



Note on UNODC Regional Programmes

4 December 2008

Integrated Programming Unit/Division for Operations

I) Background

In 2008, UNODC devoted high priority to identify new opportunities for programme development while ensuring a well coordinated and rapid response to the needs and requests of Members States.

This approach included the development of five Regional Programmes to cover the geographical regions of East Asia and Pacific, Eastern Africa, Caribbean, Central America, and the Balkans. These areas were considered in urgent need of support to elaborate a new generation of technical cooperation programmes.

The Integrated Programming Unit (IPU) was requested to take the lead in establishing and coordinating five Inter-divisional Task Forces to cover the above geographical regions. The Task-Forces were composed by FOs staff, regional desks, thematic experts (i.e. rule of law, corruption, crime prevention, organized crime, THB, money laundering, terrorism, demand reduction, HIV, research etc.). The objectives of these multi-disciplinary teams are to:

- develop the outline of the regional programmes and align them with the UNODC Medium Term Strategy 2008-11;
- reinforce UNODC policy coherence and overall quality of the technical cooperation programme in the respective regions;
- provide the required conceptual and operational framework for transferring UNODC know-how and expertise at the regional and national level;
- facilitate the move from small projects towards more integrated, multi-component technical cooperation programmes, linked to other UN programmes and fully aligned with Governments' priorities;
- reinforce a strategic partnerships with the international donor community and increase the mobilization of resources to the respective regions; and
- generate a working environment based on a genuine collaboration, dialogue and mutual support. This includes a closer interface and substantive dialogue with field colleagues.

II) Guiding principles

The regional programmes were elaborated in line with the following principles:

- ***Aligned with Paris Declaration principles on aid effectiveness.*** The Regional Programme is designed to promote partner countries' ownership, be aligned with national policies and priorities, be effectively coordinated with other donors/development agencies, and support mutual accountability for results.
- ***Programmatic and results-focused.*** The Regional Programmes intends to achieve results over the long term as it is not driven by ad-hoc project initiatives. It is focused instead on achieving sustainable reforms in line with international and

national commitments on rule of law and public health matters related to UNODC's mandate.

- **Focused on transnational and cross-border challenges.** In addition to promoting capacity-building at the national level, UNODC will make full use of its comparative advantages to facilitate the establishment of legislative and policy norms, the promotion of coordinated cross-border responses, and the exchange of comparative data and information.
- **Based on partnerships.** Programme activities will be based on partnership arrangements that clearly articulate mutual responsibilities and accountability for results.
- **Responsive to need.** The Regional Programmes are designed to focus on key priority areas addressing the main challenges of the concerned countries. They will be reviewed on an annual basis, and revised or modified as required as a result of lessons learned during implementation.

There are five main areas in which the Regional Programmes are expected to have an impact:

1. Reducing illicit trafficking of people, drugs, arms, money and natural resources;
2. Reducing corruption;
3. Reducing serious crimes, including terrorism;
4. Reducing the incidence of drug abuse;
5. Reducing HIV/AIDS transmission among injecting drug users, prisoners and victims of human trafficking.

III) Key partners

UNODC works with partners to achieve mutually agreed common objectives.

Member States. UNODC's mandate is to assist member states in their response to crime, drugs and terrorism and helping them to build their technical, human and institutional capacities to fully implement the international conventions, norms and instruments. National counterparts in relevant ministries will be key partners for UNODC.

Regional Organizations. UNODC is building strategic partnerships with Regional bodies (i.e. AUC, ECOWAS, CARICOM, RCC etc.) as their involvement would be instrumental in this undertaking.

• **UN agencies.** UNODC is committed to coordinating its activities with other UN Agencies and maximizing impact by collaborating where appropriate. UNODC will work to mainstream justice and security issues in the development agenda of the "UN Deliver as One" initiative. The importance of delivering a coherent and coordinated UN response with respect to the rule of law assistance was further highlighted in the recently-issued "*Guidance Note of the Secretary-General on the UN Approach to Rule of Law Assistance (May 2008)*".

• **NGOs/civil society and the private sector.** For implementation of components of the programme, UNODC may consider partnering with NGOs and the private sector.

IV) Key steps in the development of Regional Programmes

The research findings and in-house knowledge on the challenge faced by a region leads to the elaboration of a draft outline of a regional programme. The draft outline is the subject of consultation at two levels:

- i) the Permanent Missions from the Regional countries;
- ii) expert group meetings convened by UNODC Regional Offices with experts from the region and international funding partners (countries/organizations)

This consultation process leads to a draft programme which is then finalized and proposed for political endorsement by the regional countries.

As in the case of East Asia and the Pacific, the Regional Programme foresees a centralized Monitoring and Evaluation system, unifying all the results achieved under a single reporting system, managed by the respective Regional Office and decentralized to the programme intervention in each concerned country.

V) Way forward in 2009

While the Regional Programmes already reflect the priorities of the countries in the region, UNODC is determined to ensure that the process is fully owned by the latter. For this purpose, the programmes will be discussed and reviewed in regional expert meetings with the participation of national counterparts from all countries concerned, UN partners, key stakeholders and local donors. Such a forum already took place in Bangkok in the case of East Asia's programme, while regional meetings are being planned, in early 2009, in Kenya, Costa Rica, Santo Domingo and Serbia.

Following the above political endorsement, the key challenge would be to translate the Regional Programmes into more detailed and costed programme components.

While implementing the above regional programmes, UNODC will continue to work, in 2009, on the elaboration of new ones in other areas of the world. Close consultation is underway with national counterparts in order to agree on the development, in the following months, of regional programmes for: West Africa, North Africa and Middle East, Southern Africa and Southern America's cone.

The above development in field programming would mean *inter alia* that gradually UNODC should be able to move towards a more unified and simplified system of fund allocation, monitoring of implementation of activities, and reporting.