorism, launched a project to address the connection between terrorism, organized crime and the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons in Central Asia.

40. Furthermore, the Education for Justice university modules on firearms were used in various online events during the reporting period.

D. Networking to combat transnational organized crime

1. Law enforcement networking

41. During the reporting period, UNODC, through its programme entitled "CRIMJUST: strengthening criminal investigation and criminal justice cooperation along the cocaine route in Latin America, the Caribbean and Western Africa (2016–2020)", focused on bringing together prosecutors and investigators from source, transit and destination countries from various regions in relation to actual post-seizure investigations in order to optimize criminal justice outcomes from those seizures. The programme also supported seven transregional investigative forums.

42. The Container Control Programme is now active in almost 70 Member States, and over 120 port control units and air cargo control units have been established. Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, over 290 training activities, most of them online, were delivered under the Programme during the reporting period, benefiting

more than 4,000 officials. The units seized more than 100 metric tons of cocaine, in addition to a range of other illegal goods.

2. Judicial networking

43. UNODC, through its Global Programme for Strengthening the Capacities of Member States to Prevent and Combat Organized and Serious Crime, continued to support existing judicial cooperation networks. The Programme also facilitated 13 cases of judicial cooperation among a wide range of jurisdictions.

44. Support was also provided for the South-East Asia Justice Network, which was established in March 2020 with the support of the UNODC Regional Office for South-East Asia and the Pacific and with the cooperation of the secretariat of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters. The Network facilitated 21 mutual legal assistance cases in 2020 and 9 cases in 2021. Moreover, four regional meetings of the Network were held on mutual legal assistance with a view to strengthening the cooperation between practitioners within and outside South-East Asia.

45. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNODC collected information on emergency measures taken by central authorities for international cooperation in criminal matters. The regularly updated list contains information provided by 75 central authorities and is disseminated to 156 central authorities. The list prompted many countries that had not adopted such measures to do so after receiving the information.

46. The Network of West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime convened two virtual meetings in collaboration with the Regional Judicial Platform of the Sahel countries and the Group of Five for the Sahel (G5 Sahel) Platform in May 2020. The meetings were aimed at assessing the impact of the pandemic on the efficient functioning of the central authorities and broader criminal justice systems.

47. As a follow-up to a study prepared by the Network of West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime and the Timbuktu Institute on the phenomenon of violent extremism and organized crime, which was presented at a subregional meeting in 2018 that resulted in the Dakar Call for Action, a series of dialogue sessions between civil society and penal chain actors from Mali, Burkina Faso and the Niger were held in March and September 2020.

48. In collaboration with UNODC and the Working Group on Women, Youth, Peace and Security in West Africa and the Sahel, the Network held a webinar on technical capacity-building for the prevention of terrorism and violent extremism in December 2020. The webinar brought together 114 participants from 17 countries and placed emphasis on community engagement and the participation of women and young people to prevent terrorism and violent extremism.

49. The Network of West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime also facilitated 32 mutual legal assistance cases involving European, Asian and Latin American countries.

50. The judicial cooperation network for Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus organized regional workshops and seminars on mutual legal assistance involving electronic evidence and international cooperation to combat trafficking in persons. The network facilitated 14 judicial cooperation requests in relation to organized crime and serious offences. The secretariat of the network received information on cross-border drug seizures and launched nine coordination alerts to the international departments of the offices of the Prosecutors General that participate in the network.

51. Through its Global Programme for Strengthening the Capacities of Member States to Prevent and Combat Organized and Serious Crime, UNODC collaborated regularly with the secretariats of different judicial cooperation and prosecutor networks, including the Council of Europe, the European Judicial Network, the

Ibero-American Network for International Legal Cooperation, the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors and Eurojust, and assisted them by liaising with the central authorities of member countries of the networks supported by UNODC. Eighteen judicial cooperation requests between central authorities that do not participate in UNODC-supported networks were facilitated in 2020.

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

52. UNODC, through its Global Programme for Strengthening the Capacities of Member States to Prevent and Combat Organized and Serious Crime, along with the Container Control Programme and the Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, continued to implement the Law Enforcement Assistance Programme to Reduce Deforestation, which focuses on combating forest and related crime through cooperation with multiple UNODC programmes and outside organizations.

53. In 2020, UNODC also took part in missions to Indonesia, organized round tables, both in Indonesia and virtually, and supported online training events to discuss and address training needs in the investigation and prosecution of forest crime and related environmental crime.

54. Through its Container Control Programme, UNODC launched a new project component in 2020, working with Member States to address the problem of illegal shipments of plastic and hazardous waste and material at the front lines in customs and law enforcement.

55. UNODC continued to cooperate with international partners, including UNESCO, INTERPOL, OSCE and the World Customs Organization, to participate in expert meetings, to contribute to online training and to provide technical assistance for strengthening the capacity of Member States to address trafficking in cultural property.

56. Information on issues relating to intergovernmental processes to combat cybercrime are included in the report of the Secretary-General on promoting technical assistance and capacity-building to strengthen national measures and international cooperation to combat cybercrime, including information-sharing (E/CN.15/2021/13).

57. UNODC engaged with universities around the world to promote the Education for Justice university modules on cybercrime, thereby strengthening teaching on cybercrime at the higher education level. During the reporting period, a podcast episode focusing on the topic “Cybercrime jurisdiction issues and options” was launched.

III. Corruption

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

1. Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly against corruption

58. In accordance with General Assembly resolutions [73/191](#) and [74/276](#), UNODC provided substantive expertise and technical support to the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which has been leading the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly against corruption, to be held from 2 to 4 June 2021, by addressing all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended manner. During the period under review, the Conference held three intersessional meetings on preparations for the special session, in September 2020, November 2020 and February 2021.¹

¹ Information about the preparatory process is available at www.ungass2021.org.

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

59. The Implementation Review Group held its eleventh and its first and second resumed eleventh sessions in Vienna on 29 June, from 31 August to 2 September, and from 16 to 18 November 2020, respectively.² The Group considered, inter alia, the state of the implementation of the Convention, the performance of the Mechanism, technical assistance and financial and budgetary matters.

60. In accordance with Conference resolution 4/6, a briefing, chaired by the Rapporteur of the Conference, was held for non-governmental organizations on the margins of the first resumed eleventh session of the Implementation Review Group.

61. UNODC provided technical and substantive services to the Implementation Review Mechanism and the Implementation Review Group in 2020, which was the fifth year of the second cycle of the Mechanism. Those services included the provision of training and assistance to governmental experts from States parties under review and reviewing States, supporting the country reviews and producing thematic reports on implementation trends and related technical assistance needs identified during the reviews.

62. At the time of reporting, 173 executive summaries of the country reports under the first cycle and 50 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 nine States parties in completing their self-assessment checklists. In addition, the Office assisted 11 States in the drafting or amending of national legislation to prevent and combat corruption.

63. Since 2010, a total of \$17,731,900 in voluntary contributions have been received in support of Implementation Review Mechanism activities. In addition, 56 States parties have provided contributions in kind to the operation of the Mechanism.

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

64. At its eleventh meeting, held in Vienna from 31 August to 2 September 2020, the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption emphasized the important role of anti-corruption bodies in the prevention of corruption and announced the online launch of the *Colombo Commentary on the Jakarta Statement on Principles for Anti-Corruption Agencies*, which is aimed at providing guidance for policymakers and decision makers on ways to strengthen the independence of anti-corruption bodies. In addition, discussions were held on enhancing the effectiveness of anti-corruption bodies (art. 6 of the Convention) pursuant to Conference resolution 8/7 (see [CAC/COSP/WG.4/2020/5](#)).

4. Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery

65. The fourteenth meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery was held in Vienna from 16 to 18 November 2020 (see [CAC/COSP/WG.2/2020/5](#)). In line with Conference resolution 8/9, the Working Group adopted its workplan for the period 2020–2021 ([CAC/COSP/WG.2/2020/2](#)). The Group discussed best practices for the identification and compensation of all different types of victims in accordance with the Convention and third-party challenges and their impact on asset recovery under chapter V of the Convention. The Group also discussed common challenges and barriers, as well as best practices in the recovery and return of proceeds of crime, with a particular focus on the enforcement

² See [CAC/COSP/IRG/2020/5](#), [CAC/COSP/IRG/2020/5/Add.1](#) and [CAC/COSP/IRG/2020/5/Add.2](#).

of criminal confiscation orders in foreign jurisdictions and differences in evidentiary requirements and standards of proof between legal systems.

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

66. The ninth open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the United Nations Convention against Corruption was held in Vienna from 16 to 18 November 2020. At the meeting, the experts discussed the implementation of chapter IV of the Convention, including lessons learned, good practices and challenges. In accordance with Conference resolution 8/2, a thematic panel discussion on measures to promote, facilitate and support international cooperation and technical assistance in the prevention of and the fight against corruption was held to inform the expert meeting and facilitate relevant deliberations, which covered two distinct subtopics: (a) practical topics in extradition cases involving offences under the Convention, as highlighted in Conference resolution 8/6; and (b) effective law enforcement cooperation and networks (art. 48 of the Convention) (see [CAC/COSP/EG.1/2020/3](#)).

B. Promoting ratification and implementation of the Convention against Corruption

1. Tools and knowledge-building

67. UNODC continued to develop and disseminate guides, handbooks and other publications. During the reporting period, UNODC issued a number of publications, including a set of non-binding recommendations and conclusions based on lessons learned regarding the implementation of chapters III and IV of the Convention against Corruption and the publication entitled *State of Integrity: A Guide on Conducting Corruption Risk Assessments in Public Organizations*.

68. UNODC also published *The Time is Now: Addressing the Gender Dimensions of Corruption*, a first comprehensive analysis of this complex, multilayered subject. The publication underlines the importance of understanding how national, cultural and social norms interact and shape corrupt practices, while highlighting good practices from around the world.

69. UNODC contributed to the development of the publication *Preventing and Managing Conflicts of Interest in the Public Sector: Good Practices Guide*, prepared at the request of the Group of 20 (G20) Anti-Corruption Working Group by UNODC, the World Bank and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

70. The interactive e-learning tool for the private sector entitled “The fight against corruption” is now available in 31 languages. The tool was developed jointly by UNODC and the United Nations Global Compact to enhance understanding in the private sector of the Convention and of the Global Compact’s tenth principle against corruption. To date, more than 107,000 users have registered for the certificate course.³

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

71. UNODC continued to provide tailored capacity-building and advisory services at the global, regional and national levels and to participate in meetings and conferences aimed at coordinating international cooperation among States parties. UNODC field-based anti-corruption advisers played an important role in providing rapidly deployable professional assistance and expertise. The Office continued to deploy advisers with regional responsibilities for Central America and the Caribbean

³ Available at <http://thefightagainstcorruption.org/certificate/>.

(until May 2020), the Pacific, South-East Asia, South Asia, West and Central Africa and East Africa, as well as a senior global adviser based in Vienna. New advisers were deployed for South America and Mexico and for the Western Balkans. During the reporting period, UNODC, including through its anti-corruption advisers, provided technical assistance to 104 States in different forms, such as support for States parties in the drafting of anti-corruption laws, strategies and codes of conduct; assistance in the analysis and strengthening of asset declaration systems; and workshops on whistle-blower protection and international cooperation in criminal and financial investigations to combat corruption.

72. UNODC continued to work with States parties in South-East Asia, East Africa, Southern Africa and South America and Mexico to implement the priority recommendations identified in the Implementation Review Mechanism through regional platforms established to fast-track the implementation of the Convention.

73. The COVID-19 pandemic led to a reorientation of priorities towards the health sector in the context of the four regional platforms mentioned above, in particular with regard to whistle-blower protection and emergency public procurement. Upon request, UNODC pivoted its activities to focus specifically on the health sector and conducted national and regional activities online to provide targeted support for countries in addressing these new corruption challenges.

74. With the support of the United States, UNODC launched a new project to support nine countries in better responding to and recovering from COVID-19 by establishing anti-corruption procurement platforms dedicated to strengthening whistle-blower protection and transparency in public procurement. Those countries also belong to the regional platforms. Activities co-funded by both projects are currently ongoing in Brazil, Indonesia and South Africa.

Investigation and prosecution of corruption

75. UNODC worked with States to build capacity in the criminal justice sector, including by providing training programmes covering such topics as integrity in law enforcement, financial investigations and special investigative techniques to investigators, prosecutors and law enforcement officials. UNODC organized regional and interregional training workshops focusing on the investigation of corruption and the use of open source data to support such investigations.

76. In South-East Asia, UNODC provided support to countries in the development of corruption and financial investigation capacities. Tailored training events were delivered to anti-corruption authorities in Cambodia, Indonesia and Viet Nam.

77. UNODC continued to promote integrity in the public sector. In February 2020, the Office held a national training event in Sri Lanka on integrity in the public sector for newly recruited officers in the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery and Corruption.

78. UNODC continued to support efforts to combat corruption, money-laundering and other serious crimes by strengthening capacities in detecting, investigating and prosecuting such cases. UNODC held regional round-table discussions to establish networks on corruption and money-laundering investigations in Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka. In addition, UNODC continued to support several integrity and accountability initiatives for law enforcement institutions under the CRIMJUST programme. The Office delivered a webinar in September 2020 on understanding corruption and institutional integrity for law enforcement officers of Airport Communication Project units in countries of the Caribbean region. In addition, within the framework of the Airport Communication Project, UNODC developed and delivered a training programme on ethics and integrity for law enforcement officers of joint airport interdiction task forces in Ghana, Guinea-Bissau and Nigeria, as well as for chief officers in Cameroon, the Gambia, Ghana and Nigeria and officers of the Seaport Cooperation Project joint maritime control units in Ghana and Senegal.

Judicial integrity

79. The Global Judicial Integrity Network continued to play a leading global role in promoting experience-sharing among judges and judiciaries and serving as a platform for peer support and addressing challenges. Further to its second high-level meeting in February 2020, the Advisory Board of the Network provided a workplan for the period 2020–2021. The Network continued to disseminate its knowledge products, such as the “Non-binding guidelines on the use of social media by judges”, the “Paper on gender-related judicial integrity issues”, the “Guide on how to develop codes of judicial conduct” and the judicial ethics training package. As of February 2021, 66 jurisdictions had become training sites for the judicial ethics training package. The website of the Network (www.unodc.org/ji) continued to serve as a repository of resources and innovative content. To respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and identify new challenges posed by the pandemic, a special series of written opinion pieces on COVID-19 was prepared and a series of webinars was held, including on effects of corruption and transnational organized crime on judicial integrity and independence.

80. In June 2020, UNODC delivered an online training event on the integrity of criminal justice systems during the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa. UNODC also delivered a judicial ethics and integrity training event in Ecuador.

Prevention of corruption

81. The prevention of corruption continues to be a crucial element of the work of the Office. During the reporting period, UNODC assisted four States in developing and implementing anti-corruption strategies, including by facilitating multi-stakeholder and regional workshops, developing priorities and ensuring that there were effective measures for implementation and monitoring. Through the United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption project, a joint initiative between UNODC and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office supported the development and implementation of national anti-corruption strategies in the Pacific region, including the development of such a strategy for the Federated States of Micronesia, support for Kiribati in the development of its strategy and a review of the strategy of Solomon Islands. UNODC also supported Chile in developing its anti-corruption strategy.

82. UNODC also contributed to awareness-raising initiatives through this project by supporting the Independent Commission against Corruption in Fiji in the launch of the first-ever nationwide public sector integrity and anti-bribery campaign. In addition, the Office provided policy support and fostered the subregional exchange of knowledge on the right to information in the Pacific region to enhance the fight against corruption. UNODC supported opportunities to promote a gender-sensitive approach to addressing corruption in the business sector. The project developed an *Anti-Corruption Toolkit for Women-Owned Micro, Small and Medium Businesses* and conducted training on the toolkit for women entrepreneurs in Fiji.

83. UNODC promoted the application of information technologies and digitalization tools for anti-corruption. In South-East Asia, the Office conducted a regional study in order to gather information on the utilization of digital data sets and artificial intelligence for the fight against corruption. Subsequently, UNODC organized a webinar on digitalization and the application of artificial intelligence for anti-corruption efforts that brought together more than 150 public officials from the region. In Indonesia and Viet Nam, UNODC delivered training sessions on big data analysis for the prevention of fraud and corruption in public procurement.

84. UNODC conducted anti-corruption training courses for the Kiribati Chamber of Commerce and Industry in January 2020 and for the Palau Chamber of Commerce in March 2020.

85. In several countries, UNODC initiated work to address corruption in public health systems. In particular, the Office published a policy paper on preventing corruption in the manufacture, allocation and distribution of vaccines in the

disbursement of relief packages related to the COVID-19 crisis. In South-East Asia, the Office conducted a regional study on corruption risks in the implementation of relief packages. In the Philippines, UNODC worked with the Government Procurement Policy Board to develop digital analysis tools to address corruption in direct procurements conducted in accordance with an emergency law introduced in response to the COVID-19 crisis. In Viet Nam, UNODC organized a multi-stakeholder workshop to promote strategies to mitigate corruption risks related to COVID-19 emergency measures.

86. UNODC supported the development of beneficial ownership transparency tools. In South-East Asia, the Office conducted a regional study on company registration and the transparency of beneficial ownership that was presented through a regional webinar. The Office supported Indonesia in enhancing the functionality of its newly introduced beneficial ownership registry through the facilitation of stakeholder consultations.

87. UNODC also continued to integrate anti-corruption efforts into the work of the Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime, including through training programmes, workshops and presentations to raise awareness of the issue among different stakeholder groups. In addition, the Office supported the efforts of wildlife and fisheries services to carry out corruption risk assessments and implement corruption risk mitigation strategies and measures. It also worked with States to identify and investigate the financial aspects of wildlife crime, including through support for law enforcement bodies to identify cases linked to wildlife crime where parallel financial investigations should be undertaken and through the mentoring of investigators or prosecutors conducting investigations on forensic accounting techniques.

88. Through its Global Programme on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption and Crime, UNODC supported Member States, sports organizations and other stakeholders in effectively implementing relevant resolutions⁴ aimed at tackling threats to sport. UNODC organized or contributed to almost 80 activities, including awareness-raising events, training workshops and conferences, the development of knowledge products and the building of partnerships and multi-stakeholder initiatives. The Programme had a direct impact on more than 2,645 beneficiaries, including officials from law enforcement agencies, anti-corruption authorities, the judiciary and prosecution services and representatives from international, regional and national sports organizations.

89. UNODC continued to enhance its existing partnership with the International Olympic Committee. In addition, a memorandum of understanding was signed by UNODC with the Fédération Internationale de Football Association, and working-level relations were strengthened with the Athletics Integrity Unit, the International Cricket Council, the Tennis Integrity Unit, World Rugby, the Asian Football Confederation, the Asian Racing Federation Council on Tackling Illegal Betting and Economic Crime, and the Union of European Football Associations, among many others. Further to this, the website of the Programme was further developed, and a policy paper on the impact of COVID-19 on integrity in sports was developed in cooperation with the International Olympic Committee and INTERPOL.

90. UNODC continued to enhance anti-corruption efforts in the private sector by implementing activities through three projects on collective action and by strengthening the legislative anti-corruption framework for the private sector in Colombia, Myanmar and the Middle East and North Africa. UNODC continued to implement its global integrity education project, which is designed to foster ethical decision-making in the private sector. In 2020, UNODC held a series of training events for ethics officers in Mauritius and Mozambique. In addition, UNODC continued its partnerships with the United Nations Global Compact and other relevant private sector anti-corruption initiatives, including the Alliance for Integrity, the Blue

⁴ See www.unodc.org/unodc/en/safeguardingsport/international-legal-framework.html.

Company initiative, the International Centre for Collective Action of the Basel Institute on Governance, and the Partnering against Corruption Initiative of the World Economic Forum.

Young people, education and civil society

91. UNODC continued to implement two major education initiatives: the Anti-Corruption Academic Initiative and the Education for Justice initiative. The model university course of the Anti-Corruption Academic Initiative on the Convention against Corruption is available online in all official United Nations languages.

92. Through its Education for Justice initiative, UNODC engaged children and youth in promoting the rule of law by providing age-appropriate educational materials on topics related to different forms of organized crime, criminal justice and crime prevention, including anti-corruption efforts, integrity and ethics. Several university teaching modules in the Education for Justice university module series on anti-corruption were developed and published. Within the framework of the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, UNODC undertakes crime prevention programmes through sports for vulnerable youth as part of comprehensive strategies to counter gang violence and organized crime in line with article 31, paragraph 7, of the Organized Crime Convention.

93. UNODC formalized a new partnership with the Australia Pacific Training Coalition centred around the development and implementation of anti-corruption vocational educational content. As part of that partnership, the Coalition is upgrading the existing *Pacific Youth Anti-Corruption Advocate's Toolkit*.

94. UNODC established new multisectoral partnerships in the Pacific region relating to youth awareness and involvement in promoting integrity and resilience to corruption. As an outcome of a regional youth forum organized jointly by UNODC and the Pacific Youth Council and held in 2015, the Pacific Youth Forum against Corruption was established. The Forum is a network of young people across the region advocating for anti-corruption at all levels with the collective vision of a "corruption-free Pacific". UNODC also organized two workshops in Fiji and one in Solomon Islands on business integrity and improved service delivery for around 85 young entrepreneurs in 2020.

95. UNODC continued to promote the role of civil society in combating corruption, including by further expanding its outreach efforts to civil society partners and holding training workshops on the Implementation Review Mechanism.

International cooperation and asset recovery

96. UNODC continued to maintain 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 132 States, two States having been added during the reporting period.

97. UNODC continued to facilitate international cooperation between individual States. The Office facilitated negotiations between Italy and Mali on bilateral treaties related to mutual legal assistance, extradition and the transfer of sentenced persons, and, in July 2019, facilitated meetings in Rome on the establishment of communication channels between Italian and Malian judicial authorities. UNODC also brokered contact between national authorities in a number of cases with a view to facilitating mutual legal assistance requests.

98. UNODC organized several workshops on international cooperation at the regional and subregional levels. In November 2019, a regional workshop on international cooperation in complex cross-border corruption cases was organized in Myanmar for 10 States members of ASEAN. In January 2020, UNODC organized a plenary meeting of the Network of West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors

against Organized Crime in Vienna, which included a training session on non-conviction-based asset forfeiture measures and a discussion of ways to cooperate in instances when the requested country has not adopted such measures.

99. A number of other regional and interregional training workshops focusing on the investigation of corruption and the use of open source data to support such investigations, among other topics, fostered direct cooperation between law enforcement agencies in obtaining and sharing evidence and provided a platform to broaden interregional cooperation.

100. In June 2020, UNODC provided legislative advice on mutual legal assistance and extradition with regard to the relevant provisions of the draft code of criminal procedure of Mali. The Office is currently supporting the development of guidelines on international cooperation for South Sudan on the basis of the Convention.

101. UNODC participated in meetings and conferences on coordinating international cooperation, including the meetings of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group. UNODC provided advisory services to the Chair of the Business 20 (B20) task force on integrity and compliance specifically relating to the topic of corruption and gender and provided input to the G20 questionnaire on corruption measurement and the G20 high-level principles on corruption and sport. In October 2020, UNODC worked to develop the G20 research-based policy recommendations on international cooperation, public procurement and measuring corruption by organizing a virtual anti-corruption academic round table.

102. UNODC provided assistance to 19 countries through the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative to strengthen their capacity to trace, seize, freeze, confiscate and return assets involved in cases of corruption. The Initiative continued to work with the relevant jurisdictions to facilitate international cooperation aimed at following up on asset recovery cases. In addition, the Initiative worked with a number of jurisdictions through regional and international organizations in such areas as capacity-building and technical assistance.

103. UNODC continued to engage with academia. In January 2020, the StAR Initiative delivered a three-day course on asset recovery and international cooperation to students of the master's programme in anti-corruption studies at the International Anti-Corruption Academy. In September 2019, UNODC delivered a seminar on the Convention and international cooperation at Ouaga II University in Burkina Faso as part of its master's programme in anti-corruption.

104. In 2020, the StAR Initiative published the second edition of the *Asset Recovery Handbook: A Guide for Practitioners*, which contains guidance on relevant strategic, organizational, investigative and legal challenges. It provides common approaches to recovering stolen assets located in foreign jurisdictions, identifies the challenges that practitioners are likely to encounter and introduces good practices. After 10 years of serving as a recognized reference work for practitioners and trainers since it was first published in 2011, the second edition emphasized the need to utilize innovative strategies and technical tools, including in the context of international cooperation.

105. The StAR Initiative is also conducting a new study on international asset recovery efforts in corruption cases on the basis of a questionnaire for country authorities. The results from the questionnaire will be used in a forthcoming StAR report and will be input into the StAR Asset Recovery Watch database.

3. Cooperation with other entities

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

107. UNODC also continued to support 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 Partnering against Corruption Initiative, ASEAN, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum and OECD, including the Anti-Corruption Task Team of its Development Assistance Committee Network on Governance.

108. UNODC continued its collaboration with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Building Integrity Programme to strengthen integrity and anti-corruption efforts in the defence sector.

4. Meetings and special events

109. In December 2020, UNODC participated in trilateral discussions with the Australian Public Service Commission and the Public Service of New Zealand. The informal partnership will allow the UNODC project office in the Pacific region to ensure that requests from Governments are matched up with the appropriate technical assistance.

110. UNODC participated in the Pacific Regional Conference on Anti-Corruption, held in Kiribati in February 2020. As part of the Technical Committee of the Conference, UNODC provided technical know-how on corruption and was requested to take the lead on the substantive aspects of the Conference. During the Conference, the “Teieniwa Vision: Unity against Corruption” was endorsed. UNODC played a crucial role in drafting the Vision, which is a strong statement recognizing the importance of strong leadership and building political will to tackle corruption.

111. UNODC also participated in the 19th International Anti-Corruption Conference, held virtually and hosted by the Republic of Korea from 30 November to 5 December 2020. UNODC led a workshop entitled “Integrity is the new black: youth as game changers in the Pacific”, on the role of youth in anti-corruption efforts and their role as game-changers and influencers with the ability and potential to lead the “new normal” in the COVID-19 era and beyond. In the second workshop, entitled “Pacific Unity against Corruption”, UNODC promoted its work with Governments, the private sector, media and civil society in advancing anti-corruption efforts in the Pacific, also through the Teieniwa Vision.

IV. Recommendations

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

(a) Continue efforts for the effective implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto and the Convention against Corruption, also within the wider context of promoting the rule of law and better governance structures as key components of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular its Goal 16, including during the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development, while considering gender-balanced approaches and empowering young people and civil society to engage in activities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in cooperation with UNODC;

(b) Adopt and further implement an integrated and comprehensive approach to address transnational organized crime by linking financial investigations with illicit firearms trafficking investigations, in order to dismantle the trafficking networks behind illicit arms transfers and gather intelligence on suspicious transactions, for the achievement of target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(c) Provide UNODC with adequate, predictable and sustainable funding to enable the Office to implement 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, and for the development and use of tools to enhance international

cooperation based on those conventions, as well as for 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 address related threats;

(d) Promote the establishment and strengthening of judicial cooperation networks, in cooperation with UNODC and regional organizations, and continue striving for better coordination in this field.
