SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

SDG 17 is about revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development. Thus, since September 2022, and as requested by the Secretary-General, the UN system has been taking concrete steps to support global efforts to address trafficking in all its forms. This year, a UN System-Wide Practice Group on Trafficking in All its Forms co-chaired by UNODC, the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG) and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) was established to examine how the UN could work in a coherent and coordinated effort to address trafficking. Thirty-four entities developed a set of 23 recommendations to tackle this important issue effectively. Under the lead of the Deputy Secretary-General, UN System entities will implement a consolidated selection of the most sustainable and scalable recommended actions in the lead up to the Summit of the Future in September 2024.

Improved policy coherence and increased multi-stakeholder partnerships are the key to the most critical element of the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: the ability of Member States to effectively raise, retain and manage their own domestic resources. Organized crime (and its related illegal economic activities) weakens state authority and institutions by fuelling corruption and violence and undermining sustainable development and the rule of law. Discouraging public and private investment, organized crime deprives the licit economy of the necessary resources for sustainable development across all its dimensions.
Through its work, UNODC contributes to advancing Target 17.9 on enhancing effective and targeted capacity building in developing countries through cooperation. The Office is well placed to convene multi-stakeholder partnerships at the international level, and to assist Member States in convening them at the national level, to improve policy coherence and, consequently, the effectiveness of international, regional and national efforts to combat organized crime and related criminal activities. The Office applies the knowledge, skills and experience of its staff and governing bodies to help Member States to reach these goals.

Furthermore, UNODC contributes to Target 17.17 regarding effective partnerships between different sectors. The Office recognizes that promoting strong partnerships with civil society organizations (CSOs) is crucial to deal with complex issues such as the world drug problem, corruption and crime, which undermine the fabric of society. Partnerships with civil society, which includes NGOs, community groups, labour unions, indigenous groups, charitable organizations, faith-based organizations, professional associations and foundations, are essential to support UNODC in carrying out its global mandates.

The Office supports the participation of CSOs in intergovernmental meetings in line with relevant UNODC mandates. For example, to facilitate NGO participation in the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), the Office has developed a Practical Guide for NGO Participants.

Additionally, UNODC supports building capacity of non-governmental stakeholders to help them improve their knowledge of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the Protocols Thereto, and related international drug policy instruments. Examples are the self-paced online course on Stakeholder Engagement in the Implementation of the Review Mechanism of the UNTOC and workshops under the SE4U project, formally known as “Stakeholder Engagement for the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), its Review Mechanism and Related Activities.” And the online platform WhatsOn, designed to bring together relevant stakeholders in the fight against transnational organized crime and corruption, including NGOs, academia and the private sector.
Furthermore, UNODC encourages public-private partnerships to promote coherent and coordinated strategies to prevent and counter crime. An example of it is the project “Public-Private Partnerships: Fostering Engagement with the Private Sector on the Implementation of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its Trafficking in Persons Protocol” (PPP Project), which aims to enhance effective partnerships between the public and private sectors to better assist Member States in their implementation of the UNTOC and its Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

Finally, it is to be noted that the governing bodies of UNODC, namely the Commissions on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), concretely contribute towards the review of progress made towards the SDGs, which also input into the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), and various other similar fora.