
BACKGROUND TO THE REGIONAL PROFILE

Mandate of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (formerly called the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention) was created in 1997, combining the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention. It was established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to enable the Organisation to focus and enhance its capacity to address the interrelated issues of drug control, crime prevention and international terrorism in all its forms. The mandate of the Office derives from several conventions and General Assembly resolutions, and the Office's technical cooperation programme aims to help improve the capacity of Governments to execute those international commitments. The Office is headed by an Executive Director, appointed by the Secretary-General, and is co-located with the United Nations Office at Vienna, of which the Executive Director also serves as the Director-General.

UNODC Regional Profile

The UNODC Regional (or Country) Profile is at the core of the organization's reporting on drug and crime matters in the region (or country) covered by each Field Office. The profiles include relevant information and analysis on drug and crime trends and are prepared on the basis of a joint Headquarters-Field Office effort. The views of key stakeholders in the Member States are sought during this process. The Regional Profile serves as the basis for programme planning, in consultation with the countries served by the Field Office. This programme planning is contained in the Strategic Programme Framework.

Strategic Programme Framework

The purpose of the Strategic Programme Framework (SPF) is to clearly spell out the strategic direction and UNODC's priorities, based upon consultation with the countries served by the Field Office in a geographic context. The SPF focuses on the priority problems identified through the gap analysis in the Regional Profile. It sets out UNODC's strategic, long-term objectives to address these problems and established UNODC operational targets to the end of the biennium 2006-2007, which is the current timeframe for the United Nations' planning activities. The SPF thus serves as a strategic management tool for UNODC but is drawn up in consultation with partners, in particular, recipient governments.