UNOV/UNODC
Innovation Strategy
2020-2025
UNODC Strategy 2021-25

The mission of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is to contribute to global peace and security, human rights and development by making the world safer from drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism by working for and with Member States to promote justice and the rule of law and build resilient societies.

In order to implement and operationalize the UNODC Strategy 2021-25, the organization “will review and adjust its internal structures, systems and processes so that we can use the full potential of our staff to meet the rapidly evolving needs of Member States. We will employ innovation, leverage new technologies and create an organizational culture that is based on trust, respect and accountability.”

UNODC’s work will be clustered around five main thematic areas, which integrate both policy and programmatic work.

- Addressing and countering the **world drug problem**
- Preventing and countering **organized crime**
- Preventing and countering **corruption and economic crime**
- Preventing and countering **terrorism**
- **Crime prevention** and **criminal justice**

To implement this mission, the UNODC strategy builds on the structural foundations of the Secretary General’s reform agenda, including the agenda on **innovation, data and digitalization**, to sharpen our value proposition, making UNODC more agile and responsive.

Opportunity Statement

The UN Secretary-General has encouraged all UN entities to be revolutionary, to be bold, and to embrace innovation to meet the challenges of our times.

In addition to the UNODC Strategy 2021-2025, the organizational context for innovation is aligned with the Secretary-General’s Quintet of Change that aims to help the UN system better perform using modern capabilities. Additionally, this Innovation Strategy is fully aligned with and will continue to support the implementation of the Secretary-General’s Strategies on New Technologies and on Data.

Within the UN family, we are seeing dedicated innovation structures leading ground-breaking efforts in their respective fields. For UNOV/UNODC our call to action is leveraging our expertise and the technological leaps within the UN family to support Member States in achieving the ambitious 2030 Agenda.

UNOV/UNODC strives to be an agile strategic partner to support the people we serve and to set a powerful example across the UN system. UNOV/UNODC will employ strategic foresight, innovation, data science, digital transformation, and behavioural science to ensure we deliver today and in the future.

“At UNOV/UNODC, we are committed to continuously developing and building on our strengths to better deliver for those we serve, now and in the future. Our Innovation Strategy is a living document and it will further benefit from the ideas, contributions and support of our staff. We look forward to harnessing and scaling up innovative initiatives as well as gathering new approaches and practices from across the organization and beyond, in line with the UN Secretary-General’s vision and strategies on new technologies and data.”

- Ms. Ghada Waly, Director-General UNOV/Executive Director UNODC
Our approach

We place innovation within the safeguards of human rights, leverage diversity, and protect the world’s most vulnerable. Our approach includes:

- Applying a human-centred design where potential end users and programme beneficiaries are consulted and involved throughout the entire innovation life cycle.
- Project and programme design and implementation involves protection of the most vulnerable, recognizing the importance of intersectionality.
- Every effort is made to ensure project and programme design teams represent and empower diversities including but not limited to gender, geography race, and disability.
- Working with external partners in academia and the private sector that hold and safeguard the values of the UN and these commitments to protect the most vulnerable.
- Leveraging behavioural science as a key factor for better understanding individual and collective human actions to optimally design programmes and interventions.

Innovation @ UNOV/UNODC safeguards human rights, leverages diversity, and protects the world’s most vulnerable to build resilient societies.
Forward-looking responses

Addressing the challenges of today and tomorrow, UNOV/UNODC will develop forward-looking and innovative responses so as to **better deliver to those we serve** in the areas of **new technologies, new ways of working** and **organizational agility**. This includes scaling up current initiatives and piloting new projects.

For UNOV/UNODC to achieve **its vision of becoming one of the innovation leaders in the UN System**, the organization needs to secure **financing and the needed partnerships** as well as fostering an **enabling environment** for innovation. We organize innovation around the following areas:

- **New Technologies**
  - Identifying and leveraging new technologies to expand the realm of possibilities for new initiatives especially with regard to automation and digitalization.

- **Organizational Agility**
  - Becoming even more efficient and effective as an organization so that we can better deliver to those we serve.

- **New Ways of Working**
  - Optimizing the way we work by catalysing digital transformation and applying behavioural science in programme design and implementation

- **Enabling Environment**
  - Through a dedicated innovation ecosystem, engaging Member States, leveraging partnerships, and promoting a conducive organizational culture.