



General Assembly

Distr.: General
23 June 2020

Original: English

Seventy-fifth session

Item 111 of the preliminary list*

Crime prevention and criminal justice

Implementation of the mandates of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, with particular reference to the technical cooperation activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution [74/177](#). It contains a summary of the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to support Member States in their efforts to counter transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism, as well as to prevent crime and reinforce criminal justice systems, thus strengthening the rule of law and contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It includes information on the status of adherence to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto and the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The report also addresses emerging policy issues and contains information on the cooperation of the Office with other entities of the United Nations system. It contains references to developments relating to the governance and financial situation of the Office and recommendations aimed at enhancing the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme.

* [A/75/50](#).



I. Introduction

1. The present report provides information on the implementation of the mandates of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme and reflects emerging policy issues and possible responses, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 74/177.

2. Work on crime prevention and criminal justice plays a crucial role in ensuring peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Effective crime prevention and strong criminal justice institutions are key to strengthening the rule of law and human rights and serve as a prerequisite for the effective and sustainable fight against organized crime, corruption and terrorism. Furthermore, tackling crime is integral to fostering development, peace, stability and security, as recognized in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. International cooperation is the cornerstone of the efforts to enhance crime prevention and ensure that criminal justice systems are effective, fair, humane and accountable.

3. In implementing the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has continued to promote justice, the rule of law, crime prevention and the reform of criminal justice institutions, carrying out its activities in cooperation with other departments and offices of the Secretariat and entities of the United Nations system, and in coordination with international and regional organizations. UNODC has continued to be actively engaged in broader United Nations reform initiatives and in supporting Member States with the implementation of the United Nations development agenda, in particular the 2030 Agenda.

4. The outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has further demonstrated that measures to ensure public safety and security are interconnected and require a comprehensive and systematic approach. The pandemic has exacerbated the socioeconomic vulnerabilities exploited by criminal networks to scale up their activities and placed a heavy burden on the ongoing efforts of Member States to prevent crime, strengthen criminal justice institutions and promote the rule of law.

5. As the crisis unfolds, criminal justice systems face challenges in fulfilling their mandates, while criminal markets exploit the new realities to adapt their *modi operandi* or develop new illicit activities. The need for a coordinated and joint multilateral response to prevent and counter transnational crime has never been more compelling.

6. In response to the evolving situation related to COVID-19, UNODC has taken measures and launched new coordination initiatives to facilitate the continuation of its operations, in relation to its programmatic work as well as to the relevant intergovernmental processes. A number of publications and tools related to COVID-19 and a dedicated communication strategy have been developed, and policy papers, including on selected topics in the area of crime, as well as information on new projects, have been published on the UNODC website.¹ Preparations for the intergovernmental meetings scheduled to take place in 2020 are ongoing and subject to further developments.

II. Action taken by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

7. The twenty-ninth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, originally scheduled to take place in Vienna from 18 to 22 May 2020, has been postponed to an as yet undetermined date, owing to the global circumstances created by COVID-19.

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

8. The intersessional work of the Commission has been conducted virtually to the extent possible. Consultations and preparations are ongoing to conduct the intersessional activities scheduled for 2020 by web conferencing. Measures have been adopted to sustain the dialogue on Commission-related matters among Member States and other relevant stakeholders on a real-time basis. In particular, a dedicated online communication channel has been set up to facilitate the exchange of ideas and good practices among Member States on the modalities of the remote work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

III. Preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and follow-up to the Thirteenth Congress

9. Following the regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held in all five United Nations regions in the first quarter of 2019, UNODC supported the holding of a governmental expert group meeting in Kyoto, Japan, in September 2019. The Office held briefings, together with the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations, in the margins of the integration segment of the 2019 session of the Economic and Social Council, in July, and of the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly, in October, with a view to updating Member States, United Nations entities and international and non-governmental organizations based in New York on the status of preparations for the Fourteenth Congress.

10. At the time of reporting, five rounds of informal consultations on the draft political declaration had taken place under the auspices of the Commission, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [74/171](#).

11. Owing to the worldwide situation related to COVID-19 and related factors and at the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the General Assembly decided in its decision 74/550 of 13 April 2020 to postpone the holding of the Fourteenth Congress until further notice and to consider new dates in due course.

12. To ensure the programmatic follow-up to the outcome of the Thirteenth Congress, UNODC continued its work under the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, translating policy directives into concrete and tangible outputs.

13. At the time of reporting, more than 1.94 million judges, prison staff members, academics, teachers, educators, coaches, civil society representatives and young people from more than 190 countries had been reached directly and indirectly by UNODC activities carried out within the framework of the Global Programme and aimed at, inter alia, strengthening judicial integrity, preventing corruption in the justice system, enhancing the rehabilitation and social integration of prisoners and contributing to the promotion of a culture of lawfulness among children and young people. More than 55,000 people had benefited from direct capacity-building activities and over 190 tools and materials had been produced under the Programme. In addition, within the framework of the Global Programme, more than 70 countries had received country-specific direct technical assistance in the implementation of the Doha Declaration, thus supporting progress towards the crime prevention and criminal justice goals and targets contained in the 2030 Agenda.

IV. Action taken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in thematic areas

14. UNODC has placed renewed emphasis on inter-agency cooperation and the development of strategic partnerships in the context of the 2030 Agenda and the

reform of the United Nations development system. Coordination and partnerships are being strengthened within the United Nations system at the country, regional and global levels, as well as with relevant international organizations and other external partners.

15. Following the implementation of United Nations reform initiatives in the peace and security sector, UNODC actively participates in inter-agency initiatives related to terrorism prevention, cybercrime, human trafficking and migration and has linked its work to the activities of various peacekeeping operations and political missions.

16. In 2019, UNODC continued its close partnerships with other entities, such as the World Customs Organization (WCO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, as well as with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the European Union.

17. UNODC further deepened its engagement on cybersecurity issues, mainly through active participation in the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation established by the Secretary-General, and continued to engage actively with the Financial Action Task Force regional bodies and international financial institutions to assist in the implementation of robust anti-money-laundering policy measures, tackling illicit financial flows and the financing of terrorism.

18. UNODC formalized its long-standing engagement on urban safety and good governance with the launch of a new global programme implementing the Urban Safety Governance Approach, in close cooperation with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), among others. The programme is based on the extensive experience gathered in the areas of local crime and drug use prevention in urban areas in Colombia, Mexico and Central Asia, in addition to leveraging experience in combating transnational organized crime, countering corruption and terrorism prevention at the national level, to provide evidence-based policy support at the local level. Pilot assessments are under way in Mexico City, Nairobi and Tashkent.

19. In line with General Assembly resolution [74/177](#), UNODC has been working closely with the Office of the President of the General Assembly and with Member States in the coordination and planning of a high-level debate on “Urban safety, security and good governance: making crime prevention a priority for all”. The debate, tentatively scheduled for the third quarter of 2020, is aimed at facilitating an exchange of views on ways to prioritize safety and security in cities, taking into account how transnational organized crime and illicit flows exploit and exacerbate local vulnerabilities.

A. Enhancing international cooperation and responses to transnational crime

1. Transnational organized crime

20. At the time of reporting, there were 190 States parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 176 States parties to its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; 149 States parties to its Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air and 118 States parties to its Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition. In 2019, UNODC provided pre-accession support to all remaining States considering acceding to or ratifying the Organized Crime Convention and provided implementation support to experts from nearly 70 States parties.

21. In line with resolution 9/1 of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, UNODC held, from 15 to

19 October 2019, a first meeting of an open-ended intergovernmental expert group, which finalized the guidelines for conducting the country reviews and a blueprint for the lists of observations and their summaries and, subject to further harmonization, the self-assessment questionnaire for the review of the implementation of the Convention. A second meeting of the expert group will be held in July 2020 to discuss the remaining self-assessment questionnaires and their harmonization.

22. UNODC supported the conduct of the meetings of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons and the Working Group on the Smuggling of Migrants held in September 2019.

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

24. SHERLOC continued to be developed and used for the dissemination of information on the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto, as well as the international legal framework against terrorism. In 2019, SHERLOC had 338,196 visitors, which represented a 20.8 per cent increase compared with 2018. In the context of SHERLOC and in collaboration with the Education for Justice initiative, UNODC studied the linkages between crime types, such as organized crime, terrorism and cybercrime.

25. UNODC included in the SHERLOC-based Directory of Competent National Authorities the contact details of 908 new authorities designated under the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and the total number now reaches 1,647.

26. Based on a recommendation of the Working Group on International Cooperation, as endorsed by the Conference of the Parties to the Organized Crime Convention, UNODC is preparing a digest of cases in which the Convention has been used as legal basis for international cooperation. The Office is also preparing an issue paper on the application of the Convention with regard to the liability of online intermediaries, in their capacity as legal persons.

27. Within, inter alia, the framework of the “networking the networks” initiative of the Global Programme on Building Effective Networks against Transnational Organized Crime, UNODC continued to support regional organizations, such as the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, the Regional Counter-Narcotics Intelligence Centre and others, in developing their capacities to exchange criminal intelligence and the coordination of multilateral operations targeting all forms of organized crime.

28. Through the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme, the Office continued to work with Member States to establish port control units and air cargo control units at seaports, dry ports, land borders and airports and along railways. Frontline law enforcement personnel were trained in profiling and inspecting cargo containers suspected of carrying illicit goods.

29. Through its Global Programme on Strengthening Criminal Investigation and Criminal Justice Cooperation along Drug Trafficking Routes, and in partnership with INTERPOL and Transparency International, UNODC supported actions to promote interregional cooperation among law enforcement and prosecutors in areas that go beyond interdiction activities. In 2019, the Programme carried out 50 activities for 1,260 investigators and prosecutors from Latin and Central America and West Africa and worked in partnership with the Ibero-American Network of Prosecutors Specialized in Drug Trafficking Cases in delivering capacity-building and supporting post-seizure investigations.

30. The UNODC Global Programme for Strengthening the Capacities of Member States to Prevent and Combat Organized and Serious Crime provided support to three

regional judicial cooperation networks: the West African Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime, the Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network and the Judicial Cooperation Network for Central Asia and Southern Caucasus. In 2019, support was also provided to establish a justice network for South-East Asia. Through those networks, UNODC facilitated cooperation on 48 requests for assistance among central authorities and several bilateral meetings.

31. In 2019, through its Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, UNODC helped to build capacity in 102 countries and two jurisdictions in nine subregions, in accordance with United Nations instruments and international standards, including the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force. Ongoing assistance by the Office included tailor-made training for the staff of judicial authorities, financial intelligence units, law enforcement authorities and customs, immigration and border control agencies.

32. Through the same programme, UNODC collaborated with Member States on the development and adoption of national risk assessments, plans of actions and strategies related to countering the financing of terrorism that integrated the consideration of linkages between terrorism and organized crime. In 2019, the Office supported the Government of Afghanistan and Governments in the Sahel region, East Africa, Central Asia and the Gulf Cooperation Council region with the elaboration of national anti-money-laundering/combating the financing of terrorism strategies. To contribute to policy developments and provide long-term and hands-on expert advice on countering the financing of terrorism, UNODC deployed mentors in Afghanistan, West Africa, Southern Africa, Central Asia and South-East Asia.

33. Cryptocurrency investigation training continued, focusing on developing a new set of skills to enhance collaboration among investigators, promote an understanding of the cryptocurrency concept and encourage international cooperation on cryptocurrency cases. Residential courses were also delivered in Vienna for beneficiaries from German-speaking countries and Central Asia.

34. UNODC continued to provide support to the Asset Recovery Network of the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America, the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Southern Africa, the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Asia and the Pacific, the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for West Africa and the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network in West and Central Asia.

35. Through its Global Maritime Crime Programme, UNODC continued to support Member States in strengthening their criminal justice and maritime law enforcement response to piracy and other maritime offences at sea, focusing on legal reforms, capacity-building in law enforcement, prosecution and the judiciary, inter-agency cooperation, regional coordination and maritime domain awareness.

36. Within the framework of the Indian Ocean Forum on Maritime Crime, UNODC built maritime law enforcement capacity and capability through training courses, which were customized to meet the specific needs of counterparts. The Office continued to support the Southern Route Partnership, providing a coordination platform for national drug enforcement agencies and international partners.

37. In South-East Asia, UNODC continued to support Maritime Law Enforcement Dialogues, focusing on cooperation and coordination at sea. Within the framework of one of the dialogues, the Office convened a forum for women in maritime law enforcement to discuss existing challenges, good practices and support mechanisms related to women participation in maritime law enforcement and the establishment of women networks.

2. Countering trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants

38. In 2019, under its global programmes against human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants, UNODC provided technical assistance to 72 countries and trained more than 3,000 criminal justice practitioners, governmental officials and civil society representatives. The programmes contributed to the launch of more than

1,200 criminal investigations, provided nine countries with legislative assistance to align their laws with the Protocols to the Organized Crime Convention and international standards, and contributed to the development of national action plans in four countries to counter those crimes. For example, the Office provided legislative assistance to support the drafting of the revised Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Persons Proclamation No. 1178/2020, adopted on 1 April 2020.

39. Operation Turquesa, a joint INTERPOL-UNODC operation against the smuggling of migrants, was conducted in the Americas in 2019, with nearly one million checks carried out at air, land and sea borders in 20 countries to disrupt the organized crime groups behind key smuggling routes. UNODC also partnered with INTERPOL and its Specialized Operational Network against People Smuggling on the evaluation of the coordination model used for Operation Andes, which was targeted at migrant smuggling networks across the Americas.

40. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 73/186, the Observatory on Smuggling of Migrants was piloted in early 2019, to collect, regularly update and disseminate, through an online platform, robust data, information and analyses on migrant smuggling routes, the modus operandi of migrant smugglers and the role of transnational organized crime. During the pilot phase, the Observatory covered migrant smuggling routes in and through West Africa, North Africa and Southern Europe.

41. In Malawi, UNODC trained police forces and supported the establishment of two inter-agency coordination bodies, composed of police, prosecutors and social services providers, which have enabled the identification of, and support for, 228 trafficking victims, including from foreign countries, and the investigation of a transnational criminal network operating in the country with contacts in other parts of Africa, South and Central Asia and the Middle East.

42. UNODC continued to strengthen the involvement of non-governmental actors in supporting States parties with the implementation of the Protocols to the Organized Crime Convention. The Office is developing relevant guidance outlining specific entry points for civil society in the development of policy responses to trafficking in persons and identifying areas of expanded collaboration with the private sector to reinforce up-to-date responses to that crime, benefiting from the technology expertise and outreach of private companies.

43. UNODC continued to strengthen policy coordination within the United Nations system in countering trafficking in persons, including by coordinating the work of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons. In 2019, the Office supported the production of policy material on the intersection of technology and trafficking in persons and on the non-punishment of victims of trafficking, and continued to develop material on preventing human trafficking in supply chains through sound procurement policies and procedures. The Office coordinated the contributions of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group to the elaboration of a general recommendation on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

3. Measures against trafficking in firearms

44. UNODC, through its Global Firearms Programme, continued to support Member States in countering the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, in line with the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and in addressing related crimes. The integrated five-pillar approach of the Programme provides for legislative and policy development, preventive and security measures, criminal justice responses, international cooperation and information exchange, and the monitoring of illicit firearms flows and emerging threats.

45. UNODC provided legislative assistance and capacity-building to 17 countries in Africa, Latin America and the Western Balkans and facilitated the sharing of good practices in addressing illicit firearms trafficking among European countries. The Office organized with INTERPOL a law enforcement operation, Operation KAFO, targeted at firearms trafficking networks in several western African countries and co-organized Operation Trigger VI in South America. The Office continued to promote the exchange of information among firearms control and criminal justice practitioners through its community of practitioners, reaching more than 100 experts. UNODC also worked on several operational tools and publications, including guiding templates for firearms-relevant investigations, training courses and materials on firearms detection at borders and in postal shipments, a handbook for border guards and customs officers developed jointly with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and a Global Study on Firearms Trafficking.

B. Curbing corruption

46. At the time of reporting, there were 187 parties to the Convention against Corruption.

47. The Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption held its eighth session in Abu Dhabi, from 16 to 20 December 2019. The Conference adopted a record number of resolutions and one decision, covering a wide range of topics, including asset recovery, the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, corruption prevention, safeguarding sport from corruption, the measurement of corruption, corruption related to crimes that have an impact on the environment, foreign bribery and the role of national parliaments and supreme audit institutions in preventing corruption, as well as on the modalities for the special session of the General Assembly against corruption, to be held in April 2021, pursuant to Assembly resolution [73/191](#). The Conference also decided to extend until June 2024 the duration of the second cycle of the Mechanism.

48. The Implementation Review Group of the United Nations Convention against Corruption held its tenth session, first resumed tenth session and second resumed tenth session in May, September and December 2019, respectively. The Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery held its thirteenth session in May 2019, the eighth open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the Convention against Corruption was held on 31 May 2019, and the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption held its tenth session in September 2019.

49. The first cycle of the Implementation Review Mechanism is nearing completion, with 169 executive summaries finalized. Work on the second cycle is advancing, with 35 executive summaries finalized.

50. UNODC continued to provide technical assistance in response to the observations made in the reviews, including through the drafting of action plans, anti-corruption strategies and legislation, capacity-building and other ad hoc activities. During the review process, the Office provided assistance to 12 States parties with the completion of their self-assessment checklists. UNODC also provided support to 24 States parties in the drafting or amending of 26 laws and regulations and seven policies to prevent and combat corruption.

51. UNODC also continued to provide technical and substantive services to the Implementation Review Mechanism and the Implementation Review Group in 2019. Those services included the provision of training and assistance to governmental experts from States parties under review and reviewing States parties, supporting country reviews and producing thematic reports on implementation trends and related technical assistance needs identified during the reviews. The outcomes of the country reviews undertaken under the Mechanism have had far-reaching policy implications,

including by contributing to the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly against corruption.

52. In 2019, UNODC provided a broad set of tailored technical assistance activities to more than 125 States at the global, regional and national levels. Assistance included support in the drafting of anti-corruption policies, laws and codes of conduct; the strengthening of asset declaration systems and whistle-blower protection; advice on investigating and prosecuting corruption, including through international cooperation; and support in identifying and mitigating corruption risks across all sectors.

53. The UNODC network of anti-corruption advisers and field offices continued to provide upon request rapidly deployable professional expertise at the regional, subregional and country levels. UNODC advisers with regional and national responsibilities provided technical assistance in Central America and the Caribbean, East and Southern Africa, the Pacific region, South and South-East Asia and West and Central Africa. A senior global adviser is based in Vienna.

54. UNODC continued its partnership with the World Bank on the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative, which provided assistance to more than 20 countries in their efforts to recover stolen assets, including through legislative assistance, capacity-building and the facilitation of international cooperation meetings. The Initiative also issued new publications on the use of insolvency proceedings for asset recovery and on the e-filing of asset disclosures.

55. At the time of reporting, the online Directory of Competent National Authorities² contained, inter alia, information on central authorities for mutual legal assistance in 131 States parties.

56. Within the framework of the Judicial Integrity initiative of the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, the Global Judicial Integrity Network continued to assist States in strengthening judicial integrity and in implementing article 11 of the Convention against Corruption, including through the development of training tools on judicial conduct and ethics.

57. Further to General Assembly resolution 73/190, UNODC continued its analytical work on the prevention of and fight against corrupt practices and the transfer of proceeds of corruption, facilitating asset recovery and the return of such assets to their legitimate owners, in particular countries of origin, in accordance with the Convention against Corruption. The Office prepared thematic reports on the implementation of chapter II (Preventive measures) and chapter V (Asset recovery) of the Convention that contained a compilation of the most common and relevant information on successes, good practices and challenges identified and observations made during the second cycle of the Implementation Review Mechanism, including measures adopted in the areas under consideration (see [CAC/COSP/IRG/2020/3](#) and [CAC/COSP/IRG/2019/4](#)). UNODC released a set of non-binding recommendations and conclusions based on lessons learned regarding the implementation of chapters III and IV of the Convention that summarized the findings and results of reviews completed under the first cycle of the Mechanism, including in relation to the criminalization of money-laundering, confiscation and international cooperation for the purposes of asset recovery.

C. Preventing and countering terrorism

58. As a member of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact launched by the Secretary-General in December 2018, UNODC chairs the Working Group on Criminal Justice, Legal Responses and Countering the Financing of Terrorism.

² www.unodc.org/compauth_uncac/en/index.html.

59. Since 2003, UNODC has provided technical assistance to requesting Member States to promote adherence to and implementation of the international legal instruments to counter terrorism, as well as relevant resolutions adopted within the framework of the United Nations, and supported the revision and drafting of national counter-terrorism legislation. In 2019, the following Member States became party to one or more of such international legal instruments: Belgium, Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Cyprus, Gabon, Ghana, Guyana, India, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Montenegro, Nigeria, Paraguay, Portugal, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uruguay.

60. In 2019, in line with General Assembly resolution [74/175](#), UNODC delivered more than 150 training activities targeting over 3,000 criminal justice officials in the following areas: international legal and judicial cooperation; criminal matters related to foreign terrorist fighters; international cooperation; collecting, analysing, preserving, storing, using and sharing forensic and electronic evidence; mutual legal assistance; counter-terrorist financing measures; links between transnational organized crime and terrorism; chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism; victims of terrorism; preventing the involvement of children with terrorist groups; and mainstreaming gender perspectives into criminal justice responses to terrorism.

61. The Office provided both legislative and drafting assistance to the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme, launched jointly in 2019 by the Office of Counter-Terrorism, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, ICAO, the Office of Information and Communications Technology, UNODC and INTERPOL, and continued to implement the Airport Communication Project, including with regard to its counter-terrorism component.

62. In 2019, UNODC launched a three-year joint project with the European Union and the Office of Counter-Terrorism on promoting the universalization and effective implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. UNODC, the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Inter-Parliamentary Union signed a memorandum of understanding to bolster their cooperation in the fight against terrorism. UNODC and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre of the Office of Counter-Terrorism implemented a joint project to assist Member States in adopting a human rights-based approach for the treatment of children affected by the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters.

63. UNODC, the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate advanced their joint initiative relating to violent extremist offenders and the prevention of radicalization to violence in prisons. The project is aimed at strengthening the capacity of prison services to manage violent extremist prisoners more effectively and to respond to the challenge of potential radicalization to violence in prisons. UNODC also cooperated with the Office of Counter-Terrorism, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the European Union in the implementation of a joint programme on preventing violent extremism in Asia.

64. Through an initiative focused on Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia, UNODC supported Member States in strengthening their legal regimes against foreign terrorist fighters and building the capacity of criminal justice and law enforcement officials to deal with specific legal aspects of efforts to counter the threat of foreign terrorist fighters at the national and regional levels. Through a project on the implementation by Member States of Security Council resolution [2396 \(2017\)](#), the Office supported countries in North Africa and Central and South Asia in strengthening criminal justice responses to terrorism and foreign terrorist fighters.

D. Preventing crime and strengthening criminal justice systems

65. UNODC continued to support States in preventing crime and strengthening their criminal justice systems in line with United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice.

66. UNODC supported cities in Africa, Central Asia and Latin America in conducting participatory crime diagnoses to generate information on crime, violence, victimization and related risk factors in order to inform local safety and crime prevention action plans with a specific focus on the safety needs of women.

67. Through its Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, the Office promoted the integration of sport into youth crime prevention. A total of 850 teachers were trained in the use of the UNODC “Line Up Live Up” sport-based life skills training curriculum, and more than 11,000 young people benefited from the curriculum in schools and other community settings in 11 countries.

68. UNODC finalized the *Handbook for the Judiciary on Effective Criminal Justice Responses to Gender-based Violence against Women and Girls* and the *Toolkit on Gender-Responsive Non-custodial Measures*. In Kyrgyzstan and Mexico, the Office implemented the joint European Union-United Nations Spotlight Initiative, which promotes a comprehensive approach against gender-related killing and other forms of violence against women. UNODC supported 16 countries in enhancing their responses to violence against women, including under the United Nations Joint Global Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence. Seven countries were supported in their efforts to improve the situation of women prisoners and their social reintegration in line with the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules).

69. UNODC launched a practice-oriented e-learning course on the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules). The course, in which 17,300 users from 98 countries participated, received the International Corrections and Prisons Association 2019 Correctional Excellence Award.

70. A total of 1,000 criminal justice practitioners from 21 Member States benefited from UNODC projects on addressing violent extremism in prisons. Within the framework of its Global Maritime Crime Programme, the Office supported prison services in Kenya, Maldives and Sri Lanka through capacity-building in security management, the development of risk assessment tools and practical measures for the rehabilitation and social reintegration of prisoners. In Somalia, the Federal Government inaugurated the Mogadishu Prison and Court Complex, a safe and secure environment for the hearing of serious criminal cases, consisting of a high-security block, a secure courtroom and accommodation for judges and prosecutors, constructed with UNODC support.

71. UNODC published the *Introductory Handbook on the Prevention of Recidivism and the Social Reintegration of Offenders* and the *Practical Guide to Creating a Brand of Prison Products*. The Office provided technical assistance to 10 Member States in improving the social reintegration of released prisoners.

72. UNODC supported 32 States in addressing challenges on the prevention of child recruitment, the rehabilitation and reintegration of children and appropriate justice responses to children associated with terrorist groups, and provided legal advice and capacity-building to 308 child protection, justice and security professionals. The Office developed a comprehensive training package and the related Roadmap on the Treatment of Children Associated with Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups.

73. UNODC developed and field-tested in a regional workshop a training manual on ensuring the quality of legal aid services, which was piloted in 12 Asian countries. The Office also developed a practical tool and delivered training to legal aid practitioners in West Africa on specialized services for women offenders and victims

of crime. In the Central African Republic, it supported the Special Criminal Court in contracting its first legal aid providers and providing victim and witness protection.

74. UNODC, through the Global Judicial Integrity Network, issued guidelines on the use of social media by judges, addressing gender-related judicial integrity issues and the development and implementation of codes of judicial conduct. The Office supported more than 45 training sites across the globe in the implementation of the Judicial Ethics Training Tools developed by the Network.

75. UNODC promoted the use of restorative justice by updating its *Handbook on Restorative Justice Programmes* and developing a training curriculum on restorative justice programmes, piloted during two training workshops attended by participants from five South-East Asian countries. The Office contributed to the development of United Nations police training modules and, together with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), developed a guide for policymakers entitled *Strengthening the Rule of Law Through Education*.

E. Data collection, research and trend analysis, and international cooperation in the forensic field

76. In 2019, UNODC published the third edition of the *Global Study on Homicide* in six booklets, covering an executive summary; trends and patterns of homicide; homicide typologies and enablers; the links between homicide, development and the Sustainable Development Goals; the gender-related killing of women and girls; and the killing of children and young adults.

77. As mandated in the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, UNODC worked on the preparation of the 2020 edition of its biennial *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*.

78. Within the framework of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime, UNODC continued to maintain the world wildlife seizure database, based on which the second edition of the *World Wildlife Crime Report* was published in 2020.

79. UNODC continued to support Member States in improving statistical data on crime and criminal justice, providing training and technical assistance in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Central and Eastern Asia related to the implementation of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes, the measurement of crime and corruption through surveys and the classification of violent crimes against women.

80. UNODC continued to work closely with co-custodian agencies and partners, such as the World Health Organization, UNDP, the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, UN-Women and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to support the global and national monitoring of selected Sustainable Development Goal indicators. In 2019, UNODC, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and UNDP jointly developed a standard survey module for the measurement of 12 survey-based indicators of Sustainable Development Goal 16 that can be included by statistical offices in the ongoing household surveys for regular reporting. The finalization of the survey module will be followed by cognitive testing and pilot surveys in volunteer countries in 2020.

81. As the custodian or co-custodian for global-level reporting on 16 Sustainable Development Goal indicators, UNODC regularly provided data for reporting on global indicators. It also advanced its ongoing work with partner agencies and Member States to further develop and pilot indicators for which no established methodology existed. In 2019, pilot testing in volunteer countries started on indicators 11.7.2 (on physical and sexual harassment) and 16.4.1 (on illicit financial flows). In the context of indicator 16.4.2 (on arms of illicit origin), the Office collected data on firearms trafficking from more than 100 countries, forming the basis for the *Global Study on Firearms Trafficking* to be published in 2020.

82. UNODC continued to support the enhancement of capacities and skills relating to forensic sciences in the work of law enforcement officials, postal services, laboratory experts and the judiciary. This support included the provision of standardized training tools, guidelines and e-learning modules on security document examination, crime scene investigation, drug identification and the safe and environment-friendly handling and disposal of chemicals.

F. Work undertaken to address specific forms of crime and emerging policy issues

1. Crimes against migrants

83. As a member of the Executive Committee of the United Nations Network on Migration, UNODC continues to work through the Network to support the ongoing implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, with a view to enhancing protection and addressing and reducing the vulnerabilities of migrants, among other goals.

2. Trafficking in cultural property

84. The Office continued to cooperate with INTERPOL, OSCE, UNESCO and WCO in delivering technical assistance aimed at strengthening national mechanisms to prevent and counter trafficking in cultural property and related offences, including through the use of the Organized Crime Convention and the related international guidelines adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution [69/196](#). In March 2019, in Bangkok, the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme delivered, together with UNESCO, a joint subregional advanced training on countering trafficking in cultural objects in the containerized supply chain, aimed at, inter alia, preventing the use of trafficked cultural property for generating profits for organized criminal groups and financing terrorist groups. In June, the Office contributed to a UNESCO training workshop, also held in Bangkok, on international cooperation in the protection of cultural property in South-East Asia. In July, it contributed to a meeting held in London on the protection of cultural property in the Commonwealth. In September, it contributed to an OSCE regional workshop on trafficking in cultural property held in Ulaanbaatar for selected OSCE Asian Partners for Cooperation.

3. Cybercrime

85. In accordance with General Assembly resolution [73/187](#), UNODC prepared a report presenting the views of Member States on challenges in countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes, for consideration by the Assembly at its seventy-fourth session ([A/74/130](#)).

86. UNODC serviced the fifth meeting of the open-ended intergovernmental Expert Group to Conduct a Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime, held from 27 to 29 March 2019, with a focus on law enforcement, investigations, electronic evidence and criminal justice, and has also been involved in the implementation of General Assembly resolution [74/247](#).

87. UNODC continued to address the needs of developing countries, focusing on their self-identified vulnerabilities in relation to cybercrime, in order to provide tailor-made technical assistance and promote the exchange of the most up-to-date knowledge. The Office trained more than 1,800 criminal justice practitioners from 36 countries in the following areas: countering online child sexual exploitation; use of specialized hardware and software; handling of digital evidence and digital forensic analysis; use of open-source intelligence tools; international cooperation; cybercrime law; cyberthreat intelligence; cryptocurrency; darknet investigations; wildlife crime online investigations; cyberthreat intelligence in countering terrorist operations; and malware investigations.

88. UNODC also continued to contribute to the New Technology Reference Group established by the Secretary-General, the cryptocurrency working group of the United Nations Children's Fund and the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation. The Office also routinely provided guidance and advice on the impact of cybercrime on cybersecurity and peace and security.

4. Precious metals

89. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2019/23, UNODC has started drafting a multidimensional conceptual framework on how to assist Member States with the issue of illicit trafficking in precious metals and illegal mining and commenced dialogue with interested States, international organizations and the private sector, with a view to developing a technical assistance programme to enable countries to strengthen their legislative and law enforcement responses in that area and to improve supply chain resilience. To this end, an assessment mission to South Africa was conducted in February 2020.

5. Environmental crime

90. In 2019, UNODC continued to support Member States through its Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime. More than 1,600 criminal justice personnel received training aimed at strengthening their capacity to prevent, investigate and prosecute wildlife, forest and fisheries crime. The Office developed new resource tools to prevent and respond to wildlife and forest crime, and the dissemination and roll-out of related training is under way in requesting countries. Technical assistance was delivered following a "crime scene to court" approach, including building capacity for corruption risk management and for the conduct of parallel financial investigations linked to wildlife crime. UNODC engaged in significant awareness-raising activities and continued to conduct research and analysis at the national, regional and international levels.

91. UNODC promoted regional and international cooperation, for example, by supporting wildlife enforcement networks and the African Wildlife Forensics Network. The close collaboration of the Office with other United Nations agencies and relevant partners continued through the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime and the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Illicit Trade in Wildlife and Forest Products.

92. UNODC provided normative guidance to Member States on countering environmental crime, assisting in the development of new legislation, and continued to support relevant intergovernmental processes, including by preparing a report pursuant to General Assembly resolution [71/326](#).

V. Governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

1. Information on the work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

93. The standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC continued to play an important role as a forum for discussions in such areas as strategic and budgetary matters, evaluation, oversight, programme development and implementation, the financial situation of the Office and strengthening human resources governance. In February 2020, the working group adopted a provisional programme of work for the period from January to December 2020, in line with Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 62/9 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 28/4.

2. Information on strategic planning

94. In 2019, UNODC continued to implement the annual programme plan and budget of the Secretariat. As of 2020, the new programme plan sets out the work of the Organization over a three-year period, featuring results for the previous year and expected results for the following year, in line with lessons learned and recommendations stemming from past evaluations.

95. Within the framework of Umoja 2.0, UNODC worked to ensure that the voluntary contributions module follows a substance-led results-based management approach. By leading the Secretariat-wide group of the Umoja Extended Business Team dedicated to project planning, monitoring and reporting, the Office aimed to ensure that the new functionalities met the needs of programme managers and that there was consensus among strategic planners within the Secretariat.

96. UNODC conducted a peer review of its results-based management approach and developed an e-learning training on such management, to raise the knowledge and quality of planning and programming. The importance of results-based management for increased effectiveness, accountability and transparency is highlighted in resolutions on the reform of the United Nations development system and the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system.

3. Information on integrated programming

97. UNODC expanded its technical assistance delivery under integrated global, regional and country programmes. Six country programmes and 10 regional programmes were being implemented, and several global programmes expanded their geographical outreach. In 2019, a new cycle of the regional programme for South-Eastern Europe became operational, and five new global programmes were launched in the following substantive areas: strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women; countering maritime crime; the Implementation Review Mechanism of the Organized Crime Convention; urban safety governance; and the rapid interdiction of dangerous substances. The Global Programme on Strengthening Criminal Investigation and Criminal Justice Cooperation along Drug Trafficking Routes incorporated a new component focusing on strengthening the criminal justice system in Mexico.

4. Information on evaluation

98. The Independent Evaluation Section, in liaison with the United Nations Evaluation Group and the United Nations oversight bodies, continued to invest in methods, structures and tools to deliver evaluation results both at the programme level and at the metalevel.

99. The Independent Evaluation Section invested in innovative web-based systems, such as Unite Evaluations, to offer aggregate evaluation results vis-à-vis the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals and to provide metasyntheses. The Section fostered cohesion within the accountability framework of the United Nations and developed evaluation capacity-building, in conjunction with the United Nations Evaluation Group.

5. Information on fundraising and private sector cooperation initiatives

100. Dialogue with several donors has evolved into more structured policy discussions at the level of the country capitals. The Office is actively pursuing the diversification of the donor base to engage more partners at the national and subnational levels. This approach has resulted in an increase in the number of partners interested in UNODC mandate areas and reflects continued strong support, with an increase in pledges in 2019 to approximately \$330 million.

101. UNODC continued to enhance its outreach to the private sector with the objective to forge mutually beneficial partnerships by targeting umbrella organizations of chambers of commerce and industry and professional associations.

6. Information on the financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

102. 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 is projected at \$8.8 million (1.2 per cent of the total income of UNODC). The low levels of unearmarked funding are a major challenge to the effective implementation of the mandates and programmes of the Office, as well as to its ability to manage its operations strategically, exercise effective corporate oversight, fund key activities and launch new initiatives and programmes.

103. The programme delivery of UNODC is expected to grow from \$602.5 million in the biennium 2018–2019 to \$697.9 million in the biennium 2020–2021, representing a 15.8 per cent increase. The growth in programme delivery relates mainly to the expansion of a number of programmes, including the Global Maritime Crime Programme, the Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime, the programme on alternative development within the framework of the implementation of the peace agreement in Colombia and the programme on countering transnational organized crime and illicit drug trafficking and preventing terrorism in Central Asia.

VI. Concluding observations

104. Social and economic vulnerabilities and weak rule of law institutions continue to create opportunities for criminal activities. Hence, the development and implementation of crime prevention policies require a comprehensive approach that takes into account the multiple factors contributing to crime, based on the understanding that crime prevention is an integral element of the broader socioeconomic agenda.

105. The current global agenda is confronted with an unprecedented crisis: the COVID-19 pandemic is disrupting the efforts of Member States to prevent and combat crime in all its manifestations. In this regard, I call upon Member States to take appropriate measures, in line with applicable United Nations standards and norms, to ensure that their efforts in the area of crime prevention mitigate the negative impact of the pandemic, with a particular focus on vulnerable members of society.

106. I urge Member States to respond to the serious challenges posed by transnational organized crime with evidence-based interventions and policymaking, taking an integrated, multidisciplinary approach, in particular in the light of the new challenges posed by COVID-19. The technical and methodological tools, trend analyses and studies developed by UNODC are of invaluable help to enhance knowledge on crime trends and assist Member States in designing appropriate responses.

107. I also urge Member States to review and enhance their efforts to identify victims of trafficking in persons and ensure access to readily available and appropriate assistance and support for victims, with due consideration of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. I encourage Member States to regularly provide UNODC with the information needed to identify the patterns and flows of the smuggling of migrants at all levels, and share best practices and lessons learned to better respond to this crime.

108. Owing to the COVID-19 crisis, there is a high risk of criminal networks taking advantage of the increased use of online technology to diversify their disruptive tools and methods. I therefore call upon Member States to find innovative solutions to emerging policy issues, in particular cybercrime, in cooperation with all relevant

stakeholders, including the private sector. Other new and emerging forms of crime, such as environmental crime and trafficking in cultural property and precious metals, also require policymakers and practitioners to conceive specialized and innovative policies, strategies, operations and tools.

109. By ratifying and acceding to the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto, the Convention against Corruption and the 19 international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism, Member States have taken steps to ensure and enhance their ability to prevent and combat these crimes. I call upon Member States that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to those legal instruments. Member States that have already ratified or acceded to them should adopt legislative and other measures to implement them. In this context, I encourage Member States to participate in and support the Implementation Review Mechanism of the Convention against Corruption and the Implementation Review Mechanism of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto.

110. Ensuring the continuity of counter-terrorism efforts during the COVID-19 crisis is crucial. I encourage Member States to pay particular attention to the new threats emanating from terrorists exploiting the crisis, in such areas as the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, the protection of critical infrastructure and soft targets, incitement, radicalization, recruitment and the financing of terrorism.

111. I also encourage Member States to strengthen the capacity of their criminal justice systems to investigate, prosecute and punish all forms of crime effectively, in a fair, humane, gender-sensitive and accountable way that protects the human rights and fundamental freedoms of defendants and the legitimate interests of victims, and leaves no one behind in the access to justice. Criminal justice systems should take steps to move from the paper-based international judicial cooperation model to a new model based on the electronic transmission of digital documents and electronic signatures.

112. In order to better understand the impact of COVID-19 on crime and the array of implications that it has on society, it is essential to ensure sustained research on this topic during and after the pandemic. I therefore urge Member States to collect, analyse and exchange real-time information, with a view to identifying in a timely manner new trends and new threats, in particular during the initial phase of the recovery.

113. I stress the importance of strengthened international cooperation, based on the principle of shared responsibility, to detect, prevent, prosecute and combat all types of transnational crime, to provide access to justice for all and to build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, while addressing the most persistent challenges and threats.

114. I encourage Member States to participate actively in the preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, including the negotiations of the outcome document, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 74/171, and give due consideration to the impact of COVID-19 on crime prevention and criminal justice matters in their preparations for and deliberations during the Fourteenth Congress.

115. I also encourage Member States to fully support the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation, to be held, in line with the Assembly resolution 73/191, in April 2021.

116. UNODC provides assistance to Member States in a full range of crime prevention and criminal justice efforts. I urge Member States to provide the Office with adequate, predictable and stable resources so as to enhance the sustainability of its efforts and ensure that it can respond effectively to the increasing demand for technical assistance, capacity-building, normative and policy advice, research and international cooperation.