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World crime trends and responses: 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: work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in facilitating the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in facilitating the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

International cooperation in combating transnational organized crime and corruption

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

The present report, prepared pursuant to resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, provides a brief overview of the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the fight against transnational organized crime and corruption. It complements the reports of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime at its third session and of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption at its second session, as well as the reports of working groups established under their auspices. Those reports are available to the Commission.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its seventeenth session pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolutions 2005/17, entitled “International cooperation in the fight against transnational organized crime”, and 2006/24, entitled “International cooperation in the fight against corruption”, as well as General Assembly resolution 61/181, entitled “Strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity”. Its purpose is to inform the Commission of developments regarding the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in the area of international cooperation in the fight against transnational organized crime and corruption.

II. Transnational organized crime

2. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime¹ and its three Protocols (the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;² the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air;³ and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition⁴) continue to attract adherence. During the reporting period, eight States ratified the Convention (current total: 139 States), six States ratified the Trafficking in Persons Protocol (current total: 117 States), five States ratified the Migrants Protocol (current total: 110 States) and seven States ratified the Firearms Protocol (current total: 68 States).

3. Since the adoption by the General Assembly of the Organized Crime Convention and its Protocols, promoting universal ratification of those instruments and providing assistance to States seeking to ratify and implement them have been top priorities of UNODC.

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

4. At its third session, held in Vienna from 9 to 18 October 2006, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime adopted four decisions: on the reporting mechanism (decision 3/1), on international cooperation in criminal matters (decision 3/2), on the Trafficking in Persons Protocol and the Migrants Protocol (decision 3/3) and on technical assistance (decision 3/4).

5. Pursuant to decision 3/2, a Steering Committee was established to provide assistance and guidelines in the preparation and organization of workshops on international cooperation in criminal matters with a view to promoting the effective

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

² *Ibid.*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 2241, No. 39574.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 2326, No. 39574.

implementation of the relevant provisions of the Organized Crime Convention. The first meeting of the Steering Committee was convened during the third session of the Conference of the Parties, and its further meetings were held in June and October 2007 to explore its role in supporting the implementation of decision 3/2, and particularly planning the holding of the regional workshops. The Steering Committee also met in February 2008 in the margins of the Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking.

6. The objectives of the regional workshops were to ensure that central and other competent authorities designated under the Organized Crime Convention establish close working contacts; to promote knowledge of the Convention mechanisms and potential in the area of international cooperation in criminal matters; to provide a platform for discussing ways and means of complying with other, related mandates under decision 3/2 (e.g. online directory and virtual network of central authorities, compilation of cases).

7. Three workshops have been held to date: in Bogotá from 12 to 14 September 2007, in cooperation with the Organization of American States (OAS); in Kuala Lumpur from 14 to 16 November 2007, for Central and East Asia; and in Cairo from 4 to 6 December 2007, for the Middle East and North Africa. The workshops proved to be very successful, achieving their aim of bringing together central and other competent authorities to discuss issues and obstacles in carrying out international legal cooperation.

8. Three further workshops have been planned for 2008: one to be held in Vienna from 7 to 9 April 2008, in cooperation with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE); another is to be held in Dakar, for francophone countries in Central, North and West Africa; and another is to be held in Barbados or Trinidad and Tobago, as a follow-up workshop for the Caribbean. Throughout the workshops, participants were appreciative of the presence of experts from various countries and regions as a means of fostering not only regional but also intraregional cooperation in legal and judicial matters.

9. At a meeting held in February 2008, the Steering Committee emphasized the importance of expanding the group of experts, as well as ways to improve and further strengthen technical assistance in the area of international cooperation, taking into account the different levels of need and capacity of countries. It suggested the further development of model legislation and training tools and the promotion, where possible and applicable, of peer-to-peer training, exchange of information and legal assistance. With reference to the mandated establishment of a virtual network on international cooperation, the Steering Committee considered it useful to proceed in steps and to ensure the completion and updating of the online directory of competent authorities, to be complemented by a website providing access to other relevant information and links to existing regional networks, in order to avoid duplication of efforts.

10. In its decision 3/4, the Conference requested its secretariat to develop proposals for technical assistance activities designed to meet the needs identified by its Open-ended Interim Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance in the priority areas identified in its recommendations, and to submit such proposals to the Working Group for consideration. The Working Group held a meeting in Vienna from 3 to 5 October 2007. It requested the Secretariat to develop

an efficient and user-friendly information-gathering tool in the form of a computer-based checklist and to begin developing comprehensive software-based information-gathering tools for the Organized Crime Convention and each of its Protocols. The Working Group requested the Secretariat to submit to the Conference at its fourth session proposals for specific technical assistance activities to help countries implement the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols. The Working Group recommended that at its fourth session the Conference should give thorough consideration to the issue of coordination of technical assistance and the use of assessment tools in technical assistance.

11. The Conference will hold its fourth session in 2008, according to the biennial cycle set by its rules of procedure, after its three first sessions were held annually. The full report of the Conference of the Parties at its third session and of its working groups have been made available to the Commission.

B. Promoting ratification and implementation

12. UNODC activities in this area have been partially supported through voluntary contributions to a special account established pursuant to article 30 of the Organized Crime Convention and General Assembly resolution 55/25, and operated under the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund. During the period under review, only one financial contribution was made to the account.

1. Tools

13. UNODC has developed and disseminated tools and manuals to combat transnational organized crime and published a number of studies on problems posed by transnational organized crime with a view to enhancing the knowledge base on this matter. It has begun to develop an implementation handbook and checklist to complement the Legislative Guides for the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and its Protocols.

14. In 2006 and 2007, UNODC began a global roll-out of its Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool, which can be downloaded in English, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish (<http://www.unodc.org/mla>). The Arabic and Chinese versions are expected to be available next. UNODC received numerous requests from individual Member States for translation of the Request Writer Tool into their languages. Training on the adaptation of the tool and its database to each country's domestic legal framework is the next step in the roll-out strategy.

15. In December 2006, UNODC launched an online directory of competent national authorities under the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.⁵ Following decision 3/2 of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the directory was expanded in 2007 to include authorities designated under that Convention to receive, respond to and process requests for extradition, the transfer of sentenced persons, mutual legal assistance and cooperation to suppress the smuggling of migrants by sea (under the Migrants Protocol). The online directory gives competent national authorities easy access to

⁵ Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.

the updated contact information of their counterparts in most countries, as well as means of communication, and provides information on legal requirements for cooperation.

16. UNODC developed a set of internationally accepted good practices on witness protection. Its publication on this subject covers procedural protections and information regarding the establishment of witness protection units. It reflects experience from different geographical regions and legal systems, as well as existing literature and previous and ongoing work by UNODC and other international and regional organizations.

17. The Toolkit to Combat Trafficking in Persons, first published in October 2006, was updated in 2007. It presents conceptual, legislative and organizational tools used to prevent and combat trafficking in persons in various regions. Its model practices are made available for use and adaptation by a variety of practitioners, including judges, providers of services to victims, police and policymakers.

18. The development of an advanced operational training manual on protection of victims of trafficking in persons and investigation and prosecution of traffickers was continued. Four informal expert group meetings were held. The manual will be made available in late 2008 for adaptation and implementation in various regions.

19. Draft model legislation on trafficking in persons was reviewed, taking into account the input from a meeting of an expert working group held in October 2007. The model law will be finalized in early 2008.

20. In 2007, UNODC continued its work developing guidelines to assist Member States in the practical implementation of the Firearms Protocol. The guidelines are intended to help States create and strengthen the institutions necessary to control licit flows of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition and combat illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms. Once completed, the guidelines will be available to Member States to help them establish the mechanisms needed to effectively implement the provisions of the Protocol, including systems for controlling transfers of firearms, marking of firearms, maintaining records of markings and international transactions and sharing information with other States to help prevent, detect and investigate illicit manufacturing and trafficking.

2. Provision of technical assistance for legislation and capacity-building

(a) Legislative assistance

21. From 23 to 25 July 2007, an expert group meeting held in Santiago finalized a draft model law on witness protection for Latin American States. The participants comprised representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama and Peru, as well as the International Association of Prosecutors, the International Criminal Court and OAS. UNODC is developing a model agreement on international cooperation in the area of witness protection. In 2008, expert group meetings will be held to universalize the model law and finalize the model agreement.

22. In 2007, UNODC provided Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Kenya, Mauritius, Slovakia and Uganda with assistance in drafting and reviewing legislation against trafficking in humans. It also provided assistance in the legislative review of the Migrants Protocol in Senegal and

Viet Nam and advice on its implementation. UNODC conducted a regional workshop on the Migrants Protocol in which government representatives from the 15 member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Mauritania participated. A needs-assessment mission on smuggling of migrants was carried out in Yemen.

(b) *Capacity-building*

United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

23. Training in the field of counter-kidnapping was provided in May 2007 through a regional course held in Bogotá for police academy trainers from Latin America and the Caribbean, based on the United Nations *Counter-Kidnapping Manual*. The Serious Organised Crime Agency of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland provided trainers for the event, and the Government of Colombia supported the course by providing access to its operational training facilities and instructors. In October 2007 a similar course was conducted in the United Arab Emirates for prosecutors and judges from Iraq. In addition, the Police Assistance Mission of the European Community to Albania translated the United Nations *Counter-Kidnapping Manual* into Albanian and in March 2007 ran a training course in Tirana based on that Manual.

24. In the field of witness protection, UNODC organized training workshops for law enforcement officials, prosecutors, members of the judiciary and legislators in Georgia, Guatemala and Panama. UNODC also conducted assessment missions on witness protection to Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Guatemala.

25. In September 2007, UNODC organized a workshop on money-laundering for approximately 335 tax and financial intelligence officials, police, prosecutors and judges, many of whom came from regional offices. The conference highlighted the need to trace illicit assets rather than look solely at predicate offences. One of the outcomes was the recommendation to draft a law on forfeiture of civil assets. With coordination by UNODC, a draft law on civil-asset forfeiture based on the national law on asset forfeiture in Colombia has been drafted and submitted to the Colombian Congress.

26. The Public Ministry in Quito implemented a pilot case-management programme to better evaluate, manage and distribute complaints and possible criminal cases. The programme has proved very efficient. In one year, the rate of reception and processing of criminal cases requiring further investigation was accelerated by some 37 per cent. The system reduces the number of cases going into the system and thereby provides prosecutors with more time to focus on those cases which need attention and can be resolved. UNODC provided computer equipment and software to support the system and move it beyond the pilot stage.

27. In September 2007, UNODC participated in the OAS expert group meeting to finalize an action plan against transnational organized crime for the hemisphere within the framework of the Organized Crime Convention. Project activities in the region were undertaken in cooperation with OAS in 2006 and 2007, with a focus on Central America. UNODC supported the annual conference of the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors, held in Santiago in November 2007.

28. From 25 to 27 July 2007, the first Latin American regional conference of the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors was held. The conference, which dealt with the topic of witness assistance and protection, was co-hosted by the Office of Public Prosecution in Chile and the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors, with support and expertise provided by UNODC. Approximately 150 prosecutors from the region attended, including several attorneys general. The work of UNODC in the area of witness protection was highlighted, as was the need for greater participation by prosecutors from both of the associations mentioned above as an effective means to share experiences and learn about international standards and norms.

29. In August 2007, UNODC, in collaboration with the Interpol regional office in El Salvador, trained six intelligence analysts from El Salvador, two from Guatemala, two from Honduras and two from Nicaragua on the use of the Analyst's Notebook software and provided them with that software so as to allow them to make more in-depth investigations into organized criminal groups operating in their countries. The subregional specialized training also helped establish a network of analysts who share information and tactics, using a common software system, to better identify criminal structures and to identify and seize illicit assets. During the training, real cases were discussed, and it was demonstrated how the software could improve the quality of analysis. Two software licences were provided to El Salvador and one licence was provided to each of the following countries: Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

30. In December 2007, UNODC organized an expert group meeting on electronic evidence-gathering in Vienna. The objectives of the meeting were to identify and discuss factors adversely or favourably affecting the use of surveillance for electronic evidence-gathering, the steps needed during the investigative and trial stages and the challenges in conducting cross-border surveillance; to promote the exchange of experiences and ideas in the field of electronic surveillance; and to obtain best practices for use in developing a training module on electronic evidence-gathering in the investigation and detection of serious crime.

Trafficking in Persons Protocol and Migrants Protocol

31. UNODC assistance focuses on the criminal justice components of combating trafficking in persons, including awareness-raising and training of officials, supporting the establishment of special police units and prosecutorial structures, designing witness protection schemes and otherwise securing the safety of victims, data collection and analysis, and developing cooperation among officials in various countries in carrying out investigation, protection and prosecution actions by enabling effective information exchange and joint action. In 2007, UNODC continued to carry out projects in Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Latin America, with new projects launched in the Black Sea area, East Africa, the western Balkans, South and East Asia and the Pacific, Central America, Senegal and Uzbekistan.

32. Criminal justice officials, including police, border guards, prosecutors, judges, legislative drafters and staff of non-governmental organizations from countries such as Botswana, India, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Moldova, Thailand and Viet Nam, received specialized training. In several countries, the training was integrated into the curricula of national training institutes. UNODC

assisted the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in training its senior officials and those from Partnership for Peace countries to combat trafficking in persons.

33. UNODC worked closely with national authorities in developing policies and action plans against trafficking in persons in several countries, including Brazil, Colombia and Slovakia. In addition, technical assistance was provided in the establishment of relevant infrastructure. In Colombia the assistance resulted in the creation of a division devoted to human trafficking within the Attorney General's Office. In India, units specialized in countering trafficking in humans were established in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa and West Bengal.

34. UNODC designed a comprehensive programme to assist Member States in North and West Africa in strengthening the criminal justice response to the smuggling of migrants from and through Africa. To be launched in early 2008, the programme consists of six technical components: legislative development; policy development and institutional capacity-building; human capacity-building; international cooperation; data collection and analysis; and awareness-raising. Partnership is also being sought with such actors as the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union and the European Police Office (Europol) and a UNODC interdivisional task force has been created to coordinate action on issues related to the smuggling of migrants.

35. In 2007, UNODC continued its technical assistance in developing specific indicators for the smuggling of migrants and relevant methodology for data collection in South Asia. The resulting study, to be published in early 2008, will focus on the smuggling of migrants from India into Europe, in particular into the United Kingdom.

Firearms Protocol

36. UNODC promotes a coherent and comprehensive approach to prevent and combat trafficking in firearms. Its mandate is to strengthen the ability of Member States in ratifying and implementing the Firearms Protocol through technical and legal assistance. In this context, UNODC focuses beyond criminalization, on control measures, such as marking of firearms, record-keeping, licensing or authorization systems, confiscation, deactivation and brokering. Its work complements the actions of other entities of the United Nations system with a firearms control mandate.

37. In June 2007, in partnership with the Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Centre in Zagreb, UNODC organized a training seminar on control measures to prevent and combat trafficking in firearms. The aim of the meeting was to address issues related to the implementation of the Protocol, exchange views and share experiences among law enforcement officials responsible for firearms control. There was extensive examination of the legislative and technical requirements of the Protocol and their means of implementation.

38. The Colombia-based UNODC project on preventing and combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms and ammunition to prevent crime and promote a culture of peace in Colombia contains six key inputs to prevent crime through the strengthening of measures to prevent illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms and ammunition. One of the inputs is related to the train-the-trainer courses, implemented at the regional level by the United Nations Regional

Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the University for Peace, Interpol and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD). The courses have been developed in 30 Latin American and Caribbean countries. In Colombia, they have been organized jointly by UNODC and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development, in close cooperation with the National Firearms Committee (composed of 13 national institutions). To date, four training courses have been developed, and a fifth is planned for the beginning of March 2008. A total of 251 officials from various government institutions (including military forces, the Ministry of Defence, the national police, the Department for Intelligence Affairs, the National Customs Department and the Attorney General's Office), have been trained on basic techniques for the control of the legal trade and the prevention of the illegal traffic in firearms, ammunition and explosives. In the region, 1,498 members of law enforcement institutions have been trained in the courses.

39. UNODC has also assisted the Government of Colombia in the destruction of over 16,000 firearms seized from or handed over by insurgent groups in the process of their reinsertion into civil life. UNODC has also worked in close cooperation with local authorities and youth organizations in the development of a national campaign to prevent violence among youth. Such activities include the presenting of *escopetarras* (AK-47 assault rifles converted into guitars) to institutions and personalities in recognition of their work with communities and in the search for peace.

3. Cooperation with other entities

40. UNODC works closely with international, regional and non-governmental organizations to promote a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach, in the recognition that trafficking in humans is a multifaceted issue. Partner organizations include Interpol, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). UNODC is also a member of the OSCE expert coordination team of the alliance Against Trafficking in Persons, comprising representatives from major European and international institutions combating trafficking in persons in Europe.

41. The Inter-Agency Cooperation Group against Trafficking in Persons, established in 2006, aims to foster coordination and cooperation among relevant United Nations agencies and other relevant international organizations in assisting States in preventing and combating human trafficking. It is designed to promote effective and efficient use of existing resources, utilizing to the extent possible mechanisms already in place at the regional and national levels, and to share information, experiences and good practices on anti-trafficking activities. Members of the Inter-Agency Cooperation Group are currently ILO, IOM, UNICEF, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and UNODC. Two meetings of the Inter-Agency Cooperation Group have been held.

42. Another mechanism designed to enhance coordination and cooperation among all relevant players in the fight against trafficking in persons at the national, regional and global level is the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking. The philosophy of the Global Initiative is that Governments, the international community, civil society, academia and the business community cannot meet the challenge of curbing human trafficking alone. UNODC is facilitating the Global Initiative in cooperation with ILO, IOM, UNICEF, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and OSCE.

43. Research activities were also undertaken by UNODC in 2007 under the auspices of the Global Initiative with the aim of reviewing existing official government information on trafficking in humans. The resulting global overview will highlight the availability of “real” data and identify major information gaps. The information collected includes the number of investigations, prosecutions and convictions of traffickers in the last few years. Where available, the study attempts to assess the number of victims officially identified and assisted by the competent authorities during the same period. The data collection will result in a report on trafficking in humans to be published by the end of 2008.

44. The Global Migration Group is yet another example of inter-agency coordination. It brings together heads of agencies that seek to promote the wider application of all relevant international and regional instruments and norms relating to migration, and to encourage the adoption of more coherent, comprehensive and better-coordinated approaches to the issue of international migration. Currently the Global Migration Group consists of 10 organizations: ILO, IOM, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, UNDP, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, UNODC and the World Bank.

45. UNODC has continued to participate in the United Nations Coordinating Action on Small Arms Mechanism (CASA), which serves as a mechanism for consultation, exchanging information and setting priorities among United Nations departments, agencies, funds and programmes dealing with issues related to small arms and light weapons.

46. In this context, pursuant to the recommendation of the 2005 United Nations inter-agency mission to Guinea-Bissau, a joint project was developed to support the establishment and functioning of the National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons, which was established by presidential decree and inaugurated on 30 March 2007, and to build the country’s capacity to implement the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. The project also foresees assistance in updating legislation in accordance with modern standards, ECOWAS requirements, the Programme of Action, the Firearms Protocol and the international instrument on tracing. A follow-up mission was organized in May 2007 to carry out consultations with the Government and civil society stakeholders, with a view to revising the project document in accordance with new realities on the ground. Finally, in January 2008, a third CASA mission took place to start the project activities on the ground. UNODC legal assistance is expected to follow in the course of 2008, in

close cooperation with the overall assistance package that it will provide to Guinea-Bissau.

47. Further to this, UNODC will support the endeavour of CASA to adopt international standards on small arms control, which will allow States to operationalize the implementation of the Firearms Protocol taking advantage of existing best practices and other standards worldwide. With the aim of ensuring proper coordination and relationships of mutual support with regional organizations active in the field of firearms, in February 2008 UNODC participated in the Second Conference of the State Parties to the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials, and presented information on the Firearms Protocol and its status of implementation.

4. Public awareness and special events

48. In March 2007, in collaboration with partner organizations, UNODC launched the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, joining forces and coordinating activities to prevent trafficking in humans. As part of the Global Initiative, a series of regional events took place in 2007, all leading to the Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking, held from 13 to 15 February 2008. Some 1,000 representatives of Member States, organizations in the United Nations system, other international organizations, regional organizations, the business community, academia, non-governmental organizations and other civil society groups attended the Forum.

49. The first regional event under the Global Initiative was held in Kampala in June 2007, focusing on the issue of trafficking in humans in conflict and post-conflict countries. A conference in Brazil in October targeted the development of the national action plan of Brazil, emphasizing monitoring and evaluation. Meanwhile, in Thailand, a simultaneous regional event focused on criminal justice responses to trafficking in persons. A major event in South Africa, also in October 2007, focused on interfaith dialogue. Also in October 2007, a major conference in India looked at the issue of responding to trafficking for sexual exploitation in South Asia. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey hosted and chaired a conference on trafficking in humans in the Black Sea area in October 2007. Also in October 2007, the role of the media in preventing trafficking in persons was emphasized in a conference in Lithuania. At the end of October 2007, the League of Arab States, with UNODC support, held a workshop in Egypt on the status of relevant legislation in Arab countries. In an event held in West Africa, the Global Initiative picked up the theme of conflict and post-conflict zones, but focused more on trafficking in children for use in armed conflict. In Central Asia, in December 2007, a round table analysed achievements in the area of combating trafficking in persons, aiming to strengthen cooperation and coordination within Central Asia and with partners in Belarus, Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

50. UNODC commissioned *One Life, No Price*, an 8-minute film on trafficking in humans in South Asia, presenting the stories of six victims of such trafficking. A 2-minute version of the film was produced as a public service message, sensitizing millions of viewers to that form of crime and galvanizing people to take action against it. Both versions feature major Bollywood figures. The shorter version will be shown in conjunction with the producer's latest feature film, which is designed to appeal to Indian families worldwide.

III. Corruption

51. The United Nations Convention against Corruption (General Assembly resolution 58/4, annex) entered into force on 14 December 2005. At the time of preparing the present report, 140 States had signed the Convention and 108 had ratified it.

52. At its first session, the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption adopted eight resolutions, concerning the review of implementation; mechanisms for gathering information on the implementation of the Convention; adapting laws and regulations to bring them into conformity with the provisions of the Convention; asset recovery; technical assistance; an international cooperation workshop on technical assistance; the issue of bribery of officials of public international organizations; and best practices in the fight against corruption. It also adopted a decision, on the offer of the Government of Indonesia to host the second session of the Conference.

A. Implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption at its first session

53. In its resolution 1/2, the Conference decided that a self-assessment checklist should be used as a tool to facilitate the provision of information on the implementation of the Convention and requested the Secretariat to finalize the self-assessment checklist and to distribute it to States parties and signatories as soon as possible to begin the process of information-gathering. Between February and April 2007, the Secretariat began the development of a basic survey software package, which incorporated the self-assessment checklist. From 9 to 11 March 2007, a group of experts held a meeting in Vancouver, Canada, to review and validate the approach. On 15 June 2007, the Secretariat distributed a CD-ROM containing the software to States parties and signatories, and on 30 June 2007, a computer-based application was made available for downloading from the UNODC website (<http://www.unodc.org>). As at 21 January 2008, 65 Member States, including 56 States Parties to the Convention, had submitted their self-assessment reports.

54. At its first session, the Conference also requested the Secretariat to assist parties in their efforts to collect and provide information on their self-assessment and their analysis of implementation efforts and to report on those efforts to the Conference. UNODC developed a technical assistance project to offer opportunities to test possible means for reviewing the implementation of the Convention. The programme entailed a limited review of implementation in countries that volunteered to participate, offering the possibility of using self-assessment, group and/or expert review methods. It was aimed at testing the effectiveness and efficiency of the approach, thus assisting the Conference in reaching a decision on the establishment of an appropriate review mechanism. The participating countries were Argentina, Austria, Finland, France, Greece, Indonesia, Jordan, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Poland, Romania, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States and the United Republic of Tanzania.

55. Meetings of the countries that had volunteered to participate were held to discuss the terms of reference of the expert review group and the review methodology. The review was based on the self-assessment checklist, with adjustments made to account for the length and purposes of the pilot programme. Participating countries were divided into groups, with each country under review teamed up with two other countries, one of which was from the same region, the aim being to foster closer regional dialogue and provide, where possible, benchmarks for the review that would be in a comparable context. Emphasis was placed on the importance of active dialogue between the country under review and the experts of the other two countries. Experts could conduct country visits to validate the findings of their analysis, where appropriate and agreed to by the country under review.

56. At the time of the expert review group meeting, in December 2007 in Vienna, the 16 country reviews had reached various stages. All countries under review had identified focal points and submitted their self-assessment checklists. All countries under review had also been in contact with the experts tasked with the review. Countries had engaged in active dialogue with the experts and with the secretariat on a range of issues. Telephone conferences had been conducted to discuss specific points contained in the self-assessments, as well as the organization of possible country visits. Country visits were to take place in some countries before and in some after the second session of the Conference. In some cases, where reviews had been completed and no country visits were foreseen, experts were finalizing reports on the review process.

57. Pursuant to Conference resolution 1/6, a workshop for relevant practitioners and experts, including from multilateral and bilateral donor agencies and recipient countries, was held to bring together development and legal experts in the area of anti-corruption policies. The International Cooperation Workshop on Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption was held in Montevideo from 30 May to 1 June 2007. The workshop was attended by 75 experts from 37 countries and 14 experts from international and non-governmental organizations.

58. The Conference, in its resolution 1/7, requested UNODC to initiate an open-ended dialogue between the relevant public international organizations and States parties on the issue of bribery of officials of public international organizations. For the implementation of the resolution, UNODC adopted a two-pronged approach. First, the open-ended dialogue was advanced through a meeting, held in Vienna on 27 September 2007, that brought together international organizations and States. Secondly, UNODC presented a proposal to the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to undertake a system-wide integrity initiative that would extend the principles and standards of the Convention to the organizations of the United Nations system. Two meetings were held as follow-up to that proposal, the first one in Vienna on 28 September 2007 and the second in 31 January 2008, in conjunction with the second session of the Conference.

B. Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption at its second session and its working groups

59. The Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery held an intersessional meeting in Vienna on 27 and 28 August 2007. The Working Group adopted a series of recommendations on practical tools for asset recovery to be developed. It highlighted the need to gather information on different types of money-laundering, to analyse legal and regulatory frameworks and to recognize the responsibility of the financial sector. It stressed the importance of close cooperation, trust and exchange of knowledge between competent authorities in requesting and requested States and recommended the establishment of a global network of focal points for asset recovery and annual meetings of those focal points.

60. The Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption held an intersessional meeting in Vienna from 29 to 31 August 2007. It recommended that for the second session of the Conference the Secretariat prepare a report analysing the information received using the self-assessment checklist and a report containing a comparative analysis of methods employed by existing regional or sectoral mechanisms. The Working Group further recommended that the secretariat collect best practices in the fight against corruption.

61. The Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Technical Assistance held an intersessional meeting on 1 and 2 October 2007. It requested the Secretariat to establish, for use by practitioners, an electronic repository of national anti-corruption measures and of legislation implementing the relevant provisions of the Convention. It also requested that the Secretariat organize a round table during the second session of the Conference to bring together representatives of States and of bilateral and multilateral donor agencies.

62. UNODC undertook extensive preparations for the second session of the Conference, held in Nusa Dua, Indonesia, from 28 January to 1 February 2008. The work of the Helsinki Process and the group of friends of the Convention against Corruption (co-chaired in 2007 and 2008 by Argentina and France) contributed significantly to the substantive preparations for the Conference.

63. At its second session the Conference adopted five resolutions, on the review of implementation, technical assistance, asset recovery, adapting legislation and regulations, and bribery of officials of public international organizations. The report of the Conference on its second session (CAC/COSP/2008/18), which includes the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Conference, will be made available to the Commission.⁶

64. A number of special events were organized in conjunction with the second session of the Conference: one entitled "Artists for integrity"; a round table on corruption and development; a forum for parliamentarians; an event for representatives of the business community; a peer-to-peer media forum; a round-table discussion on bribery of officials of public international organizations; a

⁶ The report of the Conference on its second session, together with the documentation and reports prepared for the Conference, can be accessed on the website of UNODC (www.unodc.org).

ministerial round table on the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative; and an event for civil society organizations.

C. Promoting ratification and implementation

1. Tools

65. In collaboration with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, UNODC prepared a draft of a technical guide to promote the implementation of the Convention against Corruption. The draft has been circulated to Member States for comment.

66. Following the adoption of Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/23, on strengthening judicial conduct, UNODC elaborated a commentary on the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct. The work in that connection included the convening of an intergovernmental expert group meeting in March 2007, attended by experts from more than 30 countries from all regions. The meeting reviewed comments provided by Member States. The commentary was published in English and is currently being translated into Arabic and Korean. Moreover, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolutions 2006/23 and 2007/22, UNODC is developing a guide on strengthening judicial integrity and capacity.

2. Provision of technical assistance for legislation and capacity-building

67. In 2007 UNODC conducted advisory missions and/or desk reviews of anti-corruption legislation in the following countries: Armenia, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Indonesia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan and Montenegro. During the period under review, UNODC continued to implement projects in Brazil, Cape Verde, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Kenya and Nigeria.

68. Project highlights in 2007 included the development of action plans to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency and integrity of the judiciary in 10 states in Nigeria and training manuals on alternative dispute resolution, restorative justice and judicial ethics. In addition, more than 400 professionals from the justice sector were trained in alternative dispute resolution, restorative justice and rules of professional conduct. Furthermore, a workshop was conducted for practitioners and policymakers on non-conviction-based asset forfeiture and asset management and State integrity, and a policy paper was prepared and widely disseminated for the adoption of relevant legislation. Further activities included the development of national anti-corruption strategies in Tajikistan and the provision of advisory services on the establishment, management and operation of, and the setting of priorities for, anti-corruption bodies in Bolivia, Brazil, Kenya and Tajikistan.

69. In 2007, UNODC launched the Anti-Corruption Mentor Programme with the objective of providing top-level and long-term specialized expertise to government institutions tasked with the prevention and control of corruption. To date, three mentors have been posted in government institutions in Bolivia, Kenya and Tajikistan and have provided technical assistance for the development of national anti-corruption policies, reviews of anti-corruption legislation and the conduct of several training activities and workshops to enhance the specialized skills of

anti-corruption practitioners. In the course of 2008, additional mentors will be posted in selected countries.

70. Technical assistance projects were developed for Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Colombia, Kenya, Maldives, Panama, Paraguay and Swaziland. In 2007, UNODC received new requests from Burundi, Cambodia, the Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Kuwait, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Mongolia, Paraguay, Qatar and Viet Nam. In accordance with some of the key requirements of the Convention against Corruption and the specific needs of countries, those projects focus on the development of effective anti-corruption policies, the establishment of independent anti-corruption bodies and the strengthening of the integrity of criminal justice institutions and their capacity to prevent and control corruption.

71. In the context of providing support for the overall implementation of the Convention against Corruption, jointly with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), UNODC organized and conducted training in two modules: (a) an overview of the Convention and technical assistance measures supporting its implementation; and (b) a practical exercise for developing a project concept for the implementation of the Convention or some of its key provisions. The training targeted field staff of UNODC, ECA and other interested partner organizations stationed in Africa and the Middle East. The training was conducted in Addis Ababa in December 2007. UNODC also contributed to the International Training Course on Corruption Control in Criminal Justice, organized by the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and attended by participants from seven countries in South-East Asia.

72. The United Nations Democracy Fund approved a project, to be executed by UNODC, aimed at providing emerging democracies in Africa with a blueprint for anti-corruption action based on the provisions of the Convention against Corruption. Implementation began in 2007, in cooperation with the Institute for Security Studies, based in South Africa, which is part of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network. Particular emphasis is placed on assessing the normative framework, capacity and institutional set-up of the participating countries to implement the Convention, putting in place effective measures in line with its provisions and developing a concrete action plan to be implemented for each measure. An assessment mission to Liberia was carried out in November 2007, and further assessments and a regional workshop will be conducted in 2008.

73. A regional conference for Spanish-speaking countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on the review of the implementation of the Convention against Corruption was organized in La Paz from 18 to 20 December. The conference brought together 60 delegates from 18 countries of the region to analyse progress in the implementation of the Convention and identify gaps in respect of which action is required and technical assistance needed.

3. Cooperation with other entities

74. UNODC and the World Bank launched the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) initiative on 17 September 2007. Work under that joint initiative will include promotion of the implementation of the Convention against Corruption, assistance to developing countries in building capacity for mutual legal assistance and

partnerships to share information and expertise for successful asset recovery. A number of consultation missions to identify possible pilot countries and determine their needs and political commitment have been planned or undertaken. An initial consultation mission has been conducted in Indonesia. An appropriate joint funding vehicle will be established to receive voluntary contributions from donors for the provision of assistance to States for asset recovery. Other possible activities include the development of training tools, a library of good practices and a Web-based list of focal points for asset recovery. A workshop will be conducted in Bangkok in 2008 to take stock of progress in the initiative. To oversee the work of the initiative, the two organizations are creating a joint StAR secretariat that will be based in the offices of the World Bank in Washington, D.C., and will include World Bank and UNODC staff.

75. UNODC and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization have launched a joint project on corruption prevention to foster the development of small and medium-sized enterprises. Three assessment missions, to Croatia, Indonesia and Malawi, have been conducted. The objective of those missions was to identify possible measures, tools and technical assistance activities to assist small and medium-sized enterprises in addressing the challenges posed to them by corrupt practices. On the basis of the findings of the missions, technical assistance activities were identified and a joint concept for support was elaborated. Moreover, the report *Corruption Prevention to Foster Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise Development: Providing Anti-Corruption Assistance to Small Businesses in the Developing World* was published.

76. Furthermore, in 2007 UNODC launched a joint effort with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) on supporting the implementation of article 9 of the Convention against Corruption, on public procurement and the management of public resources. In this context, UNCITRAL initiated the review of its Model Law on Public Procurement in line with the requirements of the Convention, and jointly with UNODC and UNDP conducted a review of legislation in Montenegro. Joint advisory missions are planned for 2008.

77. Moreover, UNODC established a number of joint initiatives with UNDP. Their partnership in Montenegro was established to implement the project "Capacity-building of local NGOs to participate in anti-corruption initiatives". A similar partnership was established with the UNDP Programme on Governance in the Arab Region to implement an initiative on good governance for development in Arab countries, supporting the implementation of the Convention against Corruption. A joint initiative was also developed with the UNDP Bratislava Regional Centre on capacity development for anti-corruption institutions in Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

78. A joint venture of UNODC and UNDP has been established in Barbados to create awareness and promote ratification of the Convention against Corruption, through a regional conference to be organized for the wider Caribbean, co-funded by the UNDP project on capacity development for the ratification and dissemination of the Convention against Corruption in the English-speaking Caribbean (for which UNODC is a member of the Steering Committee) and the UNODC project on implementing key provisions of the Convention against Corruption in the Caribbean, Central and South America and Central Asia.

4. Meetings and special events

79. The annual treaty event of the Secretary-General for 2007, entitled Focus 2007: Towards Universal Participation and Implementation, held in September and October 2007, generated five ratifications of the Convention against Corruption.

80. UNODC contributed substantively to over a dozen national, regional and international anti-corruption workshops and conferences, raising the profile of the Convention against Corruption and providing policy guidance and technical advice on its implementation. Those events included the first World Cities Conference on Fighting Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity, held in Amsterdam in February 2007, and the workshop with Iraqi justice officials, held in Italy in April 2007, to discuss within the framework for the criminal justice reform plan various measures to enhance the integrity and capacity of the Iraqi judiciary. Other meetings included the Global Financial Crime Congress, held in Thailand in April 2007; the International Council on Human Rights Policy meeting on human rights and corruption, held in Switzerland in July 2007; the annual meeting of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption, held in Bangladesh in July 2007; the informal global consultation on good governance for medicines (phases II and III), held in Switzerland in September 2007; the launch of the StAR initiative held in the United States in September 2007; and the Second Annual Conference and General Meeting of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities, held in Indonesia in November 2007.

81. The United Nations Office at Vienna, in partnership with the Government of Austria, hosted the Seventh Global Forum on Reinventing Government in June 2007. The Global Forum offered plenary sessions, workshops and meetings designed to contribute directly to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by strengthening State capacity and improving the quality of governance. UNODC, together with UNDP, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and Transparency International organized a workshop entitled "Reinvention with Integrity: Using the United Nations Convention against Corruption", the objective of which was to explore how critical elements of the Convention could be utilized as a mechanism for government reform.

82. On the occasion of the fourth International Anti-Corruption Day, 9 December 2007, UNODC launched the campaign "Your no counts". The campaign aspired to demonstrate that, with political and individual will, it is possible to fight corruption. A range of awareness-raising tools and materials were developed, including a new slogan, video and radio spots, press interviews, posters and brochures, all geared towards enhancing knowledge and understanding of the impact of corruption and the need for integrated action against it. The campaign was also disseminated through awareness-raising activities organized by 17 UNODC field and project offices, including press conferences, round tables, radio and television programmes, sporting events and anti-corruption marches. Several countries also marked the day by organizing their own anti-corruption activities.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations for future action

83. The Commission may wish to identify ways to support the work of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption. In particular, it may wish to reiterate and enhance its call for States to make financial contributions in support of technical assistance activities.

84. The Commission may wish to explore further ways to maintain and strengthen the political momentum that is necessary for the conferences of the parties to perform their mandated functions.

85. The Commission may wish to urge Member States that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto. It may also wish to invite States to actively pursue efforts for implementation and to take advantage of the wide array of tools and assistance that UNODC continues to offer to those engaged in the fight against transnational organized crime.

86. The Commission may wish to urge Member States that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Convention against Corruption and to take every step to ensure its effective implementation. In particular, States may be urged to provide financial and material contributions for the convening of working groups and workshops for the implementation of the Convention against Corruption.
