



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
10 January 2022

Original: English

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Sixty-fifth session

Vienna, 14–18 March 2022

Items 4 and 6 of the provisional agenda*

Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions

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

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Thirty-first session

Vienna, 16–20 May 2022

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

Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions

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

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

Activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

The present report contains an overview of the activities conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) during 2021. It also contains a set of recommendations for consideration by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The report further contains information pursuant to the requests contained in Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 56/9, 59/3, 60/8, 61/2, 61/9, 62/7, 63/4, 64/1 and 64/2, Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/22 and 1999/23 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 27/4. The structure of the report is aligned with the UNODC Strategy 2021–2025.

* E/CN.7/2022/1.

** E/CN.15/2022/1.



I. Introduction

1. Since March 2020, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has claimed over 5 million lives and triggered a decline in human development for the first time since 1990. The pandemic has posed significant challenges to Member States in the fields of crime prevention, delivery of justice and addressing and countering the world drug problem.

2. In 2021, as part of its response to COVID-19, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) issued another set of policy documents on topics relating to COVID-19 and crime prevention and criminal justice, including emergency release of prisoners, infection prevention and control measures in prisons and cybercrime and COVID-19 in South-East Asia.¹ The Office also contributed to the United Nations-wide policy paper entitled “Corruption and COVID-19: challenges in crisis response and recovery”, which was developed by the Global Task Force on Corruption, co-chaired by UNODC. Furthermore, the Office published a study that illustrated the devastating impact of COVID-19 on victims and survivors of trafficking in persons and highlighted the increased targeting and exploitation of children.²

3. In the context of COVID-19, all programmatic and intergovernmental work of the Office continued to be carried out in online and hybrid formats. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, with the support of UNODC, continued to discharge their operational and normative functions against the evolving backdrop of the pandemic. UNODC supported the Commissions and other intergovernmental bodies under its mandates by providing information technology and interpretation platforms, developing training resources and guidelines for use of those platforms and participating in the related system-wide coordination process (see E/CN.7/2021/CRP.13-E/CN.15/2021/CRP.7).

II. Strategic orientation

4. In December 2021, UNODC launched a mid-term strategy for the period 2021–2025. The UNODC Strategy 2021–2025 identifies priority outcomes in addressing the world drug problem, strengthening criminal justice systems and preventing and countering transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism. It also outlines cross-cutting commitments linked to human rights, gender equality and youth empowerment. It guides the implementation of the Office’s substantive mandates by promoting integrated, cross-sectoral solutions through enhanced multilateral cooperation and partnerships. In 2021, UNODC set up a strategy implementation matrix, including workplans under the five thematic areas, to turn commitments into action. The Office is monitoring the progress of the Strategy’s implementation and reporting regularly thereon, including at meetings of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC.

New programmatic initiatives

5. In 2021, UNODC worked on a number of new initiatives. Under the Strategic Vision for Africa 2030, bankable initiatives were developed that proposed continental-wide programmes to respond to some of the pressing challenges in the region. The outcome of the consultative process for the development of the Strategic Vision for Latin America and the Caribbean will be presented in early 2022. Preparations were also undertaken for the launch of the new regional programme for South-East Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026) and the development of the new regional programme for South Asia (2023–2027).

¹ Available at www.unodc.org/unodc/en/covid-19-policy-documents.html.

² *The Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Trafficking in Persons and Responses to the Challenges: A Global Study of Emerging Evidence*.

6. The new cycles of the regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries (2022–2025) and the programme for Central Asia (2022–2025) were launched in the last quarter of 2021. Preparations were also undertaken for the launch of the new cycles of the country programme for Pakistan and the country partnership programme in the Islamic Republic of Iran (2022–2025). These programmes were developed taking into account the unprecedented challenges in Afghanistan and, along with the country programme for Afghanistan, will also represent the principle vehicles for the implementation of the UNODC strategy to prevent and contain intersecting drug, crime and terrorism threats in and around Afghanistan.

7. In January 2021, UNODC launched the second phase of the Global Programme on Implementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which streamlines the provision of technical and legislative assistance to States in relation to the implementation of the Convention and observations from its Implementation Review Mechanism, thereby supporting the enhancement of legislative and strategic frameworks at the national, regional and international levels. The Office also launched the strengthening transregional action and responses against the smuggling of migrants (STARSOM) initiative, a two-year project to counter the smuggling of migrants and protect the lives and rights of migrants along routes that lead to North America and pass through multiple countries in South Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean. Furthermore, UNODC carried out preparatory work for the launch in 2022 of new phases of the global programmes related to crime prevention and criminal justice and to wildlife and forest crime.

8. In November 2021, UNODC launched the Synthetic Drug Strategy, which presents a framework for action to address the global challenges posed by the dynamic nature of synthetic drug markets. Built around four synergetic and complementary spheres of action, the framework is grounded in science in order to guide international, regional and national action to effectively address the growing problem of synthetic drugs.

Intergovernmental developments

9. Through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, UNODC continued to support States in the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, in particular in the follow-up to the Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted in 2019, by facilitating the exchange of good practices, challenges and lessons learned. Pursuant to its multi-year workplan adopted in June 2019, the Commission held thematic discussions in October 2021 on three of the challenges identified in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019. UNODC also launched an e-learning tool³ on the implementation of the drug policy commitments.

10. The Office supported Member States in negotiating the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was adopted by the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Kyoto, Japan, from 7 to 12 March 2021. In the Declaration, States agreed on concrete actions to advance responses that addressed crime prevention, strengthened criminal justice and promoted the rule of law and international cooperation, including against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 76/181, on the Fourteenth Congress, the Office supported the Commission in developing and adopting, in June 2021, a multi-year workplan for the intersessional thematic discussions on the implementation of the Declaration. The Office also supported the Commission in organizing, in November 2021, a first round of thematic discussions to foster an exchange of good practices, challenges and lessons learned on the elements of the Declaration related to advancing crime prevention. In addition, UNODC designed a dedicated e-learning course that

³ Available at <https://golearn.unodc.org/lms/course/view.php?id=505>.

provides information on the background of the Declaration, its relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the substantive areas covered in the Declaration.⁴

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

A. Addressing and countering the world drug problem

1. Improved monitoring and analysis of the world drug problem

11. The *World Drug Report 2021* provided an in-depth analysis of contemporary threats related to evolving drug markets, their projected size by 2030, the global opioid crisis, drug trafficking over the Internet and the lack of access to controlled medicines. UNODC continued to monitor developments in jurisdictions that had legalized the non-medical use and supply of cannabis.

12. In November 2021, UNODC issued a report entitled “Drug situation in Afghanistan: latest findings and emerging threats”. The report elaborates on the current and potential impact of illicit drugs inside and outside the country and the socioeconomic and security-related factors driving the drug problem, including the illicit cultivation of opium poppy.

13. Technical support was provided in relation to the establishment of strengthened, more timely and efficient systems for monitoring illicit drug cultivation and production, including in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Mexico, Myanmar, Nigeria and Peru. The use of technology based on artificial intelligence was also tested in this context.

14. The newly revised and streamlined annual report questionnaire was launched in April 2021 through a new Internet-based data platform to facilitate reporting by Member States. A number of training sessions were held, reaching over 600 participants from about 100 countries, to familiarize designated focal points and other relevant national counterparts with the platform’s functionalities.

2. Improved quality and coverage of drug prevention, treatment, care and rehabilitation services, with a focus on young people, women and people in vulnerable circumstances

15. In 2021, UNODC continued to disseminate and implement the UNODC/World Health Organization (WHO) *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention*, along with a range of materials aimed at improving the health and well-being of children and their families, reaching 6 million people globally. The “Listen first” campaign was launched at the national level in nine countries, and its key materials are now available in 49 languages.

16. UNODC supported 11 countries in establishing and expanding evidence-based drug prevention programmes through two family skills programmes, entitled “Strong families” and “Family UNited”. In the same context, 300 facilitators were trained through a new online training platform, bringing the number of families reached, including those living in marginalized and humanitarian settings, to 10,000.

17. UNODC organized an expert consultation to develop a technical document on improving the role of law enforcement officers in prevention in school settings, in line with the UNODC/WHO *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention*.

18. In order to promote youth participation in drug prevention, the following activities were implemented: (a) the organization of the 2021 Youth Forum, which brought together 62 young people from 41 countries; (b) the development of youth action plans in nine countries; (c) the publication of the *Youth Initiative Magazine*;

⁴ Available at <https://golearn.unodc.org/lms/course/view.php?id=572>.

and (d) engagement with 24,268 young people who are implementing drug-prevention activities through the grant programme of the Drug Abuse Prevention Centre, based in Japan.

19. UNODC continued to disseminate the *UNODC/WHO International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders* and provided capacity-building to 1,600 policymakers and treatment service providers and direct support to treatment services, reaching an estimated 34,000 people with drug use disorders in 29 countries. A variety of issues were addressed, including evidence-based information on the nature of drug use disorders, prevention and treatment; the development of quality assurance mechanisms; family therapy for adolescents with drug use disorders (through the Treatnet Family training programme); community-based opioid overdose management; and treatment for children exposed to drugs at a very young age.

20. The Office initiated the development of technical documents with two expert consultations on treatment as an alternative to conviction and punishment (at the pre-arrest and pretrial stages) and one consultation on mental health services in prison, including treatment for drug use disorders. UNODC published a document entitled “Quality assurance in treatment for drug use disorders: key quality standards for service appraisal (pre-publication version)”; the implementation report of UNODC/WHO *Stop-Overdose-Safely*; feasibility studies for the Treatnet Family training programme in two countries; and, together with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and WHO, a scientific paper on priorities for addressing substance use disorders in humanitarian settings.

21. UNODC organized an international conference on women and drugs, bringing together researchers, policymakers and practitioners to share evidence and good practices in addressing the needs of women who use drugs and women involved in the illicit production of and trafficking in drugs. The Office published the Spanish version of the *Toolkit on Gender-Responsive Non-Custodial Measures*, which focuses on women arrested for drug offences. The toolkit was piloted in Thailand and Viet Nam, in partnership with the Thailand Institute of Justice.

22. UNODC continued to actively support human rights- and evidence-based prevention, treatment, care and rehabilitation initiatives at the regional and country levels, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility. These initiatives included South-South cooperation in Latin America and Central Asia to promote quality assurance for treatment services and family- and school-based prevention; youth participation in Central Asia; capacity-building in treatment and the piloting of family therapy in South-East Asia; treatment as an alternative to conviction and punishment in Africa; and family-based prevention in the Middle East and Asia.

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

23. In August 2021, the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), WHO and UNODC published a second joint statement calling upon Governments to facilitate access to controlled medicines in emergency settings, including during pandemics and climate-related disasters.

24. UNODC continued to advocate for access to controlled drugs with international partners such as WHO, INCB, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations Development Programme and civil society organizations. The Office contributed to regional training sessions organized by the INCB Learning global programme, and to other INCB capacity-building events held in April, May and June 2021. Furthermore, UNODC continued to serve on the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, partnering with other United Nations agencies to ensure access to controlled medicines for persons suffering from such diseases.

25. UNODC continued to work with the African Palliative Care Association to expand the capacity of the health-care workforce in the Democratic Republic of the

Congo. Following the successful training of over 40 key stakeholders, technical support was provided online to enable nurses, pharmacists and physicians to work together to improve health care for patients experiencing pain.

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

26. In 2021, representatives from 285 national drug-testing laboratories in 83 countries participated in the biannual UNODC international collaborative exercises programme, which assists laboratories in monitoring their performance and taking corrective action where required. UNODC provided more than 3,500 chemical reference standards, drug- and precursor-testing kits and manuals on recommended laboratory methods of analysis. Over 150 law enforcement and customs officers and forensic personnel from 13 countries were trained.

27. Following the scheduling decisions made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2020, a supplement to the *Multilingual Dictionary of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances under International Control* was issued and *Guidelines for the Safe Handling of Synthetic Opioids for Law Enforcement and Customs Officers* were published.

28. The UNODC early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances continued to monitor over 1,100 substances reported from 132 countries, making information available to experts worldwide through over 74,000 visits to the website. Information on the most harmful, persistent and prevalent substances was published in the biannual “Current NPS threats” reports and used in the WHO review of substances recommended for scheduling by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its session to be held in March 2022. Through its global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends (SMART) programme, UNODC raised awareness of the risks posed by the rapidly growing supply of synthetic drugs and collaborated with several countries to establish national early warning systems.

29. Under its integrated strategy on the global opioid crisis, UNODC launched a dedicated website, available in Chinese, English, Russian and Spanish, for the United Nations Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs. The site features over 300 resources and has over 11,600 registered users from 182 countries and territories who represent a wide variety of disciplines.

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

30. UNODC addressed the specific needs of women who inject drugs by developing, jointly with national counterparts, United Nations entities and civil society partners, a technical brief entitled “Addressing the specific needs of women who use drugs: prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, hepatitis B and C and syphilis”. It also organized two webinars to facilitate the dissemination of the brief.

31. UNODC also developed and disseminated a technical guide entitled *HIV Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support for People who Use Stimulant Drugs* and facilitated the training of 250 trainers on that topic.

32. In addition, the Office led the compilation and joint review of estimates of the number of people who inject drugs and the prevalence of HIV and hepatitis C among people who inject drugs, in collaboration with WHO, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and the World Bank.

33. Together with relevant United Nations partners, UNODC developed and disseminated an updated comprehensive package of key interventions for HIV prevention, testing, treatment, care and support among people in prisons and provided five regional training sessions on the guidance tool, building the capacity of

approximately 300 prison and health authorities, prison and health-care staff and civil society organizations.

34. UNODC awarded 15 grants to civil society organizations focusing on HIV prevention, treatment and care among people who use drugs and in prison settings.

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

35. UNODC continued to provide technical assistance to Afghanistan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Peru in offering sustainable livelihood opportunities to vulnerable populations affected by drug use and other drug-related activities.

36. The Office also continued its partnership with Germany, Peru and Thailand to promote dialogue on opportunities and challenges posed by development in drug control policies, including through the organization of an expert group meeting, held in March 2021 and involving 96 participants from 20 Member States. A conference room paper was submitted to the sixty-fourth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and a side event was organized to report on the outcome of the expert group meeting and continue the dialogue, with a view to supporting Member States in their efforts to design and implement improved and better-targeted alternative development programmes, in line with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development.

37. UNODC continued to improve programmes by strengthening public-private partnerships and market access. In 2021, UNODC continued to foster strong cooperation with the Malongo coffee company, which is now concluding contracts with farming cooperatives in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar, providing long-term sustainable income opportunities to 331 families, 600 families and 1,000 farmers, respectively, in those countries.

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

38. Since 2004, 124 national inter-agency units at land ports, seaports and airports in 61 countries, established through the Container Control Programme of UNODC and the World Customs Organization, have intercepted over 567 tons of cocaine, 12 tons of heroin, almost 3 tons of new psychotropic substances, 323 tons of tramadol, 73 tons of cannabis, 2,750 tons of precursors for drugs and explosives and almost 2.5 billion cigarettes, along with weapons and dual-use items, counterfeit goods, protected wood and wildlife, and hazardous plastic and waste.

39. The global programme on strengthening criminal justice cooperation along trafficking routes (CRIMJUST), which strengthens criminal justice cooperation along drug trafficking routes in 12 African and 11 Latin American countries in source and transit hubs and enhances the capacity of investigators and prosecutors, has supported 30 interregional investigative forums in relation to several hundred significant drug seizures.

40. The judicial cooperation network for Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus, supported by UNODC and in collaboration with the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, facilitated coordination between prosecutors and investigators at the national level and with competent authorities in foreign jurisdictions as part of 17 investigations into drug trafficking along the northern route.

41. Through its field offices, UNODC provided legislative assistance on drug control to countries including Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Nigeria and Uruguay.

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

42. UNODC launched a Chinese version of the e-learning tool on the normative functions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs under the three international drug control conventions.⁵

B. Preventing and countering organized crime

43. UNODC continued to support the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto by, inter alia, facilitating 13 preliminary consultations and training 672 participants from 92 countries on the Implementation Review Mechanism and a user-friendly, browser-based secure module of the Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC) knowledge management portal that hosts the majority of the country review process, known as “RevMod”.

44. In order to support the effective implementation of the Organized Crime Convention, UNODC developed publications including the updated *Model Legislative Provisions against Organized Crime*, the “Organized crime strategy toolkit for developing high-impact strategies”, issue papers on gender, human rights, the concept of “harbouring” and the role of online intermediaries in preventing and combating trafficking, publications on trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants, such as the *Toolkit for Mainstreaming Human Rights and Gender Equality into Criminal Justice Interventions to Address Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants*, and a study on gender in aggravated smuggling of migrants entitled *Abused and Neglected: A Gender Perspective on Aggravated Migrant Smuggling Offences and Response*.

45. UNODC also assisted 12 countries in drafting or revising their firearms legislation, which resulted in 2 countries adopting new firearms laws.

46. The Office supported meetings of the working groups of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and provided extensive substantive and organizational support to 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. The Ad Hoc Committee held its first organizational session in May 2021 and is scheduled to hold its first negotiating session in early 2022.

47. UNODC supported the Office of the President of the General Assembly throughout the quadrennial process of appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, in particular by providing expertise in relation to the negotiation of its 2021 Political Declaration on the Implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons. As the permanent coordinator and 2021 co-chair of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons and as a member of the Executive Committee of the United Nations Network on Migration, UNODC continued to support strengthened inter-agency coordination.

48. In 2021, the Network of Prosecutors and Central Authorities from Source, Transit and Destination Countries in response to Transnational Organized Crime in Central Asia and Southern Caucasus, supported by the Office, facilitated four interregional mutual legal assistance requests. The Network of West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime facilitated 12 mutual legal assistance requests and the South-East Asia Justice Network facilitated 20 such requests, including the coordination of extradition with transit through other

⁵ Available at www.unodc.org/unodc/zh/commissions/CND/Mandate_Functions/scheduling-elearning-tutorial.html.

countries. UNODC also facilitated 35 interregional judicial cooperation requests among countries not participating in those three networks.

49. Prosecutors and law enforcement and customs officials from countries in West Africa, Latin America, Central Asia, the Caribbean and Eastern Europe were trained in the identification, classification and tracing of firearms and in follow-up investigations. Six countries also received marking machines and training on their use.

50. Following the publication of the *Global Study on Firearms Trafficking 2020*, UNODC continued to promote the collection of data on seized firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and their criminal context, through its questionnaire on monitoring illicit arms flows. UNODC also started to collect and analyse criminal justice responses to firearms trafficking for the development of a case digest.

51. In 2021, 3,700 practitioners from 55 countries were trained under the Office's global programmes to address the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, including for sexual exploitation, and they contributed to numerous investigations. As a result of the Transforming Alerts into Criminal Justice Responses to Combat Trafficking in Persons within Migration Flows (TRACK4TIP) initiative on combating trafficking in persons among mixed migration flows across South America and the Caribbean, 12 investigations were initiated against traffickers and 22 victims were rescued.

52. As part of the implementation of Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 30/1, entitled "Strengthening international cooperation in addressing the smuggling of migrants", UNODC continued to assist States in implementing the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

53. UNODC launched the Observatory on Smuggling of Migrants as a tool to support countries in anticipating smuggling threats. The biennial *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons* provided information on the profile of victims and perpetrators, types of vulnerability to trafficking, including over the Internet, and the need to strengthen supply chain integrity. A series of research activities were conducted to inform transnational organized crime threat assessments planned to be finalized for Nigeria and the Sahel in 2022.

54. The Office continued to enhance data collection on wildlife trafficking, as well as to apply the *Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit* and the accompanying *Indicator Framework for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime: A Self-assessment Framework for National Use – Assessment Guidelines* to evaluate and monitor responses to wildlife and forest crime, with five new assessments completed in 2021.

55. UNODC also supported legislative drafters in enhancing normative responses to crimes that affect the environment through the development of legislative guides on waste trafficking, illegal mining and crimes in the fisheries sector. The Office also supported maritime law enforcement entities in strengthening responses at sea and in ports to crimes in the fisheries sector.

56. Through its Global Maritime Crime Programme, UNODC assisted 57 States and trained over 5,000 maritime law enforcement officials, prosecutors and judges to identify and interdict trafficking by sea and enable legal follow-up to maritime crimes. Further support included the strengthening of cross-agency cooperation and coordination, the improvement of maritime domain awareness in partnership with technology providers and the facilitation of simulated trials in cooperation with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).

57. UNODC held the first Africa-wide digital forensics competition, with participants from 29 countries enhancing knowledge, networking and peer-to-peer exchange on combating cybercrime. In Peru, UNODC established a cybercrime forensics laboratory at the Attorney General's Office, and trained and equipped the

specialized Cybercrime Section, which resulted in the trying of an average of 116 to 170 cases per month.

58. Specialized prosecutors and the Police Cybercrime Unit of El Salvador, which had been trained and equipped by UNODC, uncovered a criminal network distributing child sexual exploitation material through social media in Ecuador, Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia, Mexico, Pakistan and Viet Nam. A total of 34 people were criminally charged and compromised devices were confiscated.

59. The Office continued to collect and analyse, through SHERLOC, legal information on the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto; the international legal framework against terrorism; and trafficking in cultural property. Case digests on cyber organized crime and international cooperation in criminal matters, with the Convention serving as a legal basis, were developed on the basis of that material.

C. Preventing and countering corruption and economic crime

60. UNODC supported the negotiation of the political declaration entitled “Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation”, which was adopted at the first-ever special session of the General Assembly against corruption, held in June 2021. To ensure the inclusion of youth perspectives at the session, UNODC organized an online youth forum entitled “Countering corruption through collaboration: youth perspectives and engagement” in May 2021, which brought together over 300 participants from 93 countries.

61. UNODC provided secretariat services to the ninth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention against Corruption, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 13 to 17 December 2021. The session was attended by a record 2,100 participants from 154 Governments and hosted a record 74 special events. Eight resolutions and two decisions were adopted by the Conference, covering a wide range of topics related to corruption, including the establishment of a follow-up process to the special session of the General Assembly against corruption.

62. UNODC launched a new project to support States’ efforts to promote transparency and accountability in the management of public finances. The development of global guidelines was initiated in cooperation with the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions, to underscore the role of supreme audit institutions in preventing and countering corruption and to facilitate greater cooperation between them and anti-corruption bodies. The guidelines are set to be published in 2022.

63. During 2021, at the request of Saudi Arabia, UNODC provided policy advice to the League of Arab States on how to establish an effective and efficient implementation review mechanism for the Arab Anti-Corruption Convention. UNODC held a series of meetings and shared suggestions on the architecture of a mechanism that would avoid duplication of efforts and ensure synergy and complementarity with the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

64. In 2021, the Office implemented over 200 activities at the national, regional and global levels and provided direct country-level support to more than 40 countries. Approximately 5,800 participants (including anti-corruption practitioners) benefited from that assistance, which included advisory services for legislative and policy drafting, webinars, workshops, training events and expert meetings aimed at the public and private sectors and civil society.

65. UNODC continued to provide case-related and general capacity-building support on asset recovery. In 2020, 18 countries benefited from assistance and, as at September 2021, 17 additional countries had been reached, including through the joint UNODC/World Bank Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative. A new website for the

StAR Initiative was launched in January 2021 and three new knowledge products were published during the year: (a) the updated *Asset Recovery Handbook: A Guide for Practitioners – Second Edition*; (b) a technical guide entitled “Automated risk analysis of asset and interest declarations of public officials”; and (c) the “Role and responsibilities of gatekeepers in the fight against illicit financial flows: a unifying framework”.

66. As mandated by the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention against Corruption, UNODC launched an expert-level consultation to develop a comprehensive framework on corruption measurement that would guide national information systems in monitoring the magnitude of and trends relating to different forms of corruption, associated risks and State responses.

67. The UNODC report entitled *Gender and Corruption in Nigeria* provided new scientific evidence of how gender equality in public administration contributed to the development of fairer and more effective anti-corruption strategies. In 2021, the Office began supporting Ghana in undertaking a national corruption survey.

68. The Office continued to support States’ efforts to better respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic by bringing together oversight bodies and health and procurement authorities to strengthen public procurement transparency and whistleblower protection in nine countries. UNODC also published *Speak Up for Health! Guidelines to Enable Whistle-blower Protection in the Health-Care Sector*.

69. UNODC launched the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (Globe Network) in the margins of the special session of the General Assembly against corruption. The Network offers three mechanisms that enable international anti-corruption law enforcement cooperation: (a) a Vienna-based network of member authorities; (b) an online one-stop hub of tools and resources; and (c) knowledge and capacity-building tools.

70. The Office solidified its regional approach to fast-tracking the implementation of the Convention against Corruption through five regional platforms, comprising 43 jurisdictions worldwide. The fifth platform was launched in June 2021 to accelerate the implementation of the Convention in South-Eastern Europe.

D. Preventing and countering terrorism

71. UNODC promotes adherence to the 19 international conventions and protocols against terrorism. In 2021, Finland, France, the Netherlands, Portugal and Switzerland became party to all 19 instruments. They join Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Kazakhstan and Turkey, bringing the total number of Member States that have adhered to all instruments to 10.

72. UNODC assistance in countering the financing of terrorism in Morocco, delivered through a national project from 2018 to 2021, led to a 340 per cent increase from 2018 to 2019 in the number of investigations and prosecutions related to the financing of terrorism and a 40 per cent increase from 2018 to 2021 in the number of female analysts in the Moroccan Financial Intelligence Unit.

73. In Somalia, UNODC delivered a 12-week financial disruption development programme for competent authorities. Participants created a financial disruption plan focused on countering the financing of terrorism by applying a risk-based financial disruption methodology to identify and disrupt the financing of terrorism and other criminal activities.

74. The Office conducted a study entitled “Strengthening the capacity of women professionals working in the counter-terrorism sector in Iraq”, which contains recommendations to strengthen the role and representation of women in counter-terrorism.

75. With the support of UNODC, Mozambique established a core group of trained counter-terrorism officials actively working on terrorism cases in the most affected

areas. They enhanced their knowledge and skills related to guiding and supporting the effective investigation, defence, prosecution and adjudication of terrorism cases in compliance with the rule of law and human rights.

76. UNODC supported Burkina Faso and the Niger in strengthening coordination and cooperation between the military and other criminal justice actors, with a view to advancing the collection, preservation, analysis, sharing and use of evidence in conflict zones.

77. UNODC launched the Electronic Evidence Hub, a one-stop window within SHERLOC encompassing national laws, case law, model forms on the preservation and disclosure of data and model requests for mutual legal assistance in relation to stored electronic evidence and the real-time collection of traffic data.

78. In 2021, UNODC launched a new e-learning course on mental health considerations with regard to the rehabilitation and reintegration of returning foreign terrorist fighters and their families. The course raises awareness of the linkages between violent extremism and mental health, analyses the practical aspects of multi-agency approaches and enhances the skills of psychologists and social workers.

79. In cooperation with a specialized civil society organization, the Office launched a project to strengthen the criminal justice system of Iraq in order to uphold and protect the rights of victims of terrorism in criminal proceedings and promote victims' rehabilitation and empowerment within their communities through psychological support.

80. As part of the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme, coordinated by the Office of Counter-Terrorism and implemented with other United Nations partners, UNODC provided legislative assistance on passenger data frameworks to Azerbaijan, Botswana, Cote d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, the Sudan and Togo.

81. In 2021, UNODC launched a programme to prevent and counter acts of terrorism motivated by xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, bringing together Member States affected by the trend. In 2022, the Office will publish a manual for criminal justice practitioners, mapping out the national legal frameworks of Member States dealing with the phenomenon.

82. In 2021, UNODC launched the online platform of the South Asian Network on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism. The Network, being the first of its kind in South Asia, facilitates networking, knowledge-sharing and learning.

83. UNODC also undertook internal analysis to build a picture of the activities implemented in the field in the context of links between terrorism, organized crime and drug trafficking.

E. Crime prevention and criminal justice

84. In order to strengthen equal access to justice for all, UNODC provided targeted assistance through technical advice, knowledge transfer and input to national efforts relating to police reform, access to legal aid, restorative justice and services for victims of crime. Technical assistance programmes were delivered in all regions of the world, including through 18 events and 20 training sessions. The Office strengthened partnerships and networks of experts and developed and translated five technical tools. It also led the criminal justice pillar of the United Nations network on racial discrimination and protection of minorities and trained United Nations country teams.

85. UNODC supported Member States in implementing standards in crime prevention, including by providing advice on the design of strategies and programmes and support for better qualitative data on crime and victimization through surveys or community consultation mechanisms. The Office continued to strengthen youth resilience under its Line Up, Live Up and Education for Justice initiatives. It

promoted collaboration between citizens and justice institutions through community-oriented policing and encouraged the use of art and sports to engage at-risk young people. Dedicated activities were implemented pursuant to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions on reducing reoffending and on the use of sport for youth crime prevention and criminal justice. A total of 15 States received assistance in 2021.

86. UNODC published a research brief on the latest data for monitoring relevant indicators for Sustainable Development Goal 16, largely based on the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems.

87. The Office analysed emerging evidence from almost 100 countries and published a report on promising practices and recommendations to mitigate the negative impact of COVID-19 on criminal justice responses to gender-based violence against women. UNODC also expanded assistance for gender-responsive policing, based on the newly published *Handbook on Gender-responsive Police Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence*, co-published with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the International Association of Women Police. UNODC also supported survivor-centred criminal justice in Argentina (under the Spotlight Initiative) and Libya (under the Global Programme on Strengthening Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses to Violence against Women). A total of 18 Member States received assistance in 2021.

88. In 2021, UNODC produced a statistical report on gender-based killings in the domestic sphere with updated global and regional estimates, highlighting that the number of women killed by their intimate partner or other family member had remained largely unchanged and suggesting that addressing that form of violence therefore required both short- and long-term policies.

89. UNODC continued to support States in their efforts to prevent and respond to violence against children in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. A special focus was placed on strengthening the capacity of justice systems to prevent the recruitment and exploitation of children by criminal and armed groups, including terrorist groups, and to promote the rehabilitation and reintegration of children deprived of liberty. Beneficiary countries in Africa, South America and Central, South-East and South Asia improved their legal and policy frameworks and strengthened the capacity of national institutions and actors.

90. UNODC jointly led the development of the United Nations system common position on incarceration, which constitutes the Organization's framework for the provision of related support to Member States. The Office's portfolio of technical assistance in 40 Member States increased, with new prison reform programmes launched in Brazil, Ghana, Nigeria and Panama. Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam continued to receive support on the use of gender-responsive non-custodial measures. UNODC enhanced its work on managing violent extremist prisoners and preventing the risk of radicalization to violence in prisons, and strengthened its involvement in corrections support as part of the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law. The Office also reinforced its data collection and analysis in relation to prisons.

91. Selected challenges in national prison systems, such as overcrowding and unsentenced detention, were analysed in a report produced by UNODC. In the report, the Office noted that there had been an increase of 25 per cent in the global prison population compared with 2000, highlighting the rapid increase in the number of women prisoners and the regions most affected by prison overcrowding and unsentenced detention. UNODC also conducted three national studies relating to prevention and corrections reform, analysing reasons for recidivists returning to prison.

92. The Office supported the deliberations of Member States on crime prevention and criminal justice in the framework of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and

Criminal Justice and the General Assembly, including during its 2021 high-level debate on the theme “Urban safety, security and good governance: making crime prevention a priority for all”.

IV. Strengthening the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

A. United Nations reform and result-based management

93. The Office continued to mainstream results-based management best practices into its activities, such as through the implementation of the new integrated, planning, management and reporting solution. The solution enables programme managers to holistically plan and monitor their substantive work and resources using results-based management methodology. In 2021, UNODC programme managers successfully migrated their existing projects to the new system.

B. Partnerships

94. In 2021, UNODC engaged in partnerships with United Nations entities and international organizations on the basis of the thematic areas of the UNODC Strategy 2021–2025, including through inter-agency forums, networks and dialogues. The Office also entered into new partnerships with the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the International Olympic Committee, the International Development Law Organization, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean and the Arab Parliament. In addition, UNODC fosters regular dialogue with civil society organizations through partnerships with umbrella networks of non-governmental organizations and knowledge hubs.

C. Research, evidence-based policy and data analysis

95. Reliable, comparable and comprehensive data, and the sound analysis thereof, are prerequisites for the development and implementation of evidence-based policy responses. In 2021, the Office continued to conduct high-quality research and policy analysis on issues under the five thematic areas of the UNODC Strategy 2021–2025. The Office also continued to collect data to document the impact and potential long-term consequences of COVID-19 on drugs and crime, in order to help Member States to anticipate and address future challenges.

D. Communication

96. UNODC continued to promote its mandate through online and hybrid coverage of flagship events, including the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the special session of the General Assembly against corruption and the ninth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention against Corruption. UNODC flagship reports were launched, notably, the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2020* and the *World Drug Report 2021*. This concerted “digital-first” approach resulted in an increase in visitors to the UNODC website, with a total of 9 million views, while impressions on social media reached 18.9 million. Another communications highlight for UNODC in 2021 was the full multimedia promotion of the General Assembly meeting on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons. The Office also launched its five-year Strategy and the UNODC Strategic Vision for Africa 2030 with full digital advocacy.

E. Governance and financial situation

97. The Secretariat continued to support the meetings of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC by providing information on strategic and budgetary matters, evaluation and oversight, programme development and implementation, gender mainstreaming and strengthening human resources governance. The Office also supported the working group in negotiating the draft Economic and Social Council decision that extended the working group's mandate for an unlimited period of time and outlined new working methods. In addition, support was provided in negotiating the resolution on the substantive focus of future work of the working group, adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at their reconvened sessions in December 2021.

98. UNODC continued to actively engage with partners, including in the field. Strategic dialogues were held with the Governments of Japan, Norway and Sweden to further strengthen bilateral cooperation. In 2021, the number of donors was 106, and special-purpose contributions totalled \$354 million, thus maintaining the positive trend. A total of 81 per cent of pledges were directed towards crime-related mandates, while 19 per cent were dedicated to drug control.

99. The United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, managed by UNODC, received approximately \$800,000 in 2021, bringing the total since the creation of the trust fund to over \$8 million. The trust fund remained committed to supporting grass-roots organizations worldwide in responding to the needs of victims through its small grants programme. Under its fifth call for proposals, the trust fund awarded grants to 30 projects of non-governmental organizations in over 25 countries.

100. Despite efforts to increase fundraising and partnerships, the financial situation of UNODC remains vulnerable. The Office continues to face a persistent deterioration in general-purpose income and added pressures on its regular budget and programme support cost funds. General-purpose income in 2021 reached \$4.7 million, which reflects a stagnant trend. The low levels of unearmarked funding are a major challenge to the effective implementation of the mandates and programmes of UNODC, as well as to its ability to manage its operations strategically, exercise effective corporate oversight, fund key activities and launch new initiatives and programmes.

101. The second year of the pandemic continued to affect programme delivery, although improvements could be seen overall. UNODC continued to review its activities, coordinated the scheduling of activities with donors and national beneficiaries and took measures to support implementation at headquarters and in the field. As a result of the actions taken by UNODC, programme delivery was projected to increase to \$295.8 million in 2021, representing an increase of \$35 million (13.4 per cent) compared with the delivery in 2020 of \$260.8 million.

F. Cross-cutting commitments

102. The Office continued to support youth mainstreaming efforts by participating in high-level meetings and events, which included co-moderating a session on inclusive peace at the 2021 Economic and Social Council Youth Forum and participating in the High-level Steering Committee for the implementation of the United Nations Youth Strategy.

103. Through the Global Programme on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in the United Nations Office at Vienna and UNODC, established in May 2017, several key initiatives were advanced, including capacity-building, the development of gender-mainstreaming tools, advocacy and inter-agency collaboration. In 2021, the United Nations Office at Vienna and UNODC Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (2018–2021) and the related action plan continued to guide

the Office in supporting Member States in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 5, on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. The 2021 evaluation of the Strategy and action plan supported the development of their second iteration, which will guide the Office's work on gender equality and women's empowerment from 2022 to 2026.

104. In February 2021, the first United Nations Office at Vienna and UNODC Action Plan for disability inclusion (2021–2022) was launched. Under the Action Plan, the Office carried out a number of activities, including the development of a guidance note for field offices on operationalizing disability inclusion, the development of a disability inclusion checklist, the organization of a dedicated webinar series, the launch of the internship initiative for persons with disabilities and the incorporation of disability inclusion questions in the reporting forms for the progress report on the implementation of the UNODC Strategy 2021–2025.

G. Organizational culture

105. UNODC implemented its action plan for the effective and efficient implementation of its policy of zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse. A dedicated focal point was designated at headquarters to ensure global coordination and the implementation of related activities in field offices. UNODC also introduced a special clause on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse in the legal instruments concluded with its implementing partners and participated in an evaluation of the policy by the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

106. The Office has further promoted a culture of coaching and mentoring. A recently launched information circular on the voluntary coaching programme has laid the foundations for a structured learning approach. UNODC has 39 internal certified coaches and 10 systemic team coaches who can support staff at the individual and team levels.

107. With regard to evaluation, UNODC ensured the conduct of participatory, independent, inclusive, human rights-based and gender-responsive evaluations, sharing evaluation-based knowledge for decision-making in the Office's mandated areas of work. As a result, 88 per cent of evaluation recommendations were accepted by UNODC management and 72.3 per cent of Member States reported using evaluation results as input for their work. Moreover, innovative meta-syntheses of UNODC evaluation reports and UNODC evaluations on crime prevention provided information at an aggregate and corporate level for organizational learning. The first United Nations system-wide meta-synthesis of evaluations under the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was initiated in cooperation with the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, in response to United Nations reforms calling for aggregate results to inform policy formulation.

108. New partnerships in the United Nations system were built and evaluation capacity at UNODC was enhanced through training tailored to the needs of the target audience and newly developed guidance, including the UNODC *Toolkit for Evaluating Interventions on Preventing and Countering Crime and Terrorism*. The Internet-based application Unite Evaluations was used for all UNODC evaluations, offering insights into the evaluation portfolio and facilitating access to recommendations and lessons learned to support evidence-based decisions.

109. In March 2021, the UNODC Innovation Strategy was adopted, which is an internal document aligned with the UNODC Strategy 2021–2025. The roll-out of the Innovation Strategy is ongoing.

V. Recommendations

Strategic orientation

110. The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic has once more proved that global problems cannot be addressed in isolation; a holistic and coordinated approach based on shared responsibility is required. UNODC stands ready to further support Member States in the implementation of their commitments to address the world drug problem, including those in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, held in 2016, the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem and the Political Declaration and Plan of Action of 2009, in line with the Ministerial Declaration of 2019.

111. In the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, States agreed on concrete actions to advance their efforts for crime prevention, criminal justice, the rule of law and international cooperation. UNODC is committed to supporting Member States in the implementation of and follow-up to the Declaration.

112. At its ninth session, the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention against Corruption adopted resolution 9/1, entitled “Sharm el-Sheikh declaration on strengthening international cooperation in the prevention of and fight against corruption during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery”. In the resolution, which represents the first set of global governmental commitments to prevent and combat corruption during times of emergencies, the Conference mandated UNODC with the task of supporting the open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the Convention in developing non-binding guidelines for strengthening international and multilateral cooperation to further prevent, identify, investigate and prosecute corruption in these particular situations. Such guidelines are to be based on the analysis of information provided by States parties on a voluntary basis on good practices and challenges concerning international cooperation in combating corruption during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery.

113. The Commissions are invited to remain actively engaged in the implementation of the UNODC Strategy 2021–2025.

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

Addressing and countering the world drug problem

115. In the light of recent health and humanitarian crises around the world, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs may wish to discuss how to increase the coverage and quality of and access to drug prevention, treatment, care and rehabilitation, including in challenging settings and for populations affected by social marginalization and displacement, and how to ensure the availability of and access to controlled substances for medical purposes while addressing the interacting threats resulting from illicit trade in those substances. It may also wish to consider how to scale up efforts to improve access to evidence-based HIV prevention, treatment and care services for people who use drugs and people in prison settings and sustain those services during the COVID-19 pandemic, in order to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030, in line with the 2030 Agenda.

116. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs may wish to encourage Member States to strengthen support for research to identify the local and regional socioeconomic and

environmental determinants of illicit drug crop cultivation and to strengthen alternative development projects.

117. In the light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and related mobility restrictions on the illegal drug markets, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs could discuss challenges in countries of supply, transit and destination as a common and shared responsibility and step up international cooperation in criminal matters based on international commitments.

118. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs may wish to discuss good practices and lessons learned in how to mitigate the drug-related consequences of the pandemic, including the new challenges for law enforcement posed by changes in trafficking routes and methods.

119. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs may wish to consider requesting Member States to strengthen their drug-monitoring systems and their contributions to international data-reporting mechanisms, including the new annual report questionnaire, and to support the analysis of the world drug problem through the *World Drug Report*.

Preventing and countering organized crime

120. By ratifying and acceding to the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto, Member States have committed to concrete steps to prevent and combat organized crime. The Commissions may wish to encourage Member States to participate fully in the Implementation Review Mechanism.

121. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice may wish to discuss:

(a) The increasing misuse by traffickers of information and communications technologies to profile, recruit, control and exploit victims in various ways, including online child sexual exploitation;

(b) Responses to aggravated, or the worst cases of, smuggling of migrants.

122. The importance of integrating emerging policy issues into national crime prevention and criminal justice policies and into pandemic recovery plans cannot be underestimated. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice may wish to invite Member States to, inter alia, integrate responses to crimes affecting the environment into broader agendas on biodiversity, health and the climate, enhance measures to address and counter cyber-dependent and cyber-enabled crimes and strengthen international action against trafficking in cultural property.

Preventing and countering corruption and economic crime

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

124. The Commission may also wish to:

(a) Invite Member States to remain actively engaged in anti-corruption policymaking processes, in particular the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention against Corruption, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council;

(b) Encourage States to further harness information and communications technologies to adopt innovative and inclusive measures to prevent and counter corruption;

(c) Also encourage States to strengthen international cooperation on corruption and asset recovery matters and to consider joining the GlobE Network, recently established under the auspices of UNODC;

(d) Further encourage States to promote the role of education and youth empowerment in preventing and countering corruption by supporting the new Global Resource for Anti-Corruption Education and Youth Empowerment initiative.

Preventing and countering terrorism

125. Ensuring the continuity of counter-terrorism efforts during and after the pandemic is crucial. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice may wish to discuss how to tackle new threats emanating from terrorists exploiting the crisis.

126. The Commission could also discuss ways to develop human rights-based crime prevention and criminal justice approaches that focus on, inter alia, preventing and countering terrorist acts motivated by xenophobia and other forms of intolerance.

Crime prevention and criminal justice

127. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice may wish to discuss how Member States can strengthen their national efforts to ensure equal access to justice for all groups in society by countering and preventing discrimination, ensuring access to high-quality, specialized and nationwide legal aid services, reforming police institutions and strengthening restorative justice and victim assistance.

128. In order to prevent the involvement of young people in crime, the Commission may wish to discuss ways to strengthen resilience in young people and communities on the basis of available evidence and practices.

129. The Commission may also wish to discuss how to improve States' responses to gender-based violence against women and girls in the context of COVID-19 and possible future emergencies, including guidance on the gender-responsive use of e-justice mechanisms.

130. The Commission may further wish to:

(a) Discuss how to address challenges regarding the prevention of, and responses to, violence against children in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice that have been exacerbated during COVID-19, such as the recruitment and exploitation of children by criminal and armed groups, including those designated as terrorist groups, and the rehabilitation and reintegration of these children;

(b) Engage in a holistic review of the current use of incarceration, with due consideration of the root causes of systemic deficiencies that affect prison systems, including overincarceration, prison overcrowding and poor conditions, significant rates of recidivism and insufficient investment in prevention and non-custodial measures;

(c) Invite Member States to strengthen the collection, dissemination and analysis of data on crime and criminal justice statistics, including through the improved implementation of the *International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes*.

Strengthening the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

131. The Commissions may wish to:

(a) Discuss how to transform the organizational culture towards increased efficiency, transparency and accountability, and how to strengthen the capacity of all staff in effectively implementing results-based management in support of the 2030 Agenda;

(b) Further support the Office in promoting the integration and meaningful engagement of young people in its programmatic and intergovernmental activities and in mainstreaming a gender perspective into its practices, policies and programmes;

(c) Support the efforts of UNODC in evaluating its work, including through innovative products, services and joint and system-wide evaluations;

(d) Encourage Member States to provide UNODC with adequate, predictable, flexible and sustainable resources to enable the Office to implement its mandates.
