



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

THEMATIC PROGRAMME

SCIENTIFIC AND FORENSIC SERVICES

(2010 – 2011)

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List of Acronyms

AFSN	Asian Forensic Sciences Network
AICEF	Iberoamerican Academy of Forensic Science Institutes
ASCLD	American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AU	African Union
CCPCJ	Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
CICAD/OAS	Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission
CND	Commission on Narcotic Drugs
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
DPKO	UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations
EC	European Commission
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EMCDDA	European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction
ENFSI	European Network of Forensic Science Institutes
EUROPOL	European Law Enforcement Organization
HONLEA	Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies
IAI	International Association for Identification
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IFSA	International Forensic Strategic Alliance
ILO	International Labour Organization
INCB	International Narcotics Control Board
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LSS	UNODC's Laboratory and Scientific Section
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SMANZFL	Senior Managers of Australian and New Zealand Forensic Laboratories
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICRI	United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
WCO	World Customs Organization
WHO	World Health Organization

Concepts and definitions

National forensic infrastructure: laboratories and other forensic service providers

The term “forensic service provider” is used throughout this document to refer to any institution or facility that provides scientific support in the context of national drug control and crime prevention governance frameworks, and includes laboratories, treatment and pharmaceutical control agencies, and regulatory authorities.

Forensic service providers operate within the respective national legal systems and their mandate and structure are influenced by the political views and traditions in the individual countries. There is no single model for the provision of forensic services.

Forensic services are mostly provided by laboratories. These are often part of the public sector, i.e. can be classified as governmental institutes, typically under ministries of interior or justice, but they may also be affiliated to ministries of health (e.g. for toxicology or clinical analyses, and control of pharmaceuticals), or they may be part of government analyst or customs services. In addition, certain forensic services are typically provided by other service providers: expertise in police facilities may be used to process crime scenes and perform (basic) forensic examinations (e.g. fingerprints and other marks), and universities may provide non-routine forensic services (e.g. archeology or entomology, toxicology). Finally, private laboratories and independent experts may also provide forensic services, usually on a commercial basis.

In terms of infrastructure, there may be a single forensic laboratory, or multiple forensic laboratories, e.g. a central laboratory at federal or state level, complemented by subsidiary laboratories at state, provincial, regional or local level. In some countries, different law enforcement agencies (e.g. police, gendarmerie and customs) or health and regulatory authorities (e.g. hospitals, pharmaceutical control agencies, universities) have their own laboratories. Specific narcotics or drug control laboratories may also exist as part of a national counternarcotics enforcement infrastructure.

(Modified from: Criminal Justice Assessment Toolkit, Policing, Forensic Services and Infrastructure, advanced draft, February 2009)

FORENSIC SCIENCE(S)*

Every science from chemistry to medicine, from biology to statistics, from dentistry to anthropology, can be a forensic science if it has some applications to the law or public matter. Forensic science disciplines include **:

- Illicit drugs and precursors
- Fingermarks
- Shoemarks and tiremarks
- Biological material (e.g. DNA)
- Questioned documents (e.g. travel and ID documents, bank notes), handwriting
- Firearms and toolmarks (e.g. gun shot residues, ammunitions components, serial number/ markings restoration)
- Fire debris and explosives
- Trace materials (e.g. fibres, hair, paint, glass)
- Forensic medicine (e.g. forensic pathology, anthropology, odontology)
- Computer forensics
- Video and audio records
- Crime scene investigation

* Français & Español :

En **français**, le terme 'sciences forensiques' est utilisé comme traduction littérale du terme anglais 'forensic sciences'. Les sciences forensiques sont définies comme l'ensemble des principes scientifiques et des méthodes techniques appliqués à la résolution de questions en matière pénale, civile ou administrative. Par conséquent, toutes sciences, de la chimie à la médecine, en passant entre autres par la biologie, les statistiques, l'anthropologie peuvent faire partie des sciences forensiques si elles sont appliquées à la résolution de questions légales. En français, les termes criminalistique, police scientifique, police technique ou encore sciences judiciaires sont néanmoins plus fréquemment utilisés. Ces termes sont utilisés de manière équivalente. Ils concernent, quant à eux, plus spécifiquement l'application des méthodes techniques destinées à mettre en valeur, identifier, individualiser et évaluer les traces matérielles en matière d'investigations criminelles, excluant les disciplines liées à la médecine, à savoir entre autres la médecine légale, l'anthropologie légale et l'odontologie légale.

En **español**, el término 'ciencias forenses' puede utilizarse como traducción literal del término inglés 'forensic science'. Se entiende como ciencias forenses el conjunto de disciplinas cuyo objeto común es la materialización de las pruebas a efectos judiciales mediante una metodología científica, y se basa en los principios científicos y en los métodos técnicos aplicados para la resolución de cuestiones planteadas a la administración de justicia (penal, civil o administrativa). Por tanto, cualquier ciencia, desde la química a la medicina, pasando por la biología, la estadística o la antropología, puede convertirse en forense en el momento que sirve para un procedimiento judicial. En el marco jurídico español, dentro de la criminalística se incluye la policía científica o policía técnica, pero frecuentemente son utilizados de manera equivalente. La medicina legal, comúnmente denominada medicina forense, es la especialidad médica que engloba toda actividad relacionada con el poder judicial. Es decir, es el vínculo que une derecho y medicina, aplicando todos los conocimientos de la medicina para el auxilio de los jueces y tribunales de la administración de justicia.

For a summary of the forensic work programme in French and Spanish, see also Annex I.

The present thematic programme sets the overall direction for the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) as well as global level programmatic objectives in the scientific and forensic field for the period of 2010-2011. It starts off describing the mandates, context, and identified good practices as well as UNODC's services. It goes on to elaborate the desired global outcomes for the plan period an implementation strategy and a listing of the resources required to achieve the proposed objectives.

I. MANDATES, ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT, GUIDING PRINCIPLES, UNODC SERVICES AND PRODUCTS

A. MANDATES

1. The **mission** of UNODC is to contribute to the achievement of security and justice for all by making the world safer from crime, drugs and terrorism.

UNODC is part of the UN Secretariat and is responsible for implementing the United Nations programme on international drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice . The three thematic pillars of the UNODC work programme as per the strategy for UNODC and outlined in the United Nations Strategic Framework for 2010-2011 are *Rule of law, Policy and trend analysis and Prevention, treatment and reintegration, and alternative development*

2. The thematic programme on forensic and scientific services addresses Result area 2.2. on Scientific and Forensic Capacity under Theme 2, Policy and Trend Analysis, of the UNODC Strategy for the period 2008-2011, as follows:

Theme 2: Policy and Trend Analysis

Result area 2.2 Scientific and forensic capacity

Result 2.2.1 Improved scientific and forensic capacity of Member States to meet internationally accepted standards

Result 2.2.2 Increased use of scientific information and laboratory data, supported by UNODC, in strategic operations, policy and decision making

3. As a cross-cutting programme, it is also linked, to varying degrees, to Result area 2.1 (Threat and risk analysis), Result area 1.2 (International cooperation in criminal justice matters), Result area 1.3 (Criminal justice systems: more accessible, accountable and effective), and Result area 3.5 (Treatment and rehabilitation of drug-dependent persons).
4. UNODC's specialized services for building scientific and forensic capacity correspond to a series of specific mandates (Annex II contains a listing of these mandates). Most importantly, the predecessor of UNODC's Laboratory and Scientific Section (LSS) was established in 1954 by GA Resolution 834 (IX) as the United Nations' Narcotics Laboratory. UNODC's mandate in the laboratory and scientific sector has been broadened and extended over the years.
5. In March 2007, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) in its Resolution 50/4 ("Improving the quality and performance of drug analysis laboratories") once again renewed UNODC's mandate in the area of drug analysis laboratories in a comprehensive fashion. This mandate was further supported and extended through CND Res. 52/7: "Proposal concerning quality evaluation of the performance of drug analysis laboratories" in March 2009 (see Annex III for full text of CND Res. 50/4 and 52/7).
6. The critical importance of forensic and scientific data and qualitative information for drug control activities and understanding the drug problem is also recognized in the "Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem" which was adopted at the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March 2009. Among other things, the need to strengthen national capacity to provide forensic support to law enforcement and the criminal justice authorities in investigating offences involving precursor chemicals and the early identification of new trends was emphasized. In addition, Member States were requested to enhance frameworks for the exchange of high-quality and

reliable forensic information among drug control agencies, customs authorities and police authorities, and systematically integrate such data and information into monitoring and investigation activities.

7. In April 2009, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) recognized UNODC's role in forensic areas other than drugs for the first time by requesting the Office, among other things, "to collect, develop and disseminate ... scientific, forensic or other reference materials for law enforcement officials and prosecution authorities in order to enhance their expertise and capacity to prevent and combat economic fraud and identity-related crime" (ECOSOC Resolution 2009/22).
8. The expanded programme of work outlined in this programme document also entails the continued provision of substantive input on relevant forensic issues to intergovernmental bodies, especially CND, CCPCJ, the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), as well as specialized input for and coordination with other Secretariat, UN system and external entities.
9. This thematic programme on scientific and forensic services, developed by the LSS, is aligned to the above strategic frameworks and draws on UNODC's well-established comparative advantages comprising specialized technical competence, operational capacity and long-term expertise in scientific support services, the synergy of its programmes, its field presence and its image and acceptance among recipient countries as a neutral broker and service provider. With a unique combination of mandates, and forensic science services being the strategic nexus between science and the law, this programme is designed to provide the context for UNODC to plan and deliver, in an effectively coordinated manner, integrated services in the scientific and forensic field that incorporate the closely linked and cross-cutting aspects of drug control and crime prevention, criminal justice and international cooperation.
10. The activities under this thematic programme are complemented by UNODC activities under other programmes. This document should be read with other UNODC programme documents.

B. ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT

11. The present thematic programme outlines the substantive strategy to ensure that Member States and the international community have access to quality forensic science services and data in support of their efforts to counter drugs, crime and terrorism. This strategy will be followed in a fit-for-purpose approach in all countries and regions that request related technical assistance and for which the required resources can be mobilized.
12. UNODC's scientific and forensic initiatives are coordinated from its headquarters under the lead role of the Laboratory and Scientific Section (LSS).
13. Close working relations with other UNODC sections/units and the operational support of UNODC's field offices will be critical for placing and disseminating expertise, experience and making an extended network of contacts available to Member States.
14. UNODC's field offices will increasingly play a major role in delivering scientific and forensic services at the field level, especially in relation to planning, implementation and coordination of national and sub-regional activities under the UNODC global programme. The long-term goal is to achieve a judicious mix of: (i) **core capacity at headquarters in terms of specialized expertise and secretariat functions** for planning, managing and delivering scientific services to all requesting countries around the world, including effective policy and programme coordination, strategic interventions, advocacy and awareness-raising in relation to the use of forensic data and information and substantive contributions to UNODC activities in the field of threat and risk analysis, partnerships at the global level and ensuring consistency in approaches worldwide and translation of lessons learnt into best practices; and (ii) **substantive expertise and operational capacity in the relevant UNODC regional offices** to initiate, coordinate and implement activities for delivering the assistance. As a result, the global project provides for three field-based regional forensic advisors, and provision has also been made in relevant regional programmes to place such expertise on the ground.

15. Core initiatives and global activities of UNODC for delivering services in the scientific and forensic field are consolidated under the framework of a single rolling global project on forensic and scientific services (GLO/U54), launched in April 2009. It is managed and implemented by LSS in close coordination with in-house expertise of UNODC in relevant areas, drawing on the operational support of UNODC's field offices, and in partnership with various international and regional organizations and bilateral assistance providers active in forensic capacity building.
16. In terms of technical assistance to MS, forensic and scientific initiatives will be developed jointly by the Laboratory and Scientific Section and the respective regional offices and the actual delivery will be led by the Field Office in question with the technical support of LSS as required.
17. This integrated flexible programme enables UNODC to effectively and transparently coordinate similar/parallel activities that are, or will, happen in different parts of the world, taking advantage of emerging synergies and opportunities. The rolling nature of the support project enables priority planning, adjusting, and expanding as resources become available and the situation warrants.
18. Taking a birds eye view of UNODC's programme of work, forensic services feed into implementing the following:
 - (a) Drug Control Conventions (1961, 1971 and 1988 Conventions), in the form of:
 - **Drug and precursor analysis**, in seized (bulk) materials and in biological specimens / body fluids
 - (b) United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (TOC) and the Protocols Thereto, in the form of
 - **Questioned /counterfeit/forged documents**: travel documents, security of official documents
 - **Audio record analysis**
 - **Examination of firearms and their markings** (serial number restoration)
 - (c) United Nations Convention Against Corruption (CAC), in the form of
 - **Computer forensics**
 - **Audio record analysis**
 - (d) International legal framework against terrorism, in the form of
 - **Questioned/counterfeit/forged documents**: travel documents, security of official documents
 - **Computer forensics**
19. With a view to enhancing capacity of Member States to safeguard the integrity of procedures from the crime scene to the courtroom, Member States can rely on the expert services and products delivered by the Global Scientific and Forensic Programme, and also on complementary assistance provided by UNODC in the field of drug control and crime prevention. The substantive rationale and programmatic details of these services are provided in the corresponding thematic programmes and projects. Relevant UNODC entities include:
 - (a) In the Policy/ Analysis cluster– mainstreaming scientific/forensic information into UNODC policy decisions, specifically:
 - Statistics and Surveys Section (SASS) and Studies and Threat Analysis Section (STAS) – drug statistics (World Drug Report), synthetic drugs monitoring, illicit crop surveys, drug purity mapping, impurity profiling and forensic drugs intelligence to help map transnational drug trafficking routes and flows, analysis of the threat of transnational trafficking in counterfeit medicines
 - Secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), especially in the area of scientific support to precursor control initiatives such as Project Prism or Project Cohesion, or in connection with the identification of new targets for monitoring.¹ The availability of improved forensic data will also enhance existing LSS ad-hoc assistance to INCB Secretariat more broadly

¹ For example, in connection with the Limited International Special Surveillance List.

- (b) In the Transnational-organized crime (ToC) cluster:
 - Law Enforcement, Organized Crime and Anti-Money Laundering – crime scene investigation, fingerprints etc.
 - Anti-Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling – crime scene investigation and document examinations in trafficking in persons (TiP) and smuggling of migrants (SoM) cases
- (c) In the Corruption cluster:
 - Justice and Integrity – evidence handling, chain of custody, due process, fair investigations and process
 - Corruption and Economic Crime Section – identity-related crime
- (d) In the Terrorism cluster:
 - Terrorism Prevention Branch – identity-related crime, digital evidence
- (e) In the Health/Livelihoods cluster:
 - Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Unit (PTRU) – drug testing, toxicology
- (f) UNODC's Field Offices network – technical assistance delivery, programme development, UNODC operations, such as Operation TARCET, and trend monitoring and mapping activities
- (g) Information Technology Service - computer forensics

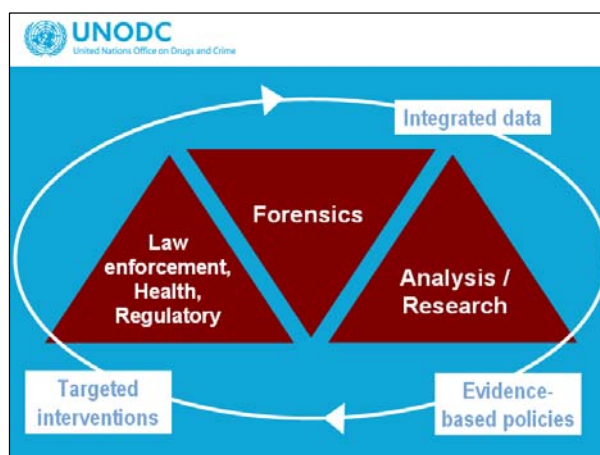
20. Of specific mention are UNODC programmes and activities aimed at mapping illicit drug trends, such as the Global SMART (Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends) Programme, the opiate and precursor mapping activities under the Paris Pact Initiative, and the Illicit Crop Monitoring Programme (ICMP) that rely to larger or lesser extent on forensic information. *Vice versa*, the Global Scientific and Forensic Programme benefits from the established data collection and analysis mechanisms and networks.

21. In terms of other international players, there are some, including within the UN family (e.g. the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, OHCHR), with expertise and/or activities in some of the more specific forensic fields (e.g. forensic anthropology, forensic pathology and other forensic medicine-related disciplines in the International Committee of the Red Cross, ICRC). However, there is currently no other international organization which provides integrated scientific services to build national forensic science capacity.

C. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. *Substantive context: the global challenge of ensuring access to quality forensic science services and data in support of efforts to counter drugs, crime and terrorism*





22. Effective national drug control and crime prevention require collaboration of a number of institutions, services and professionals. **National forensic laboratories and service providers**, laboratories under drug enforcement authorities, and **laboratories in clinical, regulatory and university settings** are important here. They provide support to both the law enforcement and health service response to drug use, trafficking, crime and terrorism. Also their staff constitute an indispensable source of professional expertise providing scientific/technical/ advisory functions to governmental institutions. As such, they are an integral part of the national drug



control and crime prevention structure and strategy, contributing to integrated data that inform both targeted interventions at the operational level as well as evidence-based policies.

(i) **Forensic data and information for monitoring global drug trends: contributions to policy and trend analysis**

23. The **value of forensic data and information for trends monitoring and analysis** continues to be underestimated. Sometimes, the value of individual laboratory results to save a life, help in treatment or confirm a crime is recognised. However, there is little recognition of the fact that laboratory results can also help identify new potential threats and health hazards, especially those related to new drugs, new manufacturing methods, new precursors, and changes in drug purity and availability.
24. Strategic forensic information ("**forensic intelligence**") can be derived from the comparative analysis of drug or precursor samples. It can enrich policy and trend analysis by providing objective data on the drug supply side. Forensic information includes data on methods with which drugs are produced (processing or synthesis method) and which precursor chemicals are used; how efficient clandestine laboratories are (output); and whether, where and how drugs are further processed, cut or adulterated. This contributes to understanding the dynamics of illicit drug markets and can assist with efforts to dismantle drug trafficking networks. It also contributes to improving the accuracy of drug manufacture and production estimates.
25. Systematic forensic information can also improve **understanding of drug distribution networks**, trafficking routes and flows, by providing supportive information to answer questions such as: where do the different stages of drug production take place? Which are the main trafficking routes? Do they change? How compartmentalized is the production / trafficking chain among criminal networks?
26. On the drug demand side, the systematic analysis of data and information from hospital emergency room examinations serves important **epidemiological purposes**, e.g. for monitoring of drug overdose cases or drug-related mortality.

 UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime		
Illicit drug markets: the importance of forensic data and qualitative information		
<u>Stage:</u>	<u>Type of forensic data :</u>	<u>Data used for:</u>
PRODUCTION 	ID and amount of starting material(s) ID of end-product(s) Conversion ratios Type and capacity of clandestine operations ID and amount of non-controlled substances ID and amount of pharmaceutical preparations	• Production estimates • Emerging trends: starting materials, production methods
TRAFFICKING 	ID and amount of drug seized Purity / drug content: retail /wholesale, domestic /import	• Illicit supply (availability) • Trafficking routes (mapping) • Emerging trends • Production estimates
ABUSE 	ID and form of drug(s) used Purity / drug content: retail	• Health implications • Emerging trends: patterns of use • Production estimates

(ID = identity)

27. To **fully realize the potential of forensic data**, there is a need (i) to encourage laboratories to collate their existing data and findings, and make them available for trend analyses on a regular basis, (ii) to adequately address associated data limitations concerning representativeness etc. in subsequent analyses, and (iii) to increase the awareness among relevant decision-makers of the

relevance of improved integration of forensic data, related capacity building, and the need for adequate levels of resources to enable laboratories to carry out comprehensive qualitative analyses, for example, of all ingredients in a seized drug (not just the main drug of abuse) and systematic quantitative analyses on purity levels.

(ii) Forensics as part of the health response

28. **Toxicological analyses** specifically (i.e. analyses of drugs in body fluids), and forensic examinations, play a key role in the health response to drug use and problems. Such analyses map out the actions of drugs upon users and establish the mechanisms of intoxication or death. They are also critical to the monitoring of compliance with drug treatment and rehabilitation programmes, and parole/probation programmes. They are increasingly used in routine drug testing of employees and in roadside driver drug testing.
29. Forensic information also helps to **understand the type of products available on illicit markets**; whether they are of high or low quality; whether their composition changes (this is important given that drugs are typically marketed under a range of local and street names which bear no relation to their composition or quality); whether there are new products, or dangerous adulterants or cutting agents, etc.
30. Forensics thus provide a source of data that enables health systems to respond to emerging cases and monitor health-related issues but also to inform public health campaigns and design effective policies based on an improved understanding of emerging trends.

(iii) Forensics as part of the regulatory response in drug and precursor control

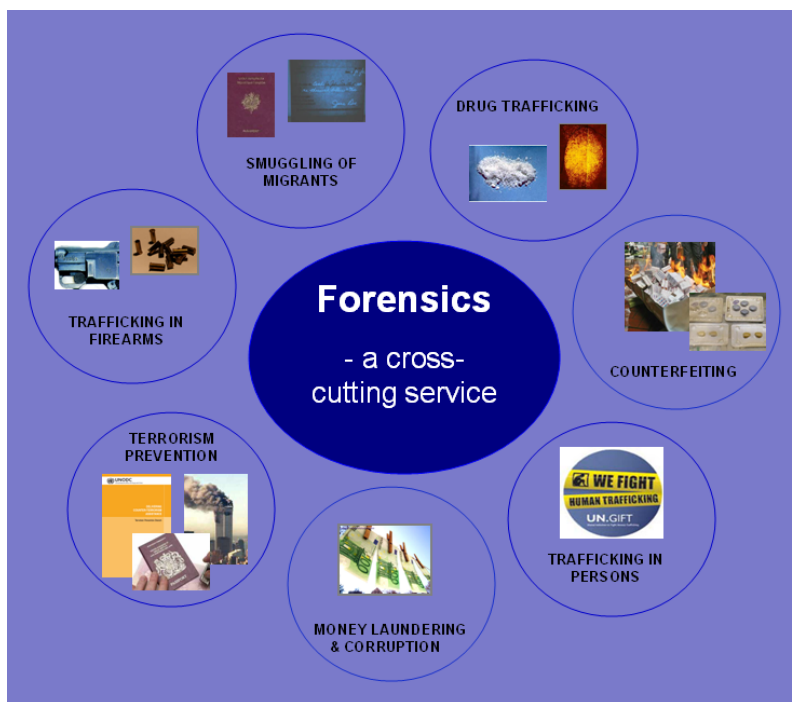
31. A range of specialized analyses can assist in the monitoring of common methods used for clandestine drug manufacture, and of the chemicals used. This information may be a valuable tool to regulatory authorities at national, regional and global levels to **identify new targets for precursor monitoring programmes**, or to **alert to newly emerging drugs** for scheduling. It may also provide supportive evidence to distinguish illicitly manufactured drugs from legitimate but diverted drugs, including counterfeit medicines. Similarly, the identification of characteristic chemical features of specific precursors may also help to relate them to a clandestine (or commercial) source.

(iv) Forensics as part of the criminal justice response: contributions to the rule of law

32. **Forensic science provides objective information** in support of fair and transparent criminal justice systems. Forensic information is used to build cases on physical evidence rather than only on confession and testimony. It is also used during various stages of an investigation to provide direction, contribute to operational crime analysis, or gather intelligence
33. Forensic science is therefore much more than the specialized analyses and examinations carried out in a laboratory. It is an **integral part of effective criminal justice systems**, with forensic personnel partnering with a range of national and international counterpart institutions.
34. Throughout the world, however, law enforcement activities are hampered by unprepared and ill-equipped institutions. Only a limited number of countries have the requisite infrastructure, knowledge, expertise and training to properly investigate and prosecute crimes. This is particularly true for transnational organized crimes, where successful investigations leading to convictions are rare..
35. In order to encourage national investment in forensics, there is a need to raise awareness of the value of physical evidence, its forensic examination and the need to preserve its integrity, from the crime scene to the courtroom.

(v) Forensics as a cross-cutting issue for drug, crime and terrorism prevention

36. Forensic cases often cut across a broad range of crimes and/or criminal methodologies. They can be related to trafficking in drugs, firearms, persons, to smuggling of migrants or endangered species. They may also involve the planning of crimes involving identity or economic fraud, or terrorist attacks.



37. The starting point for a forensic examination is usually a crime scene/scene of incident, which can be anything from a physical location, to a computer or a human body. In most cases, a single crime scene holds physical evidence from a range of different categories, e.g. drugs, fingerprints, DNA traces, fire debris, firearms, documents, electronic devices, etc. Criminal justice systems and practitioners therefore need to be equipped to deal with a range of crime scenes and types of physical evidence, and apply internationally accepted best practices from the crime scene to the courtroom.
38. **Forensic research**, i.e. the systematic generation and analysis of forensic data, also contributes to the identification of new drug and crime trends and threats, for example, into the types of drug products or the specific precursors being trafficked, or the methods being used to counterfeit or forge official documents. This knowledge in turn provides a basis for designing appropriate counter (or preventive) measures. These measures can take various forms, such as raising public awareness, adapting training courses or introducing new security features to better protect official documents. The latter point is well illustrated by the introduction of biometric data into new passports.

(vi) The need for an integrated forensic science infrastructure

39. Many low and middle income countries still do not have appropriate forensic science infrastructure or the required skilled personnel to undertake effective forensic examinations, drug and/or toxicological analysis or to present admissible evidence in court. With growing thoroughness in court proceedings, there are occasions of cases failing because of limited capacity for crime scene investigation and/or inadequate application of forensic best practices. Finally, it is also recognized that forensic capacity building requires a sustained effort over a longer period of time.

40. Forensic service providers in these countries need assistance on multiple levels. This includes equipment, supplies, scientific information, technical training and longer-term mentoring. In performing their work, they must apply internationally accepted standards, and put in place quality management systems including the regular participation in proficiency tests and validation of the analytical methods used, in order to ensure accurate and precise results.
41. Combating transnational organized crime requires **international cooperation**. In the forensic field, international cooperation takes different forms including technical assistance activities, cross-border operations, participation in forensic science associations and networks, and exchange of forensic data and sharing common databases (e.g. ID/travel documents, fingerprints, drug or DNA profiles). UNODC works to encourage such networking.
42. The technical assistance needs of countries in relation to the generation and use of quality forensic data and information are unique, and cannot be met quickly. They **require longer-term commitment and investment** into staff development through human resource-intense mentoring and training, and follow-up initiatives to instigate changes in existing practice. Laboratory investments in quality control/ quality assurance are long-term ventures, requiring regular assessments through participation in external proficiency testing schemes, such as the International Collaborative Exercises (ICE), which is already implemented by UNODC.

2. Framework for the delivery of specialized services in the scientific and forensic field

43. To realize the full potential of forensic science services, it is essential that forensic service providers² be provided with ways and means to successfully accomplish their assigned tasks, within a multi-sectoral approach to the inter-related phenomena of drugs, crime and terrorism prevention. This requires **adequate forensic infrastructure**, the availability of capable and trained **personnel** and the supply of the required **working tools and standards**. It also requires **international cooperation**, access to **scientific literature** and **technology developments** as well as adequate **research capacity** to ensure that the underlying science remains relevant.
44. In order to increase systematic utilization of scientific and forensic findings at the policy level UNODC works at two levels in tandem:
 - Delivering services and technical assistance and working with both the forensic service providers, their “customers” as well as decision makers to enhance their knowledge of the value (and limitations) of the forensic process, the related data and information and resource requirements; and
 - Sustained advocacy, strategic interventions and substantive contributions, at HQ and field level, to UNODC activities in the field of threat and risk analysis, i.e. measuring trends, highlighting problems, evaluating effectiveness and assessing impact, as well as formulating strategic responses.
45. Regular review and refinement of services provided are undertaken to ensure that they remain pertinent and targeted to address actual needs. A key concern in this regard is to ensure sustainability and follow-up to initial assistance. In order to ensure long term viability scientific and forensic initiatives apply the following measures:
 - A phased and focused approach with regular reviews and assessments.
 - Focus on strategic partnership development and working through regional networks of forensic science institutes to ensure relevance of targeted assistance and regional sustainability.
 - Continued advocacy and implementation of activities to ensure “forensic awareness” among relevant stakeholders.
 - Focus on human resource / skills development, including mentoring and confidence-building.
 - Development of partnerships in forensic education and implementation of train-the-trainers concepts where possible/feasible, as an element of training infrastructure and capacity building.

² See definition of “forensic service provider” on page 3.

- Infrastructure development with focus on robust, low-cost technologies to increase the likelihood of continued funding for maintenance and sustainability.
 - Focus on improving efficiency of use of existing resources, e.g. through alignment, integration and/or active coordination of forensic initiatives with existing or projected bilateral activities of other assistance providers to avoid duplication.
 - Facilitating structured partnering (“twinning”) with technologically more advanced laboratories.
46. The above measures are aimed at mitigating a series of political and institutional constraints that are common to international, regional and bilateral efforts to ensure access to quality forensic services and data in support of efforts to counter drugs, crime and terrorism.

D. UNODC PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

1. UNODC products in the scientific and forensic field

47. The following guidelines and tools are available in the scientific and forensic field:

- Technical manuals, guidelines on forensic best practices and other publications as per list of publications (<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/scientists/publications.html>), in the following areas:
 - Scientific and forensic capacity building
 - Manual on ‘Staff skill requirements and equipment recommendations for forensic science laboratories’
 - Module of UNODC’s Criminal Justice Assessment Toolkit on ‘Forensic Services and Infrastructure Assessments’
 - Quality assurance
 - Brochure on UNODC’s International Quality Assurance Programme
 - Protocol for UNODC’s laboratory proficiency testing programme (known as the International Collaborative Exercises, ICE)
 - Guidance for the Implementation of a quality management system in drug testing laboratories
 - Validation of analytical methodology and calibration of equipment used for testing of illicit drugs in seized materials and biological specimen
 - Guidelines on representative drug sampling
 - Glossary of terms for quality assurance and good laboratory practices
 - Summary reports of the International Collaborative Exercises (ICE)
 - Analysis of drugs and precursors
 - Rapid on-site screening of drugs of abuse
 - Recommended methods for the analysis of various drugs:
 - In seized materials: amphetamine-type stimulants, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, cannabis and cannabis products, cocaine, heroin, LSD, methaqualone, *Peyote* cactus (mescaline), and *Psilocybe* mushrooms (psilocybin)
 - In biological specimens: amphetamine-type stimulants, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, cannabinoids, cocaine, heroin, LSD, methaqualone, phencyclidine, and psilocybin
 - Specialized analyses:
 - Guidelines for testing drugs under international control in hair, sweat and saliva
 - Drug characterization / impurity profiling: background and concepts, heroin, and cocaine
 - Crime scene awareness
 - Manual on ‘Crime scene and physical evidence for non-forensic personnel’
 - Modular training programme on crime scene awareness and investigation
 - Safe handling and disposal of chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs
 - Assessing yield of opium gum and coca leaf from brief field visits
 - Import/export of drug and precursor reference standards

- Multilingual dictionaries of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances under international control and of chemicals frequently used in their illicit manufacture
- Standardized training curricula and materials
 - Crime scene awareness and investigation
 - Drug characterization / impurity profiling
 - Scientific-technical aspects of precursors and precursor identification
- Proficiency tests (International Collaborative Exercises, ICE) to evaluate performance and promote good practices
- Tools for law enforcement, such as basic kits for field detection of drugs and precursors, and related Computer-based training (CBT) modules

48. The following specific tools are planned or under development during the 2009-2011 period:

- Scientific and forensic capacity building
 - Guide for the establishment/strengthening of forensic documents examination capacities ("Model Forensic Document Laboratory Guide" for identity and travel documents)
- Quality Assurance
 - Electronic learning (e-learning) resources for quality assurance, including e-ICE (secure electronic portal for ICE participants)
- Crime scene awareness
 - Basic kits for crime scene investigation and the related Computer-based training (CBT) module
- Standardized training curricula and materials
 - Scientific and forensic training programmes and reference materials related to forensic documents examination and identity-related crime, respectively
 - Best practices guideline and training materials on use of digital forensics

2. UNODC services for enhancing scientific and forensic capacity, including use of forensic data and information

49. The main areas and types of services and activities are the following:

(a) *Technical assistance for improving the capacity and performance of forensic service providers to work towards internationally accepted standards*

- Implementation of an International Quality Assurance Programme (IQAP), which consists of a comprehensive set of services and activities to assist laboratories to identify and address performance limitations, implement internationally accepted standards and eventually work towards accreditation;
- Facilitating, on request, the full incorporation of and compliance with internationally accepted standards of performance (e.g. through establishing specific implementation plans to translate international standards into best working practice);
- Provision of proficiency tests / collaborative exercises to enable laboratories to obtain the necessary proof of their performance; and
- Development and availability of guidance for the interpretation of international standards to the specific needs of laboratory activities and related procedures, and their practical implementation

(b) *Improving international cooperation in the scientific and forensic field*

- Promoting and supporting mechanisms for international cooperation in the scientific and forensic field, including operational assistance, mutual support to achieve appropriate levels of preparedness to deliver forensic casework, the sharing of forensic information;
- Promoting and facilitating the establishment and/or sustainability of regional forensic science associations or networks;
- Facilitating standardization of relevant national procedures and data collection tools;
- Conducting national and (sub)regional training sessions on international cooperation issues in the forensic and scientific field (e.g. on the concept of using forensic data to inform 'forensic intelligence'); and

- Provision of technical tools and substantive publications to facilitate information exchange and sharing of forensic data.
- (c) *Strengthening national forensic capacity for effective support to national criminal justice systems*
- Needs assessment assistance to the political and policy leadership and other key government officials;
 - Provision of expert advice, material and equipment support to establish or strengthen forensic and scientific capacity from the crime scene to the courtroom;
 - National and (sub)regional training workshops and mentoring for forensic personnel and laboratory staff on forensic best practices and laboratory procedures, including sensitization to the need for continuous quality improvement;
 - National and (sub)regional training workshops for relevant non-forensic personnel (including first responders, lawyers, judges, prosecutors) on the role (possibility and limitations) of forensics and the value of physical evidence for effective and fair criminal justice systems;
 - Facilitating national / regional partnerships in forensic education, training and research with a view to ensuring sustainable human resource development;
 - Facilitating opportunities for improved national integration of forensic services, and for forensic personnel to participate in national interagency working groups;
 - Facilitating opportunities for relevant national officials to learn from the experiences and practices of other countries; and
 - Provision of technical tools and substantive publications to facilitate sustained knowledge transfer and skills development.
- (d) *Strengthening collaboration between UNODC and relevant national experts, institutions and stakeholder agencies*
- Developing internationally accepted standards for forensic best practices, or identifying and reviewing available standards for their suitability for use in countries with limited resources;
 - Promoting and facilitating applied collaborative research to advance forensics as well as substantive knowledge of drugs and crime trends;
 - Developing guidelines to translate international standards into best working practice;
 - Collaborating with relevant partners to create a global database on technical assistance for forensic and scientific services in order to rationalise multilateral aid flows. and
 - Support creation of a forensic experts' network.
- (e) *Strengthening collaboration and partnerships in the scientific and forensic field between UNODC and the concerned sub-regional, regional and international bodies and associations*
- Developing and implementing joint initiatives and activities, including collaborative research initiatives; and
 - Providing expert advice and substantive contributions in the areas of UNODC's mandates and competences to the relevant activities of the organizations.
- (f) *Advocacy and assistance for increasing the availability of and use by Member States and the international community of quality forensic data and information for evidence-based operational purposes, strategic interventions, and policy and decision-making*
- Advocating the value of scientific and forensic data and information for policy and trend analyses, policy formulation, operational response and impact assessment;
 - Promoting and supporting mechanisms for enhancing the availability and use of strategic forensic data and information; and
 - Commissioning relevant strategic studies and contributing forensic information to relevant national, regional, international programmes, activities and publications, e.g. World Drug Report and regional SMART reports.

II. OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR 2010-2011

A. AT HEADQUARTERS

1. Outcomes, outputs and indicators

50. The objective of UNODC scientific and forensic services is to contribute to Member States and the international community using quality forensic science services and data, in support of their efforts to counter drugs, crime and terrorism.
51. The following is a summary of the outcomes to be achieved under the thematic programme and the related performance indicators. Outcomes at the global level are complemented by specific outcomes and outputs under individual national or regional projects.

Outcome 1: Internationally accepted standards for forensic best practices are available and accessible worldwide

Indicators:

- Numbers of requests (including downloads) for specialized tools, best practice manuals, guidelines and other publications (internal records)
Performance measures
2006-2007 : 328 (excluding downloads)
Estimate 2008-2009: 350 (excluding downloads)
Target 2010-2011: 400 (including downloads)
- Percentage of institutions in receipt of UNODC assistance reporting enhanced scientific and forensic capacity (biennial questionnaire)
Performance measures³
2006-2007: 78 per cent
Estimate 2008-2009: 80 per cent
Target 2010-2011: 82 per cent

Outputs related to Outcome 1:

Best practice tools, manuals, guidelines and technical assistance tools, developed by UNODC and used by Member States, to expand and reinforce specialized substantive expertise in the scientific and forensic field and related cross-cutting areas.

Outcome 2: Forensic service providers⁴ meet internationally accepted standards of performance

Indicators:

- Number of forensic service providers participating actively in the UNODC proficiency testing programme, known as International Collaborative Exercises (ICE) (internal records)
Performance measures³
2006-2007: 55
Estimate 2008-2009: 65
Target 2010-2011: 85

Outputs related to Outcome 2:

Technical and quality assurance support provided by UNODC, including biannual situation assessments that document trends and patterns in the performance of laboratories

³ As defined in 2010-2011 Consolidated Budget.

⁴ Refers to all institutions and facilities that provide scientific support in the context of national drug control and crime prevention governance frameworks, including entities that provide services at the scene of crime and those that support the health system, i.e. toxicology laboratories (see definition on p.3).

Outcome 3: Forensic science services, data and information are progressively used for evidence-based operational purposes, strategic interventions, and policy and decision-making

Indicators:

- Number of laboratories (per every 10 respondents) in receipt of UNODC assistance reporting participation in, and/or use of forensic data for, inter-agency activities with law enforcement, regulatory, judicial and health authorities, and/or trend analyses (biennial questionnaire)

Performance measures³

(Number of laboratories (per every 10 respondents to the UNODC questionnaire on the impact of technical cooperation activities in the forensic sector) reporting participation in inter-agency activities)

2006-2007: 6.6

Estimate 2008-2009: 4.0

Target 2010-2011: 5.0

- Percentage of laboratories in receipt of UNODC assistance reporting compilation of forensic data/information and dissemination among law enforcement, regulatory, judicial or health authorities and/or for trend analyses (biennial questionnaire)

Performance measures

2006-2007: 85 per cent

Estimate 2008-2009: 77 per cent

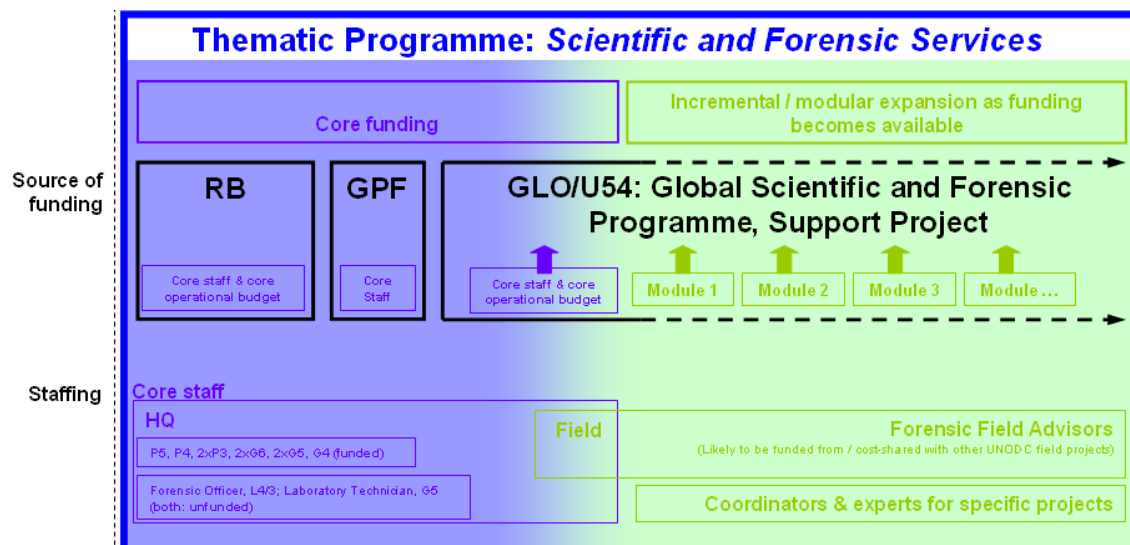
Target 2010-2011: 80 per cent

Outputs related to Outcome 3:

National cooperation, and integration of forensic personnel in national interagency activities, and more systematic utilization of scientific and forensic findings in trend analyses and for policy and programme formulation and impact assessments (as part of measuring trends, highlighting problems, learning lessons and evaluating effectiveness), facilitated by UNODC.

2. Budget & staffing: overview of resource allocations and requirements

52. The thematic programme on forensic and scientific services is pursued through a combination of resources made available under the regular budget of the United Nations and through voluntary contributions of the donor countries. Staffing and core operational expenses will continue to rely on a combination of regular budget (RB) and General Purpose Funds (GPF), complemented by extrabudgetary resources through project GLO/U54. It is anticipated that earmarked special purpose funds will be solicited to expand the programme in a modular / incremental manner for tailored and/or time-bound activities within the overall framework outlined in this thematic programme and the corresponding global project.



53. Provided below is a brief overview of the current level of resource allocations and the indicative resource requirements for UNODC's scientific and forensic work at Headquarters. This includes core human and financial resource requirements to be able to support and facilitate field-based activities from HQ and ensure consistency in quality and approach. The funding required to implement field activities are not included as they will be covered by the respective regional or country programme or project.

(i) Resources available to UNODC to implement core activities of its scientific and forensic services programme

54. The **regular budget resources** approved since the biennium 2004-2005 until the biennium 2008-2009 for the scientific and forensic work programme were approximately US\$800,000 per year, which provide for the costs for 3 professional level and 2 general service level staff posts and funds for limited operational activities, such as consultants, meetings of experts, travel on official business, printing, maintenance of specialized laboratory equipment, and reference and test samples for quality assurance support.
55. **Voluntary contributions**, over the 2004-2009 period, were made by five donors (Finland, Japan, Sweden, United Kingdom, and USA). These amounted to an average of about US\$260,000 per year and supported core activities of UNODC's scientific and forensic services programme, namely to provide for one temporary general service level staff post (laboratory technician), expert support to field operations, and limited operational activities, such as analytical method development, consultative meetings, travel on official business.
56. These resources have been complemented by an annual average of US\$380,000 from **General Purpose Funds**, which provide for the costs of one professional level and 3 general service level staff posts, as well as very limited operational activities such as the production, on request, of UNODC drug and precursor field test kits. The UNODC-wide decrease in GPF contributions in recent years has also affected the delivery of core scientific and forensic services.
57. The table below summarizes core resources available to UNODC during 2008-09 to implement its scientific and forensic services programme.

Scientific and Forensic Services: Core resources 2008-09 (US\$)		
Funding source	2008	2009
UN Regular Budget*	799,900	985,400
General Purpose Funds	411,800	460,600
GLO/U54 (Global Scientific and Forensic Programme – Support Project)	-	110,000
TOTAL	1,211,700	1,556,000

* Including about US\$85,000 per year for reference and test samples for UNODC's laboratory proficiency testing scheme, known as International Collaborative Exercises (ICE)
Note: Project figures excluding PSC.

(ii) Meeting minimum required core capacity for specialized expertise and functions

58. The level of the substantive and geographical coverage of the scientific and forensic work of UNODC, carried out under the lead role of LSS, is increasing substantially as a result of the **expansion from drugs into forensics more generally**, recognized recently in ECOSOC Res. 2009/22 adopted at the 2009 CCPCJ, and of the increasing focus on quality assurance aspects of

laboratory work, reinforced in two recent CND Resolutions in 2007 and 2009 (Res. 50/4 and 52/7, respectively). This in turn results in **significantly increased requirements for specialized core expertise**. This expansion of activities is likely to continue as the awareness of the role of forensics for transparent criminal justice systems, fair and objective court cases and evidence-based decision-making and policies increases and forensics increasingly become an integral part in UNODC technical assistance delivery.

59. A **minimum required core capacity in terms of specialized expertise and functions** is indicated by the level of core staffing of the Section at headquarters for carrying out its work programme. For the current programme of work, the regular budget resources of 3 professional and 2 general service level posts are supplemented by 3 professional and 3 general service posts financed from voluntary contributions (see Table below), including 2 Associate Expert positions. There are currently no project staff and only one temporary non-resident mentor (funded from a field project) based in the field.

Scientific and Forensic Services: Core human resource requirements at HQ			
Post level	Functional title	Source of funding	Substantive functions
P-5	Chief	RB Section 16	Responsible for managing the human and financial resources of the Section, and for planning and directing the work of UNODC's Thematic Programme "Forensic and Scientific Services" with respect to (i) improving national forensic capabilities, (ii) promoting the integration of forensic laboratories and scientific support into national and regional crime and drug control frameworks, and (iii) mainstreaming forensic/scientific best practices and data into international drug and crime policy frameworks and market analyses.
P-4	Scientific Affairs Officer	RB Section 16	Responsible for the continued implementation of relevant mandates under the international treaties and conventions of relevance to UNODC, including standard setting, the development of manuals and guidelines, and related research and development work.
P-3	Scientific Affairs Officer	RB Section 16	Responsible for the development, implementation and coordination of UNODC's laboratory quality assurance support, including the biannual round robin test known as International Collaborative Exercises (ICE).
P-3	Expert	UNDCP GP	Responsible for delivering core elements of the technical support programme to strengthen drug analysis laboratories, including the development of technical materials and assistance in the management of the related project portfolio.
P-4/3	Forensic Expert	GLO/U54 (unfunded)	Responsible for the development of integrated forensic programmes and mechanisms for targeted assistance in the forensic sector, including promotion of forensic best practices and training.
GS (OL)	Laboratory Technician	UNDCP GP	Responsible for providing technical support to the UNODC laboratory and scientific-technical assistance to the Programme, especially for the preparation, evaluation and further development of field test kits, international collaborative exercises, and related research in areas relevant to the Section.
GS (OL)	Research Assistant	UNDCP GP	Responsible for administering the International Collaborative Exercises (ICE) and for researching and maintaining UNODC's collection of scientific literature.
GS (OL)	Programme Assistant	RB Section 16	Assists in the financial and budgetary management of the Section, and the planning and implementation of programme-related activities.
GS (OL)	Programme Assistant	RB Section 16	Responsible for procurement, supply, import and export procedures relating to the section's core activities such as provision of reference standards, drug and precursor test kits and the international collaborative exercises
GS (OL)	Team Assistant	UNDCP GP	Provides office support and administrative functions for LSS team
GS (OL)	Laboratory Technician	GLO/U54 (unfunded)	Responsible for performing practical laboratory work and research in relevant areas of the forensic programme

Scientific and Forensic Services: Core human resource requirements at HQ			
Post level	Functional title	Source of funding	Substantive functions
Note that core human resources at present are complemented by two Associate Experts (L-2), funded from the Governments of Switzerland (third year cost-shared until March 2010) and Finland (until April 2011). The two Associate Experts provide assistance in the development, implementation and coordination of the UNODC Scientific and Forensic Programme in the fields of forensics and laboratory quality assurance support, respectively.			

60. The table below summarizes the **Programme's anticipated budget for 2010-11**, required to ensure a minimum level of core activities, implemented from HQ. Of an estimated XB requirement of US\$538,000 for 2 years only US\$78,800 are currently funded. For the sustained performance of the increased workload due to the extension of activities from the drugs to the drug-related crime field, namely forensic disciplines other than drugs, additional core human resources are needed to complement the existing staff force. The global project provides for a **position of a Forensic Science Officer as well as a Laboratory Technician**, needed in connection with strategic use of forensic data (both currently unfunded).

Funding source	2010	2011
UN Regular Budget (including posts)*	US\$829,900 (allotted)	US\$829,900 (proposed)
GLO/U54: ** Global Scientific and Forensic Programme - Support Project	US\$78,800 (funded) US\$198,700 (unfunded)	 US\$260,500 (unfunded)

* Including about US\$63,000 per year for reference and test samples for UNODC's laboratory proficiency testing scheme, known as International Collaborative Exercises (ICE)

** Excluding PSC.

61. A significantly higher level of activities, especially at field level, is required for the implementation of scientific and forensic technical assistance projects, and will be pursued, subject to availability of higher level of funding at the field level within the regional programming approach.
62. In addition, given the emphasis on field-driven portfolio development, the development of a small network of forensic field advisors in priority regions is anticipated.⁵ Forensic Field Advisors will not only provide expertise, mentoring and technical guidance directly to beneficiaries but also lead the development of forensic programme elements in their regions of responsibility, either as elements of relevant integrated thematic projects (e.g. on narcotics enforcement, crime investigation, anti-human trafficking etc.), as opportunities arise, or as incremental extensions of the global project in line with programme requirements and in close consultation and coordination with headquarters staff.

B. FIELD LEVEL

63. The geographic coverage of UNODC's scientific and forensic services has always been global, mainly related to the implementation of its global laboratory proficiency testing scheme, known as the International Collaborative Exercises (ICE). Regional activities are designed around relevant thematic areas and tailored to the absorption capacity of the target region. In the context of Regional Programmes an expanded level of activities for service delivery in the scientific and forensic field is planned for most regions, although at different levels and with different thematic focus, depending on the priorities identified in regional programmes.

⁵ Note that the aim is to establish field advisors in priority regions. However, most of the positions will likely not be funded from the present programme but will be built into relevant integrated regional projects or programmes.

64. Specifically, the present programme will seek to support and facilitate relevant regional and country initiatives, both initiatives seeking to focus on strengthening scientific and forensic capacity and interagency initiatives involving law enforcement and judicial authorities as well as forensic science laboratories. It is also anticipated to ensure continued coordinated and integrated programme planning, and coordination of activities across regions, including instituting a system of transferable best practices and approaches in forensic science capacity building.

Regional issues and trends relating to forensics

65. Below is a summary, by region, of the thematic focus areas in the scientific and forensic field, as included in the respective regional programmes at the time of preparation of this Thematic Programme.

66. West and Central Africa

Given the absence or very basic level of forensic capacity in most West African countries, the focus in the region will be to **introduce the concept of forensics and forensic best practices** as means for providing objective evidence for court purposes rather than relying on testimonies only. A project is expected to begin implementation in mid-2010, which will address these issues **as part of the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan**. HQ will support and provide guidance to the proposed **regional forensic advisor** and/or directly implement relevant activities, such as the development of forensic training programmes in West Africa, assessment of needs and provision of basic equipment to selected laboratories in the region, and facilitation of the establishment of a regional forensic coordination structure.

67. Southern Africa

Considering the tremendous disparities of forensic capacities and capabilities in Southern Africa, the focus of activities in the Southern African region will be on increasing awareness of the importance of crime scene investigations, **strengthening capacities to take appropriate initial actions at crime scenes** and use of forensic services. In addition, there will be a special focus on least equipped countries. Police forces and the criminal justice systems in the more advanced countries will benefit from strengthened capacity in selected forensic disciplines. A regional proposal is currently being prepared in consultation with ROSAF and the Forensic Science Laboratory of the South African Police as the recognized implementing partner in the region. HQ will support and provide guidance to the proposed **forensic advisor** and/or directly implement relevant activities, including assessment of needs and provision of basic equipment to selected laboratories, and improving cooperation of forensic laboratories through a sustainable Southern African support infrastructure for the delivery of forensic services (namely, empowerment of the recently initiated Southern Africa Regional Forensic Science (SARFS) Network).

68. Eastern Africa

Focus in the East Africa region will be on **crime scene and physical evidence awareness**, namely through the introduction of UNODC's Computer Based Training (CBT) platform in order to increase the regional capacity to take appropriate initial action at crime scenes and respond effectively against the various forms of crime. HQ will provide guidance and substantive support to the development of relevant CBT modules.

69. North Africa and Middle East

HQ activities in support of the regional programme in North Africa and Middle East will focus on providing support for capacity building of law enforcement and criminal justice officers and criminal justice infrastructures, e.g. **forensic awareness for judges, prosecutors and other criminal justice practitioners; and regular involvement of forensic scientists in inter-agency working group meetings** to improve the use of forensic data and coordination of activities (national networking). HQ activities will also extend to supporting the introduction into the region of UNODC's Computer Based Training (CBT) platform to upgrade skills and inform on issues related

to forensic awareness in order to increase the regional capacity to respond effectively against the various forms of crime.

In general, enhancing the regional and sub-regional forensic capacities to a higher level will underpin both the work in criminal justice reform and organised crime prevention. UNODC activities in the area will concentrate on the **promotion of best practices in crime scene investigation, the establishment and improvement of laboratory facilities for examination of forensic evidence, and the promotion of regional and sub-regional networking among forensic science institutes** to establish a regional support infrastructure, and improve forensic data on illicit synthetic drugs (in connection with UNODC's Global SMART Programme). Activities will build upon UNODC's ongoing forensic services, namely laboratory quality assurance support and are anticipated to be led by a regional forensic advisor, who will be in a position to provide expertise, technical guidance and to coordinate forensic activities at both the regional and national levels.

At national level, and in response to a joint UNODC-donor design mission, it is anticipated that specific focus will be given during 2010-2014 to supporting the **strengthening of forensic capacity of the Palestinian Authority** as a means to reinforce its criminal justice response to (organized) crime.

70. South-Eastern Europe

LSS has taken the lead in implementing relevant parts of the Regional Programme for South-Eastern Europe. Six assessment missions have been undertaken with a view to designing tailored assistance packages for individual countries in the forensic field. On a regional basis, laboratories are encouraged to participate in the International Collaborative Exercises (ICE) with a view to identifying current performance levels. To that end, and based on the recommendations of the regional workshop on quality assurance in early 2010, in a second phase of the programme, UNODC will provide tailored technical and quality assurance support, guidance and training (including sensitization to the need for continuous quality improvement), relevant tools, equipment and infrastructure, and support the establishment of new laboratories where appropriate, including the improvement of capacities to recognize and prevent the work of illegal drug production laboratories. UNODC will support the involvement of forensic scientists in national interagency working groups and **improve the knowledge and cooperation among interagency experts and relevant national and regional counterparts**, and will also **facilitate collaborative activities of the regional forensic science community**, by organizing multidisciplinary workshops, strengthening regional cooperation and facilitating the establishment of links with existing international networks to exchange of experience and expertise.

71. West and Central Asia (Afghanistan and neighbouring countries)

Activities in West and Central Asia will seek to **increase forensic capacity in support of counternarcotics activities and related crime, including aspects of basic 'forensic intelligence' and use of forensic information to inform operations**. HQ support will include substantive inputs to relevant regional meetings and training activities, as well as expert guidance on standardizing approaches among participating laboratories along the trafficking routes.

72. East Asia and the Pacific

Activities in the region seek to support identified priorities, namely:

- Reducing illicit trafficking of people, drugs (and their precursors) and natural resources/hazardous substances
- Reducing weaknesses in governance
- Reducing serious transnational organized crimes, including terrorism

To that end, the focus of HQ support will be on enhancing **regional cooperation and networking through the Asian Forensic Sciences Network (AFSN)** recently inaugurated with UNODC assistance, providing regionally **tailored quality assurance support and laboratory proficiency testing**, as well as expert guidance on improving integration of laboratories into existing coordination and cooperation mechanisms, such as interagency meetings, at national level.

Activities are carried out as part of the activities of UNODC's Global SMART Programme in the region. To respond to technical challenges such as those related to the **investigation of clandestine laboratories and the safe handling and disposal of precursor chemicals**, HQ will seek to support the establishment of mechanisms to enhance the related national and/or regional capacities anticipated under Project XAPK19 (Strengthening investigative, intelligence and industry based responses to the trafficking of illicit drugs and precursor chemicals).

73. Central America

As part of the new integrated programming approach for Central America, which is designed around the establishment of a number of "Centres of Excellence" (CoE), intended to serve as focal points for expertise, training, data collection and analysis in different thematic areas, Costa Rica has been identified to serve as CoE on Forensics.

HQ will support the **establishment of the CoE in Costa Rica**, as well as activities to enhance forensic capacity in the wider region and promote the exchange of experiences and data through improved national and regional networking. Activities will build on UNODC ongoing provision of laboratory quality assurance support and are anticipated to be guided by a Regional Forensic Advisor for Central America and the Caribbean. HQ will also continue its **partnership with the Iberoamerican Network of Forensic Science Institutes (AICEF)** to coordinate regional activities. Specific HQ activities are expected to include:

- Support to the development and delivery of tailored training courses, including train-the-trainers courses, and IT-based courses including post-graduate online programmes;
- The provision of certified reference materials and scientific literature and support to the establishment of a regional mechanism to acquire reference materials;
- The expansion of proficiency testing in the Central American region;
- The organization of workshops on exchanges of good practices at the regional level; and
- The provision of advice and training for the development of proficiency testing in the Central American region.

74. Caribbean Region

Focus of activities in the forensic field in the Caribbean region is on **increasing forensic capacity to exchange expertise and data on a regional level**. Activities are anticipated to include the strengthening of the existent forensic laboratories, the **strengthening of national and regional networking and information sharing** of forensic laboratories, mainly through the establishment of a regional focal point/ advisor for the forensic sector, and the establishment of forensic laboratories inside the investigation units of the national security forces, where necessary. HQ support will include expertise for the provision of relevant equipment and reference material, training, proficiency tests and quality assurance support. A second focus will be on **strengthening the capacity to preserve the integrity of evidence from the crime scene to courtroom**. HQ will provide expert support to the organization of relevant integrity workshops, training, and the preparation of a tailored work manual for use in the region.

75. Countries in all regions will also continue to benefit, on request, from the on-going services of LSS delivered from HQ, namely the provision of reference samples of substances under international control, the participation in the UNODC proficiency testing scheme for drugs (International Collaborative Exercises), the provision of scientific literature, field detection test kits and expert advice. LSS will also provide direct expertise in support of training activities, e.g. on crime scene and physical evidence awareness, precursors, including their safe handling and disposal, drug analysis, and document examination.

C. LEVERAGING PARTNERSHIPS

76. In order to enhance the effectiveness of its service delivery in the forensic field, UNODC engages in **strategic partnerships** with international, regional and sub-regional organizations, associations of forensic science institutes, and relevant bilateral stakeholders, including individual experts. Cooperation with Member States is a common goal of all activities undertaken by the UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Section.

1. Strategic partnerships

77. Strategic partnering avoids duplication of efforts and ensures that technical assistance is delivered in a well-targeted, structured, efficient and strategic manner. It also **ensures sustainability** by optimizing the use of what would usually be limited resources.

(i) Networks and associations of forensic science institutes and professionals

78. Networks and associations of forensic science institutes and professionals play an important role in promoting the quality of forensic science at the regional level. UNODC works with existing networks of forensic science institutes: the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD), the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI), the Senior Managers of Australian and New Zealand Forensic Laboratories (SMANZFL), the Iberoamerican Academy of Forensic Science Institutes (AICEF), the Asian Forensic Sciences Network (AFSN), and their common umbrella, the International Forensic Strategic Alliance (IFSA). On specific forensic disciplines, UNODC also works directly, as an associate member with technical working groups: the Scientific Working Group for the Analysis of Seized Drugs (SWGDRUG) and the ENFSI Drugs Working Group. Working links have also recently been established with the International Association for Identification (IAI).

(ii) Accreditation bodies / institutions

79. In relation to its work in the field of quality assurance/management, UNODC has working links with international (e.g. ILAC, the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation), regional (e.g. EA, the European co-operation for Accreditation), and national (e.g. FINAS, the Finnish Accreditation Service; UKAS, the United Kingdom Accreditation Service; ASCLD/LAB, the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors Laboratory Accreditation Board; NATA, the Australian National Association of Testing Authorities) accreditation bodies and institutions.

(iii) International and Regional Organizations and bilateral assistance

80. UNODC works closely with international, regional and non-governmental organizations with related mandates to **promote a synergistic and comprehensive approach**. This is in recognition that scientific and forensic services are a cross-cutting issue interfacing science, criminal justice and health. Partnerships have been established at various levels with: the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the Organization of American States (OAS)/ Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), the European Law Enforcement Organization (EUROPOL), the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).
81. UNODC partner organizations also include the African Union (AU), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Department for Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the European Commission (EC), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI).

82. Synergies also exist with institutions and development agencies of a number of individual countries that have related mandates and/or provide complementary technical assistance.

(iv) National institutions and individual experts

83. Collaborations with national institutions with proven experience and worldwide prestige in forensics has constituted one of the important backbones of the LSS scientific work programme since its inception in 1954. Partner institutions include selected national laboratories, universities and research institutes for applied research, method development, reference services⁶, and the assessment of new technologies to improve the services provided and give direction for applications at national level.
84. UNODC also collaborates on a regular basis with experts, either in the form of consultancies, participation in expert group meetings, or in the form of an **International Standing Panel on Forensics** that provides guidance and input on a rotational basis.

2. Benefiting from UNODC field network and fostering regional perspectives

85. As noted above, for the planning, implementation and coordination of the field level delivery of forensic and scientific services, LSS relies on the involvement of, and coordination with, the relevant field offices. This also makes maximum use of the operational capacity of UNODC at the field level. Field office involvement will be enhanced by periodic briefings to Field Representatives and field office staff; consultative formulation of activities and their implementation; development of mutually agreed sub-components of the global project for the respective regions and countries covered by the field office, including detailed work plans for their implementation; placement of forensic advisors in field offices; and the issuance of project sub-allotments to the field offices,.
86. Activities related to increasing the utilization of forensic data and information also **benefit substantially from existing UNODC field level outreach capacity**, for example, through the surveyors of the crop monitoring activities, the National Strategic Analysts as part of the Paris Pact Initiative, or the National Focal Points under the Global SMART Programme.

3. Promoting awareness and access to information

87. A key component of successful delivery of scientific and forensic services is **increased forensic awareness outside the forensic community**. In order to promote the integration of forensic services into drug control and crime prevention efforts at operational and strategic levels and with regard to related technical assistance activities, various media will be used. They include the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, such as meetings of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA) and the Sub-commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East; relevant meetings of other international and regional bodies, such as Interpol's International Forensic Science Symposium, and relevant meetings of the organizations mentioned above.
88. To raise awareness for scientific and forensic issues and the related work of the Office, briefings are regularly undertaken for representatives of Member States. The Co-financing and Partnership Section in the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs leads the work for coordination and liaison with the donor countries and for facilitating transparency and full accessibility to information on utilization of voluntary contributions provided. LSS also regularly transmits up-to-date information on project implementation.
89. The Advocacy Section of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs leads the work for promoting awareness of forensic and scientific issues among the general public and for addressing them as important priorities, including through the assistance provided by the Office.

⁶ In the past, these institutions have provided, on a voluntary basis (at no cost to UNODC), state-of-the-art information on scientific and technical matters as well as practical collaboration, e.g. acting as reference laboratories, as validating institutions in the proficiency testing scheme or as training focal points.

The website of UNODC, managed by the Section, is an important conduit for the promotional information and for easy access to the specialized tools and publications. The various initiatives that promote UNODC's scientific and forensic work will be further enhanced and focused awareness raising activities featuring forensics will be launched, under the lead role of the Advocacy Section and with the substantive input from all concerned entities. Training of tour guides of the United Nations Information Service will continue and also contribute to raising awareness of forensic services and the scientific and forensic work programme of UNODC in the general public.

ANNEX I

Outline of UNODC's Forensic science work programme, French and Spanish language versions

I. Programme de criminalistique

41. En 2007, l'ONUDC a commencé à élaborer un programme de criminalistique axé sur le renforcement de la disponibilité de services de criminalistique de qualité dans le monde, des lieux de crime aux laboratoires de criminalistique. Ces services devront permettre de fournir en temps voulu des renseignements exacts aux systèmes de justice pénale et de mener ainsi des enquêtes et procès pénaux efficaces et équitables.

42. Pour atteindre cet objectif, la stratégie prévoit trois approches clefs: a) renforcer les moyens et les capacités criminalistiques au niveau national; b) intégrer les services de criminalistique dans les cadres nationaux et régionaux de contrôle des drogues et de prévention du crime; et c) utiliser davantage les données et renseignements criminalistiques dans des opérations stratégiques, les politiques et les prises de décisions aux niveaux national, régional et international. Faisant fond sur les activités passées et actuelles de l'ONUDC dans les secteurs scientifiques et des laboratoires, et répondant à la nécessité de faire porter l'accent non seulement sur les drogues, mais également sur d'autres problèmes de criminalité, le programme a pour priorités de fixer des normes et de fournir à l'échelle mondiale un appui à l'assurance de la qualité et une assistance technique pour renforcer les moyens criminalistiques.

43. Des activités spécifiques seront menées pour continuer à mieux sensibiliser à la criminalistique – des lieux de crime aux salles d'audience – et à rechercher des partenariats avec des organismes internationaux et des associations d'instituts de criminalistique afin de créer des synergies dans l'élaboration de normes et de pratiques optimales et d'aider à coordonner plus rationnellement les activités d'assistance technique dans le monde. Ces activités devraient comprendre une évaluation des besoins en vue de l'élaboration de projets spécifiques portant sur des questions thématiques et régionales.

44. Ce programme apporte une réponse aux objectifs inscrits sous le domaine de résultat 2.2 (Moyens scientifiques et criminalistiques) de la stratégie de l'ONUDC pour la période 2008-2011.

I. Programa de ciencias forenses

41. En 2007 la ONUDD comenzó trabajar en el diseño de un programa de ciencias forenses orientado a fortalecer la disponibilidad mundial de servicios forenses de calidad, desde el lugar del delito hasta el laboratorio forense. Esos servicios garantizarán el suministro exacto y oportuno de información a los sistemas de justicia penal y, en consecuencia, constituirán un apoyo para que las investigaciones y juicios penales sean eficaces e imparciales.

42. La estrategia para alcanzar ese objetivo comprende tres criterios básicos: a) mejorar la capacidad y las aptitudes forenses nacionales; b) integrar los servicios forenses en los marcos nacionales y regionales de fiscalización de drogas y prevención del delito; y c) aprovechar más los datos y la información forenses en las operaciones estratégicas, la formulación de políticas y la adopción de decisiones a nivel nacional, regional e internacional. Sobre la base de las actividades pasadas y presentes de la ONUDD en los aspectos científicos y de laboratorio y en respuesta a la necesidad de ampliar el centro de atención de modo que incluya no sólo las drogas sino también otras cuestiones relacionadas con la delincuencia, las prioridades del programa son el establecimiento de normas y la prestación de apoyo para la garantía de la calidad y de asistencia técnica en todo el mundo a fin de crear capacidad forense.

43. Mediante una serie de actividades específicas se seguirá aumentando la toma de conciencia forense - desde el lugar del delito hasta la sala del tribunal- y estudiando la posibilidad de crear vínculos con órganos y asociaciones internacionales de institutos forenses a fin de establecer esferas de sinergia en la elaboración de normas y prácticas óptimas y ayudar a simplificar la coordinación de las actividades de asistencia técnica en todo el mundo. Se prevé que entre las actividades figure una evaluación de las necesidades para elaborar proyectos adaptados que aborden cuestiones regionales y temáticas.

44. Este programa responde a la esfera de resultados 2.2 (Capacidad científica y forense) de la estrategia de la ONUDD para el período 2008-2011.

(Source: Programmes and initiatives to be implemented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the bienniums 2008-2009 and 2010-2011, Report of the Executive Director, E/CN.7/2008/12–E/CN.15/2008/16, 7 February 2008)

ANNEX II

Key UNODC mandates in the scientific and forensic field

A. General Assembly resolutions

20/4A	Action plan against illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of ATS and their precursors
52/92, 49/168	International action to combat drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking
9/834	United Nations Narcotics Laboratory

B. Economic and Social Council resolutions

2009/22	International cooperation in the prevention, investigation, prosecution and punishment of economic fraud and identity-related crime
1997/41	Implementation of comprehensive measures to counter the illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of [ATS] and their precursors
1988/9	International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
1988/13	Strengthening of co-ordination and co-operation in international drug control

C. Resolutions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)

52/7	Proposal concerning quality certification of the performance of drug analysis laboratories
50/4	Improving the quality and performance of drug analysis laboratories
50/9	Use of drug characterization and chemical profiling in support of drug law enforcement intelligence-gathering and operational work, as well as trend analysis
47/5	Illicit drug profiling in international law enforcement: maximizing outcome and improving cooperation
39/1	Scientific and technical co-operation in the control of drug abuse and illicit trafficking: development of drug profiling / signature analysis in support of a scientific approach to law enforcement
38/12	Scientific and technical co-operation in the control of drug abuse and illicit trafficking
33/1	Co-operation in the strengthening of action against the illicit drug traffic through training in the African

ANNEX III

CND Resolution 50/4: Improving the quality and performance of drug analysis laboratories

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recognizing the important role of drug analysis laboratories as part of national drug control systems, and the value of laboratory results and data to criminal justice systems, law enforcement and health authorities and policymakers,

Noting that law enforcement authorities and other clients of drug analysis laboratories need results that are reliable, valid, based on standard procedures, compatible with results in other laboratories that meet the evidentiary standards of the respective judicial, administrative and legal systems and obtained in an effective and efficient manner within the required timescale and that provide value for money,

Recognizing that the quality of the analysis and results of such laboratories has significant implications for the justice system, law enforcement and prevention and health, as well as for the international harmonization and worldwide exchange and coordination of drug information and data,

Recognizing also that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has an essential role in facilitating the development of drug-testing facilities and scientific support services worldwide and in improving the quality and performance of drug analysis laboratories, that it has expertise in implementing laboratory-related projects and that it must make the most effective use of its limited resources to fulfil that role,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 49/168, section II, of 23 December 1994 and resolution 52/92, section II, of 12 December 1997, in which the Assembly requested the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, now called the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to continue providing assistance to Member States requesting support in establishing or strengthening national drug detection laboratories,

Acknowledging the added value of the international quality assurance support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in providing means for the continued monitoring of the situation of laboratories throughout the world, identifying factors affecting laboratory performance and where improvements can be made, including how to best target support, thus providing an evidence base for technical assistance projects and for the monitoring of their effectiveness,

Recognizing the cost-effectiveness of having a sustainable international network of laboratories and scientific support services allowing the transfer of specialized technical and forensic expertise from States with adequate resources to those in need of assistance, in order to promote equality and reduce gaps between Member States,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/32 of 22 July 2003, in which the Council urged relevant international organizations, in consultation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to provide financing and other support for the training of experts in various subjects related to the fight against the world drug problem, with particular emphasis on, among other things, drug-testing laboratories and laboratory quality assurance,

Concerned about the increasing gap between Member States in terms of the technical level of their laboratory and scientific services,

1. *Recommends* that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime should continue supporting the analytical work of laboratories by providing reference samples of controlled substances, by identifying best practices and encouraging the use of guidelines, subject to extrabudgetary resources, by developing manuals on standard methods including relevant research, by offering training opportunities and by promoting and facilitating the exchange of information, material and data;

2. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to support the integration of laboratories and scientific support into drug control frameworks and the use of analytical data as a primary source of information worldwide, for example, for systems giving early warning on new drug trends;
3. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to build on its corporate knowledge and, subject to extrabudgetary resources, to conduct in-depth analyses in order to identify competency requirements, training needs and other areas where assistance could be provided;
4. *Further requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in cooperation with Member States, to devote attention to drug analysis laboratories, including forensic laboratories and other laboratories, developing project proposals, as appropriate, for capacity-building, providing services to support drug abuse treatment and toxicology, on the priorities recommended and requested in the present resolution;
5. *Encourages* Member States to give higher priority to the development of sustainable laboratory and scientific services, and recommends that national laboratories participate in the external quality assurance programme offered by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;
6. *Invites* Member States to secure and broaden their support to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including funding for activities related to improving the performance of national laboratories, support for quality assurance and support for the establishment of sustainable scientific services worldwide;
7. *Calls upon* Member States and international, regional and subregional institutions to contribute to the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime set out in the present resolution by providing expertise as a resource for the development of cooperative networks among laboratories and scientists and to explore innovative ways to ensure more effective exchange of expertise and information worldwide.

CND Resolution 52/7: Proposal concerning quality evaluation of the performance of drug analysis laboratories

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 49/168, section II, of 23 December 1994 and 52/92, section II, of 12 December 1997, in which the Assembly requested the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, now called the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to continue providing assistance to Member States requesting support in establishing or strengthening national drug detection laboratories,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/32 of 22 July 2003, in which the Council urged relevant international organizations, in consultation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to provide financing and other support for the training of experts in various subjects related to the fight against the world drug problem, with particular emphasis on, inter alia, drug-testing laboratories and laboratory quality assurance,

Recognizing, in accordance with its resolution 50/4, the important role of drug analysis laboratories as part of national drug control systems and the value of laboratory results and data to criminal justice systems, law enforcement and health authorities and policymakers, and recognizing that the quality of the analysis and results of such laboratories has significant implications for the justice system, law enforcement and preventive health care, as well as for the international harmonization and worldwide exchange and coordination of drug information and data,

Acknowledging, in accordance with its resolution 50/4, the added value of the international quality assurance support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in providing means for the continued monitoring of the situation of laboratories throughout the world and in identifying factors affecting laboratory performance and areas where improvements can be made, including how best to

target support, thus providing an evidence base for technical assistance projects and for monitoring their effectiveness,

Recognizing the cost-effectiveness of having a sustainable international network of laboratories and scientific support services allowing the transfer of specialized technical and forensic expertise from States with adequate resources to those in need of assistance, in order to promote equality and reduce gaps between Member States,

Concerned about the growing need for laboratories, including forensic and other laboratories, to be certified with respect to good laboratory practices in drug analysis and about the lack of an international certification programme and certification authority,

Also concerned about the differences between Member States in terms of the technical level of their scientific and laboratory services, which prevent the comparison of expert results between laboratories,

1. *Recommends* that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime continue to support the analytical work of laboratories and the training of experts;
2. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to evaluate, upon request, the performance of laboratories through its quality assurance programme for drug analysis laboratories and to provide such services at a reasonable cost to Member States participating in the programme, thus ensuring, to the extent possible, the sustainability and self-sufficiency of the quality assurance programme;
3. *Invites* Member States to consider a certification process coordinated by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and requests the Office to report to the Commission, at its fiftythird session, on progress made in that regard, taking into account, inter alia, the results of the quality assurance programme;
4. *Calls* upon Member States and subregional, regional and international entities to contribute, in all areas within their purview, to the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime set out in the present resolution, in particular by providing expertise for the development of cooperative networks among laboratories and scientists and by exploring innovative ways to ensure the more effective exchange of expertise and information worldwide.