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**Use and application of United Nations standards and
norms in crime prevention and criminal justice****Use and application of United Nations standards and norms
in crime prevention and criminal justice****Report of the Secretary-General***Summary*

The present report describes progress made in 2011 by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to support the use and application of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice. It outlines the development of new standards and norms and the Office's efforts to collect and analyse data; develop implementation tools and provide technical assistance at the global, regional and country levels. It also describes partnerships the Office has involved to promote coherent interventions in these areas.

* E/CN.15/2012/1.



I. Introduction

1. Preventing crime and strengthening criminal justice systems by ensuring that they are fair, humane and effective lies at the heart of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and is a prerequisite for fighting transnational organized crime, drug trafficking, corruption and terrorism. The United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice,¹ which are maintained and developed under the auspices of UNODC, constitute the basis for the Office's work in that area. They are a set of internationally recognized principles grouped in the following four clusters: (a) principles relating to persons in custody, non-custodial sanctions, juvenile justice and restorative justice; (b) legal, institutional and practical arrangements for international cooperation; (c) crime prevention and victim issues; and (d) good governance, the independence of the judiciary and the integrity of criminal justice personnel. Over the years, the standards and norms have provided a collective vision of how criminal justice systems should be structured. Despite their "soft-law" nature, the standards and norms have helped to promote more effective and fair criminal justice structures worldwide. As the present report shows, significant progress in their development, use and application at the normative, analytical and operational levels has been achieved during the reporting period.²

II. Overview of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice

2. UNODC assists Member States in developing effective crime prevention strategies and in building their criminal justice systems' capacity in line with the standards and norms. While doing so, the Office pays particular attention to vulnerable groups. It provides support to Member States, upon their request, on criminal justice reform in a number of key areas — crime prevention, police reform, the strengthening of prosecution services and the judiciary, access to legal aid, prison reform and alternatives to imprisonment — as well as in the cross-cutting areas of human rights, women in the criminal justice system, justice for children, and the protection of victims and witnesses. Special attention is given by the Office to adopting a comprehensive and integrated approach to criminal justice reform, as well as to the integration of crime prevention perspectives into the overall work of UNODC.

3. UNODC promotes the use of the standards and norms on the basis of its thematic programme on crime prevention and criminal justice, which is based on the strategy for the period 2012-2015 for UNODC and the strategic framework for the period 2012-2013. The thematic programme integrates the various components of the Office's know-how in advocacy, research, legislative and legal support,

¹ The full set of standards and norms is compiled in the *Compendium of United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*, available at www.unodc.org/unodc/en/justice-and-prison-reform/compendium.html.

² Activities relating specifically to crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women can be found in document E/CN.15/2012/13.

norm-setting and technical assistance. It initially covered the period 2010-2011 and is currently being revised for the period 2012-2015. It includes an overview of the Office's activities and outcomes, as well as of available resources and further funding needs.

4. At headquarters, UNODC ensures that the perspective of the standards and norms is integrated in its other thematic programmes: prevention of drug abuse and health; organized crime and illicit trafficking; corruption and economic crime; and terrorism prevention. This is done through joint assessment missions; joint programme support and policy development in cross-cutting areas; and joint publications and development of tools. The interdivisional task force on counter-piracy led by the Justice Section, Division for Operations, of UNODC is an example of such an integrated approach, as it aims at streamlining the UNODC response to multiple aspects of piracy, such as law enforcement, prosecution, judiciary, corrections and countering money-laundering. At the field level, activities are implemented first and foremost through regional and country programmes. The Justice Section also ensures that these programmes are in line with the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, as the advancement of the rule of law and human rights are prerequisites for fighting all forms of crime.

III. Setting the standards

5. A meeting of the intergovernmental Expert Group on Civilian Private Security Services was held in Vienna on 12-14 October 2011, pursuant to Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 18/2, thanks to the generous contribution of the Government of the United Arab Emirates. Participants discussed State oversight of civilian private security services and how they contribute to crime prevention and community safety. As a result, the Expert Group endorsed draft preliminary recommendations, which have been submitted to the Commission for consideration at its twenty-first session (E/CN.15/2012/20).

6. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2007/24, UNODC organized an expert group meeting on strengthening access to legal aid in criminal justice systems, held in Vienna on 16-18 November 2011. The outcome of the meeting was the draft United Nations principles and guidelines on access to legal aid in criminal justice systems (E/CN.15/2012/17, annex).

7. With respect to the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, in its resolution 65/230, the General Assembly requested the Commission to establish an open-ended intergovernmental expert group to exchange information on best practices, as well as national legislation and existing international law, and on the revision of the existing United Nations standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners so that they reflected recent advances in correctional science and best practices, with a view to making recommendations to the Commission on possible next steps. The Expert Group on the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners held a meeting in Vienna from 31 January to 2 February 2012, at which it recommended the review of some areas of the standard minimum rules, for consideration by the Commission at its twenty-first session (E/CN.15/2012/18).

IV. Analysing trends

8. The United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice attach importance to empirical evidence for effective crime prevention and justice administration. UNODC collects and analyses statistical data from Member States, develops statistical standards to improve data quality and provides technical support to enhance national capacities to produce and analyse data.

9. In 2011, UNODC continued to collect data on selected crimes through the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems.³ It extended national focal point networks to increase response rates. Results of the 2010 survey are published on the UNODC website to facilitate access for a broad range of users. On the basis of homicide data from 207 countries and territories, in 2011, UNODC published its comprehensive *Global Study on Homicide*, providing an overview of patterns and trends of homicide.⁴ Data and analysis showed trends in both criminal and gender-based violence, and a link was established between crime and development. Furthermore, analysis of homicide patterns at the regional and national levels included the role of firearms, drug trafficking, organized crime and urbanization.

10. In 2011, UNODC and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI) established the centre of excellence on statistics on governance, public safety, victimization and justice. The centre will support countries in the Americas in order to increase the quality and quantity of statistics on crime and criminal justice. UNODC continued its technical support to Member States for the development of crime and criminal justice statistics through training sessions at the regional level (Central America and the Caribbean and the western Balkans) and by conducting victimization and corruption surveys (Afghanistan, Iraq and the western Balkans). A new programme of victimization surveys in selected Asian countries was developed in the framework of the United Nations Development Account and will be implemented in the period 2012-2013.

11. UNODC worked with the Economic Commission for Europe to develop an international framework classification of crime for statistical purposes. The framework classification, the first issued at the international level, categorizes all criminal acts on the basis of “events” rather than legal definitions and sets the basis for building more accurate and comparable statistics on crime and criminal justice.

V. Developing tools and providing guidance

12. During the reporting period, UNODC developed several handbooks, training curricula and guidance notes to support technical assistance. All publications are aimed at facilitating the application of the standards and norms by Member States and at providing the Office’s network of field offices with practical tools in support of technical assistance.

³ Available at www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/United-Nations-Surveys-on-Crime-Trends-and-the-Operations-of-Criminal-Justice-Systems.html.

⁴ Available at www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/statistics/crime/global-study-on-homicide-2011.html.

13. On criminal justice reform, UNODC and the United States Institute for Peace published the *Guide for Practitioners: Criminal Justice Reform in Post-Conflict States*. The Guide helps practitioners promote the rule of law in post-conflict countries, from policing to courts to prisons, from the formal justice system to customary courts. It helps practitioners acquire a broad understanding of criminality in post-conflict and transitional States, and it examines particular reform activities such as programme management and capacity development. Further, the Guide provides guidance on criminal justice reform issues beyond post-conflict contexts.

14. With respect to police matters, UNODC published the *Introductory Handbook on Policing Urban Space*, which seeks to provide practitioners, including government officials, police, municipal planners and members of civic groups, especially in low- and middle-income countries, with a basic conceptual grounding in democratic policing and guidelines on good practices so that they can successfully undertake democratic policing in the urban contexts in which they operate. UNODC also published the *Handbook on Police Accountability, Oversight and Integrity*, which is aimed at assisting countries in their efforts to develop effective systems of oversight and accountability in their law enforcement authorities and enhance police integrity. It addresses issues including the enhancement of police integrity and the integrity of policing; dealing with complaints about policing (receipt, investigation and follow-up); setting policing priorities and encouraging policy input, including from outside the police; and inviting external review, including from independent actors.

15. On prosecution services, the Office and the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP) are considering the development of joint guidelines for the implementation of the Standards of Professional Responsibility and Statement of the Essential Duties and Rights of Prosecutors. As a first step, UNODC participated in the sixth IAP Regional Conference for Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, held in Astana on 4-6 October 2011, at which participants discussed best practices in regards to the implementation of the IAP Standards.

16. Regarding legal aid, the Office released a *Handbook on Improving Access to Legal Aid in Africa*, which provides an overview of the progress made towards improving access to legal aid services in criminal justice systems in Africa in order to assist stakeholders involved in criminal justice reform in three ways: by providing the general information needed for developing national strategies for the delivery of legal aid services; by offering alternatives to conventional models of legal aid delivery; and by outlining promising practices on the continent, some particularly suitable for post-conflict societies. The Office also released the *Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems in Africa: Survey Report*, which provides practitioners and policymakers with accurate and contemporary data to inform the development of legal aid strategies. Lastly, it produced a joint publication with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) entitled "Child-friendly legal aid in Africa", available in English and French, which explores the legal, policy and practical issues involved in creating and maintaining child-friendly legal aid programmes in Africa.

17. On prison issues, UNODC is finalizing a handbook on the international transfer of foreign prisoners; a handbook on the social reintegration of offenders and the prevention of recidivism — the draft of which was reviewed during an expert group meeting held on 16 and 17 November 2011; and, in cooperation with the

International Committee of the Red Cross, a handbook on strategies to reduce overcrowding in prisons, the draft of which was reviewed during an expert group meeting held on 14 and 15 November 2011. UNODC also published the Spanish and Portuguese versions of the *Handbook on Prisoners with Special Needs*.

18. Regarding women in prison, UNODC also translated its *Handbook for Prison Managers and Policymakers on Women and Imprisonment* into Spanish and Portuguese. UNODC is currently cooperating with Penal Reform International to develop a guidance document to facilitate the implementation of the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules). The document will contain a compliance index that will serve as a checklist to measure State compliance with the Bangkok Rules.

19. The Office continued to develop tools for policymakers and professionals in the area of child justice reform. These include the tool *Criteria for the Design and Evaluation of Juvenile Justice Reform Programmes*, developed in partnership with the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice, which provides a conceptual framework for the design of juvenile justice reform programmes and a general approach for evaluating the impact of those programmes on children and their rights and on crime and public safety. A second tool is the joint UNICEF/UNODC *Manual for the Measurement of Juvenile Justice Indicators*, now available in English, French, Russian and Spanish. The purpose of the manual is to introduce 15 juvenile justice indicators and their utility; it explains how measurements using those indicators can contribute to the protection of children in conflict with the law; and it offers practical guidance for the collection and collation of information and for calculation of the indicators. A third tool is the joint UNICEF/UNODC *Handbook for Professionals and Policymakers on Justice in Matters Involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime*, available in all six official United Nations languages, which has been developed to assist countries in implementing, at the national level, the provisions contained in the Guidelines on Justice in Matters Involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime adopted by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2005/20. A fourth tool is the online training package for law enforcement professionals, social workers, prosecutors, judges, lawyers, health professionals and informal justice providers,⁵ a free-of-charge, self-learning tool developed in partnership with UNICEF and the International Bureau for Children's Rights. In addition, the Office also developed a draft model law and related commentary on juvenile justice, which was discussed by a group of experts from different regions and legal systems in March 2011.

20. The publications *Handbook on the Crime Prevention Guidelines: Making Them Work* and the *Handbook on Restorative Justice Programmes* were both translated into Spanish, and the latter was also translated into Portuguese. Subject to the availability of funding in 2012, the Office plans to translate more handbooks into other official languages of the United Nations and to develop related training curricula.

⁵ Available at www.unodc.org/justice-child-victims.

VI. Providing sustained technical assistance

21. UNODC is committed to helping countries prevent crime and build the capacity of their criminal justice systems to operate more effectively within the framework of the rule of law, paying particular attention to vulnerable groups. Responding to crime and violence requires a balanced approach, with sufficient investment in crime prevention programmes and policies as well as efforts to establish and maintain criminal justice institutions that serve justice for all. Experience has shown that there are no quick solutions for preventing and responding to crime and that reform efforts should focus as much as possible on a system-wide approach.

22. UNODC promotes and supports comprehensive assessments of criminal justice systems in Member States, as they can form the basis for subsequent tailor-made technical assistance initiatives. Such initiatives may range from policy advice on broad crime prevention and criminal justice reform issues to building the capacity of particular institutions (such as crime prevention authorities, legal aid providers, police, prosecution services, courts and judiciary, prisons, probation services and civil society organizations) and to cross-cutting programmes focusing on the needs of particular groups (for example, women, children and victims). The Office also promotes regional and international cooperation between crime prevention and criminal justice actors and institutions through the exchange of information and expertise.

23. In 2011, the crime prevention and criminal justice technical assistance portfolio of UNODC continued to grow. It now comprises 49 projects in 26 countries with a total pledged budget of \$106 million. Notable developments occurred in the areas of penal reform and alternatives to imprisonment in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia; juvenile justice in the Middle East and North Africa; access to justice and legal aid in Africa; police reform in East Africa; and crime and violence prevention in Latin America and the Caribbean. What follows is an outline of selected technical assistance developments in crime prevention and criminal justice reform in 2011.

24. Regarding access to justice and legal aid, several new initiatives that emerged in 2011 are detailed below. With the drafting in 2011 of a new instrument setting out guidelines and principles on access to legal aid and its submission to the Commission, the technical assistance portfolio in this area is expected to increase in the period 2012-2013.

25. In the area of prison reform, needs assessments took place in Afghanistan, El Salvador, Panama and South Sudan, to identify areas of reform in which UNODC can offer assistance based on the standards and norms. Currently, UNODC has 13 prison reform programmes in 10 countries. In 2012, alternatives to imprisonment will be a primary focus for the Office's prison reform activities. This approach is practical and cost-effective in the light of the current and projected increase in the prison population.

26. In 2011, UNODC continued to address child justice reform by implementing recent United Nations resolutions such as General Assembly resolution 65/213 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 2007/23 and 2009/26, as well as the guidance note of the Secretary-General on the United Nations approach to justice

for children. UNODC is integrating child rights into its crime prevention and criminal justice programmes and is supporting child justice reform through a comprehensive approach. UNODC technical assistance addresses both institutional challenges to deliver justice for children, and challenges faced by children in access to justice. During the reporting period, the Office undertook technical assistance needs assessments on justice for children in Cambodia, Cape Verde and South Sudan. Such assessments contribute to a better understanding of the strengths, weaknesses and gaps of relevant laws, institutions and actors in the justice system.

A. Africa

27. In 2011, the regional programmes for Africa were at different stages of development, but all included a subprogramme on crime prevention and criminal justice, with varying focuses depending on the needs of Member States in that region.

28. In East Africa, UNODC has a regional justice programme based in Nairobi. The programme started in 2010 and continues to build capacity among criminal justice actors in order to decrease corruption and increase the effectiveness of the region's criminal justice systems. Examples include a police capacity-building programme in Kenya and a prison reform programme in Uganda. In Mauritius, UNODC, together with UNDP, evaluated a completed technical assistance project on police reform. The project had assisted the Mauritius police in transforming itself from a police force into a police service. The evaluation found that the project had successfully helped the police develop a culture of service towards the community. The UNODC Justice Section will draw on lessons learned under that project to create long-term, sustainable projects in other regions. In Ethiopia, UNODC conducted a comprehensive assessment of the criminal justice system covering access to justice; courts; the independence, impartiality and integrity of the judiciary; prosecution; legal aid; custodial and non-custodial measures; the prison system; juvenile justice; victims and witnesses; international cooperation; and gender issues. The assessment's recommendations will enable UNODC to better assist the Government's reforms.

29. With regard to West Africa, the Office has been particularly active in the areas of prison, legal aid and juvenile justice. In Guinea-Bissau, it is supporting the establishment of a fair, humane and effective justice system, especially by strengthening the prison system. In Liberia, the Office, building on successful training in 2009, has been developing a project to strengthen the office of the public defenders. Cape Verde invited UNODC to assess their juvenile justice system and submit recommendations for further juvenile justice reform. This covered all aspects relating to legislation, policies and practices. The report containing the assessment and recommendations was finalized in May 2011. In Mauritania, UNODC conducted an assessment of the criminal justice system. Meeting with national and local stakeholders, UNODC laid the groundwork to create a national integrated programme for Mauritania that will better enable UNODC to assist in future criminal law reforms.

30. In Nigeria, UNODC is developing a comprehensive programme to strengthen the capacity of the justice sector (the Ministry of Justice, the legislature, the police,

the judiciary, prosecution and legal aid services and prisons). Implementation will start in 2012. Furthermore, UNODC is assisting the prison services to comply with the United Nations standards and norms and to improve their management. The project builds leadership capacity in prisons and provides technical assistance, logistics equipment and advisory services. It will support a national effort to strengthen the rule of law and the prison reform process through the consolidation of a core group of prison reformers in the prison service and relevant ministries.

B. Asia

31. In Afghanistan, the Office trained judges and prosecutors to better manage juvenile cases, and it helped provide alternatives to imprisonment for juveniles in the Kabul open Juvenile Rehabilitation Centre and improve the penitentiary system across the country. The project supporting the Kandahar provincial prison was extended and revised and will expand health-care services to ensure basic health-care access. In addition, the Office supported a drug treatment facility; created a viable classification and case management system; and revised and implemented vocational training programmes. In the course of the period 2011-2014, currently ongoing criminal justice projects have been, or will be, extended.

32. In Pakistan, UNODC used a series of baseline assessments of the prison system, the prosecution service and crime trends in Pakistan to develop and implement its country programme for the period 2010-2014. The programme provides assistance in drafting and implementing legislation for mutual legal assistance. The Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool was distributed to relevant agencies and ministries, and training on it was conducted. UNODC supported workshops to assist the prosecution and police services in enhancing their cooperation. With respect to prison reform, UNODC supports the revision of Pakistan's prison rules and the development of a handbook and risk assessment tool for Pakistan's parole and probation services. In November 2011, UNODC conducted a workshop with relevant national counterparts in order to inform them of the roll-out of its 2012 prison programme.

33. In Kyrgyzstan, UNODC has a programme focusing on the prison service and aimed at establishing a sustainable management system. It includes developing policy, strategy and planning capacities and elaborating targeted training to enable staff to implement plans, in spite of human and financial resource constraints. The aim is also to reduce the size of the prison population in order to improve conditions in prisons, the social reintegration prospects of prisoners and the health of staff and prisoners. Lastly, the Office is developing a strategy to generate funds for the prison service.

34. In Indonesia, UNODC completed the second phase of a project aimed at strengthening judicial integrity and capacity. The project supported legal reform efforts in order to enhance the rule of law in the country.

35. In Cambodia, UNODC identified technical assistance requirements and key elements for a UNODC/UNICEF programme on juvenile justice. The Office found strategic opportunities to continue to support reform, which will likely include

smaller, local pilot programmes to demonstrate the usefulness of such reforms to national authorities.

C. Latin America and the Caribbean

36. During the reporting period, the Office continued crime prevention projects in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador and Honduras. These projects adopt a social prevention perspective; they identify causes of youth crime, risk factors and possible prevention responses; and they strengthen public security policies and promote cooperation among public civil and private actors.

37. In the Caribbean, UNODC is conducting a round of consultations based on previous cooperation with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) with the objective of launching technical assistance to implement the crime prevention and social development action plan of CARICOM. Also in the Caribbean, in the area of prison reform, UNODC established a centre of excellence in Santo Domingo whose objectives are the examination of alternatives to imprisonment, the modernization of prison administration, social rehabilitation of inmates and the development of legislation in line with international standards and norms. The centre may also examine drug demand reduction in communities and in prison settings in order to adjust strategies and interventions for prevention, treatment and care of drug users.

38. In Panama, UNODC is assisting the Office of the Attorney General in its transition towards an adversarial system. UNODC assisted in designing a management model for the implementation of the new adversarial system in two pilot programmes in the provinces of Coclé and Veraguas. UNODC also supported the Public Ministry in establishing a computer-based system to manage criminal proceedings. Furthermore, UNODC helped national authorities develop a project to evaluate the use of electronic monitoring of prisoners. The project will look at expanding the use of such monitoring for specific prison populations and will develop other alternatives to imprisonment. Two other needs assessments were conducted in Panama: one on health services provided in the main prisons and the second on the condition of prison facilities, overcrowding and prison staff. The latter resulted in a regional guide on good practices. Lastly, UNODC provided technical advice to elaborate a prison reform strategy that would build institutional and staff capacity, set up mechanisms to reduce imprisonment and define services to prisoners.

39. In Colombia, the Office supported a study on trafficking in small arms and light weapons and organized crime. The study was carried out in partnership with the Conflict Analysis Resource Centre (CERAC). The study identifies the dynamics of trafficking in different regions and associated costs and recommends strengthening the response capacity of State institutions. Also in Colombia, UNODC supported the implementation of safety audits in four municipalities of the Department of Antioquia. A database with security-related information was established in those four localities. The goal is to include the findings of the safety audits in the security plan of the Government of Antioquia.

D. North Africa and the Middle East

40. With the recent changes in the Middle East and North Africa, demands for accountability and justice have moved to the forefront in the region. At the request of countries in the region, UNODC reviewed its regional programme and developed project proposals to assist transitional Governments in responding to those demands, in particular in the areas of police, justice and prison reform.

41. In September 2011, UNODC met with the transitional Administration of Tunisia in Tunis. A number of areas were considered for future cooperation, including training needs of the police and of prosecutors and judges, in particular in dealing with financial crime and corruption cases. Other areas of cooperation include strengthening legal aid and means of collecting national crime statistics.

42. The UNODC programme in Egypt focuses on social reintegration of children and youth in conflict with the law and is carried out in coordination with the New Horizons Association for Social Development and the Ministry of Social Solidarity. Since implementation, 161 children and youth have benefited from the reintegration programme, aimed at enabling children and youth deprived of liberty to build a life plan before their release, with the help of several services providing legal, administrative, social, educational and economic assistance.

43. In Libya, a nationally funded programme worth \$3.6 million, focusing on juvenile justice reform, had just been signed with the Government when the revolution began. The programme, initially planned for the period 2010-2013, will be implemented after it is adapted to the current situation. UNODC is currently discussing with the Government areas of further collaboration. Juvenile justice activities will be part of a wider national programme covering not only criminal justice reform but also anti-corruption, drug law enforcement and HIV/AIDS issues.

44. In Lebanon, the Office initiated a penal reform project that includes facilitating the transfer of the prison administration from the Ministry of Interior to the Ministry of Justice and supporting alternatives to imprisonment. Furthermore, in order to facilitate the project improving prison conditions in Roumieh, additional needs were identified to ensure a higher quality of services.

45. The programme in Jordan builds the judiciary's capacity to deal more effectively with cases of children in contact with the law in line with international standards and norms. The Ministry of Justice, in cooperation with UNODC, carried out the first internal needs assessment of juvenile courts equipped with a closed-circuit television (CCTV) system. The assessment covered the physical situation, the involvement of the various actors, the functioning of the system, the archiving process and the system's sustainability.

46. In the Occupied Palestinian Territory, UNODC started its largest forensic capacity-building programme to date, aimed at improving management and delivery of both integrated forensic science and forensic medicine services. The Office continued cooperation with the Correction and Rehabilitation Centres Department by supporting management of the penitentiary system and inmate rehabilitation in civil prisons. This included strengthening compliance with regulatory frameworks by providing training sessions and training material to future trainers and current prison staff and completing a comprehensive assessment to prepare for more

rehabilitation workshops in the correction and rehabilitation centres. The project was carried out in coordination with the European Union Coordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support, the United States of America Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs and other relevant stakeholders. Finally, UNODC developed a crime prevention project entitled “Safer communities”, which promotes tolerance within the community, with a focus on youth and women.

47. A UNODC mission to South Sudan in September 2011 discussed areas of cooperation with the new Government, including security and law enforcement. UNODC is developing an integrated programme for South Sudan. It includes various police-related components such as strengthening leadership and management capacity, police oversight and accountability, community policing, and forensic and investigative capacity. The prison reform programme, “Assisting the process of prison reform in South Sudan”, supports a national prisons training academy in order to build sustainable training capacity, improve prisoners’ health, establish a probation service, and reduce the prison population. Other activities cover probation for children deprived of liberty and the development of a national strategy on legal aid.

E. South-Eastern Europe

48. UNODC released the results of corruption and other crime victimization surveys for the western Balkans: Albania, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. Based on the results of those surveys and subject to the availability of funding, the Office will provide technical assistance in crime prevention and criminal justice, including victim support services, to selected countries in the subregion.

VII. Partnerships

49. To avoid duplication and fragmentation of criminal justice reform efforts, UNODC continued to coordinate with relevant United Nations agencies, including through the development of joint tools and programmes. The Office’s partners include the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the Secretariat, UNICEF, UNDP and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme. The Office is part of system-wide mechanisms such as the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group. In addition, the Office partnered with regional organizations and non-governmental organizations at the country, regional and global levels.

50. The Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group comprises 11 United Nations entities tasked with assisting in the development of overall strategies for rule of law assistance. It ensures that the United Nations responds effectively to requests from States, and it assists in resource mobilization. UNODC contributed to the development of relevant policy guidance documents, including the guidance note of the Secretary-General on the United Nations approach to assistance for strengthening the rule of law at the international level of May 2011 and the guidance note of the Secretary-General on the United Nations and

Statelessness of June 2011. Furthermore, UNODC worked with the core training group to develop and implement a unified rule of law training programme for United Nations field staff. UNODC contributed to drafting the training manual and provided a facilitator and four participants for a pilot training session in July 2011.

51. Collaboration with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations covers criminal justice reform in post-conflict countries. In particular, UNODC contributed to the training programme organized by the Department, held in Accra in October 2011. In addition, the UNODC project “Assisting the process of prison reform in South Sudan” mentioned above is implemented jointly with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan and provides a model of cooperation between UNODC and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in a post-conflict country.

52. In 2011, UNODC and UNDP held a third meeting on how to implement their memorandum of understanding covering cooperation on anti-corruption, criminal justice reform and rule of law. Currently, both agencies are considering cooperation in strengthening legal aid capacities in Liberia and South Sudan.

53. UNODC contributed to the work of the United Nations in the area of prevention of crime and violence through its participation in the Armed Violence Prevention Programme, for example, through victimization surveys. UNODC also supports the work of the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development and the work on armed violence prevention of the Development Cooperation Directorate of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. In 2011, UNODC contributed to the regional seminars on promising practices on armed violence prevention for Central and East Africa and South and South-East Asia that were organized by UNDP and the Office for Disarmament Affairs in Nairobi and Nepal respectively. Moreover, the Office continued to implement components of the Millennium Development Goals-related programmes of several United Nations agencies in the area of conflict and crime prevention in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Honduras, Mauritania, Mexico and Panama.

54. The Office is a member of the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice, a platform to exchange information and expertise at the national, regional and international levels. The Panel helps disseminate the United Nations standards on justice for children in various regional and national forums. In the area of child justice reform, the main United Nations partners are the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, UNDP, UNICEF and the World Health Organization, and the main non-governmental organization partners are Defence for Children International, Penal Reform International and the International Federation Terre des Hommes.

55. On 23 and 24 January 2012, UNODC, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights organized an expert consultation on prevention of and responses to violence against children within the juvenile justice system. The aim of the meeting was to formulate practical recommendations to accelerate the adoption of effective measures to prevent and protect children in the juvenile justice system from all forms of violence. The meeting focused on the following issues: (a) sources of violence against children in the juvenile justice system; (b) risk and contributing factors to violence against children in the juvenile justice system; (c) strategies and measures to prevent and respond to violence against children in

the juvenile justice system. As a result of that meeting, a technical assistance tool will be developed and published in 2012.

56. UNODC joined the inter-agency initiative “Stop Rape Now: United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict”, an initiative that unites the work of 14 entities with the goal of ending sexual violence during and in the wake of conflict. The initiative represents a concerted effort by United Nations entities to work as one to amplify advocacy, improve coordination and accountability and support country efforts to prevent conflict-related sexual violence and respond effectively to survivors’ needs. The Office helped develop the initiative’s strategic framework for the period 2011-2012 and contributes to its implementation. UNODC and the World Health Organization are reviewing the various forms of medico-legal evidence in sexual violence trials and are developing a guidance note in that regard.

57. UNODC assisted the Council of Europe and the European Union in developing policy instruments on victims. Furthermore, the Office strengthened its cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe by signing a joint action plan for the period 2011-2012. In the area of police reform, UNODC is assisting the Organization to develop a guidance note.

58. UNODC participated as a juror in the Second Competition of Best Crime Prevention Practices in Latin America and the Caribbean, organized by the Center for Citizen Security Studies (CESC) of the Institute for Public Affairs at the University of Chile, in partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank and the Open Society Institute. The Competition identified promising crime prevention practices.

VIII. Conclusions and recommendations

59. Given the central role of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice in guiding the efforts of countries and the United Nations in developing and implementing crime prevention and criminal justice policies and programmes, the Commission may wish to do the following:

(a) Continue encouraging the use and application of the United Nations standards and norms, and the development of new ones, on emerging practices in crime prevention and criminal justice, and of related implementation guidelines;

(b) Continue supporting the work of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/230 to exchange information on best practices, as well as national legislation and existing international law, and on the revision of the existing standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners so that they reflect recent advances in correctional science and best practices;

(c) Support the development of tools and manuals based on the standards and norms and their translation into the six official languages of the United Nations as well as into other national languages;

- (d) Recommend that Member States:
- (i) Adopt a comprehensive approach to crime prevention and criminal justice reform based on international standards, including the United Nations standards and norms on crime prevention and criminal justice;
 - (ii) Use and apply relevant UNODC tools, such as handbooks, training material or model laws, when developing and implementing crime prevention and criminal justice reform strategies, policies and programmes;
 - (iii) Consider requesting the assistance of UNODC when embarking on the development of crime prevention and criminal justice reform strategies, policies and programmes;
 - (iv) Provide financial and technical support to UNODC activities for the implementation of the existing standards and norms, the development of new ones and the design of relevant technical assistance tools;
 - (v) Support the work of UNODC in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice and provide adequate resources to the Office for that purpose;
- (e) Recommends that UNODC:
- (i) Continue to cover crime prevention and criminal justice issues in a comprehensive manner and to act as a centre of expertise on such issues in the United Nations system;
 - (ii) Continue to develop handbooks, training curriculums, guidelines and other technical tools and to strengthen its capacity to provide legal and technical assistance to Member States and regional entities on crime prevention and criminal justice matters.
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