

**Economic and Social Council**

Distr.: General
16 March 2020

Original: English

**Commission on Crime Prevention
and Criminal Justice****Twenty-ninth session**

Vienna, 18–22 May 2020

Item 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 an overview of the activities of 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. The report covers activities carried out between February 2019 and February 2020 and provides information on international cooperation and technical assistance undertaken by the Office to combat transnational organized crime and corruption.

* E/CN.15/2020/1.



I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2019/223, in which the Council approved the provisional agenda for the twenty-ninth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The report provides information on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) related to item 6, and in particular sub-items (a) and (b), of the provisional agenda for the twenty-ninth session of the Commission ([E/CN.15/2020/1](#)). It contains information on the activities undertaken by UNODC between February 2019 and February 2020 to curb transnational organized crime, including new and emerging forms of crime, and corruption. The report also contains information on the activities of UNODC to promote international cooperation in criminal matters, including through the provision of technical assistance to Member States and the facilitation and hosting of meetings and events, as well as by using the expertise of the Office to promote networking among law enforcement and judicial authorities to share experiences and expertise and forge partnerships. Prominence is given to action geared towards promoting the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto and the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

II. Transnational organized crime

A. Working groups of the Conference of the Parties to the Organized Crime Convention

2. UNODC continued to assist Member States in ratifying and implementing the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto. In its resolution 9/1, adopted at its ninth session, in October 2018, and entitled “Establishment of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto”, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime adopted the procedures and rules for the functioning of the Mechanism and decided to launch the preparatory phase of the review process in accordance with the thematic clusters and multi-year workplan contained in the appendix to the procedures and rules.

3. Also in resolution 9/1, the Conference requested UNODC to convene, within existing resources, at least one meeting of an open-ended intergovernmental expert group for the purpose of finalizing and harmonizing, as necessary, the self-assessment questionnaires and preparing the guidelines for conducting the country reviews and a blueprint for the lists of observations and the summaries, referred to in the annex to the same resolution. At its first session, held from 9 to 11 October 2019, the intergovernmental expert group finalized the guidelines for conducting the country reviews and blueprints for the lists of observations and the summaries and, subject to further harmonization, the self-assessment questionnaire on the Organized Crime Convention.

4. In line with resolution 9/1, the Secretariat, in close cooperation with States parties, is developing the new secure module of the knowledge management portal known as Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC), which will be used as the main communication tool and for hosting self-assessment questionnaires on the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto during the review process.

5. During the reporting period, the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons and the Working Group on the Smuggling of Migrants held one meeting each. The Working Group on Trafficking in Persons discussed crime prevention measures and the roles of diplomatic and other personnel in addressing trafficking in persons. The

Working Group on the Smuggling of Migrants discussed information-sharing and the smuggling of migrants by air.

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

6. In its resolution [74/177](#), entitled “Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity”, the General Assembly reaffirmed that the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto represented the most important tools of the international community for fighting transnational organized crime and noted with appreciation that the number of States parties had reached 190, which was a significant indication of the commitment shown by the international community to combating transnational organized crime.

7. As at 4 February 2020, 190 States were parties to the Convention, 175 were parties to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, 149 were parties to the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, and 118 were parties to the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition.

8. The actions taken by States during the reporting period to achieve adherence to the Convention and the Protocols thereto are summarized as follows: Palau acceded to the Convention; Bangladesh and Palau acceded to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol; Gabon and Palau acceded to the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol; and France and Palau acceded to the Firearms Protocol.

9. During the reporting period, UNODC provided pre-accession support to the Congo, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan and Tuvalu.

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

1. Organized Crime Convention

10. Despite the near-universal adherence to the Organized Crime Convention, its implementation remains a challenge in many States parties. To facilitate national implementation efforts, UNODC delivered technical assistance to experts from nearly 70 States parties, with a focus on promoting a better understanding of requirements under the Convention.

11. Likewise, UNODC continued to develop SHERLOC and to disseminate information on the implementation of the Convention. As of February 2020, SHERLOC included 2,965 cases involving organized crime from 125 States and more than 8,070 pieces of legislation from 197 States.

12. During the reporting period, SHERLOC was accessed by 338,196 users, which represented a 20.8 per cent increase compared with 2018. The 10 States with the largest number of users to SHERLOC were, in decreasing order, the United States of America, India, Ecuador, the Philippines, Mexico, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Peru, Guatemala, Colombia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

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

14. 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. During the reporting period, UNODC included in the Directory the contact details of 908 new authorities designated under the Convention against Corruption. As a result, the overall number of listed authorities increased to 1,647, from 183 States and the European Union.

15. As part of its educational and training activities, UNODC completed during the reporting period two university teaching modules on organized crime for tertiary-level educational institutions, which explored the linkages between organized crime and terrorism and the gendered dynamics of organized crime, respectively. These two modules form part of a series dedicated to the topic of organized crime produced under the Education for Justice initiative of the UNODC Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, which now comprises 15 modules freely accessible on the Education for Justice website, while the publication of a module on the prevention of organized crime is forthcoming. In cooperation with local tertiary-level educational institutions, UNODC has undertaken the adaptation of the module contents to the contexts of francophone Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa, Latin America and the Pacific region to include relevant jurisprudence, bibliographies and other useful materials. Throughout the reporting period, this material was used to deliver training aimed at strengthening the capacity of participants to teach courses on organized crime and integrate the material into educational curricula. In particular, the organized crime module series was used to train trainers in three regional expert workshops (held in Lima and Buenos Aires in May 2019, and in Mombasa, Kenya, in June, respectively) and a summer school held in Porto-Novo in July 2019, following on the winter school held in Vienna in January 2019.

16. During the reporting period, UNODC also produced an e-learning module on understanding organized crime, which is currently available in English, French and Spanish on the UNODC e-learning platform. Both this module and the Education for Justice university module series on organized crime were presented at various events, such as the International High-level Conference on “Educating for the rule of law: inspire change together”, held in Vienna in October 2019, and those held by UNODC in the margins of the twenty-eighth session of the Commission, including a theatre play portraying real stories of victims and witnesses of organized crime. The material was also discussed at events held by partner institutions, such as the International Seminar on Mafia and anti-Mafia in Europe held by the University of Milan in March 2019, the Academic Conference on the Crime-Terror Nexus held at Shanghai University the same month and the eleventh Annual Conference of the Asia Criminological Society held in the Philippines in June.

17. As a joint technical assistance activity carried out by its respective branches working on organized crime and corruption, the Office supported and serviced a training workshop to enhance the effectiveness of mechanisms for mutual legal assistance in Saudi Arabia, which was held in Riyadh from 20 to 24 October 2019. The aim of the training workshop was to enhance the knowledge of the national practitioners involved in mutual legal assistance practice and generate substantive discussions on the key issues pertaining to the national legislative and operational framework in the field of mutual legal assistance. The main focus was on strengthening national capacities and streamlining mutual legal assistance actions in line with national legislation, good practices and international standards, including the requirements set forth in the Organized Crime Convention and the Convention against Corruption.

18. In preparation for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Office also supported and serviced a workshop on the implementation by Angola of its international commitments in the areas of transnational organized crime and drug control, held in Luanda from 2 to 6 December 2019. The objective of the workshop was to enhance knowledge among national officials of the added value and high potential of fully implementing the provisions of multilateral instruments, including the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto.

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

19. UNODC continued to support Member States in their efforts to implement the Trafficking in Persons Protocol. During the reporting period, UNODC engaged in capacity-building activities for practitioners in 64 countries and supported revisions to national laws on trafficking in persons in six countries. For example, more than 3,000 police officers, prosecutors, other government officials and civil society representatives were trained through UNODC-led activities. These technical assistance initiatives have had immediate tangible benefits.

20. To support the implementation of Security Council resolutions [2331 \(2016\)](#) and [2388 \(2017\)](#), UNODC developed a training module covering trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants that was piloted in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). The training was subsequently integrated into the broader MINUSMA training curriculum, and the piloted training has since been replicated.

21. To support the development of effective, contemporary and comprehensive national legal regimes to address trafficking in persons, UNODC completed substantial revisions to the *Model Law against Trafficking in Persons*¹ and the *Legislative Guide for the Implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*. Revised versions of both documents are expected to be issued in 2020. In addition, UNODC finalized an issue paper in which it examined the linkages between trafficking in persons and marriage, also to be issued in 2020.

22. In response to Commission resolution 27/4 on strengthening measures against trafficking in persons, UNODC continued to act as coordinator of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons. During the reporting period, the Group focused its policy work on the intersections between trafficking and technology and on enhancing public procurement measures to mitigate risks of trafficking in supply chains, through a partnership with the United Nations procurement network. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [74/176](#) on improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons, the Group is also preparing a second meeting at the level of principals of the partner United Nations agencies and organizations, in late 2020, which will offer the opportunity to take stock of the Group's latest policy work and to reaffirm its commitment to facilitating policy coherence within the United Nations system. During the reporting period, UNODC also maintained its active engagement in relevant forums and within existing global partnerships to advance international cooperation to respond to trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants, including Alliance 8.7, the United Nations Network on Migration and the Global Protection Cluster.

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

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

24. UNODC continued to assist Member States in the implementation of the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol. The second phase of the Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants in Asia and the Middle East was officially launched in May 2019. This initiative is a four-year (2018–2022), €12 million joint initiative by the European Union and UNODC being implemented in partnership with the International Organization for Migration in

¹ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.V.11.

four countries (Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan), which also includes a parallel but distinct project in Bangladesh covering the same objectives.

25. In October 2019, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and UNODC conducted in the Americas a joint operation against the smuggling of migrants, operation Turquesa, which involved authorities in 20 countries across North America, South America and Europe. The operation led to 53 arrests and the identification of some 775 migrants from 30 countries.

26. As part of its educational activities during the reporting period, UNODC developed 14 peer-reviewed university modules on trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants under the Education for Justice initiative. In cooperation with universities, the modules have been tailored to the contexts of francophone Africa and Latin America to include relevant jurisprudence, bibliographies and other useful materials. To that effect, regional workshops with academics took place in Saly, Senegal, and Bogotá. Each module, which comprises approximately three hours of teaching, includes exercises, core and advanced reading, student assessments, supporting material and teaching tools. UNODC also developed a complementary series of videos on an introduction to trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants, human rights in the context of such trafficking and smuggling, and the gender dimensions thereof, which are available in Arabic, English, French, Spanish and Urdu. Engagement with the education sector included cooperation on enriching the knowledge portals on human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants with jurisprudence and bibliographical references.

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

27. UNODC, through its Global Programme on Firearms, continued to promote the ratification and implementation of the Firearms Protocol and to provide technical assistance to countries in the Western Balkans, Latin America and West and Central Africa.

28. The Programme promoted the accession to the Firearms Protocol by the Plurinational State of Bolivia through a legislative workshop and meetings with various authorities along the criminal justice chain, as well as the Plurinational Legislative Assembly, leading to the adoption of a national law that paves the ground for the country to become a party to the Firearms Protocol. Tailored legislative support was also provided to the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Montenegro and North Macedonia, enhancing the capacities of each of those countries to enact comprehensive legal frameworks on firearms. A workshop for Central African States held in the Democratic Republic of the Congo was also focused on the Firearms Protocol and its synergies with the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly.

29. To strengthen capacities for the effective implementation of the Firearms Protocol, UNODC carried out activities on the detection, investigation and prosecution of firearms trafficking, reaching practitioners from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Chad, Mali, Montenegro, the Niger and Serbia. The Office organized, jointly with INTERPOL, law enforcement operation KAFO, targeting people and networks behind illicit firearms trafficking in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Mali, and supported the planning of a joint operation targeting Latin American countries. Moreover, UNODC cooperated with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency in the development of a handbook on the detection of firearms for border guards and customs officers and continued the development of training material on firearms in the context of the Education for Justice initiative.

30. UNODC continued to promote regular exchanges among firearms control and criminal justice practitioners through its community of practitioners, holding a

meeting with Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico referred to as the “quadrilateral initiative to strengthen regional cooperation in Latin America to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in firearms and related crimes”. Similar meetings were also held for a broader range of Central and Latin American countries.

31. In the context of its initiative to monitor illicit arms flows, UNODC collected data from more than 100 countries and territories on seized and trafficked firearms and associated items and launched the second data collection cycle in May 2019. The Office also continued its series of regional meetings to discuss firearms trafficking flows and related data collection efforts. To link the data collection exercise to investigative efforts, UNODC developed a set of guiding templates for firearms-related investigations and an information video and carried out technical assistance missions to Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, the Niger and Senegal.

32. Assessment missions to foster enhanced cooperation with national authorities against firearms trafficking and related forms of crime were carried out in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), the Central African Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, the Niger and Nigeria, some of which resulted in the development of joint road maps for ongoing and future cooperation.

D. Networking to combat transnational organized crime

1. Law enforcement networking

33. Implemented by UNODC in partnership with INTERPOL and Transparency International, the programme entitled “CRIMJUST: strengthening criminal investigation and criminal justice cooperation along the cocaine route in Latin America, the Caribbean and Western Africa (2016–2020)” has carried out, with the financial support of the European Union, a total of 343 activities aimed at improving the technical capacity of criminal justice actors to combat organized crime along the cocaine route, benefiting 14,963 officials.

34. During the reporting period, the CRIMJUST programme 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. Those meetings focused on promoting and strengthening cooperative strategies and using existing networks of law enforcement and prosecutors as sustainable platforms for continuing cooperation. The programme also supported seven transregional investigative forums during that period.

35. Implemented by UNODC in partnership with the World Customs Organization (WCO), the Container Control Programme aims to build capacity in countries seeking to improve risk management, supply chain security and trade facilitation in seaports, airports and land border crossings in order to prevent the cross-border movement of illicit goods. Launched in 2004, the Programme is now active in more than 50 Member States with over 100 port control units and air cargo control units established.

36. Inter-agency cooperation lies at the core of the Container Control Programme, which strives to ensure that its port and air cargo control units are comprised of front-line officials from relevant law enforcement agencies, such as customs, police and wildlife authorities, who undergo special training. Over 245 training activities were delivered during the reporting period, benefiting more than 3,370 officials. These units are equipped to exchange information with their counterparts in other countries using ContainerCOMM, a secure communication application developed by WCO. This tool provides access to a wealth of information, allowing users to share information about high-risk containers. Many national customs administrations now use ContainerCOMM to share container and cargo crime information. During the reporting period, it was used by 1,400 officials in more than 100 countries and played

a crucial role in the 800 seizures made by Container Control Programme units that year, including a total of 77 tons of cocaine, explosives, weapons, drug precursors and wildlife products (including the world's largest single ivory seizure).

2. Judicial networking

37. During the reporting period, the UNODC Global Programme for Strengthening the Capacities of Member States to Prevent and Combat Organized and Serious Crime continued to support three existing judicial cooperation networks and a new network for South-East Asia. The Programme facilitated 13 cases of judicial cooperation among a wide range of jurisdictions.

38. The Programme also continued to coordinate and cooperate with other judicial networks, including the European Judicial Network, the Commonwealth Network of Contact Persons, the Ibero-American Network for International Legal Cooperation and the Southeast European Prosecutors Advisory Group, as well as cooperating with Eurojust and the Council of Europe.

39. In Kyrgyzstan, the judicial cooperation network for Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus facilitated the work of working groups to identify more effective ways to implement controlled deliveries and undercover operations for countering drug trafficking and organized crime.

40. The Network of West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime facilitated the negotiation of three treaties on mutual legal assistance, extradition and the transfer of sentenced prisoners between Italy and Mali. The Network continued to support the Nigerian liaison magistrates deployed to Italy with the support of the project "Protection for migrants: justice, human rights and migrant smuggling". This included support for operational cases and negotiations on a bilateral convention on extradition between Nigeria and Spain. In addition, the Programme delivered judicial cooperation training workshops in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. The Network plenary meeting was held in Vienna from 29 to 31 January 2020.

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

41. The 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 the cooperation with multiple UNODC programmes and outside organizations.

42. Within the framework of the Law Enforcement Assistance Programme to Reduce Deforestation, and with the collaboration of the Office of the Attorney General of Indonesia, UNODC carried out integrated training activities with prosecutors, police officers, forestry investigators and judges from the region. These activities provided opportunities for partnership development and the enhancement of cooperation and coordination between the Programme and prosecutorial authorities.

43. In line with relevant mandates, UNODC continued to cooperate with international partners, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), INTERPOL, WCO and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), to provide technical assistance for strengthening the capacity of Member States to address trafficking in cultural property.

44. In March 2019, the Container Control Programme conducted in Bangkok a subregional training session on countering trafficking in cultural objects by containers. The training was held as a collaboration between UNODC and UNESCO

and benefited from the participation of experts from the Italian Carabinieri, OSCE and the WCO Regional Intelligence Liaison Office. In June, UNODC also contributed to a UNESCO regional training workshop on international cooperation to protect cultural properties in South-East Asia. In July, UNODC participated in an expert meeting held in London by the Commonwealth on protecting cultural property in the Commonwealth region. In October, the Office substantively contributed to an OSCE regional workshop held in Ulaanbaatar on trafficking in cultural property for selected OSCE Asian partners.

45. In the field of cybercrime, information on the following issues was 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.15/2020/12): the fifth meeting of the Expert Group to Conduct a Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime, held in Vienna from 27 to 29 March 2019; the report of the Secretary-General on countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes (A/74/130), prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 73/187; and the developments relating to the adoption of Assembly resolution 74/247 on countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes.

III. Corruption

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

46. The eighth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption was held in Abu Dhabi from 16 to 20 December 2019. The Conference was attended by some 1,200 participants representing 156 Member States and many intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. During the conference, 45 special events were held, addressing various anti-corruption initiatives. Action taken by the Conference included the approval of a draft resolution entitled “Special session of the General Assembly against corruption”, for adoption by the General Assembly, and the adoption of a record number of 14 resolutions on a wide range of topics, including asset recovery, the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, corruption prevention, safeguarding sport from corruption, the measurement of corruption, corruption related to crimes that have an impact on the environment, foreign bribery and the role of national parliaments and supreme audit institutions in preventing corruption. At the same session, the Conference adopted decision 8/1 on the extension of the second cycle of the Implementation Review Mechanism (see CAC/COSP/2019/17).

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

47. The Implementation Review Group of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which oversees the work of the Implementation Review Mechanism and was established pursuant to resolution 3/1 of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, held its tenth session and first resumed tenth session in Vienna, from 27 to 29 May and from 2 to 4 September 2019, respectively, and its second resumed tenth session in Abu Dhabi, on 17 and 18 December. The Group considered, inter alia, the implementation of the Convention, the performance of the Mechanism, technical assistance and financial and budgetary matters.²

² See CAC/COSP/IRG/2019/9, CAC/COSP/IRG/2019/9/Add.1 and CAC/COSP/IRG/2019/9/Add.2.

48. Furthermore, in accordance with Conference resolution 4/6, the Secretariat conducted a briefing for non-governmental organizations on the margins of the first resumed tenth session of the Implementation Review Group. The briefing was chaired by the Vice-President of the Conference.

49. UNODC provided technical and substantive services to the Implementation Review Mechanism and the Implementation Review Group in 2019, which was the fourth 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.

50. At the time of reporting, 170 executive summaries of the country reports under the first cycle and 35 under the second cycle of the Implementation Review Mechanism had been completed and published, of which 3 under the first cycle and 15 under the second cycle were finalized during the reporting period. 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 six States parties in completing their self-assessment checklists. In addition, the Office assisted 15 States in the drafting or amending of national legislation to prevent and combat corruption.

51. Since 2010, a total of \$15,859,000 in voluntary contributions have been received in support of Implementation Review Mechanism activities. In addition, more than 55 States parties provided contributions in kind to the operation of the Mechanism.

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

52. At its tenth meeting, held in Vienna from 4 to 6 September 2019, the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption noted the growing demand for technical assistance and acknowledged efforts undertaken at the national, regional and international levels to respond to identified technical assistance needs. In addition, discussions were held on the development, evaluation and impact of anti-corruption strategies (art. 5 of the Convention) pursuant to Conference resolution 7/5, entitled “Promoting preventive measures against corruption”, in which the Conference had identified lessons learned on such preventive strategies as a topic for the Working Group in 2019 (see [CAC/COSP/WG.4/2019/3](#)).

3. Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery

53. The thirteenth meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery was held in Vienna on 29 and 30 May 2019 (see [CAC/COSP/WG.2/2019/6](#)). It included two meetings that were held jointly with the Implementation Review Group, on 29 May, including one on technical assistance.

54. In line with Conference resolutions 7/1 and 7/3, the Working Group discussed the revised draft non-binding guidelines on the management of frozen, seized and confiscated assets and, pursuant to Conference resolutions 6/2 and 7/1, the revised draft non-binding guidelines on the timely sharing of information in accordance with article 56 of the Convention and improving communication and coordination between various asset recovery practitioner networks.

55. In line with the workplan for the period 2017–2019, the Working Group also 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.

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

56. The eighth open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the United Nations Convention against Corruption was held in Vienna on 31 May 2019. At the meeting, the experts took stock of the implementation of chapter IV of the Convention, including the findings of the country reviews on challenges, good practices, lessons learned and technical assistance needs. The discussion was informed by a thematic panel on common reasons for refusals of and delays in responses to mutual legal assistance requests related to corruption offences under the Convention and innovative solutions, in accordance with Conference resolution 7/1. The experts also discussed international cooperation in civil and administrative proceedings relating to corruption and an update by UNODC of tools and services to promote international cooperation, including the delivery of technical assistance. The experts encouraged States parties, inter alia, to share information with one another on transnational corruption cases proactively; use law enforcement cooperation channels and networks, parallel investigations or joint investigation teams more actively, in particular before submitting formal mutual legal assistance requests; and enhance direct communication between central and other competent authorities in charge of international cooperation (see [CAC/COSP/EG.1/2019/4](#)).

B. Promoting ratification and implementation of the Convention against Corruption

1. Tools and knowledge-building

57. UNODC continued to develop and disseminate guides, handbooks and other publications. A number of technical tools were published during the reporting period, including *Civil Society for Development: Opportunities through the United Nations Convention against Corruption*; *Reporting Mechanisms in Sport: A Practical Guide for Development and Implementation*; *Rotten Fish: A Guide on Addressing Corruption in the Fisheries Sector*; and *Scaling Back Corruption: A Guide on Addressing Corruption for Wildlife Management Authorities*. UNODC also launched the publication *Strengthening the Rule of Law through Education: A Guide for Policymakers*, developed in collaboration with UNESCO.

58. The interactive e-learning tool for the private sector entitled “The fight against corruption” is now available in 31 languages.³ To date, more than 302,600 users have visited the website and more than 102,800 have registered for the certificate course.

59. Two corruption-related e-learning modules are available as part of the UNODC Global eLearning Programme,⁴ which has attracted more than 38,000 users. The first, entitled “Introduction to anti-corruption”, is the second most popular module in the Programme. The second module is entitled “Advanced anti-corruption: prevention of corruption”.

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

60. UNODC continued to expand the geographical and substantive scope of its technical assistance activities at the global, regional and national levels.

61. UNODC field-based anti-corruption advisers provided rapidly deployable professional expertise to deliver on-site guidance. UNODC advisers with regional responsibilities were based in Fiji (for the Pacific), Kenya (for East and Southern Africa), Panama (for Central America and the Caribbean), Senegal (for West and Central Africa) and Thailand (for South and South-East Asia), while a senior global

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

⁴ Available at www.unodc.org/elearning.

adviser was based in Vienna. In addition, UNODC field offices implemented anti-corruption projects on the ground in a number of States, including Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Egypt, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nigeria, Panama and Paraguay. During the reporting period, UNODC, also through its anti-corruption advisers, provided technical assistance to more than 140 States in different forms, such as support to 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 and money-laundering.

62. UNODC, with the support of the United Kingdom, launched two new regional platforms during the reporting period, in South America and Mexico and in Southern Africa, to fast-track the implementation of the Convention. The two platforms expanded the regional breadth and expertise of UNODC and complemented the two existing platforms created under the same project in East Africa and South-East Asia. In this context, scoping missions and meetings were held in Chile in March 2019 and in Botswana, South Africa and Zambia in June to identify priority areas of work. Conflicts of interest, whistle-blower protection and asset declarations were identified as key thematic areas.

Investigation and prosecution of corruption

63. 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.

64. UNODC continued to provide legislative and technical assistance upon request from States with the aim of building and strengthening whistle-blower protection. For example, the regional platform for South America and Mexico brought together participants from nine countries (Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Paraguay and Uruguay) in May 2019 to discuss the topic and agree on recommendations and an action plan. As part of the regional platform in East Africa, UNODC conducted several needs-assessment missions on whistle-blower and witness protection in Burundi, Rwanda and South Sudan with the aim of providing targeted technical assistance to strengthen protection frameworks. National-level workshops on the same topic were also held in six States during the reporting period.

65. UNODC contributed to global events focused on identifying good practices for whistle-blower protection, including the meeting held by the Group of 20 (G20) Anti-Corruption Working Group in May 2019, which led to the adoption of the G20 High-level Principles for the Effective Protection of Whistle-Blowers.

66. UNODC carried out needs-assessments of the capacity of anti-corruption and law enforcement bodies to conduct financial investigations and of the related procedures for doing so, and it delivered training programmes on the topic. In South-East Asia, UNODC was also working on the development of a regional training and mentoring programme in Indonesia to deliver modules on corruption and financial investigations.

67. UNODC continued to support efforts to combat corruption, money-laundering and other serious crimes by strengthening capacities in detecting, investigating and prosecuting such cases in 12 countries. For example, UNODC supported the Gambia in its efforts to strengthen national legislation, law enforcement and judicial mechanisms for the prevention of serious crimes and money-laundering, as well as in its prison reform. Similar support was provided to Ghana and Uzbekistan in mid-2019.

68. In the area of prosecutorial integrity, UNODC supported Costa Rica and Ecuador by holding a workshop focused specifically on cases of organized crime and drug trafficking, under the umbrella of the CRIMJUST programme.

69. UNODC also supported several integrity and accountability initiatives for law enforcement institutions under the CRIMJUST programme. The Office held an expert group meeting in Accra in March 2019 to finalize a training manual on ethics and integrity developed in collaboration with the Criminal Investigation Department of the Ghana Police Service. The manual will be used by at least 300 junior and senior detectives every year.

Judicial integrity

70. At the time of reporting, the Global Judicial Integrity Network had engaged justice sector stakeholders from 188 countries through its activities and website (www.unodc.org/ji). The website contains training materials, podcasts, videos, opinion pieces, event information, a restricted area for participants to contact one another and an online library of resources that includes 2,000 documents in 38 languages. The Network developed several knowledge products and tools, including non-binding guidelines on the use of social media by judges, a paper on gender-related judicial integrity issues, a guide to developing codes of judicial conduct and a package of practical judicial ethics training tools. More than 45 jurisdictions have become “training sites”, that is, they have committed to rolling out national or regional training activities based on the judicial ethics training package. Four knowledge products on the use of social media by judges, gender-related judicial integrity issues, the development of codes of judicial conduct and the role of judicial immunities in safeguarding judicial integrity, respectively, were presented at the high-level meeting of the Network held in Doha from 25 to 27 February 2020.

71. The CRIMJUST programme, in cooperation with the Global Judicial Integrity Network, supported the National Court of Justice of Ecuador in conducting a regional training-of-trainers workshop on judicial conduct and ethics in June 2019. Part of the workshop also served to assist trainers in adapting the trainer’s manual developed by the Network to each national circumstance and existing domestic or regional judicial ethics regulations.

Prevention of corruption

72. The prevention of corruption continues to be a crucial element of the work of the Office. UNODC assisted 20 States in developing and implementing anti-corruption strategies during the reporting period, including by facilitating multi-stakeholder and regional workshops, developing priorities and ensuring that there were effective measures for implementation and monitoring. For example, in April 2019, UNODC supported a workshop for the evaluation of the national strategy against corruption of Haiti for 2009–2018. Through the United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption project, a joint initiative between UNODC and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to promote and strengthen measures to prevent and combat corruption more effectively in the Pacific region, the Office facilitated a workshop to review the anti-corruption action plan of Papua New Guinea for 2012–2015 and the formulation of the action plan for 2019–2021.

73. UNODC held an interregional workshop in Bangkok in June 2019 on asset disclosure and conflict of interest in South and South-East Asia to promote the effectiveness of national corruption prevention mechanisms. It also delivered in Brussels in April a training on asset disclosure and the handling of unexplained wealth for the countries of the Eastern Partnership. The Eastern Partnership is a joint initiative involving the European Union, its member States and six Eastern European partners: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

74. UNODC worked to mainstream corruption prevention into its overall portfolio by holding training sessions on the links between corruption, money-laundering and

other transnational organized crimes, such as drug trafficking, trafficking in persons and firearms trafficking.

75. 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 services in Eastern and Southern Africa to carry out corruption risk assessments and implement corruption risk mitigation strategies and measures. In particular, the Office assisted the Kenya Wildlife Service in the development of a corruption prevention policy and code of conduct, which were launched in April 2019. 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, as well as the mentoring of investigators or prosecutors conducting investigations on forensic accounting techniques.

76. UNODC, through its Global Programme on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption and Crime and working closely with INTERPOL and the International Olympic Committee, supported workshops on addressing challenges to sport posed by criminality and corruption for national authorities of Algeria, Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Japan, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. A guide developed with the International Olympic Committee, entitled *Reporting Mechanisms in Sport: A Practical Guide for Development and Implementation*, was launched in October 2019.

77. UNODC also contributed to awareness-raising activities focused on anti-corruption efforts in sport, including the Sport Integrity Symposium held in Australia in April 2019, the sixth expert and analysis project meeting on sport corruption held by the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation in May and a meeting of the Working Party on Sport of the European Union held in Belgium in July. UNODC supported the Group of 20 in addressing the issue of corruption in sport at meetings and during side events of its Anti-Corruption Working Group.

78. UNODC continued to enhance anti-corruption efforts in the private sector, and in that regard the Office launched four projects on public-private partnerships and strengthening the legislative anti-corruption framework for the private sector in Colombia, the Middle East, North Africa and Myanmar, along with a global education project designed to establish and implement an effective integrity education programme that fosters ethical decision-making by employees. UNODC also launched a series of trainings for ethics officers, funded by Norway, to take place in Ghana, Mauritius, Mozambique and Nigeria in 2020. In addition, UNODC established a partnership with the Blue Company initiative in Kenya to combat corruption in the private sector and continued its partnerships with the United Nations Global Compact and private sector anti-corruption initiatives, including the Alliance for Integrity, the International Centre for Collective Action of the Basel Institute on Governance and the Partnering against Corruption Initiative of the World Economic Forum.

79. UNODC organized several activities with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to promote anti-corruption efforts in the private sector during the reporting period, including a high-level seminar on increasing transparency and integrity in public procurement jointly held with UNDP and the Anti-Corruption Organization of Thailand and attended by 150 practitioners, and a workshop on sharing good practices and experiences on combating bribery in the private sector jointly held with the United States Agency for International Development, the British Embassy, the Corruption Eradication Commission of Indonesia and the South-East Asia Parties Against Corruption.

Young people, education and civil society

80. UNODC continued to implement two major education initiatives: the Anti-Corruption Academic Initiative and the Education for Justice initiative. The

Anti-Corruption Academic model university course on the Convention against Corruption has been made available online in all official United Nations languages. In addition, the Anti-Corruption Academic Initiative continued to foster a network of academics involved in anti-corruption education, including by holding an international anti-corruption academic symposium in Moscow in November 2019.

81. Through its Education for Justice initiative under the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, UNODC worked on building a culture of lawfulness among children and young people by providing age-appropriate educational materials on topics related to criminal justice and crime prevention, including anti-corruption efforts, integrity and ethics. During the reporting period, the Education for Justice initiative finalized 100 university teaching modules, including a series of 14 modules on anti-corruption.

82. 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 of the Convention against Corruption.

International cooperation and asset recovery

83. 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. At the time of reporting, the list contained information on authorities designated by 130 States, one State having been added during the reporting period.

84. UNODC participated in meetings and conferences on coordinating international cooperation, including the meetings of the Group of 20 Anti-Corruption Working Group.

85. UNODC provided assistance to the national institutions of 21 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.

86. The StAR Initiative finalized a new publication entitled *Going for Broke: Insolvency Tools to Support Cross-Border Asset Recovery in Corruption Cases*, which sets out, for the first time, a step-by-step guide for asset recovery practitioners to the use of insolvency proceedings in recovering corruption proceeds. The publication outlines the procedures associated with insolvency actions, explores challenges associated with this approach and provides practical methods for various strategic and technical concerns, making particular use of case studies to demonstrate the benefits of cross-border insolvency proceedings in international corruption cases and the challenges that practitioners face in this pursuit. The Initiative is also conducting a new study on international asset recovery efforts in corruption cases based on a questionnaire for country authorities. The study is aimed at collecting data on progress in international efforts to recover and return proceeds of corruption in a systematic and internationally comparable way. The results from the questionnaire will be used in a forthcoming StAR report and input into the StAR Asset Recovery Watch database.

3. Cooperation with other entities

87. 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.

88. 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 Group of 20 Anti-Corruption Working Group, the Partnering Against Corruption Initiative, ASEAN, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), including the Anti-Corruption Task Team of its Development Assistance Committee Network on Governance.

89. UNODC also cooperated with a number of sports organizations. UNODC is a founding partner of the International Partnership against Corruption in Sport, a multi-stakeholder platform that brings together international sports organizations, Governments, intergovernmental organizations and other stakeholders to support and strengthen efforts to eliminate corruption and promote a culture of good governance in and around sport. Within the International Partnership, UNODC and the International Olympic Committee established a new task force on enhancing cooperation between criminal justice authorities and sport organizations.

90. UNODC continued its collaboration with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Building Integrity Programme to strengthen integrity and anti-corruption efforts in the defence sector and participated in the NATO Building Integrity Conference held in the United States in March 2019. The Conference was focused on strengthening integrity in the defence sector and on anti-corruption efforts to prevent violent extremism.

4. Meetings and special events

91. In May 2019, UNODC held the Expert Group Meeting on Transparency in Political Finance, in partnership with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

92. To highlight its cross-cutting work and emphasize the importance of including a gender dimension in anti-corruption efforts, UNODC organized sessions on gender and corruption at regional events in the Americas and Southern Africa. A knowledge product showcasing good practices and success stories that demonstrate how the inclusion of a gender element is an important building block in the fight against and prevention of corruption is under development.

93. UNODC co-organized with Italy and the Russian Federation a major international conference entitled “Safeguarding sport from corruption: towards effective implementation of resolution 7/8 on corruption in sport”. Held in Vienna in September 2019, it brought together more than 270 participants from Member States, sports organizations and other stakeholders to discuss and share progress on the implementation of Conference resolution 7/8. The Office also held the first General Conference of the International Partnership against Corruption in Sport. Hosted by the United Arab Emirates, it was held in December 2019.

94. In follow-up to Conference resolution 7/2, UNODC held a second Global Expert Group Meeting on Corruption Involving Vast Quantities of Assets, in Oslo, from 12 to 14 June 2019, following on the outcome of the first such meeting, held in Lima in December 2018. More than 140 experts in the investigation and prosecution of corruption involving vast quantities of assets participated, and a key outcome of the meeting was the adoption of a set of recommendations to prevent and combat this type of corruption effectively.

95. UNODC participated in the tenth Regional Conference of the Asian Development Bank and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific, held in Viet Nam in December 2019, which focused on preventing and combating corruption in infrastructure projects in Asia and the Pacific.

IV. Recommendations

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

(a) Continue their efforts geared towards enhancing the effective implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto and the Convention against Corruption, which contribute to the promotion of the rule of law and better governance structures and, furthermore, the accomplishment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular its Goal 16, while also encouraging UNODC to further consider the role of gender, young people and civil society in its activities to promote the 2030 Agenda;

(b) Continue to build on the significant development represented by the establishment in October 2018 of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, and ensure that predictable and reliable funding is in place for the functioning of both that Mechanism and the Implementation Review Mechanism of the Convention against Corruption;

(c) In anticipation of the commencement of the Implementation Review Mechanism of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto, pursuant to resolution 9/1 of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, provide the Secretariat with legislation and judicial decisions implementing the Convention for input into SHERLOC.

97. The Commission may also wish to consider facilitating the development of global and regional networks of criminal justice system professionals in order to promote dialogue on trafficking in persons, including on common investigation and prosecution challenges.

98. The Commission may further wish to encourage Member States to continue to provide resources to UNODC to support national and regional efforts to prevent and combat organized crime, including its transnational forms, tackle corruption, recover valuable State assets and further encourage the inclusion of a gender perspective in the implementation of the two Conventions.
