

28 February 2025

English only

Commission on Narcotic Drugs**Sixty-eighth session**

Vienna, 10–14 March 2025

Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

Inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem**Note by the Secretariat on inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem******I. International cooperation**

1. In the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, Member States committed to increasing cooperation at the regional and international level. In the Joint Ministerial Statement, adopted by the CND at its 2014 high-level review of the implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration, Member States reiterated their commitment to addressing and countering the world drug problem based on the principle of common and shared responsibility. In the outcome document of the 2016 special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, Member States included a standalone chapter on strengthening international cooperation. The title of the outcome document, “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem” acknowledged that the world drug problem remains a common and shared responsibility that needs to be addressed in a multilateral setting through effective and increased international cooperation.

2. In the 2019 Ministerial Declaration on “Strengthening our actions at the national, regional and international levels to accelerate the implementation of our joint commitments to address and counter the world drug problem”, adopted by the CND by consensus at the opening of the Ministerial Segment of its 62nd session in March 2019, Member States committed to accelerating, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, the full implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration, the 2014 Joint Ministerial Statement and the 2016 UNGASS outcome document, aimed at achieving all commitments, operational recommendations and aspirational goals set out therein.

3. In the declaration, Member States committed to ensuring that no one affected by the world drug problem is left behind by enhancing efforts to bridge the gaps in

* [E/CN.7/2025/1](#).

** This document has not been edited.



addressing the persistent and emerging trends and challenges through enhanced cooperation at all levels – national, regional, and international.

4. Member States also reaffirmed the role of UNODC, as the leading entity in the United Nations system for addressing and countering the world drug problem, and encouraged contributions from relevant UN entities, international financial institutions, and relevant regional and international organizations, within their respective mandates, to the work of the CND, the policymaking body of the UN with prime responsibility for drug control matters. The call for enhanced cooperation was also addressed to the UN system. In the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, UNODC was encouraged to increase cooperation and collaboration with all relevant UN entities, within their respective mandates, when assisting Member States in designing and implementing comprehensive, integrated, and balanced national drug strategies, policies, and programmes.

5. Since the adoption of the UNGASS outcome document in 2016, the UN system entities have been collaborating continuously in all areas identified. This report provides examples of inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem, delivered in 2024, as reported by UN entities, presented according to the UNGASS 2016 thematic chapters. The document does not provide information on awareness-raising events and side events taking place at margins of intergovernmental processes, but focuses on specific activities delivered at global, regional and country levels. While this document focuses on collaborations between UN entities, other partners working on drug-related matters include international organizations, regional organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and other stakeholders.

II. United Nations system coherence

6. During the meeting of the UN Chief Executives Board (CEB) in November 2018, the principals of UN agencies adopted the “*United Nations system common position supporting the implementation of the international drug control policy through effective inter-agency collaboration*” committing to harness synergies, strengthen inter-agency cooperation, and best use the expertise within the UN system. The position also agreed to support each other’s activities, within established mandates, and to deliver balanced, comprehensive, integrated, evidence-based, human rights-based, development-oriented, and sustainable support to Member States in implementing joint commitments.

7. With a view to ensuring coherent efforts to realize the commitments under the common position and coordinated data collection to promote scientific, evidence-based implementation of international commitments, the UN system coordination task team, led by UNODC, was created within the framework of the Secretary-General’s Executive Committee.

8. In 2024, in line with a decision of the Secretary-General’s Executive Committee, UNODC continued to actively promote the common position and its implementation through briefings to United Nations resident coordinators and United Nations country teams, which resulted in new inter-agency initiatives to support Member States in the implementation of international drug policy commitments. Throughout the year, the UNODC-led task team held several meetings to coordinate work on drug-related matters undertaken by its member entities and has started to coordinate and explore new joint data collection activities. The task team member entities have actively participated in and contributed to the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, including during its high-level segment in March 2024 and during the thematic discussions held throughout 2024. UNODC reports regularly to the Executive Committee’s secretariat on implementation of its decisions related to the task team.

III. Recent inter-agency activities

9. Detailed below are examples of collaborative activities implemented at global, regional and national levels, reported by UN entities in 2024.

Demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as other health-related issues

10. Launched in 2024 by UNODC, the Children Amplified Prevention Services (CHAMPS) is a unique initiative to amplify the resilience of children from birth to adolescence to prevent the use of drugs and other psychoactive substances. Throughout the year, UN entities, including UNODC, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, and WHO, have continued their collaboration through the CHAMPS initiative. UNODC actively engages with these agencies in CHAMPS candidate countries to support the development, implementation, and monitoring of prevention systems. CHAMPS has initiated rollouts in Egypt and Brazil, with UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, and WHO serving as the primary UN agencies contributing to the initiative's progress and effectiveness in these countries.

11. The WHO, jointly with the UNODC, published a Global Status Report on Alcohol and Health and Treatment of Substance Use Disorders in June 2024, providing a comprehensive overview of progress on SDG 3.5 indicators and beyond, including data on access to treatment for drug use disorders. A new round of data collection from Member States began in 2024.

12. UNODC and WHO have jointly developed an implementation toolkit for the *International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders* in 2024, with extensive contribution from a group of external experts and WHO collaborating centres. The Standards, launched in 2020 and available in five UN languages, are continuously being disseminated and used for capacity building and technical assistance activities.

13. WHO and UNODC continued to collaborate in delivering the Stop Overdose Safely (S-O-S) Initiative, launched in 2017. Results of a multisite study demonstrating the feasibility of community-based naloxone in low- and middle-income countries as well as knowledge gained during SOS implementation were published in peer-review journals and as inputs to the S-O-S training manual, which is in its last stages of finalisation before being published. In 2024, 90 professionals were trained on overdose prevention in Ukraine, reaching approximately 1,200 beneficiaries.

14. Another collaboration between WHO and UNODC involves updating the WHO guidelines on the treatment of opioid dependence and overdose management, initiated in 2024. As part of this initiative, key guidelines for treating opioid dependence and preventing overdose are being developed. The ultimate goal is to improve access to treatment for opioid dependence and reduce opioid overdose deaths by providing evidence-based recommendations on psychosocially assisted pharmacological treatment and interventions for overdose prevention and management.

15. The WHO enhanced collaboration with UNESCO, UNICEF, UNODC and other UN entities in a flagship initiative "Accelerating Public Health Actions on Substance Use", to strengthen public health responses to substance use in the Eastern Mediterranean region, reducing morbidity and mortality linked to substance use disorders.

16. In 2024, the WHO, UNODC, and UNHCR continued to address substance use and related disorders in humanitarian settings within the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Reference Group. The group developed facilitator guides and training materials, which were field-tested in six humanitarian contexts. The finalized materials will be made publicly available in the upcoming period.

17. At the country level in Afghanistan, multiple UN entities are implementing projects focused on drug prevention, treatment, reintegration, and capacity building, increasing access to comprehensive drug use disorder services for vulnerable populations, including women, adolescents and children as well as on expansion of low-threshold services for people with drug use disorders. Under the Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan (STFA), through the Delivering as One (DAO) Initiative, UNODC, WHO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNHCR and other UN entities focused on drug use prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, benefiting over 87,000 people, including over 31,000 women. To outline some activities, UNODC and UN Women have been providing protection, psychosocial support, and reintegration services to vulnerable women. UNDP and UNODC conducted the National Survey on Drug Use, a comprehensive household survey examining drug use across the country. Using a probability sample of individuals aged 15 to 64, the survey covered all 34 provinces. Over 26,000 households participated in the study. UNAIDS has engaged in advocacy, sensitization and capacity building of service providers. In collaboration with UNOPS and IOM, UNODC has been working on reintegrating people who use drugs into their families and society through vocational skills training services in the Southern region. UNFPA, IOM, UNHCR and UNODC conducted further capacity building of service providers on drug treatment referrals and prevention interventions. Additionally, in collaboration with IOM, UNODC disseminated information among migrants to prevent the use of drugs.

18. Furthermore, to improve access to evidence-based HIV prevention, treatment and care, UNODC partnered with UN-Women to establish Drop-In Centres (DICs) in female prisons in Afghanistan. These centres provided a range of services, including HIV prevention, reproductive health, support for individuals at risk/survivors of violence, and, benefiting over 1,300 women in prisons and their children.

19. UNODC, in partnership with WHO, strengthened Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT) services as part of its commitment to a comprehensive, health-centred approach to drug use and HIV. Technical assistance and capacity building efforts supported the scale-up of OAT in Algeria, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Egypt, Malawi, South Africa and Vietnam, reaching healthcare professionals, policymakers, and civil society representatives, through review of national guidelines, strategies, conducting situation assessments and facilitating national-level discussions. In Vietnam, UNODC, UNAIDS and WHO assistance led to revised national guidelines and a major step forward in expanding access to treatment for people who use drugs.

20. In partnership with WHO and UNAIDS, UNODC supported seven countries; Bangladesh, Belarus, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Thailand, and Vietnam, in expanding HIV services for people who use stimulant drugs. More than 8,000 professionals were reached, including service providers, policymakers, and community-based organizations. These efforts strengthened national and regional HIV prevention, treatment, and care responses, enhancing access to tailored services for people who use stimulant drugs. Additional assistance was provided to Kyrgyzstan on challenges related to new psychoactive substances, in cooperation with UNDP.

21. UNODC also strengthened its collaboration with UNAIDS across multiple countries to enhance HIV prevention, treatment, and care services, especially for people in prisons and people who use drugs in Egypt, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Malaysia, Morocco, Myanmar, the Philippines, Togo and Uzbekistan. These collaborative efforts reinforced evidence-based, multi-sectoral approaches to addressing HIV among people who use drugs and people in prisons, strengthening national capacities, and ensuring improved access to HIV prevention, treatment and care services. Initiatives included national roundtables, high-level consultations, online courses and peer educator trainings.

22. UNODC expanded its collaboration with UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, FAO, and UNDP in 2024 to enhance health surveillance, evidence-based policymaking, and capacity building for people in prison and communities affected by drug use, in Angola, Equatorial Guinea and Togo. UNODC partnered with UNAIDS, UN Women,

WHO and UNFPA launching an initiative to support multisectoral collaboration focused on women who face intersecting risks of drug use, violence and HIV with pilot trainings conducted in Brazil and South Africa.

23. UNODC, together with WHO, UNAIDS, and the World Bank, took significant steps in 2024 to unify global data collection and analysis on people who inject drugs and individuals with HIV, hepatitis C virus and hepatitis B virus. The results, which included data on HIV prevalence, access to needle and syringe programs, OAT, and reports of stigma and discrimination, were made public in January 2024. In addition, through the Global AIDS Monitoring process, UNAIDS and WHO released comprehensive reports in 2024 detailing progress on Global AIDS Strategy targets.

24. The WHO, in collaboration with UNITAID, is supporting an international study on the long-acting injectable formulation of buprenorphine for opioid dependence, involving seven countries across different regions. WHO plays an advisory role in the UNITAID-led study, focusing on feasibility, acceptability, and effectiveness in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

Ensuring the availability of and access to controlled substances exclusively for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion

25. UN entities, including UNODC, WHO, UNICEF, UNIDO, and UNFPA, have continued their collaboration through the Interagency Working Group on Access to Controlled Medicines. This UNODC-led initiative launched in 2024 focuses on engaging various UN agencies to support improved access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, ensuring their availability while maintaining proper regulatory controls.

26. Additionally, in cooperation with WHO and regional and national partners, UNODC delivered assistance in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Fiji and Timor-Leste, focusing on the management of palliative care, and the prescription and use of controlled medicines for cancer related pain, while highlighting the importance of preventing misuse and diversion into illicit channels.

27. UNIATF, the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) continued to hold its biannual meetings to increase awareness on NCDs advocating for greater attention and the mobilization of resources to combat NCDs. UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs is planned for 2025.

28. UPU and the INCB published the Illicit Pharmaceutical Toolkit, aimed at assisting Designated Postal Operators (DPOs) in identifying and mitigating illicit pharmaceuticals and medical devices in the supply chain. The toolkit is available exclusively on a member-only webpage.

Supply reduction and related measures; effective law enforcement; responses to drug-related crime, and countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation

29. UNODC remains steadfast in its commitment to the implementation of its Synthetic Drug Strategy, serving as a strategic framework to guide comprehensive and effective responses at the international, regional, and national levels to the evolving synthetic drug crisis. The strategy presents a framework to guide comprehensive and effective action at the international, regional, and national level to address the growing synthetic drugs problem. In 2024, the number of implementing partner programmes increased to 23 across UNODC and the wider UN system, reinforcing a coordinated and integrated approach. These partnerships have facilitated the delivery of capacity-building initiatives and technical assistance to over 130 countries, thereby strengthening global efforts to anticipate, prevent, and mitigate the threats posed by synthetic drugs.

30. Within the framework of its Synthetic Drugs Strategy, UNODC furthered its inter-agency collaboration with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

to counter the trafficking of synthetic drugs by air. ICAO and UNODC co-hosted a side event at the 67th Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) to enhance the capacity of aviation personnel in detecting dual-use chemicals repurposed by traffickers for illicit drug production and explosives manufacturing. In 2024, UNODC also presented at ICAO's Security Week and the High-Level Ministerial Meeting, emphasizing the critical role of international and inter-agency cooperation in securing air transport from drug and precursor trafficking.

31. Furthermore, UNODC expanded its engagement with UN agencies to provide the latest tools and resources to the global community through the UN Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs. The launch of a new module on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), featuring resources to support the establishment and operation of PPPs addressing synthetic drugs, increased the number of UN agencies contributing to the Toolkit, with new resources from the World Bank Group. To date, this inter-agency collaboration has built a global community of over 300,000 professionals from 204 countries and territories who actively use the Toolkit. Additionally, UNODC has conducted to date 26 expert consultations, engaging 1,423 participants worldwide to promote UN system-wide resources for addressing synthetic drugs.

32. UNODC established a new partnership programme and signed an agreement with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) to act as an implementing partner on capacity development assistance for the UNODC LEADERS Fellowship. The Fellowship brings together women forensic scientists from around the world to the UN Narcotics Laboratory in Vienna (Austria) for a unique and immersive curriculum to gain firsthand insights into the three international drug conventions, learn about cutting-edge laboratory techniques, and engage directly with experts from across the UN system on international drug control.

33. Over 90 per cent of the global trade is containerized, with more than 860 million container movements annually, and approximately 2 per cent of the containers being screened. Airfreight, which makes up around 35 per cent of the global trade by value continues to rapidly grow, especially express packages. As a response in 2024, the UNODC Airport Communication Programme (AIRCOP) and the Container Control Programme (CCP) were merged into one programme – the PCCP. Building on 14 years of AIRCOP and 20 years of CCP, and leveraging existing partnerships with WCO, INTERPOL, ICAO, the private sector, member states and academia, the new Programme offers a global and holistic border approach to passenger and cargo security and facilitation. The PCCP operates in 86 countries and works with over 190 national frontline law enforcement cargo and passenger control units at airports, dry ports, land borders, railway terminals and seaports across 10 regions. In 2024, 11 new national units were established to undertake crucial work to profile, select, inspect, interdict, and seize high-risk cargo and passengers, while facilitating licit flows. They are located along important trade and passenger corridors and often operate in challenging security environments, including includes e.g. Haiti, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Ukraine and Yemen. The UNODC PCCP activities in support of the national units in 2024 included 335 training courses, 43 study visits, involving over 4,900 participants, 27% of whom were women. In addition, PCCP conducted 26 assessments, 35 steering committee meetings and 19 private sector meetings. The national units also made over 2,400 seizures in a wide array of areas, contributing to an overall increase by 12 per cent compared to 2023. Importantly, they seized 27 per cent more cocaine, 20 per cent more amphetamine, 125 per cent more synthetic drugs and 685 per cent more cannabis that will not reach consumer markets; 117 per cent more currency, which will not destabilize our economy; 144 per cent more fraudulent or stolen identification documentation that will not facilitate a variety of crimes; and 4457 per cent more hazardous waste, which will not pollute the environment. These results have a higher goal – to contribute to the 2024 'Pact for the Future' by safeguarding global security, health, environment, and economy through the protection and facilitation of the international trade and passenger supply chain.

34. UNODC continued collaboration with INCB through training delivery in Southeast Asia focusing on tools to improve monitoring of chemicals used in illicit drug manufacture, covering both controlled substances under the 1988 Convention and non-controlled chemicals on the International Special Surveillance List.

35. The UPU in collaboration with INTERPOL continued to provide training on IP crime and illicit goods migration, through the International Crime Investigators College. Together with the INCB, and WCO, UPU launched the Synthetic Drugs Detection Project (SDDP) in 2024 to train postal security focal points and customs counterparts in detecting and deterring synthetic drugs in mail channels. Additionally, the Illicit Goods Mitigation Portal was launched in December 2024, serving as a centralized hub for streamlining access to a diverse range of existing campaigns focused on the prevention and mitigation of illicit goods. The Whole of Governments Steering Group was formed by UPU, INCB, WCO, WHO, INTERPOL, OECD, and national counterparts to promote cross-sector collaboration in addressing threats, gaps, and best practices in regulating dangerous products.

Cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, children, women, and communities

36. Implementation efforts have continued in 2024 in the inter-agency initiative INSPIRE, a set of seven evidence-based strategies for countries and communities working to eliminate violence against children, which include family and life skills as implemented by UNODC globally. Led by WHO, UNODC cooperated in the field of prevention along with PAHO, UNICEF and other international and civil society organizations including the World Bank, the United States Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, the President's Emergency Program for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), Together for Girls, and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

37. In collaboration with the African Union Commission, UNODC published a draft summary report on "*Alternatives to Conviction or Punishment available for People who Use Drugs and with Drug Use Disorders in Contact with the Criminal Justice System*" and launched a self-paced eLearning course on the topic with WHO. The joint work on alternative measures strengthens Member States' understanding of options to divert individuals in appropriate cases from the criminal justice system to evidence-based treatment. It promotes health centered approaches, ensuring dignified care, reducing drug use and crime, and improving overall community health. In 2024, nearly 400 professionals were trained, benefiting around 6,000 patients worldwide.

38. UNODC, in collaboration with UNICEF and WHO, is actively engaged in the Helping Adolescents Thrive Toolkit initiative, participating in the H6+ Adolescent Health & Well-being interagency working group to promote and protect adolescent mental health. As part of this effort, UNODC contributes its family skills program, particularly the Strong Families programme, aiming to reduce self-harm and other risk behaviours among adolescents and enhance their overall mental well-being.

39. In Afghanistan, UNODC and UN Women focused on monitoring services provided to women and girls in psychosocial service centres in the country. Following the "do no harm" principle, UNODC collected data in 2024, covering over fifty centres in eight provinces, reaching over 600 beneficiaries. Additionally, employees such as counsellors, physicians, nurses, administrators, social workers, outreach workers, and trainers were interviewed at all service points in the process.

40. In Ecuador, UNODC, in collaboration with UNDP and UN Women, has continued implementing an initiative that aims to strengthen the capacities of institutions and civil society at national and local levels for the prevention and management of social conflict, peacebuilding, and the eradication of violence stemming from various dynamics, including drug trafficking, with a focus on gender and human rights.

41. Under the UN Joint Programme on Technical Cooperation and Capacity-building for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Philippines developed by OHCHR, the Government of the Philippines held a Drug Policy Summit, which presented a series of commitments and expressions of support for future work on national drug policy. The Joint programme expired on 31 July 2024.

Cross-cutting issues in addressing and countering the world drug problem: evolving reality, trends and existing circumstances, emerging and persistent challenges and threats, including new psychoactive substances, in conformity with the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments

42. In pursuance of its mandate to provide scientific support to the three treaty bodies under the international drug conventions, namely the CND, the INCB and WHO, UNODC continued in 2024 to provide scientific support to the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD) including on prioritizing the most persistent, prevalent, and harmful substances for (re)scheduling under the international drug conventions. UNODC and INCB continued to maintain observer status at the WHO ECDD meetings to consider potential candidate substances, including new psychoactive substances, for scheduling.

43. UNODC continues to maintain representation on expert scientific committees and advisory groups of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

44. In the framework of the SMART Forensics programme, UNODC, WHO and partners including EUDA and TIAFT (the International Association of Forensic Toxicologists) collaborated on the analysis and reporting of trends on new psychoactive substances (NPS) as part of the UNODC early warning advisory on NPS. Between January and December 2024, there was an average of 16,852 sessions per month from 211 countries and territories in the portal. UNODC and OAS/CICAD jointly strengthened national early warning systems in Latin America and the Caribbean which resulted in an increased number of early warning mechanisms being operational in the region.

45. UNODC also provided expertise on synthetic drugs to several regional meetings organized by Interpol and participated in the CEPOL/EUROPOL course on illicit drug laboratory dismantling. With regional forensic associations including the Asian Forensic Sciences Network and the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes, UNODC organized the fourth Forensic Science Symposium (online) which brought together close to 1,300 experts from 100 countries.

46. UNODC, WHO, and the European Union Drug Agency (EUDA) launched the #ScaleUp initiative in March 2024 to address the global treatment gap for stimulant use disorders. The initiative has been focusing on both psychosocial and pharmacological treatments, evaluating their feasibility, safety, and effectiveness in diverse contexts. In 2024, over 600 professionals were trained on the quality assurance of drug use disorder treatment systems, reaching approximately 11,000 beneficiaries worldwide.

Strengthening international cooperation based on the principle of common and shared responsibility

47. The Informal Scientific Network (ISN), organized by UNODC and WHO, continued to provide a forum between academia and policy makers on topical issues relating to drug use, prevention, treatment and care of drug use disorders and comorbid health conditions. In 2024, the UNODC-WHO ISN continued its annual meetings, presenting deliberations to the CND and publishing findings in a peer-reviewed journal. The 2024 topic focused on Prevention, Treatment, and Care of Substance Use Disorders Among Adolescents. The 2025 ISN meeting will address improving evidence and data for substance use prevention and treatment.

48. Interagency efforts continued with the launch of the Group of Friends of Food Security (GoFFS) in Vienna to tackle global food insecurity and related challenges such as climate change, conflict, migration, and economic instability. Throughout 2024, preparatory meetings and awareness-raising events were held, culminating in a formal launch in October 2024. The group provides a platform for Member States and international organizations in Vienna to exchange experiences, coordinate actions, and support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger. Vienna-based organizations contribute technical expertise, research, and policy guidance to strengthen the group's initiatives.

49. UNODC and UNIDO renewed their Memorandum of Understanding in November 2024, strengthening coordination and cooperation initially established in March 2012. The updated agreement reflects new priority areas to enhance joint programming in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Key focus areas include addressing hunger through food security and agribusiness initiatives; protecting the environment, combating environmental crime, and mitigating climate change; preventing corruption and promoting business integrity; and aiding in the recovery of children and youth with drug use disorders, while expanding the production capacity for controlled medicines in low- and middle-income countries.

Alternative development; regional, interregional, and international cooperation on development-oriented balanced drug control policy; addressing socioeconomic issues

50. Alternative development assistance continued to be implemented in Afghanistan by UNODC in close partnership with UN Women, UNOPS, ILO, and UNHCR. With UN Women, UNODC supported the reintegration of women detainees and drug users in Herat and Kabul by offering vocational training and establishing greenhouses for income generation. With UNOPS, UNODC conducted surveys for the Water Emergency Relief Project (WERP), identifying sites for future livelihood activities. In partnership with the ILO, UNODC aided 16,423 vulnerable farmers in Nangarhar and Laghman, promoting alternative livelihoods and food security. Joint efforts with UNHCR facilitated business development for 60 women SMEs in Kabul, creating secure economic opportunities for women entrepreneurs. UNDP Community-Based Agriculture and Rural Development (CBARD) program has been focusing on monitoring, verification, evaluation, and impact assessment, across six provinces.

51. UNODC provided assistance in Thailand through collaborations with the Royal Project Foundation (RPF) and the Highland Research Development Institute (HRDI). From 2016 to 2020, UNODC supported RPF in product substitution, offering technical assistance for the development of the coffee value chain. In 2023, UNODC reactivated this partnership, facilitating international events and training sessions in Chiang Mai, including the first all-women mission in 2024. Additionally, UNODC organized technical exchanges with Lao PDR and participated in the Royal Project International Conference, highlighting alternative development aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

52. UNODC, in partnership with UNDP, implemented the Inclusive Business Programme with a gender focus in Colombia in 2024. This initiative targeted women coffee harvesters involved in the Illicit Crop Substitution Programme, aiming to implement alternative productive projects that generate sustainable income and support the transition of women to licit economies. In addition, UNODC provided technical support to families and facilitated projects across various municipalities, which led to improved competitiveness of producers' association, increased sales and agricultural productivity, especially in coca farming. UNODC also strengthened local organizations, trained vulnerable populations in business and marketing, and supported commercial agreements in sectors like coffee, honey and cheese.

53. In Brazil a partnership between UNODC, UNDP, and the National Secretariat on Drugs Policies and Asset Management established the Centre for Studies on Drugs and Social Community Development (CDESC). The centre has been developing

evidence and human rights-based studies and analyses on drug policy guided by principles of alternative development, as well as various studies related to supply reduction. In 2024, CDESC conducted an in-depth assessment of drug trafficking dynamics in the Brazilian Amazon and their effects on Indigenous communities. This research informs the identification of priority areas for government action and supports alternative development initiatives aimed at mitigating the impacts of drug trafficking. The centre's broader mission is to promote prevention, uphold human rights in drug policy, and foster sustainable, income-generating opportunities through products derived from socio-biodiversity.
