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**Commission on Narcotic Drugs****Sixty-fourth session**

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Items 4 and 6 of the provisional agenda\*

**Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions**

**Follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem**

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

Vienna, 17–21 May 2021

Items 4, 6 and 8 of the provisional agenda\*\*

**Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions**

**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**

**World crime trends and emerging issues and responses in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice**

**Activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime****Report of the Executive Director***Summary*

The present report contains an overview of the activities conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime during 2020. It also contains a set of recommendations for consideration by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The report further contains information pursuant to the requests contained in Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 56/9, 59/3, 60/8, 61/2, 61/9 and 63/4, including Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/22 and 1999/23, as well as Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 27/4.

\* E/CN.7/2021/1.

\*\* E/CN.15/2021/1.



## I. Introduction

1. Since March 2020, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has claimed over 2 million lives and triggered a decline in human development for the first time since 1990. The resulting strain on social and economic conditions has had a direct impact on crime. Lockdowns have offered opportunities for new illicit markets to thrive, while others have been disrupted (see [E/CN.7/2021/5](#) and [E/CN.15/2021/10](#)).

2. As part of its response to COVID-19, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) prepared a number of research briefs on the effects of the pandemic on crimes such as homicide, property crime, violence against women and girls, organized crime, trafficking of medical products, migrant smuggling, cross-border trafficking in persons and drug production, trafficking and use.<sup>1</sup> The Office also contributed to volumes I and II of the report entitled *How COVID-19 is Changing the World: A Statistical Perspective*, a compilation of data on the impact of the pandemic prepared by the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities.

3. In 2020, UNODC published more than 30 policy documents, most of them in several languages, on topics relating to COVID-19 and crime prevention and criminal justice, including on the following: access to justice, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, the Department of Peace Operations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women); prisons, in cooperation with UNDP, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and OHCHR; parenting, including for families in refugee camps and crowded communities and with regard to children deprived of liberty; trafficking in persons; treatment, care and rehabilitation of people with drug use disorders; corruption, including in the context of vaccine programmes and emergency support packages; crisis evaluation; cybercrime; gender-based violence; HIV and hepatitis B and C prevention and treatment for people who use drugs and for people in prisons; money-laundering; and wildlife and forest crime. UNODC also prepared the *G-20 Good Practices Compendium on Combating Corruption in the Response to COVID-19*, and a COVID-19 crisis communications strategy was also developed.

4. In addition, UNODC devised an easy implementation guide to provide concrete, coherent and tested options for the delivery of technical assistance during the pandemic. In response to the social and economic impacts of the pandemic, UNODC, through the respective United Nations country teams, supported 49 Member States in developing their socioeconomic response plans.

5. All programmatic work of the Office has shifted to online and hybrid formats. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, with the support of UNODC, adapted to the new situation and continued to discharge their operational and normative functions, thus becoming forerunners in the United Nations system. UNODC supported the Commissions and other intergovernmental bodies under its mandates by providing information technology and interpretation platforms, developing training resources and guidelines for the use of those platforms and participating in the related system-wide coordination process (see [E/CN.7/2020/CRP.21-E/CN.15/2020/CRP.2](#)).

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), COVID-19 response, "Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): UNODC updates – Research briefs". Available at [www.unodc.org/](http://www.unodc.org/).

## II. Strategic orientation

6. The Office engaged in developing a high-level vision and medium-term strategy for the period 2021–2025, as requested in Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 62/9 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 28/4. In June 2020, UNODC presented an outline of the strategy to the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the Office and invited States to provide comments and input. The Executive Director presented a draft version to the working group in November. Following a wide external consultative exercise, the strategy was presented to the Commissions in December (E/CN.7/2020/CRP.22-E/CN.15/2020/CRP.3).

7. The strategy presents the unique position of the mandates of UNODC across the three pillars of the United Nations: peace and security, development and human rights. It also outlines the Office's normative work, research and technical assistance in addressing the world drug problem, strengthening criminal justice systems and preventing and countering transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism. The strategy shows how UNODC can add value to national efforts to promote multilateral, integrated, cross-sectoral and comprehensive solutions. A people-centred approach will guide the actions of the Office, allowing sustainable improvements in the lives of the most vulnerable, fostering resilient communities, promoting human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women, strengthening the potential of youth and enhancing the protection of children. UNODC will seize opportunities for increased efficiency, innovation and strengthened partnerships as it delivers on its mandates and supports Member States in building back better from the pandemic. The present report follows the structure of the new strategy.

8. In 2020, UNODC launched a number of new initiatives. The Office started to develop regional strategic visions that will complement its corporate strategy and will be presented in 2021. In particular, consultations with regional counterparts and partners were held in order to devise strategic visions for Africa and for Latin America and the Caribbean. A new project addressing the nexus of terrorism, arms and crime was launched in cooperation with the Office of Counter-Terrorism, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the Office for Disarmament Affairs. Its aim is to develop joint approaches to preventing and combating trafficking in firearms and light weapons and terrorists' access thereto, in support of the implementation of Security Council resolution 2370 (2017), the guiding principles on foreign terrorist fighters (S/2015/939, annex II) and the addendum thereto (S/2018/1177, annex) and relevant global instruments on arms control and organized crime. UNODC has also responded to requests from Member States for more strategic evaluations by initiating the first corporate-level evaluation of the implementation of the United Nations Office at Vienna/UNODC Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (2018–2021). A new and improved partnership policy for the United Nations Office at Vienna and UNODC went into effect on 1 October 2020 to provide a consistent framework for the engagement of external partners, to establish standards for the management and oversight of those partners and to ensure accountability throughout the engagement cycle by adopting a flexible, risk-based approach to such engagement.

9. Through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, UNODC continued to support States in the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, in particular in the follow-up to the Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted in 2019, by facilitating the exchange of good practices, challenges and lessons learned. Pursuant to its multi-year workplan adopted in June 2019, the Commission held thematic discussions in October 2020 on four of the challenges identified in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019. UNODC also held its first online national workshop on the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, with the Government of Kenya.

10. The Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was originally scheduled to take place in Kyoto, Japan, in April 2020. However, noting with concern the situation concerning COVID-19, the General Assembly, in its decisions 74/550 and 74/550 B, decided to postpone the Congress to 7 to 12 March 2021. UNODC continued discussions with the Government of Japan, including on in-person and online participation modalities, to secure the diversity and inclusivity of participation. The Office has also supported the informal consultations on the draft declaration of the Congress since October 2019.

### **III. Progress made by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in implementing its mandates**

#### **A. Addressing and countering the world drug problem**

##### **1. Improved monitoring and analysis of the world drug problem**

11. The *World Drug Report 2020* provided an in-depth analysis of contemporary threats related to expanding drug markets, the global opioid crisis, the darknet, the lack of access to controlled medicines, and drug-related violence. It presented knowledge on policy issues such as domestic approaches to cannabis, alternative development and international cooperation, in order to help Member States to anticipate and address coming challenges. The report is aimed at helping Member States to frame the drug problem in a transnational context and supporting international cooperation through an analysis of the latest trends and developments in the demand for and supply of drugs.

12. Through a new data portal,<sup>2</sup> UNODC provided different stakeholders, especially in academia, with access to quality data for research purposes and programme development.

13. Technical support was provided towards strengthened, more timely and efficient systems for monitoring illicit drug cultivation and production in Afghanistan (together with an alternative development impact assessment), Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Mexico, Myanmar, Nigeria and Peru. The use of artificial intelligence technology was also tested.

14. After an inclusive consultation process, a revised and streamlined annual report questionnaire was endorsed by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its sixty-third session. The new questionnaire will enable better monitoring of contemporary drug threats.

##### **2. Improved quality and coverage of drug prevention, treatment, care and rehabilitation services**

15. UNODC continued to promote the UNODC/WHO *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention*. The Office implemented evidence-based programmes involving families and schools in 43 countries, training 900 facilitators, teachers and trainers. Those programmes, including the “Strong families” and “Families UNited” programmes developed by UNODC, reached 5,000 parents and children, including in displaced populations.

16. UNODC also launched the second phase of the “Listen first” campaign to promote evidence-based prevention during the pandemic. The second phase started in November 2020, and various videos and related fact sheets were launched, providing science-based practical tips at regular intervals. In its first month, the campaign reached 200,000 people worldwide.

17. UNODC finalized and presented to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its sixty-third session the “Handbook on youth participation in drug prevention work”

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<sup>2</sup> Available at <https://dataunodc.un.org/>.

(E/CN.7/2020/CRP.12). Pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 63/4, wide dissemination is planned during 2021. UNODC supported civil society organizations in mobilizing youth for evidence-based prevention in eight countries. The 2020 Youth Forum brought together 51 young people from 38 countries, after which youth continued to participate through the social media channels of the Youth Initiative. The network reached approximately 4,500 persons globally, supporting action by youth for youth, preventing drug use and other risky behaviours and protecting health in their communities during the pandemic.

18. Jointly with WHO, UNODC published the *International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders: Revised Edition Incorporating Results of Field-Testing* and presented them to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its sixty-third session. During the pandemic, the Office procured personal protective equipment for treatment centres in six countries. UNODC continued to reach policymakers and providers of treatment and care services with capacity-building on a range of issues, including: the nature of drug use disorders; prevention and treatment; ensuring access to services; family therapy for adolescents in contact with the criminal justice system; community-based opioid overdose management; and treatment for children exposed to drugs at a very young age. Approximately 10,000 professionals participated in those capacity-building activities, which in turn reached an estimated 67,000 people with drug use disorders in 28 countries. In September, together with WHO and UNHCR, UNODC brought together 110 experts from 32 States, international organizations, academia and civil society in an online consultation to identify best practices in addressing substance use disorders in humanitarian settings. UNODC support for developing quality assurance mechanisms for drug treatment systems and services has also been expanded, from 4 to 17 Member States in Latin America, Asia and Africa.

19. In its response to the world drug problem, UNODC continued to place human rights, youth, children, women and communities at the centre. UNODC conducted technical needs assessments on gender-responsive non-custodial measures in South Africa, Thailand and Viet Nam, focusing on women living with drug use disorders or arrested for drug-related offences. A conference co-organized by UNODC, the African Union and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States brought together 250 health and justice policymakers from 48 countries to share experiences relating to alternatives to conviction and punishment, including treatment for people with drug use disorders. In order to prevent youth victimization and involvement in crime, violence and substance use, UNODC continued to engage youth through sport-based interventions. The Office also raised awareness of the increased risks of victimization and crime for young people during the pandemic in order to ensure continuity of service for youth, parents and families and to offer opportunities for youth development. UNODC supported Member States in building human rights-based and diverse police services through capacity-building. Leveraging the United Nations network on racial discrimination and protection of minorities, UNODC advocated for responses to crime motivated by discrimination and for ending discrimination by criminal justice systems.

20. UNODC continued to invest in innovative, evidence-based demand reduction initiatives at the regional and country levels, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility. Those initiatives included South-South cooperation in Latin America to promote quality assurance for treatment services and family- and school-based prevention; UNODC training for counsellors in a virtual network to provide therapy remotely to people with drug use disorders in Africa and Central Asia; youth participation and family-based prevention in the Middle East and Asia, including among displaced populations; and community-based services for the treatment and care of people with drug use disorders, including civil society networks in Central, West and South-East Asia.

**3. Improved access to and use of controlled drugs for medical purposes and prevention of diversion for non-medical use**

21. Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 63/3, on promoting awareness-raising, education and training to ensure access to and the availability of internationally controlled substances, gained increased relevance during the pandemic. In countries with little or no access to controlled medicines, health conditions worsened and patients were not able to benefit from medications for pain management and palliative care.

22. In August, the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), WHO and UNODC published a joint statement on access to internationally controlled medicines during the pandemic,<sup>3</sup> calling on Governments to ensure that the procurement and supply of controlled medicines in countries meet the needs of patients with COVID-19 and other medical conditions.

23. UNODC continued to advocate for access to controlled drugs with international partners, such as WHO, INCB, the International Atomic Energy Agency and UNDP, and participated in a series of biweekly webinars organized by civil society organizations from April to June. UNODC also continued to serve on the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, promoting access to controlled medicines for persons suffering from such diseases.

24. UNODC worked with the African Palliative Care Association to expand the capacity of the health-care workforce in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In Nigeria, UNODC continued to work with regulatory agencies to ensure an efficient and effective supply chain and strengthen the regulatory control system, which will also become crucial in any future vaccine programmes.

**4. Enhanced forensic capacities and early warning systems, especially those related to new psychoactive substances**

25. In 2020, representatives from 290 national drug testing laboratories in 87 countries participated in the biannual UNODC international collaborative exercise programme, which assists laboratories in monitoring their performance and taking corrective action where required. UNODC also provided national authorities in 33 countries with handheld field-testing devices, training and more than 700 chemical reference standards, drug and precursor testing kits and manuals on recommended laboratory methods of analysis.

26. Following the 2019 scheduling decisions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, recommendations on methods for the identification and analysis of synthetic cannabinoids and cathinones in seized materials and a supplement to the *Multilingual Dictionary of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances under International Control* were issued.

27. The UNODC early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances continued to monitor over 1,000 substances reported from 125 countries, making information available to experts worldwide through over 55,000 visits to the website. Information on the most harmful, persistent and prevalent substances was published in the biannual “Current NPS threats” reports and used in the WHO review of substances recommended for scheduling in March 2021. Within the framework of its global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends (SMART) programme, UNODC raised awareness of the risks posed by the rapidly growing supply of synthetic drugs through the 2020 edition of its triennial *Global Synthetic Drugs Assessment*.

28. Under its integrated strategy on the global opioid crisis, UNODC launched a dedicated website, accessible in English and Russian, for the United Nations Toolkit

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<sup>3</sup> UNODC, “INCB, WHO and UNODC statement on access to internationally controlled medicines during COVID-19 pandemic”, 14 August 2020.

on Synthetic Drugs.<sup>4</sup> The site features over 230 resources and now has more than 2,700 registered users from 96 countries who represent a wide variety of disciplines.

**5. Improved coverage of comprehensive evidenced-based HIV prevention, treatment and care services for people who use drugs and for people in prisons and other closed settings**

29. UNODC continued to provide technical support for Member States and civil society regarding comprehensive human rights-based, public health-focused and gender-responsive HIV services for people who use drugs and for people in prison.

30. UNODC promoted the removal of legal barriers and discriminatory laws, policies and practices hindering access to HIV services for people who use drugs and people in prison. The Office strengthened partnerships between health systems, criminal justice, law enforcement, prison administration and civil society, and built their capacity for improving universal access to and the provision of HIV services for people who use drugs and people in prison.

31. Apart from the technical guidance mentioned above (see para. 3), UNODC provided capacity-building for partners and stakeholders to address challenges posed by COVID-19 and HIV and the multiple intersecting forms of vulnerability affecting people who use drugs and people in prison. UNODC initiated a grants programme to strengthen the role of civil society organizations with a view to ensuring that people who use drugs and people in prison receive quality HIV services tailored to their needs.

**6. Implementation of improved and better-targeted alternative development programmes**

32. UNODC continued to provide technical assistance to Afghanistan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Peru in offering sustainable livelihood opportunities to vulnerable populations affected by drug cultivation and production and other drug-related activities. This livelihood support became increasingly important for communities during the pandemic.

33. UNODC promoted policy dialogue with a view to supporting Member States in designing and implementing better-targeted alternative development programmes, in line with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development. A side event was held in partnership with Peru during the sixty-third session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to discuss challenges in the role of development in drug control policies. UNODC continued its partnership with Germany, Peru and Thailand to promote the exchange of lessons learned, good practices and expertise (see E/CN.7/2020/CRP.7).

34. UNODC continued to forge public-private partnerships and strengthen market access for products emanating from alternative development programmes. In 2020, UNODC fostered strong cooperation with the Malongo coffee company, which is now concluding contracts with farming cooperatives in Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and Myanmar and exploring business opportunities with the Vanmai cooperative in the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

**7. More effective criminal justice responses to counter drug trafficking and laundering of related proceeds**

35. Through the Container Control Programme, UNODC and the World Customs Organization supported more than 55 States in improving trade-supply security and border controls. More than 93 tons of cocaine, 2 tons of heroin, 400 kg of cannabis and 823 tons of precursor chemicals for drugs and explosives, as well as falsified medical products, including COVID-19 test kits, were seized in connection with the

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<sup>4</sup> Available at <https://syntheticdrugs.unodc.org/>.

programme. In addition, more than 215 online training events were delivered to a total of nearly 2,800 law enforcement officers.

36. UNODC strives to promote post-seizure investigations, prosecutions and actions focused on the proceeds of crime through the global programme on strengthening criminal justice cooperation along drug trafficking routes, implemented in partnership with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and Transparency International. Since mid-2019, the programme has organized 12 interregional investigative forums that enabled participants to share the details of over 100 cocaine seizures and to plan post-seizure actions.

37. UNODC supported States in their efforts to combat maritime crime through training, satellite imagery and maritime domain awareness systems, and deployed additional experts in response to increased heroin flows in the Indian Ocean region.

38. In line with the international drug control conventions, UNODC provided legislative assistance to Afghanistan, Nigeria and countries in West and Central Africa, and policy advice on drug control to Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Ethiopia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mexico, Nigeria and Thailand.

39. UNODC continued its support for international cooperation in criminal matters, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility. In this regard, UNODC supported central national authorities in four regions. Judicial cooperation networks facilitated cooperation in 61 cases involving transnational organized crime. The judicial cooperation network for Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus initiated coordination with the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, which provides weekly information on drug seizures. Through the respective contact points, alerts have been issued in eight cases since March. Together with the secretariat of the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters among Like-Minded ASEAN Member Countries, UNODC supported the establishment of the South-East Asia Justice Network, which nine countries have joined to date.

## **8. Enhancement of international cooperation by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in discharging its normative functions**

40. At its regular sixty-third session, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs took decisions 63/1 to 63/13 on the international control of substances, after hearing representatives of WHO and INCB.<sup>5</sup> The Commission also took decision 63/14, by which it postponed the voting on cannabis and cannabis-related substances. From June to October 2020, the Commission held topical meetings on the WHO recommendations on cannabis and cannabis-related substances. Those meetings were attended by more than 600 experts from more than 100 States and were followed by an intersessional meeting during which other stakeholders, such as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, shared their views. During its reconvened sixty-third session, the Commission adopted decisions 63/17 to 63/21 on the international control of cannabis and cannabis-related substances.

## **B. Preventing and countering organized crime**

41. Through its resolution 10/1, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime launched the review phase of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto. UNODC supported the sixth meeting of the open-ended intergovernmental Expert Group to Conduct a Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime, held in July 2020, and the preparatory work for the convening of the organizational session of an open-ended ad hoc intergovernmental committee of experts pursuant to General Assembly resolution 74/247.

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<sup>5</sup> UNODC, "Drug-related resolutions and decisions 2020 to 2029". Available at [www.unodc.org/](http://www.unodc.org/).

42. UNODC provided legislative advice to Pacific island countries and Central American countries on cybercrime, supported Mozambique in drafting an asset forfeiture law and advised Burkina Faso on the development of its anti-money-laundering strategy. In addition, the Office assisted 11 countries in drafting or revising firearms legislation.

43. UNODC continued its work to enhance inter-agency coordination as the permanent coordinator of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons and as a member of the Executive Committee of the United Nations Network on Migration. UNODC also issued publications on the interlinkages between trafficking in persons and marriage (together with the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations)<sup>6</sup> and on female victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation as defendants.<sup>7</sup>

44. In addition, UNODC assisted States with regard to a wide range of issues in the detection, investigation, prosecution and adjudication of organized crime cases. Law enforcement capacity-building on firearms was provided to more than 29 countries, including on the identification, classification and tracing of firearms. Together with INTERPOL and the Norwegian Centre for Global Analyses, UNODC provided training on timber identification, risk indicators and international communication to customs authorities and other port-based law enforcement authorities. Criminal justice responses to human trafficking among Venezuelan migrants across South America and the Caribbean are being strengthened through the Transforming Alerts into Criminal Justice Responses to Combat Trafficking in Persons within Migration Flows (TRACK4TIP) regional initiative. UNODC also trained 1,621 practitioners in combating trafficking and smuggling and supported anti-trafficking units in procuring personal protective equipment to interact safely with trafficking victims during the pandemic. In Afghanistan, case mentoring resulted in several prosecutions and convictions and the seizure of \$250,000 in cash. A total of 984 practitioners were trained in partnership with the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force and regional security initiatives on detecting, investigating and prosecuting trade-based money-laundering. The Office provided support for Papua New Guinea in the investigation of money-laundering and forestry crimes and in other areas. In Peru, investigators were trained on the topic of illegal logging in the Amazon region, leading to the arrest of 20 individuals. UNODC continued to apply the *Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit* and the accompanying *Indicator Framework for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime: A Self-assessment Framework for National Use – Assessment Guidelines* to evaluate and monitor responses to wildlife and forest crime in 21 Member States. Under the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration: Towards the Promotion of a Culture of Lawfulness, university modules on organized crime are available, and a webinar on the effects of organized crime on judicial integrity and independence was organized.

45. UNODC continued to collect and analyse data to monitor trends in and patterns of organized crime. An analysis of wildlife crime showed the impact of closing legal ivory markets.<sup>8</sup> A study on firearms trafficking highlighted the need to better track the illegal origin of seized firearms.<sup>9</sup> Evidence on trafficking in persons suggested that different types of traffickers require diversified responses and enhanced coordination.<sup>10</sup> A research brief on the impact of COVID-19 on organized crime highlighted the increased opportunities for organized criminal groups to infiltrate legal economies, strengthen their governance and expand the market for falsified medical products, together with an increased vulnerability to trafficking in persons in

<sup>6</sup> UNODC, *Interlinkages between Trafficking in Persons and Marriage: Issue Paper* (Vienna, 2020).

<sup>7</sup> UNODC, *Female Victims of Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation as Defendants: A Case Law Analysis* (Vienna, 2020).

<sup>8</sup> *World Wildlife Crime Report 2020: Trafficking in Protected Species* (United Nations publication, 2020), chap. 3.

<sup>9</sup> *Global Study on Firearms Trafficking 2020* (United Nations publication, 2020).

<sup>10</sup> *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2020* (United Nations publication, 2020).

countries experiencing the fastest declines in employment.<sup>11</sup> Several studies on illicit trade from the Persian Gulf, as well as on flows of charcoal, sugar and improvised explosive components to and from East Africa, were submitted to the Security Council.

46. UNODC provided technical assistance in relation to organized crime against cultural property by participating in a training event on cultural property protection organized jointly by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Multinational Peace Support Operations Training Centre and in an event organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and Italy on trafficking in cultural property in South-Eastern Europe.<sup>12</sup>

47. UNODC assisted Member States by providing threat intelligence analysis, investigative mentoring and prosecution advice in South-East Asia, Central America, Europe and West Africa. Through training and mentoring, UNODC contributed to the detection of cybercrimes involving cryptocurrencies, the darknet and online child sexual exploitation. UNODC has raised public awareness of cybercrime, cybersecurity and online child safety, including through the *Awake at Night* podcast series and a series of webinars in Central America and West Africa. Those training and awareness-raising activities reached 5,000 teachers and 1,000 justice practitioners from 44 countries. The work of UNODC contributed to identifying 13 female victims (aged 9–12) of online child sexual abuse, as well as to several investigations and arrests.

### **C. Preventing and countering corruption and economic crime**

48. Progress was made under the first and second cycles of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, with 185 States involved in the review process. Many States indicated that they had adopted new laws to strengthen their anti-corruption legislative frameworks.

49. UNODC continued to support the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption in the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly against corruption, to be held in June 2021.

50. In 2020, UNODC implemented more than 275 activities at the national, regional and global levels and provided direct country-level support to more than 45 countries. Approximately 15,000 participants (including anti-corruption practitioners) benefited from that assistance, which included advisory services for legislative and policy drafting, webinars, workshops, training events and expert meetings aimed at the public and private sectors and civil society. The organization of meetings in online or hybrid formats allowed the participation of a wider range of stakeholders.

51. UNODC continued to provide case-related and general capacity-building support on asset recovery to 15 countries, including through the joint UNODC/World Bank Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative, and supported various regional asset recovery networks.

52. UNODC launched a new project to help States better respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic by bringing together oversight bodies to strengthen public procurement transparency and whistle-blower protection in nine countries.

53. UNODC is working on the establishment of a Vienna-based global operational network of anti-corruption law enforcement authorities aimed at fostering informal international cooperation. It is envisaged that the network will be officially launched at the special session of the General Assembly against corruption.

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<sup>11</sup> UNODC, “Research brief: the impact of COVID-19 on organized crime” (Vienna, 2020).

<sup>12</sup> See also the conference room paper on countering the smuggling of commercial goods in cases falling within the scope of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (E/CN.15/2021/CRP.1).

54. UNODC launched five regional platforms, comprising 43 jurisdictions across the world, to assist them in fast-tracking the implementation of the Convention against Corruption in their respective priority areas.

55. UNODC published *The Time is Now: Addressing the Gender Dimensions of Corruption*, the first comprehensive analysis of this complex, multilayered subject. The publication underlines the importance of understanding how national, cultural and social norms interact and how they shape corrupt practices, in addition to highlighting good practices from around the world. As efforts to enhance gender equality and to prevent and fight corruption are mutually reinforcing, the publication effectively outlines the concrete linkages between Sustainable Development Goals 5 and 16. Research on corruption and gender in Nigeria raised awareness among policymakers and practitioners that the increased participation of women in public service would have the dual benefit of reducing bribery and improving gender equality.

56. Under the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, UNODC has developed and disseminated university modules on countering corruption. Through the judicial integrity component of the Global Programme, more than

42,000 judicial stakeholders from over 190 countries have been reached. The Global Judicial Integrity Network continued to promote knowledge-sharing and discussions on challenges in the implementation of the Convention against Corruption and the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct, as well as the dissemination of new standards, in particular on gender issues and on the use of social media by judges.

57. Through a consultative process, UNODC, in partnership with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), developed an analytical framework to measure illicit financial flows to support Member States in monitoring target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals and to understand and analyse illicit cross-border transfers of funds, whether they relate to illicit tax practices, corruption or illegal markets. Pilot studies in Latin America determined the magnitude and patterns of such financial flows in relation to illegal markets.

## **D. Preventing and countering terrorism**

58. Adapting to the restrictions caused by the pandemic, UNODC transferred the delivery of most of its counter-terrorism technical assistance to online formats and has thus provided training for more than 1,000 criminal justice and law enforcement officials since the start of the pandemic. The primary tool used to facilitate those activities was the UNODC Counter-Terrorism Learning Platform.

59. Following the technical assistance provided by UNODC with a focus on effectively preventing the use of the Internet for terrorist recruitment and propaganda in South-East Asia in 2020, the authorities in Malaysia reported that they had enhanced mechanisms of the National Cyber Security Agency for conducting online investigations, profiling and requesting digital evidence. Additionally, the Agency reported that the assistance had helped to strengthen inter-agency cooperation in Malaysia.

60. In August 2020, UNODC presented a new publication entitled *From Victims of Terrorism to Messengers for Peace: A Strategic Approach*, which highlights the important role victims can play in helping to promote peace and delegitimize justifications for terrorist violence. In the framework of the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, 16 university learning modules and a teaching guide on counter-terrorism have been made available in English, Chinese and Russian, and selected modules are also available in Arabic and Spanish.

61. With the support of UNODC, Chad adopted revised counter-terrorism legislation in April 2020, following legislative drafting workshops and advocacy work involving national stakeholders. In January, Ethiopia approved new counter-

terrorism legislation based on the recommendations provided by UNODC and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate. As a result of technical assistance provided by UNODC, Saint Kitts and Nevis became party to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism in 2020, and Angola and Eritrea adhered to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities and its Amendment.

62. In 2020, the Maputo road map for UNODC engagement in Mozambique was endorsed. Guided by the road map, UNODC continued to provide and expand its counter-terrorism capacity-building assistance to Mozambique, the first United Nations assistance programme of its kind to the country.

63. UNODC research highlighted the linkages between crime and terrorism networks. The UNODC *Global Study on Firearms Trafficking 2020* described the collaboration between criminal and terrorist groups in terms of financial support, information-sharing, joint operations, the provision of training and the provision of a safe haven, and more specifically in the area of weapons exchange. The *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2020* reported on child recruitment and exploitation by terrorist and violent extremist groups as a form of trafficking in persons.

## **E. Crime prevention and criminal justice**

64. COVID-19 created unprecedented challenges for criminal justice systems, hampering efforts to ensure access to justice for all, in particular for pretrial detainees and victims of domestic violence. Police violence and racial discrimination within the criminal justice system also emerged as urgent issues. UNODC provided targeted assistance with regard to access to justice through evidence-based technical advice, knowledge transfer, training and input in national efforts relating to police reform and the use of force; access to legal aid; restorative justice; and services for victims of crime. UNODC conducted national capacity-building events and developed technical tools with a range of justice actors and other stakeholders.

65. Regarding crime prevention, UNODC assisted 12 Member States in applying social development approaches, using sport as a vehicle to enhance life skills, participation and positive development, to strengthen youth resilience and to prevent violence, crime, and substance use. To that end, UNODC promoted evidence-based good practices in the use of sport for crime prevention, provided equipment to schools, sports and community centres and facilitated the creation of safe public spaces for youth. UNODC published a technical guide on preventing violent extremism through sport, conducted policy and capacity-building events on the use of sport for life skills development, strengthened partnerships with the education, youth and sport sectors and continued to engage youth through online and face-to-face sports activities.

66. The UNODC *Handbook for the Judiciary on Effective Criminal Justice Responses to Gender-based Violence against Women and Girls* was piloted in Mexico and Nepal. UNODC also advanced the implementation of its capacity-building programmes for police, prosecution, forensic and legal aid services in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The evidence gathered regarding the impact of COVID-19 on violence against women and girls<sup>13</sup> pointed to a drop in the reporting of sexual violence, which showed the importance for criminal justice institutions to be more accessible during crises.

67. UNODC raised awareness of prevention and responses to violence against children, especially in the context of terrorism. To that end, five e-learning modules were developed. In addition, UNODC continued to deliver technical assistance in Central, South-East and South Asia in order to strengthen coordination mechanisms and ensure comprehensive and sustainable strategies regarding children associated

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<sup>13</sup> UNODC, "Research brief: what crime and helpline data say about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on reported violence against women and girls" (Vienna, 2020).

with terrorist groups. In Nigeria, a joint UNODC-UNICEF national advocacy initiative in support of curbing the spread of COVID-19 benefited children and young people in state homes and youth custody centres across five states.

68. In the light of the unprecedented challenges created by COVID-19 for health and safety in prisons, UNODC provided emergency assistance to 50 prison services and advocated tackling the root causes that have rendered prisons vulnerable to the pandemic, including overcrowding, poor prison conditions and insufficient resort to non-custodial measures. UNODC continued to support a rehabilitative approach to prison management by promoting educational, vocational training and work programmes for prisoners. The Office also assisted more than 20 Member States in effectively managing violent extremist prisoners and in preventing radicalization to violence in prisons, for example, through vocational training and assistance in the categorization of inmates in prisons in Kenya, across Somalia and in Sri Lanka. New research offered enhanced knowledge to help address the reasons for recidivism.<sup>14</sup>

69. UNODC also continued to support States in strengthening their criminal justice systems with regard to piracy and other maritime offences, including by training prosecutors, facilitating simulated trials related to specific sea operations and enabling cooperation among prosecutors and inter-agency coordination.

70. UNODC continued to support the implementation of relevant global policy commitments. In June, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held a joint event commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995, and held a discussion on how the pandemic was affecting women and girls, in which the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women and the President of the Human Rights Council participated.

## **IV. Strengthening the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**

### **A. United Nations reform and results-based management**

71. In line with the United Nations development system reform, UNODC participated in 110 country teams and in the development of 24 common country analyses, 11 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and 49 socioeconomic response plans to COVID-19. UNODC also engaged in the roll-out of new business operations strategies in 52 countries and increased its involvement in multi-agency programming.

72. UNODC launched an e-learning course entitled “Results-based management and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which was aimed at enhancing the application of results-based management principles to UNODC programming. The course was endorsed by the Office of the Controller of the Secretariat.

### **B. Partnerships**

73. Across its mandate areas, UNODC engaged in partnerships with other entities and organizations, for example, in relation to gender-based violence (UN-Women); drug treatment (WHO); corruption (UNDP); trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants (International Organization for Migration, UNICEF, UNHCR), terrorism (Office of Counter-Terrorism); illicit financial flows (UNCTAD); law enforcement (INTERPOL); border management (World Customs Organization); integrity in sports (International Olympic Committee, Fédération Internationale de Football

<sup>14</sup> UNODC, “Research brief on the causes of recidivism in Thailand, Albania and Czech Republic” (forthcoming).

Association); and economic crime (Financial Action Task Force, World Bank). The Office also cooperated closely with regional organizations, such as the European Union, OSCE, the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the Southern African Development Community, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Organization of American States. UNODC actively participated in United Nations system-wide initiatives in areas such as human trafficking, HIV/AIDS, wildlife crime, terrorism prevention, the empowerment of women, youth, innovation, data and digitalization.

## **C. Communication**

74. In the light of the necessary shift to online communication during the pandemic, the Secretary-General's "digital first" approach was further implemented through online or hybrid events, including virtual report launches (*World Wildlife Crime Report*; *World Drug Report*) and international days (International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking; World Day against Trafficking in Persons; International Anti-Corruption Day). This resulted in strengthened multilingual digital communications, with a combined total of 22.1 million impressions on social media and some 8.6 million views of the UNODC website.

## **D. Resource mobilization**

75. UNODC continued to support the meetings of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the Office by providing information on strategic and budgetary matters, evaluation and oversight, programme development and implementation, gender mainstreaming, and strengthening human resources governance. The Office also supported the working group in negotiating the draft Economic and Social Council decision on the extension of the working group's mandate until the reconvened sessions of the Commissions to be held in December 2021, at which time the Commissions should carry out a thorough review of the functioning of the working group and consider the extension of its mandate beyond 2021.

76. With a view to mobilizing resources, UNODC continued to actively engage with partners, including in the field. In 2020, the number of donors increased from 95 to 105, and special-purpose contributions totalled \$352.6 million, thus maintaining the positive trend line. The majority of pledges (72 per cent) were directed towards crime-related mandates, while 28 per cent were dedicated to drug control.

77. The United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, managed by UNODC, received approximately \$790,000 in paid contributions from Member States, the private sector and individuals in 2020, bringing the total since the creation of the trust fund to more than \$7.8 million. The trust fund remained committed to supporting grass-roots organizations worldwide in responding to the needs of victims through its small grants programme. Under its fourth call for proposals, the trust fund offered three separate grant windows, awarding grants to a record 32 projects of non-governmental organizations in 24 countries. The fifth call for proposals was launched in 2020.

78. Despite efforts to increase fundraising and partnerships, the financial situation of UNODC remains vulnerable. The Office continues to face a persistent deterioration in general-purpose income and added pressures on its regular budget and programme support cost funds. General-purpose income in 2020 reached \$4.7 million, which reflects a stagnant trend. The low levels of unearmarked funding are a major challenge to the effective implementation of the mandates and programmes of UNODC, as well as to its ability to manage its operations strategically, exercise effective corporate oversight, fund key activities and launch new initiatives and programmes.

79. The outbreak of the pandemic had significant implications for programme delivery. UNODC reviewed its activities, coordinated the scheduling of activities with

donors and national beneficiaries and took measures to support implementation at headquarters and in the field. Despite the rapid response by UNODC, programme delivery is projected to decrease by \$129.3 million (18.5 per cent) compared with the initial budget of \$697.9 million for 2020–2021. As requested by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its resolution 62/9 and by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in its resolution 28/4, UNODC conducted a review of its funding model, exploring various options, and plans to share recommendations with Member States in 2021.

## **E. Cross-cutting commitments**

80. The UNODC strategy for the period 2021–2025 emphasizes the mainstreaming of human rights, gender and the empowerment and protection of youth and children into all UNODC programmes. Under the guidance of its Human Rights Advisory Group, the Office participated in the ongoing discussion on the expansion of the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces to other areas. UNODC followed closely the inter-agency process linked to the call to action for human rights launched by the Secretary-General in February 2020, and supported the development of a roll-out plan for its implementation to ensure that the United Nations systematically places human rights at the centre of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and COVID-19 response and recovery.

81. The United Nations Office at Vienna/UNODC *Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (2018–2021)* and the related Action Plan are the key documents to assist UNODC in gender mainstreaming. The Gender Team in the Office of the Director-General/Executive Director focused on strengthening institutional mainstreaming mechanisms and increasing staff capacity with regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women. Virtual gender mainstreaming training webinars tailored to UNODC mandate areas were held for approximately 1,000 staff, including senior managers. Tools for gender mainstreaming in UNODC mandate areas were also developed. In addition, tailor-made web-based workshops were held for four programme teams and field offices.

82. UNODC is serving as the United Nations co-chair for the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, which works to mainstream youth engagement across the United Nations system. UNODC was invited to be part of the High-level Steering Committee for the implementation of the United Nations Youth Strategy. An event designed to highlight youth engagement at Vienna-based organizations was organized for International Youth Day.

## **F. Organizational culture**

83. UNODC has developed an action plan for the implementation of its policy of zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse, with a strong emphasis on victim assistance. A focal point has been designated to ensure global implementation. In addition, UNODC has introduced a clause on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse in the legal instruments concluded with its implementing partners and has participated in an evaluation of the policy by the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

84. UNODC has kept the organization on top of performance management trends, delivering targeted mentoring and instilling a coaching culture that shifts attitudes towards giving and receiving feedback. Staff interested in adding a coaching certification to their career advancement can sign up for a three-month training course. Managers are able to use various coaching competencies in their day-to-day work.

85. With regard to independent evaluation, UNODC adapted its methods to ensure that evaluations continued to be of high quality and utilization-focused during the

pandemic, despite declining financial and human resources. Project managers at headquarters and in the field and evaluators were guided in the adapted evaluation process through webinars and targeted user-friendly guidance materials. To ensure learning opportunities from evaluation results and to facilitate the implementation of evaluation recommendations, communication and advocacy were fully mainstreamed into all evaluation processes, services and products. An innovative meta-synthesis of UNODC evaluation reports and a meta-synthesis of UNODC evaluations on crime prevention were conducted. In addition, the first system-wide meta-synthesis of evaluations under the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was initiated in cooperation with the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute. The web-based evaluation management application, Unite Evaluations, which was highlighted as a best practice by various oversight bodies, offered insights on the evaluation portfolio and facilitated access to recommendations and lessons learned. Gender has been mainstreamed in all evaluation processes and evaluation-based knowledge products.

86. Work has commenced on developing an innovation strategy that will cover the areas of new technologies, new ways of working and organizational agility, as well as the necessary enabling environment to put related efforts and initiatives on a sustainable basis. UNODC set up a task team to coordinate activities for the implementation of its action plan to support the implementation of the Secretary-General's strategy on new technologies, which is aimed at harnessing the opportunities of new technologies while safeguarding against their inherent risks. The task team will present its first report in the first quarter of 2021.

## **V. Recommendations**

### **Strategic orientation**

87. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that global problems call for a holistic and coordinated approach. UNODC stands ready to support Member States in the implementation of their commitments to address the world drug problem, including those in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, held in 2016, the Joint Ministerial Statement of 2014 and the Political Declaration and Plan of Action of 2009, in line with the Ministerial Declaration of 2019.

88. UNODC is committed to organizing, together with the Government of Japan, the Fourteenth Crime Congress in an inclusive manner. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice may wish to encourage Member States to join forces in implementing the outcome document of the Congress, which will be a key policy document for the years to come.

89. The Commissions are invited to remain actively engaged in the implementation of the UNODC strategy for the period 2021–2025.

90. The Commissions may wish to discuss the requirements for the meaningful conduct of business in hybrid and online formats and for the integration of the online component into their work for the remaining duration of the pandemic and in its aftermath.

### **Addressing and countering the world drug problem**

91. Reliable, comparable and comprehensive data, and their sound analysis, are prerequisites for the development and implementation of policy responses related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs may consider requesting Member States to strengthen their drug monitoring systems and their contribution to international data reporting mechanisms, including the new annual report questionnaire, and may wish to discuss how UNODC could strengthen its data-gathering and produce more timely data and analysis.

92. In the current crisis, all efforts should be made to ensure access to health services for the most vulnerable members of society, including children, people in detention and institutionalized settings, such as rehabilitation centres, people living with HIV and people using drugs. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs may wish to discuss how to increase the coverage and quality of drug prevention, treatment, care and rehabilitation during and after the pandemic, and how to ensure the availability of and access to controlled substances for medical purposes while addressing the interacting threats resulting from illicit trade in those substances. It may also wish to consider how to scale up comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support services for people who use drugs and people in prison settings. Further, it may wish to address the additional challenges posed to alternative development during the pandemic.

93. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs may further wish to encourage States to strengthen national early warning mechanisms and to participate actively in regional and international early warning mechanisms for new psychoactive substances and emerging drug threats.

94. In the light of the changes in drug trafficking and drug markets resulting from mobility restrictions, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs could discuss challenges in countries of supply, transit and destination as a common and shared responsibility and step up international cooperation in criminal matters based on international commitments.

#### **Preventing and countering organized crime**

95. By ratifying and acceding to the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto, Member States have committed to concrete steps to prevent and combat organized crime. The Commissions may wish to encourage Member States to support the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto.

96. The Commissions may wish to discuss responses to the impact of the pandemic on mobility. With a view to the theme of its 2021 thematic discussion, namely, “Effective measures to prevent and counter the smuggling of migrants, while protecting the rights of smuggled migrants, particularly women and children, and those of unaccompanied migrant children”, this could include, for the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, considerations on how to enhance cooperation and the exchange of information to better prevent and combat the smuggling of migrants and to protect the rights of migrants, and on how to support the implementation of all relevant commitments.

97. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice may wish to support the implementation of the international commitments and principles regarding trafficking in persons, such as the principle of non-punishment of victims for acts committed as a direct consequence of being trafficked. UNODC stands ready to assist States in the development of relevant laws, policies or guidelines and in strengthening the capacity of criminal justice practitioners in this regard.

98. There is a high risk of criminal networks taking advantage of the increased use of online technology in order to diversify their disruptive tools and methods. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice may wish to discuss solutions to emerging policy issues, in particular cybercrime.

#### **Preventing and countering corruption and economic crime**

99. Transparency and integrity are paramount to any efficient response to the pandemic. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice may wish to encourage States to continue to support the technical assistance provided by UNODC to States to prevent and combat corruption and fully implement the Convention against Corruption.

100. Further, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice may wish to invite Member States to remain actively engaged in anti-corruption policymaking processes, in particular the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention against Corruption, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

101. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice may further wish to discuss how UNODC should continue its work to develop methodologies and support countries in measuring illicit financial flows.

### **Preventing and countering terrorism**

102. Ensuring the continuity of counter-terrorism efforts during and after the COVID-19 pandemic is crucial. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice may wish to discuss how to tackle new threats emanating from terrorists exploiting the crisis. It could also discuss how to build and support more strategic partnerships, including with civil society, the private sector, academia and youth.

103. Further areas to be considered could include prevention, countering terrorist recruitment narratives and tailoring support to vulnerable and at-risk members of society who are being targeted by violent extremist groups.

### **Crime prevention and criminal justice**

104. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice may wish to discuss how Member States can strengthen their national efforts to ensure access to justice by ensuring equal access to quality legal aid, addressing discrimination, reforming their police institutions and strengthening restorative justice and victim assistance.

105. The Commission may wish to underline the importance of sufficient budget allocations for strengthening the relevant domestic legal, institutional and operational frameworks, and the need for a multidisciplinary and multisectoral approach, to counter violence against women and girls, as well as violence against children.

106. The Commission may wish to discuss how States can ensure the full protection of women and girls from violence and encourage States to include relevant measures in any post-pandemic recovery plans.

107. The Commission may wish to discuss how to prevent the involvement of children in crime and violence, ensure that interventions targeting children as victims, witnesses or alleged offenders have as key objectives their rehabilitation, reintegration and their best interests, and establish or strengthen fair, transparent and child-sensitive juvenile justice systems.

108. The Commission may wish to discuss how to strengthen, in cooperation with State and non-State actors, the use of evidence-based crime prevention policies that are community-focused and gender-responsive and that empower young people, including those who are out of school, education or training and those affected by community and gang violence.

109. The Commission may also wish to discuss how, in an effort to “build back better”, Member States can intensify their efforts to reduce overincarceration, including through enhanced resort to non-custodial measures in line with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules), and to increase their actual compliance with international prison standards.

### **Strengthening the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**

110. The Commissions may wish to discuss how to transform the organizational culture towards increased efficiency, transparency and accountability and how to strengthen the capacity of staff in effectively implementing results-based management in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

111. UNODC stands ready to effectively engage in the new United Nations country team planning, programming and business operations processes and to receive guidance from the Commissions in this context.

112. The Commissions may further wish to support the efforts of UNODC in evaluating its work, including through innovative products, services and joint and system-wide evaluations.

113. The Commissions may wish to encourage Member States to provide UNODC with adequate, predictable, flexible and sustainable resources to enable the Office to implement its mandates.

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