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**Integration and coordination of efforts by the
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and by
Member States in the field of crime prevention and
criminal justice**

International cooperation in combating transnational organized crime and corruption

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides information for the period from February 2024 to February 2025 on international cooperation and technical assistance activities undertaken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to fight transnational organized crime, in all its forms and manifestations, including new and emerging forms, and corruption.

I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision [2024/325](#), in which the Council approved the provisional agenda for the thirty-fourth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.
2. The report provides information on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) related to the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto and of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.¹ It contains information on activities undertaken, and assistance provided to Member States at their request, by UNODC between February 2024 and February 2025 to curb transnational organized crime, including new and emerging forms of crime, and corruption.

* [E/CN.15/2025/1](#).

¹ Items 6 (a) and (b) of the provisional agenda.



II. Transnational organized crime

A. Intergovernmental processes

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

3. The twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime was held from 14 to 18 October 2024. The Conference brought together over 1,400 participants – the highest number of in-person participants for any session of the Conference to date. The Conference adopted resolutions on technical assistance, international cooperation, firearms-related issues and crimes that affect the environment falling within the scope of the Organized Crime Convention, as well as decisions on the provisional agenda and the organization of work for its thirteenth session.

4. During the reporting period, the Working Group on Firearms, the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons, the Working Group on the Smuggling of Migrants, the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance and the Working Group on International Cooperation each held one meeting under the aegis of the Conference of the Parties. The recommendations adopted by the working groups were submitted to the Conference for endorsement at its twelfth session.

2. Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto

5. UNODC continued to provide technical and substantive assistance to States Parties, at their request, in relation to their participation in the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto.

6. As at the end of the reporting period, the secretariat of the Review Mechanism had received focal point nominations from 169 of the 189 Parties. Following the nomination of focal points and experts by Parties, work on 90 country reviews had been progressing, with the majority being at the written feedback stage (54 per cent of the active reviews) or at the stage of Parties responding to their self-assessment questionnaire (37 per cent of the active reviews). One review had been finalized and seven were in the pre-final stage under the first thematic cluster. Overall, 48 per cent of all country reviews had been advancing since the launch of the review process in October 2020, representing an increase of 26 per cent on the last reporting period. The lists of observations for the first completed country review were presented to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth session, together with the first report by the secretariat on trends and patterns in the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto.

7. In 2024, UNODC facilitated the organization of 19 preliminary consultation meetings to mark the beginning of the country review process. It also provided support to a total of 803 nominated officials from 137 States Parties in the six official languages of the United Nations and in Portuguese, including through training on and tailored assistance with the review process.

8. In 2024, UNODC supported the third series of constructive dialogues to promote the engagement of non-governmental stakeholders. Four constructive dialogues were held in a hybrid format, with the participation of 468 stakeholders representing 399 non-governmental organizations, 36 stakeholders from academia and 33 stakeholders from the private sector, in addition to 180 representatives of Member States and international and regional organizations.

9. Since the establishment of the Global Programme to Support the Review Mechanism, a total of approximately \$6,569,900 in voluntary contributions had been received. In addition, contributions in kind were provided by two States Parties during the reporting period.

3. Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes

10. The Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution [74/247](#), held a reconvened concluding session in August 2024. At that session, the Committee approved both the draft United Nations Convention against Cybercrime; Strengthening International Cooperation for Combating Certain Crimes Committed by Means of Information and Communications Technology Systems and for the Sharing of Evidence in Electronic Form of Serious Crimes and a draft resolution for consideration by the General Assembly, to which the draft Convention would be annexed. On 24 December 2024, the General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime by its resolution [79/243](#) without a vote.

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

11. As at 6 February 2025, there were 192 Parties to the Organized Crime Convention, 182 Parties to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, 152 Parties to the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air and 123 Parties to the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition.

12. During the reporting period, Uganda acceded to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol and the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol.

13. UNODC provided pre-accession assistance to the Congo, Israel, Pakistan, Somalia and South Sudan. In support of national efforts to achieve adherence to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol and the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol, UNODC assisted with the development of new or the revision of existing domestic legislation and policies on trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants in Brazil, the Comoros, Iraq, Madagascar, Pakistan, Panama and Turkmenistan.

14. The bill to combat the smuggling of migrants drafted with the support of UNODC in the Comoros in 2023 was promulgated in July 2024. Furthermore, UNODC began providing Madagascar with legislative assistance to counter trafficking. The Office supported Panama in amending its anti-trafficking legislation and aligning it with international standards. UNODC supported Brazil in drafting and launching its fourth national action plan to combat trafficking in persons. With the Office's substantive support, Turkmenistan launched a national action plan against trafficking in persons for the period 2025–2029. With support from UNODC and the Global Action against Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants (GLO.ACT), the Council of Ministers of Iraq approved draft amendments to the country's law against trafficking in persons in November 2024. Lastly, Pakistan was at an advanced stage of ratifying the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol and Somalia was at the final stages of acceding to the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto.

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

1. Organized Crime Convention

15. UNODC continued to develop the Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC) knowledge management portal and to disseminate information on

the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention. As at 31 January 2025, SHERLOC included 3,378 case summaries from 136 States and 13,695 annotated legislative extracts from 198 States, including the two permanent observer States to the United Nations (Holy See and State of Palestine) and two States in free association with New Zealand (Cook Islands and Niue). As at that same date, SHERLOC also contained 257 strategies from 98 countries and 10 regional organizations. During the reporting period, the portal was accessed by 464,997 users.

16. UNODC, through its Global Programme on Implementing the Organized Crime Convention: from Theory to Practice, trained more than 1,200 key stakeholders from over 90 jurisdictions, as well as representatives of global and regional organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector, on the use of the “Organized crime strategy toolkit for developing high-impact strategies”. At the national level, UNODC assisted Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Côte d’Ivoire, Ecuador, Ghana, Honduras, Jamaica, Kyrgyzstan, Mozambique, Nigeria, Paraguay, Senegal, Uganda, Ukraine and Uzbekistan in developing and implementing strategies against organized crime. In 2024, thanks to technical assistance provided by UNODC, Mozambique validated its national strategy against organized crime and Bosnia and Herzegovina revised its draft law on the forfeiture and management of proceeds of crime. UNODC also provided legal advice to Somalia and Viet Nam on their draft laws on international judicial cooperation and mutual assistance in criminal matters, respectively.

17. UNODC continued to assist States in mainstreaming gender and human rights considerations in legislation, policies and strategies against organized crime. The Office provided training to over 1,000 stakeholders from 95 countries. Furthermore, dedicated efforts were made to promote women’s engagement in responses to organized crime through the UNODC Network of Women in Law and Policy against Organized Crime in West and Central Africa.

18. UNODC, through its Global Programme on Criminal Network Disruption, promoted the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention by facilitating case-based regional and cross-regional investigative forums, supporting the establishment of joint investigative teams and strengthening international police cooperation centres and prosecution networks.

19. In 2024, under its project on strengthening criminal justice responses to transnational drug trafficking and related organized crime in Senegal, UNODC provided 12 activities for 258 law enforcement officers and magistrates. Through a project in Liberia, the Office also delivered equipment and 20 mentoring sessions to 100 officers from the Liberia National Police and the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency.

20. On 15 November 2024, UNODC observed the first-ever International Day for the Prevention of and Fight against All Forms of Transnational Organized Crime, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [78/267](#). A ministerial event on the topic was held on the first day of the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Organized Crime Convention, followed by a high-level event on 15 November 2024.

2. Trafficking in Persons Protocol

21. Through its global programmes against trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants, UNODC provided training to more than 3,375 criminal justice practitioners, government officials and civil society representatives, including 1,086 women, in 2024.

22. The Office further strengthened its work in inter-agency forums, in particular as coordinator of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons. The Group’s Principals, at their meeting in December 2024, issued a joint statement reaffirming the Group members’ commitment to supporting States in combating child trafficking. The Group also published an issue paper on sustainable finance and trafficking in persons – its first-ever guidance on the subject.

23. In 2024, UNODC fostered engagement with survivors of trafficking in persons and organized the first regional needs assessment workshop with 12 survivors from 10 African countries, who shared first-hand experiences and ideas on how to improve victim/survivor-centred responses to trafficking.

24. UNODC, within the framework of the GLO.ACT PROTECT project, finalized standard operating procedures for the investigation of cases related to trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants in Iraq. Those procedures were subsequently reviewed by a joint committee of key stakeholders. In Pakistan, GLO.ACT partnered with law enforcement agencies to develop and deliver training courses.

25. The GLO.ACT Women's Network of Gender Champions against Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling continued to expand into Central Asia and now had over 150 members. The Network organized events throughout 2024 on topics such as responsible innovation involving artificial intelligence in law enforcement, survivor leadership in the fight against trafficking in persons and the launch of two training modules on gender. Under the Network's "Women can" campaign, additional profiles were published of women and men in leadership positions in the criminal justice sector.

26. In close collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan, GLO.ACT held, in Dushanbe in September 2024, a training workshop for diplomatic and consular staff on efficient and effective mechanisms to respond to trafficking in persons.

27. UNODC launched its biennial report, the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2024*, which highlighted that women and girls, most of whom were trafficked for sexual exploitation, continued to represent the largest share of detected victims of trafficking worldwide, accounting for 61 per cent of the total in 2022. The report also underscored that the number of children among detected victims had surged globally, in some regions of the world constituting the majority of victims detected.

3. Smuggling of Migrants Protocol

28. UNODC and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) continued to work together to enhance international cooperation, facilitate intelligence-sharing and take unified action against trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants. Operation Liberterra II, which was carried out across 116 countries between 29 September and 4 October 2024, led to the rescue of 3,222 potential victims of trafficking and to the identification of 17,793 irregular migrants. The Operation, which was the largest-ever INTERPOL operation of its kind against trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants, was supported by UNODC in real time.

29. In November 2024, UNODC co-organized a round table on the theme "Strengthening international cooperation to combat migrant smuggling: harmonizing national legislation with international standards" with the Prosecutor General's Office of Uzbekistan.

30. UNODC, within the framework of the GLO.ACT PROTECT project, continued to facilitate international cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination to tackle migrant smuggling networks. In April 2024, UNODC co-hosted with the Government of Pakistan a regional cooperation workshop on addressing the smuggling of migrants, which was attended by more than 100 participants from 14 countries. The event laid the groundwork for the signing of an agreement between Pakistan and Italy in May 2024 to jointly counter trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants.

31. UNODC provided support to national agencies in Bangladesh responsible for cross-border cooperation on cases of trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants. The support was provided through a specialized workshop on mutual legal assistance to counter trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants, held in Dhaka in March 2024.

32. In 2024, as a member of the Executive Committee of the United Nations Network on Migration, UNODC contributed to various statements made by the Network, including the Principals' statement on International Migrants Day, which placed a strong emphasis on the Principals' commitment to a world where migration is safe, regular and dignified and migrants do not need to resort to smugglers.

33. UNODC and the International Organization for Migration published a joint call for abstracts on the topics "Understanding decision-making processes shaping individual's choices to embark on smuggling-facilitated journeys" and "The impact of law enforcement operations to counter the smuggling of migrants on patterns of local development and mobility". A total of 100 abstracts were received and 12 were shortlisted. The authors of those abstracts participated in an online research workshop held in October 2024, where they presented their papers and received feedback. The initiative will culminate in the development of an edited first collection of short articles on the topics, to be launched in 2025.

4. Firearms Protocol

34. Through its Firearms Trafficking Section, UNODC provided legislative advice and drafting support to States in reinforcing firearms control regimes and criminal offences related to firearms criminality. That included tailored legislative assessments, gap analyses and drafting workshops, thus helping to reinforce legal frameworks in 18 States.

35. The Office strengthened national capacities to detect, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate cases involving firearms trafficking and related forms of crime in 23 countries in Africa, Central Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean. In particular, with the aim of detecting the illicit circulation of firearms and ammunition in Ukraine, the Office provided detection equipment and training to the Ukrainian railway authorities, resulting in a steady increase in the detection of offences at strategic train stations across Ukraine. Moreover, UNODC, in partnership with the Office of Counter-Terrorism and in cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), organized training in Central Asia on the application of international standards in detecting firearms and preventing their diversion to organized criminal groups and terrorists.

36. Furthermore, UNODC organized eight subregional meetings in the Western Balkans as well as several meetings of the Community of Practitioners against Firearms Trafficking and Related Crimes to discuss lessons learned in addressing the transnational dimension of firearms trafficking.

37. In November 2024, UNODC facilitated the conduct of Operation KAFO V in West and Central Africa. The operation at 24 strategic border crossings led to the seizure of more than 400 firearms, 4,000 rounds of ammunition, 10,000 sticks of dynamite and 5,200 metres of detonating cord, along with nearly 2 million units of counterfeit medicines and significant quantities of drugs with an estimated street value of more than \$10 million.

38. As part of its Monitoring Illicit Arms Flows initiative, the Office continued to collect national firearms seizure data through its illicit arms flows questionnaire and explored the possibility of expanding the UNODC Drugs Monitoring Platform to other types of crime, including firearms-related crimes.

39. UNODC published an issue paper, developed jointly with the Flemish Peace Institute, entitled *Firearms and Drugs: Partners in Transnational Crime*, and an issue paper entitled *Illicit Firearms Trafficking: Addressing the Criminal Side of Diversion*. Furthermore, the Office translated and disseminated to all five Central Asian States the *Handbook on Firearms for Border Guards and Customs Officers*.

D. Networking to combat transnational organized crime

1. Law enforcement networking

40. UNODC, through its Global Programme on Criminal Network Disruption, continued to collaborate with INTERPOL to implement the European Union-funded CRIMJUST III project and to strengthen the capacity of law enforcement agencies to effectively detect, investigate and prosecute cases of drug trafficking and the criminal networks behind it across multiple jurisdictions.

41. In 2024, UNODC supported 10 investigative case forums held following drug seizures, which brought together criminal justice officials from West Africa, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean. Under its Global Programme on Criminal Network Disruption, UNODC also facilitated the convening of a series of expert working groups to help map, using a systems analysis and disruption planning approach, modalities and vulnerabilities related to how the business models of criminal networks operate.

42. The UNODC Passenger and Cargo Control Programme was established through the merging of the Container Control Programme and the Airport Communication Programme. The merger allows for the adoption of a holistic approach to cargo and passenger security and facilitation as well as integrated border management.

43. In 2024, UNODC, through the Passenger and Cargo Control Programme, was active in 87 Member States, with 187 national inter-agency units operating at air, sea and land borders. Over 330 training and mentoring activities were carried out under the Programme, benefiting more than 4,400 officials. National successes included the seizure of more than 223 tons of drugs and falsified medical products, \$1 million in undeclared currencies, various weapons and ammunition and 11 tons of commodities protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

44. The first port control unit in the Indian Ocean islands was established in Port Louis, enhancing risk management and cargo profiling to combat trafficking.

45. Through the Global Programme on Crimes that Affect the Environment and Climate, UNODC strengthened regional collaboration by providing support to wildlife enforcement networks, the Informal Law Enforcement Network on Minerals-related Crimes and two Member State-led operations, namely, Operation Mekong Dragon VI, involving 23 agencies across South-East Asia, and Operation SAMA, spanning 35 African countries.

46. Under the “Safety across Asia For the global Environment” (SAFE) project, regional discussions on the illegal wildlife trade and zoonotic risk prevention progressed through expert meetings and cross-regional dialogue, culminating in the publication of a key discussion paper on biosafety and biosecurity in wildlife facilities in South-East Asia.

47. International cooperation was strengthened through events such as the Wildlife Inter-Regional Enforcement Forum in Cape Town, South Africa, which brought together 90 representatives from 36 countries and territories, facilitating 65 restricted government meetings that enabled the exchange of information on cases and joint investigations.

2. Judicial networking

48. UNODC, through its Global Programme on Criminal Network Disruption and the CRIMJUST III project, provided support to the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors (AIAMP) and its Network of Prosecutors Specialized in Drug Trafficking Cases (RFAI) and International Cooperation Network in Criminal Matters (REDCOOP). Under the CRIMJUST III project, support was also provided to prosecutors from the Specialized Meeting of Public Prosecutors of the Southern

Common Market, specifically the subcommittees on narco-criminality and border prosecutors.

49. In 2024, UNODC, through its Global Programme on Criminal Network Disruption and the Judicial Cooperation Network for Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus (CASC Network), facilitated cooperation in 26 transnational cases. Notable achievements included the facilitation of controlled delivery operations with the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre and a European Union member State and the organization of a visit to the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation in The Hague, Kingdom of the Netherlands, where delegations from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan discussed eight transnational cases with European counterparts. To bolster regional capacity, the CASC Network organized 11 events that were attended by 226 legal practitioners.

50. On 10 and 11 October 2024, UNODC, through its Global Programme on Criminal Network Disruption, convened the thirteenth Plenary Meeting of the Network of West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime in Abuja. The meeting was held on the theme “Criminal network disruption and transatlantic trafficking” and brought together for the first time 24 Network focal points, five prosecutors from AIAMP², two experts from West Africa and a regional liaison magistrate from the French Embassy in Senegal.

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

51. UNODC, through its Global Programme on Implementing the Organized Crime Convention: from Theory to Practice, launched a project on preventing and combating organized fraud. The project engaged over 700 stakeholders through 10 regional and global events. The first-ever resolution of the Conference of the Parties to the Organized Crime Convention containing recommendations on organized fraud, resolution 12/2, was adopted in October 2024. Furthermore, the Office published an issue paper entitled *Organized Fraud*. UNODC is to hold, jointly with INTERPOL, a global fraud summit to be held from 13 to 15 January 2026, following the Global Fraud Summit held in London in March 2024.

52. UNODC, through its Global Programme on Cybercrime, supported 77 Member States in strengthening the prevention of and responses to common and organized cybercrime and cyber-enabled crime. In 2024, law enforcement and criminal justice units in seven countries in South-East Asia were supported in the detection, disruption and investigation of cyberattacks and online fraud linked with transnational organized crime. As a result, more than 200 criminal justice practitioners and law enforcement officers were able to acquire advanced skills and capacities. Regional expert group meetings were convened in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia and Viet Nam to address the alignment of cryptocurrency regulation with the Financial Action Task Force Recommendations and foster understanding of risks and operational cross-regional cooperation to address the exploitation of information and communications technologies by organized criminal groups.

53. In 2024, the Office, through its Global Programme on Implementing the Organized Crime Convention: from Theory to Practice, provided legislative assistance in Cameroon (environmental framework legislation), Kenya (fisheries legislation), Nigeria (wildlife legislation) and Suriname (legislation on illegal mining). That legislative support was provided to Cameroon in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme, while support was provided to Kenya in coordination with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

54. UNODC supported the adoption of Conference resolution 12/4, in which the Conference requested UNODC to convene, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, an open-ended intergovernmental expert group on crimes

² From Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Honduras and Uruguay.

that affect the environment falling within the scope of the Organized Crime Convention and related offences covered by the Convention, with a mandate to identify any gaps that may exist in the international legal framework to address such crimes and consider possible responses relevant to those gaps, including the possibility, feasibility and merits of any additional protocol to the Convention. UNODC is to report to the Conference at its thirteenth session, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, on the implementation of resolution 12/4.

55. UNODC, through its Global Programme on Crimes that Affect the Environment and Climate, supported over 40 Member States across Africa, Asia and Latin America in combating wildlife and forest crime, crimes in the fisheries sector, illegal mining and trafficking in precious metals and waste. In 2024, training courses were delivered to more than 2,000 law enforcement officials, prosecutors, and judges, with over 14,000 individuals participating in events and activities under the Global Programme.

56. Notable accomplishments included the contribution by the Office to more than 80 wildlife crime investigations through training, mentorship and DNA analysis, which resulted in seizures, arrests and prosecutions. UNODC also provided guidance on corruption risk management to 15 institutions responsible for natural resource protection in seven countries and developed a global strategy on crime in the waste sector.

57. UNODC organized capacity-building activities in West Africa and Central Asia for law enforcement, customs and health regulatory authorities and prosecutors in order to strengthen their joint capacities to detect, investigate and respond to falsified medical product-related crimes. The Office also participated in the process of updating the criminal law provisions of the African Union Model Law on Medical Products Regulation. Moreover, UNODC is developing, in conjunction with the World Health Organization, a comprehensive analysis to explore the criminal networks and actors involved in the supply chain for pharmaceutical excipients.

58. UNODC, through its Global Programme on Criminal Network Disruption, facilitated expert consultations and regional meetings aimed at fostering cross-border cooperation in investigations and prosecutions to combat trafficking in cultural property. In 2024, UNODC delivered specialized training to customs officers, law enforcement agencies, judicial authorities and cultural sector experts to enhance their ability to detect and dismantle networks involved in trafficking in cultural property. Those initiatives yielded tangible results, with Member States reporting successful seizures, including the interception of passengers carrying pre-Columbian artefacts and the confiscation of trafficked archaeological pieces in Latin America.

59. UNODC worked closely with INTERPOL, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Customs Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency, OSCE and national authorities to strengthen cross-border cooperation and enforcement measures against trafficking in cultural property. Efforts were focused on enhancing the national capacities of criminal justice agencies, forensic capabilities and the application of advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence-driven provenance verification, digital tracking tools and enhanced site monitoring techniques.

60. UNODC, through its Global Maritime Crime Programme, engaged with 106 countries across the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans and the Caribbean, Mediterranean, Red and Black Seas to enhance the detection, investigation, prosecution and adjudication of cases of maritime crime. To date, over 8,549 officers had been trained, leading to the more effective interception of vessels. The capacity of the judiciary has also been strengthened by providing training and mentoring to judges and prosecutors, including simulated trials and reviews of legal frameworks.

III. Corruption

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

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

61. The Implementation Review Group, meeting in Vienna, held its fifteenth session from 10 to 14 June 2024, its first resumed fifteenth session from 28 to 30 August and from 2 to 6 September 2024, and its second resumed fifteenth session from 4 to 8 November 2024. The Group considered, inter alia, the state of implementation of the Convention against Corruption, the performance of the Implementation Review Mechanism and its next phase, technical assistance and financial and budgetary matters. In addition, in 2024, the Group discussed the modalities of the next phase of the Implementation Review Mechanism, including the scope and thematic sequence, the follow-up to progress made after the completion of a country review and the review of technical assistance. In accordance with resolution 4/6 of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, a briefing chaired by the President-designate of the Conference was held for non-governmental organizations on the margins of the first resumed fifteenth session of the Implementation Review Group.

62. UNODC provided technical and substantive services to facilitate the efficient functioning of the Implementation Review Mechanism in 2024, delivering 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.

63. As at the end of the reporting period, 177 executive summaries of the country reports under the first cycle and 105 under the second cycle of the Implementation Review Mechanism had been completed and issued. UNODC also provided technical assistance in response to the observations emanating from the reviews, including in the drafting of action plans, anti-corruption strategies and legislation, capacity-building and other ad hoc activities.

64. Since 2010, a total of \$18,174,000 in voluntary contributions had been received in support of the activities of the Implementation Review Mechanism. In-kind contributions to the operation of the Mechanism had been provided by 72 States Parties.

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

65. The fifteenth meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption was held in Vienna from 3 to 6 September 2024. The Group discussed, inter alia, the following topics: (a) the prevention of corruption in procurement and the effective use of information and communications technologies in that regard; (b) strengthening international cooperation in the prevention of and the fight against corruption during times of emergencies and crisis; (c) the participation of society in preventing and fighting corruption, inclusive decision-making processes and the role of non-governmental stakeholders, journalists and the media; (d) the negative effects of corruption on women and youth and the role played by women and youth in preventing and combating corruption; and (e) methodologies and indicators for measuring corruption and the effectiveness of anti-corruption frameworks.

3. Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery

66. The eighteenth meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery was held in Vienna from 12 to 14 June 2024. The Working Group discussed, inter alia, the following topics: (a) good practices and challenges with

respect to beneficial ownership information in order to detect, deter and prevent acts of corruption and to enhance the recovery and return of assets in accordance with the Convention against Corruption; and (b) follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation: illicit financial flows and challenges, obstacles and barriers to international cooperation.

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

67. The thirteenth open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the Convention against Corruption was held in Vienna from 12 to 14 June 2024. At the meeting, inter alia, progress made on the implementation of mandates was discussed and a thematic discussion was held on the follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation: effective communication and cooperation, information-sharing, inter-agency approaches, law enforcement cooperation and use of networks.

B. Promoting ratification and implementation of the Convention against Corruption

1. Tools and knowledge-building

68. The Office continued to develop and disseminate guides, handbooks and other publications.

69. UNODC contributed to the deliverables agreed by the Group of 20 (G20) Anti-Corruption Working Group, including the High-Level Principles on Incentives for the Private Sector to Adopt Comprehensive and Consistent Integrity Measures to Prevent and Combat Corruption and a survey on the direct recovery of assets. Together with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the World Bank, and with support from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), UNODC prepared a think piece on the impact of corruption on sustainable development to support the Working Group's deliberations.

70. With the aim of contributing to sustainable development, UNODC, jointly with the World Bank, published the second version of the "Discussion draft for CoSP10: addressing the links between corruption and the response to climate change", which invites further dialogue on how climate commitments are undermined by corruption.

71. UNODC continued to develop the Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge (TRACK) portal, an online repository of anti-corruption resources, to assist States Parties in their efforts to implement the Convention against Corruption.³ The resources, which are arranged by chapter and thematic area of the Convention, had been complemented in 2023 by a database of publications related to gender. In the course of 2024, the bibliographic database was further expanded through the addition of publications, reports and other tools and materials covering various areas of corruption and the breadth of the work of the Corruption and Economic Crime Branch of UNODC. That expansion was implemented in parallel with the restructuring and modernization of the Office's corruption web page.⁴ Continuous work on the TRACK Legal Library made it possible to add information under the "Corruption" crime type on the SHERLOC platform. The next phase of the Implementation Review Mechanism, which is currently being developed, will necessitate a review of the Omnibus information-gathering tool. In-depth knowledge of anti-corruption legislation and different legal systems is crucial for the full

³ Available at <https://track.unodc.org>.

⁴ www.unodc.org/corruption/en/about.html.

implementation of the programme of work of the Corruption and Economic Crime Branch, and TRACK, as a repository for such knowledge, is constantly evolving.

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

72. Building on and evolving from the Office's network of field-based advisers, UNODC has established regional anti-corruption hubs as an integral part of its enhanced delivery model and revised the Global Programme (2023–2027). The hubs, comprising anti-corruption teams possessing diverse and complementary expertise, support the Office's regional anti-corruption platforms, which are made up of groups of countries that have come together to identify common challenges and priorities in implementing the Convention against Corruption and devise strategies and commitments to address those challenges. There are currently 10 platforms covering 90 jurisdictions, with the creation of the most recent platform, the Pacific platform, in August 2024. The hubs are aligned with the UNODC Strategic Vision for Africa 2030, the UNODC Strategic Vision for Latin America and the Caribbean 2022–2025 and the regional programme for South-East Asia and the Pacific. They foster coordination and identify synergies with other technical assistance providers, regional organizations and anti-corruption initiatives while bringing the capacity to deliver technical assistance closer to States Parties in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and South-East Asia. This approach is also consistent with the UNODC Strategy 2021–2025, which is aimed at bringing the Office's global expertise closer to the people being served and enhance efficiency in programme delivery.

73. UNODC worked with States to build capacity in their criminal justice systems, including by providing investigators, prosecutors and law enforcement officials with training on integrity in law enforcement, corruption investigations (including the use of open-source information to support such investigations), financial investigations and special investigative techniques. State-specific and regional training events were held in Argentina, Ecuador, Honduras and Qatar. Furthermore, UNODC, through its Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network) and the joint UNODC/World Bank Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative, continued to provide operational skill sets, training and strategic advice to investigators around the world.

74. In South-East Asia, UNODC supported countries in building their anti-corruption and financial investigation capacities. Tailored training events were held for anti-corruption and law enforcement authorities in the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam, while a series of events were held in Malaysia covering forensic accounting, the prosecution of corruption and money-laundering cases, and multi-agency cooperation and investigation methods.

75. A regional workshop on financial investigations was organized for officials from Argentina, Colombia and Paraguay.

76. In Southern Africa, UNODC continued to support countries in strengthening inter-agency cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of corruption cases, particularly in South Africa and Zambia. That work resulted in the adoption of the Inter-Agency Coordination Framework in Zambia and the development of the Policy Framework on Information-Sharing and the Guidelines on Information-Sharing in South Africa.

77. In West Africa and the Sahel, UNODC supported the National Agency for Financial Investigation (ANIF) of Chad by analysing its standard operating procedures. In addition, a regional workshop on financial investigations and asset recovery was organized within the framework of the regional platform for West Africa and the Sahel.

Judicial integrity

78. UNODC, through its Global Judicial Integrity Network, continued to promote the sharing of experience among members of the judiciary in relation to existing and emerging challenges. In 2024, two regional conferences were held to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and the identification of key issues – one in Nauru for Pacific countries in July and one in Brazil for Latin American and Caribbean countries in August. In March 2024, the Network launched a pilot phase of a new mentorship programme. In line with the objectives of the UNODC campaign “Women in Justice/for Justice”, the mentorship programme seeks to provide women judges with opportunities to learn and grow both professionally and personally. As part of the programme, a dedicated event was held in November 2024 for all mentorship participants to nurture leadership and ethical skills and foster a broader supportive community of women judges. The Network continued to disseminate its thematic knowledge products and tools, including the “Non-binding guidelines on the use of social media by judges”, a paper entitled *Gender-related Judicial Integrity Issues*, a guide entitled “How to develop and implement codes of judicial conduct”, its training tools on judicial ethics⁵ and a report entitled “Exploring linkages between judicial well-being and judicial integrity”. The Network added new content to its website,⁶ including opinion pieces, webinar recordings and other thematic resources. In 2024, the Network partnered with various organizations and associations to hold joint judicial integrity-related events, and, under the umbrella of the Network and the Office’s regional anti-corruption hubs, UNODC supported the provision of judicial integrity-related technical assistance in various countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia.

Prevention of corruption

79. The Office supported States Parties in developing measures to promote transparency in both the public and private sectors and in strengthening the protection of reporting persons, including through the regional platforms established to fast-track implementation of the Convention against Corruption.

80. In the area of public procurement, UNODC stepped up efforts to provide technical assistance on request to 31 jurisdictions to strengthen the implementation of article 9 of the Convention. In 2024, UNODC, together with its implementing partners, focused on digitalizing procurement systems, improving data quality and interoperability, expanding digital tools such as red flag methodologies, and embedding change management and the engagement of civil society organizations. Furthermore, the Office promoted the adoption of the Open Contracting Data Standard to standardize and structure procurement data and enhance the accessibility and usability of such data. The Standard helps to improve monitoring of public procurement, increase market participation by small businesses and detect corruption risks at an early stage. Ongoing mentorship and support in that area were provided to 46 institutions and 49 non-governmental organizations.

81. UNODC promoted the application of information technologies and digitalization tools for combating corruption and continued to work closely with the Open Contracting Partnership. The Office also continued to support the development and implementation of beneficial ownership transparency frameworks, including through its implementing partnership with Open Ownership. In 2024, the Office held three regional dialogues in partnership with Open Ownership, designed to facilitate peer learning and the discussion of key challenges in implementation, as well as potential next steps, for countries in South-East Asia, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean.

82. In the Philippines, ongoing support provided to the Securities and Exchange Commission in strengthening the use of beneficial ownership data led to the signing

⁵ Available at www.unodc.org/ji/en/judicial_ethics.html.

⁶ www.unodc.org/ji.

of 21 data-sharing agreements with key institutions, resulting in an increased volume of requests for such information from diverse actors. Further advisory services and technical assistance related to beneficial ownership was provided, in partnership with Open Ownership, to Armenia, Indonesia, Namibia, South Africa and Viet Nam.

83. UNODC continued to promote cooperation between anti-corruption authorities and supreme audit institutions through a series of regional and national workshops and webinars, which proved critical in creating operational collaborative channels and alliances between the relevant authorities. The tailored activities, developed after UNODC published *Enhancing Collaboration between Supreme Audit Institutions and Anti-Corruption Bodies in Preventing and Fighting Corruption: A Practical Guide*, reached a global audience in more than 110 countries, with the participation of over 400 officers across all seven regional organizations of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions.

84. UNODC has started developing a handbook for forensic laboratories and officials to safeguard the integrity and quality of scientific analysis and evidence in relation to synthetic drugs. With input from a group of 13 experts, laboratory scientists and analysts from around the world, the handbook will assess legal and institutional frameworks and scientific protocols, highlight the challenges, risks and threats of corruption and provide a set of recommendations on the most appropriate integrity measures. The handbook is to be published in September 2025.

85. The Office continued its work to address corruption related to the management and protection of natural resources, including by providing support to 15 authorities responsible for the management of wildlife, forests and fisheries resources in seven countries (Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Solomon Islands and South Africa), in particular with regard to corruption risks and the implementation of risk mitigation strategies.

86. UNODC, through its Programme on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption and Economic Crime, organized or supported 56 activities, comprising 12 regional, 31 global and 13 national events, with over 3,150 beneficiaries from 143 countries. Highlights included preventing corruption and crime in sport by continuing to raise awareness about those risks through a combination of virtual, hybrid and in-person events, such as a conference held for Governments and national football associations from a number of countries in the Americas and the Caribbean; ensuring that legislation, regulation and policies were in place to help tackle corruption and economic crime in sport, such as by supporting the development of a new law in Uzbekistan aimed at tackling competition manipulation; developing effective cooperation frameworks between criminal justice authorities and sport organizations, such as by supporting the work of the International Partnership against Corruption in Sport and contributing to initiatives such as the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Integrity Task Force, the Olympic Movement Group on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions, the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) European football anti-match-fixing working group, the INTERPOL Match-Fixing Task Force, the Ad Hoc Match Monitoring Group for the 2024 Copa América and the Crime and Sport International Working Group Meeting; enhancing the capacities of relevant stakeholders in the investigation and prosecution of cases involving corruption and crime in sport, such as by co-organizing a workshop with the International Olympic Committee and the International Cricket Council to develop the skills of criminal justice authorities in Malawi, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe; and the launch of the UNODC publication entitled “Game over: exposing the linkages between corruption, serious and organized crime in sport”.

87. UNODC enhanced integrity in the private sector by promoting collective action and building the anti-corruption capacities of companies in Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, the United Arab Emirates, Uruguay and Uzbekistan. UNODC also increased multi-stakeholder engagement on business integrity, directly reaching more than 5,455 stakeholders from academia, civil society, the public sector and the private

sector through technical assistance, working groups, training, conferences and communication campaigns in 2024.

88. UNODC and the United Nations Global Compact cooperated on a number of business integrity activities in 2024, such as webinars, conferences, training courses and communication campaigns. They also continued their joint series of global webinars to enhance knowledge of anti-corruption measures in the private sector, delivering webinars to more than 3,900 beneficiaries in 2024. UNODC supported the Global Compact in commemorating the twentieth anniversary of the Compact's tenth principle against corruption through an event held in New York in September 2024 that brought together various stakeholders and partners to renew their commitment to enhancing business integrity globally. In March 2024, UNODC, the Global Compact and OECD jointly published *A Resource Guide on State Measures for Strengthening Business Integrity*. UNODC also contributed to other private sector initiatives against corruption, including the Business 20, the twenty-first International Anti-Corruption Conference (for which Transparency International acts as the secretariat), the fifth International Collective Action Conference (hosted by the Basel Institute on Governance) and the OECD Global Anti-Corruption and Integrity Forum.

Young people, education and civil society

89. In 2024, UNODC continued to strengthen the role of non-governmental actors (young people, academic institutions and civil society organizations) in the fight against corruption by holding several workshops for young people and an essay-writing competition to better understand the impact of corruption on young people, as well as continuing to provide relevant university modules, including on the use of artificial intelligence and corruption in the health sector, to support academic teaching on those topics. UNODC launched a one-year campaign focusing on the role that young people can play in preventing and fighting corruption, entitled "Uniting with youth against corruption: shaping tomorrow's integrity".

International cooperation and asset recovery

90. UNODC maintained a list of central authorities responsible for requests for mutual legal assistance designated in accordance with article 46, paragraph 13, of the Convention against Corruption. As at the end of the reporting period, the list contained information on 164 authorities designated by 133 States.

91. The GlobE Network, established in 2021 under the auspices of UNODC, comprised 229 member authorities from 124 States as at 31 January 2025. The Network's secure communications solution for the exchange of operational information is available to 161 users from 74 countries. The use of a standard form for requesting information facilitates the process of information exchange.

92. In 2024, UNODC, through its GlobE Network, continued to build the capacity of operational anti-corruption law enforcement authorities by providing a platform for various in-person and virtual knowledge sessions and by publishing a report entitled "Towards identifying good practices in denial of entry of corrupt individuals and the potential role of the global network in facilitating the exchange of information in this area" and issuing a conference room paper on the legal and practical issues of the implementation of article 49 of the Convention against Corruption in the setting up and running of joint investigations.⁷ The Compendium of Practices on Informal Cooperation in Transnational Corruption Cases was published in 2024 and translated into Serbian, Thai and Russian.

93. In 2024, UNODC and the World Bank, through the StAR Initiative, worked with various countries to strengthen their capacity to trace, seize, freeze, confiscate and return assets involved in cases of corruption. The Global Forum on Asset Recovery (GFAR) Action Series, launched in 2023 under the StAR Initiative, continued to facilitate communication and negotiations among requested and requesting countries

⁷ CAC/COSP/EG.1/2024/CRP.1.

in connection with specific ongoing cases, and it now covered the following nine focus countries: Algeria, Honduras, Iraq, Nigeria, Republic of Moldova, Seychelles, South Africa, Ukraine and Zambia. Over 150 bilateral and multijurisdictional meetings have been organized within the framework of the GFAR Action Series since its launch.

94. In addition, the first of a series of regional meetings between anti-corruption and tax authorities was held under the StAR Initiative with a view to strengthening inter-agency coordination and collaboration and improving results in relation to the prevention and the recovery of proceeds of, and the enforcement of cases involving, corruption and tax crimes. The first meeting was held in Nairobi and brought together representatives of anti-corruption and revenue authorities from Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

3. Cooperation with other entities

95. UNODC worked closely on projects with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNESCO, the United Nations Global Compact and the Department of Peace Operations of the Secretariat. At the global level, the Office continued to serve as co-Chair of the Global Task Force on Corruption, together with UNDP and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs of the Secretariat, in order to strengthen United Nations coordination and consultation with respect to the development of anti-corruption policy and the delivery of technical assistance further to the implementation of the United Nations common position to address global corruption. In partnership with the Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Office contributed to the preparation of practical guidance for United Nations country teams on the integration of anti-corruption measures in peace operations and special political missions. The practical guidance is expected to be issued in 2025. Under joint projects, such as the StAR Initiative, technical assistance and new tools and resources were provided to States Parties and stakeholders.

96. In its role as the secretariat of the Implementation Review Mechanism, UNODC continued its close coordination with the Council of Europe Group of States against Corruption, the Organization of American States and OECD in their capacity as the secretariats of other anti-corruption review mechanisms. In 2024, UNODC and the European Commission co-hosted the first iteration of the Anti-Corruption Partnership Forum, which was established at the tenth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention against Corruption, held in Atlanta, United States of America, in 2023. The Forum brings together nine international organizations active in anti-corruption matters (UNODC, the European Union, OECD, the Council of Europe, the Organization of American States, IMF, the World Bank, the African Union and the League of Arab States) to increase coordination and cooperation on policy-related work, knowledge development, the delivery of technical assistance and anti-corruption peer reviews. The aim of the Forum is to avoid duplication of efforts and reduce silos across different international organizations working to counter corruption in order to ultimately improve service delivery for States members of the organizations.

97. UNODC supported regional and global efforts to strengthen public and private sector standards, including in partnership with the Alliance for Integrity, the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group, the integrity and compliance task force of the Business 20, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum and OECD, including the Anti-Corruption Task Team of the OECD Development Assistance Committee Network on Governance.

98. 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 through participation in regular training events held at NATO facilities.

IV. Recommendations

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

(a) Continue efforts to promote the effective implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto and the Convention against Corruption, including through the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of comprehensive evidence-based policies and strategic frameworks, in the wider context of promoting the rule of law and better governance structures as key components of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 16, while considering gender-balanced approaches and empowering young people and civil society to engage in activities to implement the 2030 Agenda, with the support of UNODC;

(b) Provide UNODC with adequate, predictable and sustainable funding to enable the Office to carry out its mandated work in support of intergovernmental processes, such as the mechanisms for the review of the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto and of the Convention against Corruption, including the preparatory process for the next phase of the Implementation Review Mechanism; strengthen international cooperation and enhance the implementation of the aforementioned instruments and the observations and recommendations emanating from their review mechanisms; and further support the work of the Office in the field of capacity-building to prevent and combat transnational organized crime, tackle corruption and recover valuable State assets;

(c) Further strengthen the capacity of criminal justice systems to detect trafficking in persons cases as well as to collect and preserve evidence, including electronic evidence, to support the successful prosecution of such cases;

(d) Increase exchange and cooperation between specialized prosecutors, including informal cooperation through the establishment of networks, to ensure coordinated global responses to the smuggling of migrants;

(e) Pursue whole-of-government approaches that integrate firearms control into crime prevention strategies, as well as the development of violence reduction initiatives;

(f) Sign and ratify the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime with a view to expanding international cooperation and countering the shift in *modi operandi* of organized criminal groups, including those that obtain illicit benefits from ransomware, online fraud, online child sexual abuse and exploitation material and other relevant crimes.
