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**Use and application of United Nations standards
and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice****Use and application of United Nations standards and norms
in crime prevention and criminal justice****Report of the Secretary-General***Summary*

The present report describes progress made in 2018 by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in promoting and supporting the use and application of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice. It has been prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/22 and outlines the Office's efforts to collect and analyse data, develop implementation tools and provide technical assistance at the global, regional and country levels. It also describes partnerships that the Office has been involved in to promote coherent interventions in crime prevention and criminal justice reform.

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I. Introduction

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

2. During 2018, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) promoted the use and application of the standards and norms at the global, regional and national levels. It provided practical guidance to Member States on the full range of thematic areas covered by the standards and norms, which include crime prevention; justice for children and responses to violence against children; gender-sensitive criminal justice systems and responses to violence against women; access to legal aid in criminal justice matters; the use of alternatives to imprisonment; restorative justice programmes; prison reform; and prisoner rehabilitation. By mainstreaming the application of the standards and norms in its technical cooperation activities, UNODC effectively promotes human-rights-compliant and gender-sensitive crime prevention and criminal justice reforms.

3. The promotion of the standards and norms also constitutes a direct contribution to the advancement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular its Goals 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), 11 (Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable) and 16 (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels). Goal 5, on gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls, includes among its targets the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls. UNODC supports police and justice responses to violence against women and girls. By promoting urban safety through the adoption of crime prevention and community-oriented policing strategies, UNODC contributes to the advancement of Goal 11 on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. By supporting Member States in building accountable, fair and effective criminal justice systems, UNODC contributes to the achievement of the targets under Goal 16, such as access to justice for all.

II. Collecting and analysing data

4. Reliable statistical data on crime and criminal justice are needed in the formulation of evidence-based policies and for monitoring the criminal justice response to crime. During the reporting period, UNODC continued to provide technical assistance and advice to countries that are in the process of adapting their national crime statistics to the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes. Regional training workshops on the implementation of the International Classification were held in the Caribbean, in Central Asia and in the western Balkans and national workshops on the International Classification were held in Argentina, Kenya and Uganda.

5. Within the United Nations system, UNODC is responsible for collecting the data and metadata needed for monitoring several indicators related to Sustainable Development Goals 5, 8, 11, 15 and 16. The Office regularly collects and makes available data and metadata on intentional homicide, trafficking in persons and pretrial detention and undertakes intensive methodological work on the development of indicators related to the Sustainable Development Goals for which an established international methodology does not yet exist.

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

III. Developing tools and providing guidance

6. To promote the standards and norms, UNODC has, over the years, developed a comprehensive set of tools that has been published in the Criminal Justice Handbook Series and includes guides, model laws and training materials. These tools are designed for use by policymakers, legislators, criminal justice practitioners, technical assistance providers and other stakeholders, and are intended to facilitate the application of the standards and norms. UNODC has systematically involved experts and practitioners in the development of those tools to ensure their relevance and usefulness. The experts represented all regions of the world, as well as a wide variety of legal systems and levels of development, so as to reflect a diversity of viewpoints, practices and expertise on the issues at hand. UNODC endeavours to broadly disseminate the tools online, through its field office network and by other means, and to translate them into the official languages of the United Nations as well as other languages.

7. During the reporting period, UNODC developed a handbook for the judiciary on effective criminal justice responses to gender-based violence against women and girls. UNODC also updated the *Introductory Handbook on the Prevention of Recidivism and the Social Reintegration of Offenders*. It partnered with other agencies to publish *INSPIRE Indicator Guidance and Results Framework: Ending Violence Against Children – How to Define and Measure Change* and *INSPIRE Handbook: Action for Implementing the Seven Strategies for Ending Violence against Children*. Those agencies were the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the United States of America, the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children, the Pan American Health Organization, the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, Together for Girls, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Bank and the World Health Organization (WHO).

8. The Office also convened expert meetings to review and collect input for a forthcoming handbook on the quality of legal aid in criminal justice processes; to identify opportunities and challenges related to the use of sports and sports-based learning in the prevention of violent extremism; and to conduct a feasibility study on the development of a technical guide on creating national brands for products manufactured in prisons.

9. During the reporting period, UNODC expanded its Global eLearning Platform to 400 modules, which are currently available in English and in 15 other languages. The newly added courses cover topics such as preventing conflict using a human rights-based approach; gender issues in cases of child sexual exploitation; alternatives to imprisonment for women offenders; the *Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence*; and a special course on the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules).

10. Under its Education for Justice initiative, which is part of the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, UNODC developed a range of pedagogical materials to strengthen education around the world on crime, justice and the rule of law. Designed for educators at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels, these innovative materials support teaching on crime prevention, access to justice, strong and accountable justice institutions and actors, the broad and multidisciplinary strategies needed to end violence against women and children, and the role of the United Nations standards and norms in upholding human dignity for those in contact with justice systems. With its focus on preventing crime and promoting a culture of lawfulness, the Education for Justice initiative contributes to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 4 (Ensure inclusive and equitable education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all).

11. During the reporting period, UNODC provided expert advice upon request to the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission of the Congress of the United States on the advancement of human rights through international prison reform based on the

standards and norms; and to Taskforce Flaxton of the Crime and Corruption Commission of Queensland, Australia, on the specific vulnerability of prison settings to corruption and practical steps that can be taken to counter it.

IV. Providing sustained technical assistance

A. Worldwide

12. During the reporting period, to coherently and sustainably promote the use and application of the standards and norms, UNODC developed a set of global technical assistance programmes dedicated to specific thematic areas, namely: the Global Programme on Addressing Prison Challenges, the Global Programme on Violence against Children, and a new global programme on strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women. These programmes set out strategic responses to current criminal justice issues, which are covered by the most recently adopted standards and norms, in particular the Nelson Mandela Rules (adopted in 2015), the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (2014), the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems (2012), the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (2010); and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) (2010). They build on the lessons learned from and replace the Global Programme on Support to Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Reform, which ran for 10 years as a single general programme. It underwent a final independent evaluation in 2018, which showed that it had resulted in the development and implementation of more than 60 technical assistance initiatives; the production of 17 technical assistance tools used by at least 75 countries under national crime prevention and criminal justice reform initiatives; and in the provision of support for the intergovernmental drafting of several new standards and norms. The evaluation underlined the fundamental importance of partnerships between United Nations entities, non-governmental organizations and governmental agencies to ensure the effectiveness of the support UNODC provides to crime prevention and criminal justice reform.²

13. Under the Global Programme on Addressing Prison Challenges, UNODC promotes the application of the Nelson Mandela Rules and the Bangkok Rules, and pursues the following objectives: reducing the use of imprisonment by means of crime prevention, improved access to legal aid and the use of alternatives to imprisonment; improving prison management and securing safe, humane and healthy prison conditions; and promoting prisoners' rehabilitation and social reintegration and reducing recidivism. The Global Programme on Addressing Prison Challenges also includes a project dedicated to the management of violent extremist prisoners, which is implemented jointly with other United Nations offices. In the areas of youth crime prevention through sports, and prisoners' rehabilitation and social reintegration, the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration also promotes the use and application of relevant standards and norms.

14. The Global Programme on Violence against Children promotes the application of the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Through this programme, UNODC strives to prevent the involvement of children with crime and violence, and to ensure that the rights of children in conflict with the law are respected, particularly those deprived of their liberty and of child victims and witnesses of crime, and that applicable international law and standards and norms are

² United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Final Independent Project Evaluation of Support to Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Reform* (GLOT63), 2018.

observed. The Programme also includes a focus on children recruited and exploited by terrorist and violent extremist groups, in particular on preventing their involvement with these groups and promoting their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

15. The Office has developed a new global programme on strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women, which will be launched in the course of 2019. Its purpose is to assist Member States in developing effective criminal justice responses to violence against women and providing essential services to women and girls subject to violence. As part of its efforts to implement the joint Global Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence, UNODC, together with other agencies, organized a global workshop on that Programme, which brought together representatives of the police, justice, social and health sectors of 23 countries. The Office also convened an expert meeting to explore the integration of safe technological applications and tools into the *Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence*. Furthermore, UNODC contributed to and participated in a series of national workshops to present and illustrate the *Essential Services Package* in Lesotho, Nepal, Panama, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam.

16. In May 2018, UNODC and the Ministry of Justice of China signed a new joint plan of action in which five priority areas have been identified: enhancing access to legal aid; promoting alternatives to imprisonment; penal reform; preventing and combating transnational organized crime; and preventing and combating urban crime. To promote access to legal aid in criminal justice systems and, in so doing, enhance the quality of legal aid services, UNODC, together with the Ministry of Justice of China, organized a cross-regional seminar entitled “Access to legal aid in criminal justice systems: holistic services, equity in access and quality assurance”. The seminar was held in Guangzhou, China and was attended by 81 experts from 13 countries in all regions.

17. UNODC approved proposals for prison-based rehabilitation programmes in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, El Salvador, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Namibia, the State of Palestine, Tajikistan, Tunisia and Zambia, which included capacity-building measures. UNODC also contributed to a workshop on the rehabilitation and social reintegration of prisoners organized by the European Organization of Prison and Correctional Services and held in the Hague, the Netherlands, at which practitioners from 18 European countries were gathered. During the reporting period, the Office also contributed to regional events for States members of the European Union on the management of violent extremist prisoners and the prevention of radicalization in prisons and probation settings. Those events were attended by more than 200 participants from more than fifteen countries.

18. UNODC started its life skills training programme for sports settings in six additional countries, namely Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Panama, Peru, the State of Palestine and Uganda. The aim of the programme is to prevent youth crime and drug use by following an approach to crime prevention through social development. To date, 500 sports coaches and teachers have been trained in 10 countries; 4,000 young people have benefited from the initiative. The Office provided grants to non-governmental organizations using sports and related skills training as a tool to prevent crime among young people. For example, in Brazil, civil society organizations engaged at-risk youth through programmes that connect sports with employability training and education in a wider sense, or offered young people in marginalized communities psychological counselling while training them to become football referees, thus decreasing their vulnerability to crime, violence and drug use.

19. UNODC participated in the World Congress on Justice for Children, held in Paris in May 2018, where challenges related to children associated with terrorist and violent extremist groups were discussed. During the reporting period, UNODC also held five regional capacity-building events in South and South-East Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, and East Africa to strengthen the capacity of policymakers and practitioners from 22 countries regarding the prevention of child

recruitment and exploitation by terrorist and violent extremist groups and the rehabilitation and reintegration of those children.

20. Under the joint UNODC/United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) project “Evidence-based policies for community safety in Latin American and African cities”, UNODC promoted the standards and norms for urban crime prevention and conducted participatory crime diagnosis at the local level in Querétaro, (Mexico), Santiago de Cali (Colombia), and in Durban (South Africa). The event in Durban was led by UN-Habitat. The results of these safety audits will be used to develop crime prevention policies and interventions at the local level.

21. UNODC continued to support Member States in their efforts to strengthen their criminal justice systems as regards the response to maritime security threats and other challenges. It did so by building capacity in maritime law enforcement, improving legal frameworks, and assisting prosecutors in preparing cases and ensuring that trials were conducted fairly and efficiently. UNODC embedded a legal advisor in the Federal Ministry of Justice of Nigeria to provide daily guidance on responses to be given to maritime crime and ensure that procedures were compliant with human rights and international standards. In Kenya, the maritime crime programme included the development of a risks and needs assessment tool. The tool showed that further technical assistance was needed in the area of prison reforms in the form of mentoring programmes, training, refurbishment and construction. The tool also showed that Kenya had a need for a risks and needs assessment tool to manage violent extremist prisoners.

B. Africa

22. Based on the assessment and analysis of existing crime prevention strategies and criminal justice programmes, UNODC continued to support Member States’ efforts to implement criminal justice reform initiatives and address issues such as alternatives to imprisonment and prisoners’ rehabilitation, justice for children recruited and exploited by terrorist and violent extremist groups, legal aid and gender-based violence.

23. In West Africa, the Office assessed the gender-responsiveness of legal aid systems in Liberia, Senegal and Sierra Leone, and found that there was a need for assistance to carry out legislative and policy reform, build institutional capacity and ensure the legal empowerment of women. UNODC collaborated with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to implement a project entitled “Improving access to legal aid for women in West Africa”. The project was aimed at enhancing access to justice for women and promoting gender-responsive legislation and policies in those countries. In the area of prison reform, the Office conducted prison security audits in all prisons of Cabo Verde and presented the results to the Government with recommendations on ways to improve prison security. UNODC also conducted a capacity-building workshop and strengthened the management skills of prison leaders in Sao Tome and Principe.

24. In Nigeria, UNODC supported efforts to combat maritime crime by advising the Government on legal reform and the placement of a maritime legal advisor in the Federal Ministry of Justice to mentor and train federal prosecutors and other criminal justice actors. UNODC also promoted the adoption of a piracy bill.

25. In the Sahel, UNODC supported prison reform initiatives and strengthened criminal justice systems among members of the Group of Five for the Sahel (G-5 Sahel). The Office organized a coordination meeting with prison directors of the members of G-5 Sahel to discuss their needs and challenges. UNODC also strengthened the capacity of prison staff and social workers in Burkina Faso and Mali to manage violent extremist prisoners and prevent radicalization in prison. This was done as a follow-up to UNODC assistance provided to Burkina Faso and Mali in 2017, which

included the development of a knowledge-based risk assessment tool to prevent violent extremism in prisons.

26. In the Niger, UNODC supported prison reform initiatives, including by means of a workshop to support the development of a reintegration strategy for adult prisoners and children in conflict with the law. The Office continued to reinforce the country's criminal justice response to violence against children, in particular children recruited and exploited by terrorist and violent extremist groups. UNODC developed training modules on the topic for the École de Formation Judiciaire du Niger, conducted a training-of-trainers and strengthened cooperation among national actors involved in child protection, including at the provincial level. As part of its support to the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel, UNODC continued to strengthen the capacity of the criminal justice systems of the Niger to effectively investigate, prosecute and adjudicate terrorism cases while respecting human rights and the rule of law. The Office continued to train lawyers in the Niger in that regard.

27. In the Gambia, at the request of the Minister of Justice, UNODC, under its project to support criminal justice and prison reform, facilitated the review of the criminal code and the code of criminal procedure to identify key areas of concern and discuss coordination among national government agencies, non-governmental organizations and United Nations entities.

28. In the Central African Republic, UNODC partnered with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) to support the country in setting up the victim and witness protection programme and the legal aid programme of the country's Special Criminal Court. UNODC provided input for the development and adoption of the Court's internal regulations and rules of procedure and evidence, and for a ministerial order on the organization and functioning of the joint body in charge of vetting and managing the list of counsels. The Office supported the operationalization of the Court's protection unit by establishing preliminary mechanisms for cooperation with key international and national interlocutors in respect of operational support and witness emergency assistance, and by training 32 police officers on good practices in witness protection during investigations. UNODC also helped to establish working relations between the Court and the bar association of the Central African Republic, and provided training to personnel of both bodies. UNODC developed payment schemes for legal aid providers and facilitated a study visit for Court staff and members of the bar association to the International Criminal Court and the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, both located in the Hague, the Netherlands.

29. In Ethiopia, UNODC supported the national task force on crime prevention in holding broad consultations on the national crime prevention strategy. Detailed discussions were held on the crimes that were of most concern, as well as on other priorities. Feedback from government institutions and other stakeholders was collected and analysed. UNODC then supported the drafting of a document that aligned the national crime prevention strategy with broader justice reform initiatives.

30. In Kenya, the Office completed its police reform programme and launched a new programme aimed at strengthening the administration of justice, in particular the implementation of alternatives to imprisonment. UNODC provided technical assistance to the Government in the development of the country's policy to offer offenders alternatives to conviction and a criminal record (known as "diversion policy"), the plea-bargaining guidelines and the policy on alternative justice systems. UNODC also started a comprehensive rehabilitation and social reintegration programme for young female prisoners and children in conflict with the law. The Office carried out an assessment of the existing rehabilitation programmes, services and practices, and of existing community-based interventions and diversion programmes and recommended the development of a juvenile justice policy that sets out the objectives of the juvenile justice system, provides policy guidance for the agencies involved and updates the domestic law. UNODC also handed over to the

judiciary a centralized digital repository of case files that allowed the Kenyan courts to increase their efficiency and reduce their case backlog.

31. In Somalia, UNODC organized a training for criminal justice practitioners and strengthened their capacity to deliver human rights-compliant trials for serious criminal offences. UNODC supported the Somaliland Custodial Corps to ensure that its detention of maritime criminal suspects, including prisoners convicted of piracy offences, was in line with the Nelson Mandela Rules. A nine-month programme was developed for prison commanders and heads of administration at Hargeisa prison and training events were held that covered such areas as sustainable, human rights-compliant and effective prison management practices, leadership, strategic planning, security and effective rehabilitation.

32. In Seychelles, UNODC continued to provide support to Somali piracy suspects to ensure they were treated humanely and in compliance with human rights standards for detention. In addition to interpretation services for detainees during court proceedings, English language classes were provided to the detainees to enhance their ability to communicate with prison staff. UNODC conducted workshops on the entire piracy case process from initial vessel interdiction to prosecution, including handover procedures for piracy suspects, the chain of custody, and good investigative practices and strategies in maritime criminal cases.

33. In Southern Africa, in Malawi, UNODC assisted the special Law Commission on the Revision of the Prison Act in aligning the Prison Act with the Nelson Mandela Rules. The Office also provided support to Namibia in optimizing LifeLine/ChildLine Namibia, the national hotline system for victims of gender-based violence, using the most updated technology to expand the data collection process and thereby inform programming and case management. The optimization will make it possible to issue semi-annual reports, which in turn will enable the quality assurance of cases and the tracking of national trends. The Office also organized five training-of-trainers workshops, which were attended by 138 practitioners. They were sensitized to cases involving gender-based violence and of their ability to implement a multisectoral response to strengthen treatment of such cases.

34. On 18 July 2018, on the occasion of Nelson Mandela International Day, UNODC and the African Correctional Services Association convened an extraordinary session in Mozambique dedicated to the Nelson Mandela Rules and prison health care, which was attended by 130 participants from 15 prison administrations across Africa. UNODC also supported the high-level national launch of the Nelson Mandela Rules in South Africa in July 2018.

C. Asia

35. In support of regional initiatives to combat child sexual exploitation across South East Asia, UNODC convened a regional workshop in the Philippines with participants from seven countries. Participants exchanged information on a broad set of issues related to child online exploitation. The workshop was held under the banner of a UNODC project that has been very effective in improving the legislative frameworks of the target countries, as well as the capacity of their law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute child sex offences both within and across their borders. This has significantly enhanced domestic and international cooperation between criminal justice agencies with respect to combating child sexual offences in the context of tourism and protecting the victims. UNODC also organized a regional training workshop for 53 prosecutors from across South East Asia with the objective of enhancing their capacity to prosecute cases of violence against children taking a victim-centred approach.

36. UNODC also conducted stocktaking exercises for current laws, policies and practices relating to alternatives to imprisonment in Indonesia and Malaysia, and organized a regional workshop at which participants from both countries reviewed and validated findings made by the Office. Participants also exchanged national

experiences and formulated national action plans to enhance their use of alternatives to imprisonment.

37. In Indonesia, UNODC continued to assist the Government in the management of violent extremist prisoners and the prevention of radicalization that leads to violence in prisons. The Office supported the development of a national action plan and conducted a training-of-trainers on this subject attended by 313 officers from the directorate general of corrections, the Indonesian national police, and the national counter-terrorism agency.

38. In Myanmar, UNODC strengthened the capacity of the Myanmar police force to provide effective survivor-centred responses to gender-based violence, which included effective investigation and inter-agency coordination within the criminal justice system. In addition, in collaboration with UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNODC conducted an assessment to identify the training needs of the Union Attorney General's Office in the prosecution of cases involving violence against women and children. A training curriculum and accompanying materials were developed, and two initial training-of-trainers workshops were conducted for 40 legal officers from the Union Attorney General's Office.

39. In Viet Nam, UNODC continued to implement pilot activities under the *Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence*, jointly with UN-Women and other partners. UNODC provided training to 140 criminal justice officers and legal aid professionals on best practices in the provision of legal assistance to survivors of violence against women and girls, and continued capacity-building activities for police and prosecutors on child sexual exploitation cases. The Office also held a series of training events for 234 police officers, prosecutors and judges in Cambodia and Viet Nam on the relevant international and domestic legal and policy framework regarding child sexual exploitation, which improved their understanding of the nature of the crime and of a victim-centred approach. Judicial training institutions and police officers in Viet Nam applied the teaching methods acquired through the training-of-trainers and initiated the development of a procedure manual for the investigation of child sexual abuse and exploitation.

40. In Central Asia, UNODC supported the mentoring of 50 female junior police officers by 46 female senior police officers in Kyrgyzstan. The teams of senior and junior officers worked together on issues related to the prevention of crime and gender-based violence, and thereby contributed to the country's efforts to achieve gender equality and empower women in line with Sustainable Development Goal 5.

41. Also in Kyrgyzstan, the Office supported ongoing criminal justice reform processes. New criminal legislation entered into force, including a new law on probation. In line with Sustainable Development Goal 11, UNODC also promoted dialogue among local authorities, police, schools, social services, civil society and communities on issues of urban safety and participatory planning of crime prevention. The Office worked with the National Statistics Committee to conduct a victimization survey in the capital city Bishkek, followed by the adoption of a crime prevention plan for the city's seven districts. In the field of prison reform, UNODC assessed the conditions and treatment of those convicted for crimes related to violent extremism and terrorism. It formulated recommendations for the introduction of a risk assessment and classification system that would help to prevent radicalization in prison, for improvements in living conditions and for ways to increase the likelihood of success of rehabilitation programmes. UNODC also supported the design of prison-based rehabilitation programmes providing for vocational training for up to 100 prisoners in breadmaking, sewing and footwear production. Under the UNODC "Line Up Live Up" training programme for sports settings, UNODC certified over 50 sports coaches and physical education teachers to deliver a course on strengthening the life skills of 13- to 18-year-olds so as to reduce their vulnerability to crime, violence and drug use.

42. Similar support was provided in Tajikistan, where 43 sports coaches and trainers gained knowledge and increased their skills in sports training as a way to develop the life skills of young people and prevent crime among them.

43. In Kazakhstan, following a scoping mission, UNODC developed a three-year workplan for technical assistance so as to strengthen and enhance the capacity of corrections officers to manage violent extremist prisoners and prevent radicalization that can lead to violence. The Office enhanced the skills of more than 50 prison staff to assess the risks posed by violent extremist prisoners and develop suitable disengagement programmes that included a gender perspective.

44. In Uzbekistan, UNODC supported the Government in a number of initiatives pertaining to the criminal justice reform process. It provided advice on and support to the development of new human rights-compliant criminal laws and related procedures, including rules and regulations passed by executive decree, and of laws targeting the prevention of gender-based violence. UNODC also supported the establishment of a legal aid service and a socially-oriented probation service. In support of the criminal justice chain, UNODC supported the provision of a unified electronic system for crime registration and criminal justice data collection. The Government endorsed a new concept for the development of the national public education system until 2030, which specifically includes educational materials in the national curriculum that have been produced under the UNODC Education for Justice initiative.

45. In Pakistan, UNODC supported the establishment of effective mechanisms for cooperation between the police and prosecution departments in Sindh Province as a means of reducing the number of pretrial detainees by accelerating the prosecution of criminal cases. A handbook on the legal framework of criminal laws and related procedures was developed, together with a road map for the provision of legal aid to pretrial detainees. Also, some 155 prosecutors, prison personnel and investigative police officers across Sindh Province received training to enhance their cooperation on bailable and non-bailable arrests.

46. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, UNODC collaborated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the judiciary to organize a meeting, held in Tehran, on crime prevention policies, the scope of alternatives to imprisonment and the effectiveness of restorative justice. The meeting brought together senior national judicial and legal authorities and provincial officials for the purpose of improving national institutional capacities, advocating the use of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, and promoting international cooperation.

47. In South Asia, UNODC conducted a series of national consultative meetings in Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka to assess how gender dimensions are being taken into account in national efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

48. In Nepal, UNODC undertook a study on the situation of women in the criminal justice system to understand the realities that women face when dealing with the criminal justice system. The study included the situation of women criminal justice professionals, the justice system's ability to monitor and respond to violence against women, and the situation of women who are alleged offenders or prisoners.

49. In Bangladesh, UNODC partnered with the Government to assist the Prison Directorate in enhancing prison security and safety. Those efforts included the development and upgrade of a prisoner file management system in which information about prisoners can be easily and securely entered, stored, updated and retrieved. UNODC conducted a needs assessment in 11 prisons to assess crucial gaps and needs in prisoner file management and facilitated a study tour for Bangladesh prison officials to gain first-hand experience with the electronic prisoner file management system in Indonesia and acquaint themselves with good practices gleaned from its use. The Office also conducted an assessment of existing legislative, regulatory and policy frameworks related to prisons in Bangladesh. Based on the assessment, training

modules for prison staff were developed on the prevention of violent extremism in prison and on prison incident preparedness, and a prison strategy and action plan is currently being formulated.

50. In Singapore, UNODC conducted a joint regional training workshop on correctional rehabilitation in cooperation with the national authorities. The workshop brought together 60 officials from 16 island States in the Asia-Pacific region. UNODC also organized a two-day workshop on compliance with the Nelson Mandela Rules in Suva that was attended by 40 officers of the Fiji Corrections Service.

D. Latin America and the Caribbean

51. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, UNODC launched a road map for the development of prison-based rehabilitation programmes to support the socioeconomic reintegration of women prisoners into society. UNODC strengthened the capacity of actors to manage rehabilitation programmes and to promote the empowerment of women. Under its capacity-building programme, the Office also sensitized some 200 prison staff to the Nelson Mandela Rules and the Bangkok Rules.

52. In Colombia, UNODC completed 29 safety audits in all municipalities of the region of Meta. The audits involved leaders of urban and rural communities, civil society organizations and public institutions. The aim was to identify the main characteristics of local drug smuggling by conducting a value chain analysis and thereby develop specific intervention measures and public policy recommendations at the municipal level. UNODC supported the implementation of the Nelson Mandela Rules by organizing prison inspections and providing assistance in the drafting of guidelines for prison inspections. In Colombia, in cooperation with the country's system of adolescent criminal responsibility, UNODC conducted two regional assessments on the risk factors related to the involvement of children and adolescents in acts of delinquency. UNODC also provided 500 adolescents with technical knowledge in restorative practices and cognitive programmes, and trained about 90 young people on leadership skills and ways to promote coexistence.

53. In Guatemala, UNODC supported the establishment of an inter-agency coordination mechanism in cooperation with the national police and the attorney general's office in order to facilitate the investigation of cases of violence against women. UNODC assisted both institutions in the development of joint investigation plans and protocols on this subject.

54. In Mexico, UNODC supported the development of a video game named "Chuka". Its aim is to teach children to recognize the most common types of violence against women and girls, and to act assertively when faced with the potential of such violence. The game is available for various operating systems and has gathered more than 40,000 users in more than 10 countries. Also in Mexico, in the field of prison reform, a prison project is in its early implementation phase in 16 federal and local prisons. Its aim is to strengthen institutional capacity for the proper functioning of prisons and the design of a human rights-based evaluation and certification system. With regard to violence against women, UNODC continued to implement its training programme for police officers and emergency call operators in 26 regions, reaching some 7,500 participants. The aim is to enhance the services provided to victims of gender-based violence and strengthen the coordination between police units and women's justice centres. The Office developed several tools for addressing this topic, such as manuals for police officers and emergency call operators, booklets covering human rights, applicable legislation and techniques for interviewing victims, infographics raising awareness of the victims of gender-based violence and videos on human trafficking, femicide, sexual violence and domestic violence.

55. In Panama, UNODC continued to support the judiciary and the attorney general's office in the implementation of an adversarial judicial system by training more than 300 criminal justice practitioners and revising the management models of both institutions.

56. In the Dominican Republic, UNODC delivered technical assistance in crime research, the formulation of national action plans on crime prevention, and the preparation of draft legislation on drug control in accordance with the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime, in particular with regard to alternatives to imprisonment. Under the UNODC “Line Up Live Up” training programme for sports settings, 27 practitioners from the Dominican Republic conducted a mission to Brazil to observe the implementation of the programme. Following the mission, the practitioners were certified to deliver the training programme and 130 teenagers are currently benefiting from its implementation in the country.

57. In Peru, UNODC started to implement a new project to strengthen criminal justice approaches aimed at reducing impunity in cases of violence against women and girls through enhanced inter-agency coordination, knowledge, expertise and skills to effectively investigate cases while following a victim-centred approach. Based on the guidelines of the *Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence* and other relevant United Nations standards and norms, a group of 55 criminal justice practitioners composed of judges, prosecutors, police officers and victim advocates received training to raise their awareness of violence against women and enhance their expertise and skills to enable them to effectively investigate cases involving such violence by taking a victim-centred approach. Twenty-five of the participants were women. The project further contributed to the establishment of 10 specialized prosecution offices and 5 specialized courts in Lima. In the area of justice for children, UNODC provided expert advice to the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights relating to the management of rehabilitation centres for children in conflict with the law.

E. North Africa and the Middle East

58. UNODC conducted a regional assessment of relevant national laws, policies and practices on alternatives to imprisonment in Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco. The assessment was aimed at understanding the existing legal and policy frameworks, the existing practices and institutional capacity, and the gaps and obstacles preventing the six countries in question from using alternatives to imprisonment. During a regional workshop held in Cairo, 35 participants from those six countries reviewed and validated the findings made by UNODC, exchanged national experiences and formulated national action plans to enhance their use of alternatives to imprisonment.

59. The Office also provided support to Morocco, the State of Palestine and Tunisia to strengthen their prison rehabilitation services and organized a regional training workshop on the rehabilitation of, reintegration of and justice for children recruited and exploited by terrorist and violent extremist groups. The workshop targeted judges, lawyers, social workers, personnel of detention facilities and civil society representatives from Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia.

60. In Egypt, UNODC is supporting the Government in the development of fair and effective procedures to deal with cases of violence against women and girls. The purpose is to ensure a victim-centred approach as well as the fair and just prosecution of the perpetrators. In that context, UNODC trained more than 300 criminal justice practitioners, including police, prosecutors, judges and forensic doctors, and provided the country’s forensic medicine authority with medical equipment to facilitate its obtention of certification issued by the International Organization for Standardization. The National Council for Women has been provided with network servers and related equipment to meet the operational needs relating to the complaint office’s computer system and database. In the area of justice for children, the Office supported seven selected institutions in the governorates of Alexandria, Beni Suef, Cairo, Giza and Dakahlia in housing 675 children in conflict with the law who were receiving assistance. As a direct result, 300 children benefited from reintegration services that included legal, educational, medical and economic support, and 106 were reunited with their families.

61. In Jordan, UNODC contributed to the development of a juvenile justice strategy and the amendment of juvenile legislation in order to implement alternatives to imprisonment and to support restorative justice mechanisms for juveniles. UNODC also extended its support to police and law enforcement officials through a number of capacity-building activities and training events aimed at improving their skills related to conducting investigations, collecting evidence, and supporting inter-agency coordination and international cooperation in legal matters. In the area of prison reform, the Office partnered with the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation Centres to develop a five-year national action plan focusing on programmes for the rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners, including high-risk prisoners. The aim was to reduce overcrowding and recidivism.

62. In Lebanon, UNODC continued to support the authorities in their efforts to better respond to the needs of children charged with offences related to violent extremism, including terrorism. UNODC developed risk assessment tools that are now used systematically at the admission stage for every child charged with such offences. In addition, a standard operating procedure was developed for assessing the level of risk posed by prisoners charged with such offences. In the field of prison reform, in addition to the support provided to Roumieh prison, UNODC expanded its assistance to improve prison conditions at Barbar Khazen prison for women, Zahle prison and Tripoli prison. Health kits were distributed to around 2,925 inmates including men, women, children and mentally ill persons, across all prisons. As additional support for the kitchen at Roumieh prison, which was established last year, UNODC renovated the bread oven and procured a food distribution vehicle to help improve prison conditions and health standards. Similarly, UNODC started refurbishments of the kitchen at Barbar Khazen prison.

63. In Libya, UNODC facilitated a two-month training programme for 13 Libyan prison managers and staff at the national school of the prison administration of Algeria. The programme was aimed at improving their knowledge and skills in such areas as punitive policies, safety and security in prisons, rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners, treatment of prisoners, including women, children and violent extremist prisoners, and training-of-trainers methodologies. The programme included theory and field training at two different types of prisons, one old and one new, and yielded significant results, such as a positive change in the participating officials' attitudes towards prisoners.

64. In Tunisia, UNODC provided support aimed at increasing the capacity of prison staff to manage violent extremist prisoners and to prevent radicalization that leads to violence.

65. In the State of Palestine, UNODC partnered with other United Nations agencies to launch a joint project aimed at eliminating violence against women and girls. The project's objectives include the establishment of a biological screening section at the forensic laboratory to analyse evidence collected in cases of sexual and gender-based violence, the sensitization of criminal justice actors and law enforcement personnel to violence against women and girls and the improvement of cooperation among stakeholders involved in the handling of such cases. As part of its youth crime prevention initiative for sports settings "Line Up Live Up", UNODC cooperated with the Higher Council for Youth and Sports and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to deliver training-of-trainers courses that enhanced the capacity of 88 sports teachers and physical education instructors to use sports as a tool for peace and crime prevention among young people. The initiative benefited around 300 Palestinian teenage boys and girls, in particular those living in refugee camps on the West Bank and in East Jerusalem. UNODC also initiated a pilot project on prisoners' rehabilitation and reintegration through skill development.

66. In Iraq, UNODC conducted an assessment to identify areas for specific interventions in favour of criminal justice reform, in particular prison reform. Recommendations were issued to develop a road map for comprehensive prison reform to address overcrowding, strengthen the management capacity of the country's

corrections service, improve prison conditions, enhance prison-based rehabilitation programmes, and meet the basic needs of women prisoners, in particular women with children and women of other nationalities imprisoned in connection with terrorist acts. Support was also requested to ensure the transfer of children to their countries of origin. Furthermore, support was requested for the development of tailored programmes for prisoners suffering from drug addiction that included health and psychological care, and tailored programmes aimed at the effective management of violent extremist prisoners and to prevent radicalization that leads to violence.

67. During the reporting period, UNODC continued its strategic partnership with the Gulf Cooperation Council and provided support to its member countries to strengthen the compliance of their criminal justice systems with the United Nations standards and norms.

68. In Bahrain, UNODC and the country's Judicial and Legal Studies Institute conducted joint capacity-building activities targeting judges and prosecutors. The Office held a series of training workshops to strengthen criminal justice practitioners' knowledge in the following areas: relevant international instruments; good practices and human rights standards relating to juvenile justice; alternatives to imprisonment; and victim protection. Multi-agency working groups were created by ministerial order to support the initiative, and a select group of participants completed a training-of-trainers course on these subjects. UNODC also continued to support the national initiative launched under the auspices of the King with the aim of improving law enforcement responses to drug- and crime-related threats, while promoting and strengthening respect for human rights and the rule of law in conformity with standards and norms.

V. Partnerships

69. During the reporting period, UNODC continued to strengthen partnerships with other United Nations agencies and regional, international, governmental and non-governmental organizations to develop tools and deliver technical assistance in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice.

70. To promote access to justice and legal aid, UNODC continued its partnership with the United Nations Development Programme, the International Legal Foundation and the Open Society Justice Initiative, and co-organized the third International Conference on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems, hosted by the Parliament of Georgia and the organization Legal Aid Service in Tbilisi. The Office also partnered with UN-Women and OHCHR to complete an in-depth assessment of the national legal aid systems of Liberia, Senegal and Sierra Leone as regards the access women in those countries have to legal aid. It was found that women face additional hurdles when seeking justice and that assistance was needed to support legislative and policy reform, as well as capacity-building.

71. UNODC enhanced its cooperation with the Office of Counter-Terrorism, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the European Union to assist Member States in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, with particular focus on addressing prisoners' susceptibility to terrorist recruitment and radicalization to violence in prisons.

72. The Office also strengthened its partnership with UN-Women, UNFPA, the United Nations Development Programme and WHO, under the joint Global Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence. A similar partnership continued with the Thailand Institute of Justice on the promotion of the use and application of the Bangkok Rules, which included the implementation of a new initiative to promote gender-sensitive non-custodial measures and the social reintegration of women after their release from prison.

73. The Office continued its partnership with UN-Habitat with a view to promoting crime prevention in the context of urban safety and security. The partnership included joint programming. The two entities concluded a cooperation agreement and revised their memorandum of understanding. UNODC also collaborated with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to explore the use of learning programmes in sports settings for the prevention of violent extremism.

74. In the area of violence against children, UNODC partnered with WHO, UNICEF and other partners in publishing the *INSPIRE Handbook* and the *INSPIRE Indicators Guidance and Results Framework*. It also coordinated and jointly delivered activities with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Office of Counter-Terrorism, OHCHR, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, Terre des Hommes Italy and other stakeholders in the area of children recruited and exploited by terrorist groups. During the reporting period, UNODC continued its active involvement in the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children.

VI. Conclusions and observations

75. During the reporting period, UNODC made considerable efforts to promote the use and application of the standards and norms and provided support to criminal justice officials in more than 50 Member States in developing, updating or implementing crime prevention and criminal justice policies in line with the standards and norms.

76. Effective crime prevention and transparent, accountable and well-functioning justice systems play a key role in the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. I encourage Member States to include crime prevention and criminal justice reforms in their national plans and budgets related to the Agenda. I also encourage them to include such activities in the country planning instruments developed in cooperation with the United Nations system, in accordance with their national priorities. I further encourage Member States to voluntarily develop targets on access to justice, the prevention of violence against women and violence against children, good governance in criminal justice systems, and on overall crime prevention and the prevention of recidivism, in line with the United Nations standards and norms. I encourage Member States to continue to voluntarily report on their efforts related to access to justice, well-functioning judicial institutions and other aspects of Sustainable Development Goal 16. Finally, I encourage Member States to continue their support to United Nations efforts in these areas as an effective means to contribute to the implementation of the Agenda, in particular its Sustainable Development Goals 5, 11 and 16.