THEMATIC PROGRAMME ON RESEARCH, TREND ANALYSIS AND FORENSICS
2015 – 2016
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The aim of the thematic programme is to present the work to be undertaken in research, trend analysis and forensics at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in 2015-2016. This work forms part of UNODC’s strategic mandate to assist Member States in their efforts to achieve global security, justice and health through the provision of knowledge which can support the formulation of policy and programmes.

The thematic programme is based on the Strategic Framework and the Consolidated Programme Budget for the Period 2014-2015 (in particular sub-programme 6), which defines the strategic mission of UNODC research: to help Member States and the international community access an enhanced evidence and knowledge base for developing responses to drug and crime problems at the international, regional and national level.

At the core of UNODC research is the development of knowledge products, the support of capacity development and the development of standards to support programmes and policies in the following areas:

- Transnational organized crime, including trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, trafficking in firearms, and trafficking in wild fauna and flora;
- Corruption;
- Crime prevention and criminal justice;
- Drugs, including drug trafficking, drug use, prevention, treatment and reintegration, and alternative development;
- Scientific and forensics.

UNODC research outputs include:

- Analytical reports describing crime and drug-related threats or situations of concern to Member States, which are of a national or transnational nature, at the national, regional and global level;
- Comparable drug and crime data and information at the national, regional and global level;
- International standards that guide quality forensic analysis of national laboratories and the collection, dissemination and analysis of comparable data;
- Technical assistance to support Member States in strengthening their data collection, research, trend analysis and forensic capacity.

UNODC research capacity supports the production of evidence that informs international debate on drugs and crime issues and underpins the programme development of UNODC national, regional and international interventions. All activities carried out under this thematic programme are implemented in synergy with other UNODC thematic, regional and country programmes.

The thematic programme defines the key challenges and work priorities involved in that process, as well as the tools and services to support policy and programme development in the framework of UNODC mandates. The priorities for 2015-2016 are the following:

- review the information system on drugs and crime with a view to rationalizing reporting by Member States, improve analysis and scale up dissemination;
- broaden research focus to wildlife and forest crime (i.e. not only illicit trafficking in protected wild species of fauna and flora) in response to growing international attention to this pressing issue;
• increase the use of scientific information in international drug policy decisions, including providing through the Early Warning Advisory, the evidence base for control decisions under the international drug conventions;

• continue promotion of forensic best practices and standards in drug control; for example, through the international quality assurance programme, and by extending the normative work in forensic sciences to the prevention of identity related crimes; and

• expand the content base for the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons (GLOTIP) by including more qualitative information gleaned from field work and case files, continue to implement the recommendations of the GLOTIP Expert Group meeting in December 2013, and initiate global research activities on Smuggling on Migrants.

• Make the UNODC system for data collection and analysis fit to the needs of monitoring the post-2015 development agenda.

1. INTRODUCTION: THE ROLE OF RESEARCH, TREND ANALYSIS AND FORENSICS AT UNODC

The strategic context

By combatting the often intertwined problems of drug use, trafficking, transnational organized crime, conventional crime, corruption and terrorism, UNODC helps Member States to solve drugs and crime problems, to create and strengthen legislative, judicial and health systems for safeguarding some of the most vulnerable people in society, and to implement international conventions, protocols and universal legal frameworks against illicit drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism. This work is undertaken at the national, regional and international levels.

Within this overarching global mission, the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs (DPA) is responsible for building knowledge and awareness about the world drug and crime problem, and for suggesting strategic directions while mobilizing resources to address these issues. According to the UNODC Strategic Framework 2014-2015,\(^1\) DPA has direct responsibility for two cross-functional sub-programmes in the UNODC budget: i) Sub-programme 6. Research and Trend Analysis (including UNODC’s work in forensics), which seeks to ensure effective international community response to drugs, crime and terrorism based on a sound understanding and knowledge of thematic and cross-thematic trends; and ii) Sub-programme 7. Policy Support, which seeks to direct and coordinate the policy support and public affairs functions of UNODC. The thematic programme contained in this document is based on the biennial Strategic Framework for 2014-2015 and provides the overall framework for research and trend analysis at UNODC. This thematic programme covers UNODC outputs which are produced for research purposes. Other thematic programmes cover analytical or descriptive outputs which are produced by UNODC for advocacy purposes (which include for example public campaigns described in the UNODC PAB thematic programme) or for operational and intelligence support (which includes for example technical assistance to undertake Serious Organized Crime Threat Assessments which is covered in the thematic programme on Transnational Organized Crime).

\(^1\) The thematic programme covers the period 2014-2016 and will be updated once the strategic framework for 2016-17 will be endorsed.
UNODC Research Publications

Within the range of publications produced by UNODC every year, research publications have the distinct characteristic of adhering to basic quality standards and following a defined protocol where analyses and conclusions are based on transparent, unbiased and impartial evidence. Products are available in different formats and take due cognisance of the needs of different users.

Global and regional reports

UNODC publishes at regular intervals a number of global reports on various topics related to drugs and crime and these have evolved into the global reference their specific domains. They include the annual World Drug Report, published since 1997, the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, the Global Study on Homicide as well as the Global Report on amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) and other synthetic drugs. In addition, UNODC publishes a number of global reports on specific topics which include the Transnational Organized Crime Threat Assessment (2010) and Estimating illicit financial flows resulting from drug trafficking and other transnational organized crimes (2011) and a number of regional reports such as regional organized crime threat assessments Global Afghan Opium Trade and the Illicit Drug Trade through South-Eastern Europe (2014), and Regional Assessments on synthetic drugs.

Research briefs

The research briefs intend to introduce various themes which are related to drugs and crime issues. They can present specific topics or national experiences related to UNODC research areas. Research briefs can take the form of a summary, brief report or an update such as the Global Smart Update, and are disseminated either as electronic (online) and/or printed material.

Guidelines, Manuals and Standards

UNODC publishes guidelines on best practices in the forensic sciences including the Recommended Methods of Analysis of Substances of Abuse, and manuals and guidelines on statistical standards. The production of guidelines for laboratories are the outcome of a programme pursued by UNODC since the early 1980s, aimed at harmonization and establishment of recommended methods of analysis for national drug analysis laboratories. These publications are published in all six official languages of the United Nations (examples include: Recommended methods for the identification and analysis of cannabis and cannabis products and Guidelines for the Forensic analysis of drugs facilitating sexual assault and other criminal acts, respectively). Examples of statistical guidelines published by the Office include the Manual on Victimization Surveys.

National Reports

UNODC supports countries to produce and publish national reports/survey reports. Examples are surveys on illicit crop cultivation, drug use or corruption. National reports/survey reports are signified by a joint operation with a national entity (e.g. national statistical office, national drug control agency or similar) on data collection, analysis and dissemination. These reports are approved by both UNODC and the national partner organisation.

Research Journals

UNODC publishes two research journals: the Bulletin on Narcotics and the Forum on Crime and Society. The Bulletin has been published continuously since 1949 and contains technical and scientific articles on narcotic drugs. The Forum presents articles on crime prevention and
The organizational context

Within the DPA, the Research and Trend Analysis Branch (RAB) has one of the principal responsibilities for the thematic programme, but other UNODC offices are directly involved in the areas covered by the programme, particularly the implementation of national and regional research and forensic programmes, which are carried out by UNODC field offices. When not directly involved in undertaking research or implementing forensic capacity building initiatives, RAB has overall responsibility for defining research standards and ensuring quality and consistency across all UNODC research and forensic science products. To fulfil this responsibility, RAB engages in broad consultations with field and headquarters and it ensures that all relevant research expertise in the office is consulted.

RAB covers three functional areas: scientific and forensic services; statistics and surveys; studies and threat analysis. It is comprised of four units (three of which relate to the three functional areas; one relates to a specific thematic area): the Laboratory and Scientific Section (LSS), the Statistics and Survey Section (SASS), the Studies and Threat Analysis Section (STAS), and the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons Unit (GLOTIP). RAB works closely with other sections and offices, at headquarters and in the field, in the Divisions for Treaty Affairs, for Operations and for Management.

Post-2015 development agenda

After the landmark experience of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – the global framework for development in the 2000-2015 period – the international community is now engaged in the elaboration of the political and analytical basis for the post-2015 development agenda.

The potential inclusion of topics related to rule of law, security, public health and environmental crime into the post-2015 development framework would have a major impact on UNODC’s role by leading to increased demand for high-quality statistics and research to monitor global, international and national trends in the above topics. UNODC has developed a number of technical proposals for monitoring these topics and it is assisting intergovernmental mechanisms in their determinations about the new development framework.

The UNODC comparative advantage

Among the numerous entities undertaking research on drugs and crime globally, UNODC enjoys a number of comparative advantages, including the impartiality implicit in the role of the United Nations as a “super-parties” institution, an established technical collaboration with national counterparts, accessibility to national information systems, and an established reputation for its quality research and forensic science services.

As a UN entity, UNODC serves the international community at large and it is best placed to develop unbiased and impartial research that fulfils its UN responsibility. Within the UN system, UNODC is the focal point for statistics on drugs and crime and it has the unique mandate to collect data from Member States as well as to develop methodological standards and provide technical assistance in those fields to requesting countries. Together with its field presence, this facilitates accessibility to national data and information and ensures that research is grounded on reliable evidence.

The credibility of UNODC research is the fruit of many years of experience. Global reports such as the *World Drug Report*, the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons* and the *Global Study on Homicide* have become solid points of reference not only within the inter-governmental policymaking process, but also in academia, civil society and the entire UN system. Long-term
expertise in scientific support services also allows UNODC to be an authoritative source of technical assistance and international standards in the field of forensic science.

These and other related activities have provided UNODC with long-standing contacts and working relationships with numerous research institutes and repositories of information with expertise on drugs and crime, national laboratories and scientists, both in developed countries and in countries with limited resources. The operational nature of UNODC activities and the thematic expertise available throughout the Office also add value to its research and forensic programme by ensuring cost-effectiveness and the cross-cutting nature of its outputs.

**General principles guiding research, trends analysis and forensics**

Dating back to the establishment of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) in 1946, UNODC has considerable experience of data collection and analysis that reflects its pre-eminence in the fields of research, trend analysis and forensic science. The research conducted at UNODC is characterized both by its global reach and by its substantive universality in addressing global problems, particularly those of a transnational nature. This in turn provides the foundation for the broad comparability of collected data across different countries.

UNODC performs its research in a cooperative fashion, building and expanding upon regional and international partnerships, interactions and cooperation in the collection, analysis and dissemination of information and in the implementation of forensic services. UNODC research seeks to be factually and evidence-based, credible, trustworthy, relevant and useful. Avoiding any bias, it is conducted in a transparent manner in accordance with fundamental principles of integrity and neutrality.

UNODC is gradually introducing a system of peer review for its global reports to ensure that they meet the highest scientific standards and can benefit from best practices in the field. An Advisory Committee for example has been established for the production of the specialized chapter of the World Drug Report 2015 which will focus on alternative development. Such a Committee is composed by few field and research experts who have decades of experience in the implementation of alternative development projects and on research in the same field.

The evidence underpinning UNODC analytical research is based on: i) four regular global data collection systems, ARQ, IDS, EWA, CTS, and TiP (see box below); ii) information provided by national, regional and international authorities or institutions in the context of special programmes or data-sharing agreements; iii) reliable open-sourced information; and iv) scientific literature. The quality of UNODC data and qualitative evidence helps to ensure the relevance, accuracy, timeliness, coherence, comparability, accessibility and clarity of its research.

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2 There is also a regional data collection system on Smuggling of migrants (SoM) mandated by the “Bali process”, the s-called Voluntary Reporting System on Migrant Smuggling and Related Conduct (VRS-MSRC). The VRS-MSRC is an Internet-based, secure system to collect, share, and facilitate the analysis of data for the purpose of strengthening strategic analysis to inform policy development at inter-regional, regional, and national levels. The VRS-MSRC seeks to establish non-nominal quantitative and qualitative data on migrant smuggling and irregular migration with regard to: a) quantitative size and the geographical directions of flows; b) major routes used; c) fees paid; d) means of transportation and methods used; e) profiles of irregular migrants and smuggled migrants; and f) profiles of migrant smugglers. The current scope is on migrant smuggling and irregular migration within, though, from, and to Asia. In 2013, the system was endorsed by the 5th Bali Process Ministerial conference.
Annual Report Questionnaire (ARQ)

The ARQ is a mandated reporting tool for reviewing the implementation of the Drug Conventions (1968, 1972, 1988). It comprises four parts: part 1 looks at the legislative and institutional framework put in place by the signatory countries, while part 3 and 4 review the extent of the drug situation with regard to drug use and the extent of drug cultivation, manufacture and trafficking. Part 2 of the ARQ reviews progress in implementation and the extent of responses put in place by Member States in accordance with the Plan of Action and Political Declaration adopted by Member States in 2009.

Individual Drug Seizures (IDS)

IDS is another data reporting mechanism mandated by the Drug Conventions. The IDS comprises information on individual cases of drug seizures of over 100 grams of most substances, with the exception of opium and cannabis, which must be over 1 kilogram. Additionally, IDS includes information on methods of concealment, origin, trafficking routes and traffickers for each reported seizure. The periodicity of IDS reporting varies from quarterly to yearly submissions by Member States. IDS data is used in the analysis and reporting of trafficking trends in UNODC’s various reports and is also made available online.

Early Warning Advisory (EWA)

As requested by the CND, EWA has been recently developed by UNODC to collect and report information on new psychoactive substances (NPS) in order to assist Member States in their identification of NPS and help authorities understand which new substances are coming onto the market. Forensic information is essential and laboratories play a key role in identifying NPS, which is a challenge, and there is a need to improve information sharing on validated identification techniques (see page 34).

The United Nations Survey on Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS)

As the focal point for statistics related to crime and criminal justice in the UN system UNODC carries out its global data collection through the United Nations Survey on Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS). The practice started in the 1970s and is supported by a number of resolutions from ECOSOC and the General Assembly. The questionnaire, which is submitted to Member States every year, is composed of five main sections (police, prosecution, courts, prisons and victimization surveys) plus two specialized modules which change every year. Data collected by the UN-CTS are regularly disseminated for public use on the UNODC website and are used in analytical publications such as the Global Study on Homicide 2013. In recent years, concerted efforts have been made to improve the data collection mechanism and raise the response rate through building up a network of national focal points and enhance the collaboration in data collection with regional organizations such as Eurostat and the Organization of American States.

Questionnaires for the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons (TIP)

In the framework of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons adopted in July 2010, the UN General Assembly mandated UNODC to produce a Global Report on Trafficking in Persons every two years. On the basis of this mandate, UNODC regularly collects information on trafficking patterns and flows using detected cases of trafficking in persons as the unit of analysis.

The data collection makes use of questionnaires distributed to the national institutions that detect trafficking cases around the world. Streamlined to facilitate data collection and improve geographical coverage, the current questionnaire, comprises a limited set of questions covering the following indicators; gender of traffickers (persons suspected/prosecuted/convicted), gender and age of victims, forms of exploitation, citizenship of victims, countries from where victims were repatriated. The questionnaires used to collect data for GLOTIP 2014 invited national authorities to include a narrative describing five cases of trafficking that concluded with a conviction, which provided solid qualitative information.

In order to guarantee transparency and facilitate follow up, the GLOTIP questionnaire always inquires about the source of information in each question. In addition, further explanatory details are required for each indicator (i.e. the precise article of the criminal code used, what stage of the criminal proceeding the numbers refer to, etc).
In the delivery of technical and scientific support, all requests are contextualized so that they take into account specific geographic or substantive needs, the research and laboratory situation, and the staff skills in the respective country or region. All of this is done in order to provide the best possible assistance in a given situation – a concept that can be referred to in terms of fit-for-purpose scientific support, made-to-measure assistance, bespoke or custom-made research and analysis – so that outputs can be maximized despite resources that tend to be limited.

Concrete procedures, such as open consultation with countries to ensure that the most accurate and up-to-date information is used in analytical reports, are in place to ensure the quality of data collected by UNODC. Furthermore, UNODC strives to be fully transparent in its analyses by providing comprehensive documentation on sources of information and estimation methods.

UNODC fully adheres to the Principles Governing International Statistics Activities approved by the Committee on Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) and the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics approved by the UN General Assembly in January 2015. As stated in both sets of principles (included in Annex E), UNODC strives to follow only professional considerations, including scientific principles and professional ethics, on the methods and procedures for the collection, processing, storage and presentation of statistical data; it chooses data sources with regard to quality, timeliness, costs and the burden on respondents; it ensures that individual data are kept confidential and are used only for statistical purposes.

UNODC is also mandated to develop methodological standards in the field of statistics on drugs and crime, which provides the framework for the research and analysis conducted by UNODC. When developing methodological or scientific standards, UNODC involves a wide range of experts capable of contributing authoritative knowledge and different perspectives from different regions of the world.

**UNODC and evidence-based policy**

The continued relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of policy development and operational implementation depends on the use of timely, quality research and analysis. Taking an evidence-based approach to decision-making ensures planners are better informed by putting the best available evidence at the centre of the process. Evidence-based decision-making is a cycle that gauges the effects of policy and operational decisions, and allows organizations to evaluate and re-evaluate priorities, as well as analyse changes and trends.

Research provides the evidence to identify trends and threats to be tackled at the national, regional and international levels, so that programmes can be better targeted towards the drug and crime problems that require most attention. This also ensures that UNODC and regional and international communities properly target their actions and have the instruments to monitor and evaluate them.

As an organization with specialized areas of technical expertise, UNODC has committed itself to evidence-based operational and policy responses, and research has a key role in this approach. In fact, in designing and implementing its main planning and operational vehicles, the Country, Regional and Global Programmes, UNODC places emphasis on obtaining and using quality data and analysis and uses its research findings as elements in priority setting (other organizational and political factors, and the views of Member States in particular, are also taken into account). These priorities are reflected in country, regional and global programmes; and monitoring, reporting and evaluation of those programmes provides a further input into data collection, and can themselves be significant data-gathering activities. Research findings are also critical in directing the integrated and connective approach to confronting drugs and crime, which UNODC has recently adopted. The collection, analysis and dissemination of statistics undertaken or supported by UNODC feed also into the monitoring and evaluation function of the Office by
providing the baseline data necessary to measure indicators against which the impact and implementation of programmes and projects are assessed.

UNODC interventions serve to inform and promote evidence-based responses, by Member States, through three different channels:

- i) UNODC produces research and analysis for use by national authorities and the international community in their own identification of relevant trends which are the basis for prioritization by policy-makers and operational units. This UNODC research and analysis is most often undertaken with data contributions from the various relevant national data generation organizations.

- ii) UNODC engages in technical cooperation activities with Member States, in the area of data collection related to drugs and crime, for example in the form of targeted training.

- iii) UNODC assists countries with developing improved scientific and forensic capacity. This enables the relevant agencies to meet the appropriate professional standards, including for the use of scientific information and laboratory data for inter-agency cooperation activities and in strategic operations, policy and decision-making.

The development of national data generation capacities furthers the sustainability of the national evidence-based policy response, but also serves for improved data reporting back to UNODC for the generation of analyses and reports.

2. SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS: SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

2.1. Transnational organized crime

Organized crime has diversified and become not only transnational, but global. Its impact has reached macro-economic proportions. Illicit goods are sourced from one continent, trafficked across another, marketed in a third, and the proceeds may be transmitted to a fourth. Organized criminal groups today are similarly transnational in nature, with an increased ability to remain beyond the reach of national law enforcement and criminal justice institutions. The transnational criminal markets convey a large variety of illicit products or services, such as drugs, arms, trafficked persons, smuggled migrants, toxic waste, falsified medicines, counterfeit products, stolen mineral resources or protected species of flora and fauna. The significant monetary flows behind these illicit trades and the violence they may generate can cause violations of human rights, distort local economies, corrupt institutions and even undermine peace and security. As a result, transnational organized crime has become an important issue in international affairs, a significant factor in the global economy, and an immediate reality for people around the world, with the capacity to undermine the rule of law and good governance, without which there can be no sustainable development.

Some of these issues are not new, but there is a general perception among decision makers and experts that transnational organized crime threats have been growing and that the international community’s response is struggling to keep up with them.

In February 2010, the UN Security Council noted “with concern the serious threats posed in some cases by drug trafficking and transnational organized crime to international security in different regions of the world. These transnational threats are a source of growing concern.”

“The currents of change are ... placing the foundations of our world and our global system under unprecedented stress” declared UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon when introducing his 2012 five-year action agenda. One of the priorities identified by the Secretary General in that context

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is to address the threat of organized crime by developing new tools and comprehensive regional and global strategies.\(^4\)

While the UN has stepped up its efforts in the fight against transnational organized crime and drug trafficking, there remains a huge gap between the magnitude of the challenge and the strategies, resources and tools to address it. Also, in spite of the global and trans-regional nature of the problem, international responses are mainly framed through national-level programming while regional and global programming is not adequately supported. In its May 2013 Report, the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons recommended that Member States and the international community “stem the external stressors that lead to conflict, including those related to organised crime”.\(^5\) It called upon both to pay greater attention to reducing risks and improving outcomes by strengthening the licit sector and focusing on areas where illicit sectors pose significant risks to development and governance outcomes.\(^6\) This would simultaneously improve development outcomes in the licit sector and disincentivize the illicit sector – by increasing the cost of doing illegal business, preventing crime and offering more opportunities for vulnerable populations within the rule of law.

The High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change clearly stated the nature of the challenge: “Today’s threats recognize no national boundaries, are connected and must be addressed at the global and regional as well as national levels. No State, no matter how powerful, can by its own efforts alone make itself invulnerable to today’s threats... The primary challenge for the United Nations and its members is to ensure that ... the threats ... that are distant do not become imminent and those that are imminent do not actually become destructive.”\(^7\)

To prevent threats from emerging and to enable States to be better prepared to respond, threats need to be detected and, to the greatest possible extent, anticipated. Better understanding the dynamics and factors at play in the emergence, expansion and evolution of transnational criminal markets is essential to designing effective counter measures. Member States have thus requested UNODC to strengthen the collection, analysis and reporting of accurate, reliable and comparable data on organized crime trends and patterns\(^8\) and to “continue developing global analyses of the threats and modalities of transnational organized crime, studying new forms and dimensions of transnational organized crime and analysing new and emerging challenges, in order to support evidence-based policy guidance”.\(^9\)

2.1.1. Trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants

Trafficking in persons is a truly global phenomenon. Victims around the world are trafficked within countries and across borders for sexual exploitation, forced labour, begging, petty crimes, removal of organs and for other exploitative purposes. The smuggling of migrants has also become global, with many countries throughout the world affected by it, whether as origin, transit or destination points. More and more people are seeking to migrate in search of a better life for themselves and their families. Some flee lack of employment opportunities; others flee extreme poverty, natural disaster, conflict or persecution. When they do not have the legal


\(^6\) See also Tim Midgley, Larry Attree, Thomas Wheeler, Hannah Vaughan-Lee, ‘Defining and Measuring the External Stress factors that Lead to Conflict in the Context of the Post-2015 Agenda’, DFID, Practice Products for the CCVRi, 2014, April 23. Among the most important external stress factors are noted illicit financial flows, the trade in conflict resources, illicit drugs trade and the international arms flows.


\(^8\) Resolution 6/1, CTOD/COP/2015/15, OP 2 and 4.

\(^9\) ECOSOC Resolution 2012/19.
opportunity to migrate, they may seek the services of smugglers, and may be diverted into the hands of traffickers.

The challenge for all countries, developed and developing, is to target the offenders, who exploit desperate people, and to assist and protect the rights of victims of trafficking and smuggled migrants, many of whom endure unimaginable hardships and even death in their bid for a better life. The offenders include organized criminal groups that have found trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants to be a highly profitable business with a relatively low risk of detection. For some such groups, persons trafficked and migrants smuggled are viewed simply as just another commodity.

The strain that trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants places on countries of origin, transit and destination is extensive and many are too under-resourced to provide an effective response. Evidence-based knowledge about human trafficking and migrant smuggling is weak, scattered and difficult to access, hampering the formulation of evidence-based policies. The 2012 *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons* found that 134 countries have criminalized trafficking by establishing a specific offence. While this is significant progress, the application of these laws remains limited, and some countries have yet to pass legislation. For smuggling of migrants, a comprehensive data collection mechanism is lacking, but available information suggests that only a minority of countries have established as criminal offences the acts covered by the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol. The capacity to detect victims and offenders varies and data remain patchy.

 Trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants are dealt with in two of the protocols supplementing the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime. As custodian of the Convention and its protocols, UNODC is mandated to promote global adherence to the protocols and assist States in implementing them.

### 2.2 Drugs

As the production, trafficking and use of psychoactive substances continue to evolve, continued monitoring of the various aspects of the drug situation is required. In addition to conventional illicit psychoactive substances, which remain in the markets, the misuse of prescription drugs and the emergence of new psychoactive substances (NPS) pose further challenges. The manufacture of NPS can be very harmful as they may be prepared with substances, or a combination of substances, whose effects have not been adequately studied. They may also be modified with new formulae in order to avoid targeted national or international controls, leaving research with the challenging task of monitoring a “moving target”.

In the field of forensic services, the UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Section, in the form of the United Nations Narcotics Laboratory, was established by United Nations General Assembly resolution 834 (IX) in 1954. In 1959, General Assembly resolution 1395 (XIV) established a continuing programme of technical assistance in narcotics control within the regular budget of the United Nations. Since then, various resolutions from the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs have shaped UNODC forensic activities in relation to research, standard setting and institutional strengthening.

#### 2.2.1 Drug supply

Not only one of the greatest threats to individuals, communities and States themselves, drug trafficking effectively threatens the stability and security of entire regions. To enable drugs to reach lucrative consumer markets, trafficking routes and methods continue to evolve rapidly. This may include shifts in source countries as well as both trafficking routes and methods, such as the substitution of land routes with maritime routes.
Typically a very profitable activity, drug trafficking is tightly controlled by organized criminal groups, which do not hesitate to make use of illicit methods (corruption, threats, extortion, homicide) to protect their trafficking activities. The international community therefore requires constant monitoring of new developments, mechanisms, routes and trends adopted by drug traffickers in order to design effective responses and curb drug trafficking.

Although seizures of drugs are dependent on the efficiency and effectiveness of law enforcement, they may be used as an indirect indicator of the flows and quantities of illicit substances trafficked in a particular country or a region. Similarly, analysis of drug purity and information on drug prices are important indicators which, when put together with other data, may provide insights into the dynamics of different drug markets.

Illicit crop cultivation and drug production remain central in the drug supply chain and the extent of cultivation, yield estimates and potential drug production require regular monitoring with a view to informing law enforcement and policy-makers about potential volumes of illicit drugs to be trafficked and made available for consumption in drug markets.

In recent years, new psychoactive substances, which have similar effects to drugs under international control as well as the potential to pose serious risks to public health and safety, have rapidly emerged on drug markets. Their identification and control poses a serious challenge to effective health and law enforcement regulation at the national and international level. Developing tools to monitor and analyse trends in new psychoactive substances, as well as increase the capacity of Member States to identify them, has become an important element of UNODC research, analysis and forensic services.

2.2.3 Drug use patterns and trends

Data on patterns and levels of drug use, emerging patterns and trends in use, and the harm it causes, especially the extent of injecting, drug-related morbidity (HIV and HCV) and fatal and non-fatal overdose, provide information essential to the design of effective, evidence-based drug prevention, treatment and harm reduction programmes. Traditionally, drug use has been studied in relation to single drug use, but over the past few decades the misuse of prescription drugs, the adaptation of regular drug users to market dynamics in terms of the availability and/or purity of available substances has resulted in drug use being a largely poly-drug use phenomenon, with different combinations or substances being used concurrently or sequentially. New psychoactive substances, which are not yet under international or national drug control and have serious health consequences, have become available to users in unprecedented volumes and at an alarming pace, making the prevention and treatment of drug use more challenging. The monitoring of trends in drug use with the aim of developing policies and responses for prevention and treatment of drug use disorders and dependence, as well as for harm reduction, therefore needs to look at the entire spectrum of the drug use phenomenon and its health consequences.

2.2.4 Drug Production and Alternative Development

Monitoring the extent of, and understanding the driving factors behind, illicit crop cultivation and drug production are essential for designing effective programmes to counter them. Alternative development means giving farmers of illicit crops in source countries an economically viable, legal alternative to growing the coca bush, opium poppy or cannabis plant. The definition of the term in 1998, and the more recent discussions surrounding the adoption of the 2014 General Assembly resolution (A/RES/68/196) “United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development,” stress that the objectives and intended potential outcomes of alternative development policies are those of national development: growth, job creation, formalization, implementation of the rule of law, improvements in governance, and financial inclusion are but a few of these.
Alternative development is more than crop substitution only and has its roots in the overall approach of rural development. The 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action addresses key elements of the alternative development approach and makes clear that it is part of a comprehensive set of multi-sectoral interventions that take into account social, cultural, economic, political, educational and environmental aspects and, where appropriate, demand reduction measures.

Recognizing the fundamental link between alternative development, policy and outcomes to offering greater economic, health and educational opportunities to drug producing communities, entails an understanding of cultivation patterns and of their link with the broader socio-economic and institutional fabric of rural communities. Planning adequate and sustainable programmes which aim at reducing the illicit cultivation of drugs requires the comprehensive knowledge of the underlining factors which define farmers’ choice to cultivate or not to cultivate drugs.

2.3. Crime prevention and criminal justice

The analysis of crime patterns and trends is instrumental in informing policymakers and the international community about threats to the safety and security of societies and their economies, at the national, regional and international levels. In connection with this, quantitative research on the functioning of criminal justice systems is required to assess the capacity of States to respond to crime and to uphold the rule of law.

The collection, analysis and dissemination of statistical information on multiple types of crime provide the international community with a powerful tool for assessing threats to citizen security and developing relevant policies. In this framework, the analysis of intentional homicide is of particular value since its impact goes beyond the loss of life of its victims and can create a climate of fear and uncertainty. Furthermore, the family and community of the victim can be considered secondary victims and, when justice is not served, impunity can lead to further victimization in the form of the denial of the basic human right to justice. By focusing attention on the mechanisms and enablers of homicide, as well as the social groups most vulnerable to it, data can be invaluable in assisting the development of policies specifically targeted at both hindering those enablers and protecting those groups.

Criminal justice research and analysis (such as that relating to persons brought into formal contact with the police, those detained, prosecuted and convicted) aims to monitor the response of the State to crime and its capacity to uphold the rule of law. Law enforcement and justice administration are key functions of the State and the analysis of criminal justice data provides a better understanding of its efficiency and, ultimately, of whether it contributes to the reduction of crime while adhering to rule of law principles.

From 2009 onwards, the UNODC legal framework extended the role of UNODC in forensic areas other than drugs, by incorporating scientific and forensic materials and assistance in criminal prosecution proceedings to prevent and combat economic fraud and identity-related crime.

2.4 Corruption

Corruption is a complex social, political and economic phenomenon that affects all countries, undermining democratic institutions, slowing economic development and contributing to governmental instability. Where corruption is rife, increased costs can lead companies to be reluctant to do business, and by stifling economic growth, undermining the rule of law and squandering talent and precious resources, corruption can hamper prosperity. It hinders the

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10 Data on violent and property crimes and drug-related offences are collected and analysed on a yearly basis, while other crimes are subject to study and analysis on a rotational basis (for example environmental crime or crime against cultural property).
provision of services by creating additional barriers and/or by diverting funds intended for essential services such as health care, education, sanitation, housing, and also weakens security structures such as the police. Ultimately, corruption prevents people, countries and businesses from fulfilling their potential.

There is a need to conduct research and analysis on corruption that is accepted by Member States by virtue of its scientific formulation, meaning that research should be based on real experiences rather than perceptions of corruption. By surveying different target populations (households, civil servants, business sectors) experience-based indicators can be produced so that vulnerabilities to corruption and specific risk factors can then be targeted with tailor-made anti-corruption policies.

Furthermore, a road map to improve the quality and availability of crime statistics at the national and national levels was endorsed by the UN Economic and Social Council in 2013, which tasks UNODC with developing methodologies and data collection in order to measure the experience of corruption.

In addition, UNODC is regularly requested to provide data, research and analyses on corruption by a broad range of users (Member States, NGOs, anti-corruption practitioners, the media, research community).

2.5 Forensic science in the context of drug control and criminal justice

Forensic science plays a key role in drug control and criminal justice in four different contexts: the monitoring of global drug trends; the health response; supporting the regulatory response in drug and precursor control; and in the criminal justice response.

Monitoring of global drug trends,

Strategic forensic information (“forensic intelligence”) can be derived from the comparative analysis of drug or precursor samples. This can enrich policy and trend analysis by providing objective data on how drugs are produced, on trafficking routes and flows, and on the supply of drugs, thus allowing for deeper understanding of the dynamics of illicit drug markets, and improving the accuracy of estimates of drug manufacture and production. With regard to the demand for drugs, the methodical analysis of data and information from hospital emergency room examinations serves an important epidemiological purpose, such as for monitoring drug overdose cases or drug-related deaths.

Health, treatment and rehabilitation

Toxicological analyses (i.e. analyses of drugs in body fluids or tissue) and forensic examinations play a key role in the health response to drug use and other drug-related problems. Such analyses map out the effects of drugs upon users and establish the mechanisms that lead to intoxication or death. They are also critical to monitoring compliance with drug treatment and rehabilitation programmes, and are increasingly used in routine employee drug tests and in roadside drug-driving tests. Forensic science thus offers a source of data that enables health systems to respond to emerging cases and monitor health-related issues.

Regulatory response in drug and precursor control

A range of specialized analyses can assist in the monitoring of clandestine drug manufacture, and of the chemicals used. This information may be a valuable tool for regulatory authorities at the national, regional and global levels to identify new targets for precursor monitoring programmes, or to alert about newly emerging drugs, such as new psychoactive substances, for scheduling.

See E/RES/2013/37.
Similarly, the identification of characteristic chemical features of specific precursors may also help to relate them to a clandestine (or commercial) source.

Criminal justice response

The success and fairness of criminal proceedings and trials depend to a large degree on the reliability and admissibility of physical evidence. Forensic science provides objective information in support of fair and transparent criminal justice systems enforcing the rule of law. Forensic science is used during various stages of an investigation to provide direction, contribute to operational crime analysis, or gather intelligence, from the crime scene. Systematic generation and analysis of quality forensic data also contributes to the identification of new crime trends and threats; for example, by identifying the methods being used to counterfeit or forge official documents used in trafficking in persons as well in the smuggling of migrants.

However, in spite of growing efforts, criminal justice systems worldwide are often hampered by unprepared and ill-equipped forensic institutions that provide inconsistent data. Many low and middle income countries do not yet have the requisite infrastructure, knowledge, expertise and training to properly investigate and prosecute crimes. Offenders may evade detection, prosecution and conviction as a result of limited capacity for crime scene investigation and/or inadequate application of forensic best practices. Numerous trials are based on confession or testimony rather than on physical evidence, which impinges on human rights considerations for a fair and transparent trial.

Following General Assembly resolution 61/183 (International cooperation against the world drug problem), which called on UNODC to provide assistance to Member States requesting support in establishing or strengthening scientific and forensic capabilities, and to promote the integration of scientific support to national, regional and international drug control frameworks, legislation and practices, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 2010 requested the UNODC to “continue to support international cooperation in the forensic field, promote and facilitate the establishment and/or sustainability of regional forensic science associations or networks and, to that end, further explore areas of synergy between its traditional support for the work of drug analysis laboratories and forensic science institutions more generally”.

3. SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS: FUNCTIONAL CHALLENGES

Several challenges remain in the provision of research, analysis and forensic services, which are common to all aspects of the drugs and crime domain.

3.1. Gaps in the availability and quality of information

National systems for monitoring drugs and crime are often inadequate in how they reflect the complexity and breadth of the topic. Statistics are largely based on administrative records (recorded offences, drug seizures, etc.) which reflect the State response to the problem rather than the magnitude of the problem itself. Additional sources such as surveys (for example, victimization and corruption surveys, prison surveys, or drug use surveys), price monitoring systems, records of service delivery to crime victims or drug users, structured and systematic collection of information from investigations or court cases are rarely regularly available. Even the basic administrative records of law enforcement or public health systems can be incomplete and their quality difficult to assess. Statistics based on reported crime can heavily underestimate the extent of crime, particularly when related to crimes whose victims have no interest in reporting the crime (for example, drug trafficking, money laundering or environmental crime) or when victims are afraid to report the crime (for example, victims of domestic violence or organized crime) or when mistrust of public authorities is strong.

The multi-faceted nature of the drug and crime problem requires data from a variety of domains and sources, but countries often lack coordinating mechanisms to facilitate comprehensive
national repository systems that can collate and analyse the information from different sources to be used by decision and policy-makers, as well as researchers. Offences or incidents may be reported to authorities or organizations outside the criminal justice system, such as border control, tax management, public health, labour or environmental protection, but records made by such authorities are often not integrated into official statistics on drugs and crime, and are not easily accessible.

National capacity to collect, report data on drugs and crime is generally low in developing countries and even more so in countries with ongoing, protracted conflicts, or in those recovering from the devastating effects of war. Such countries tend to have very weak civil and criminal justice systems, often lack the most rudimentary resources and have a dire need to enhance their overall capacity, not only to respond to crime and illegal drugs but also to ensure a steady flow of quality data that can be effectively used in criminal justice.

Successful investigations leading to convictions in cases of transnational organized crime are rare, with the lack of reliable forensic evidence and data being a key obstacle to operational information-based investigations. However, 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. In practical terms and in order to perform their assigned tasks, forensic science service providers and their professional staff in developing countries need long-term assistance and support with regard to equipment, best practice guidelines, scientific information, technical training and longer-term mentoring.

3.2 International information-sharing

Transnational criminal activities continue to expand and flourish, and research on drugs and crime requires extensive data and information sharing among countries to be able to describe the dynamics of illicit markets that cross countries and regions.

At the centre of the six UNODC data collection systems (ARQ, CTS, EWA, IDS, SoM and TIP) is the notion that Member States provide standardized information to allow the Office to depict global and regional patterns and establish geographical and thematic interconnectivity of illicit markets. Information-sharing enables UNODC to describe the global crime scene more effectively and assist Member States in identifying the proper responses. There remain, however, large differences in the quality and quantity of information shared by Member States for reasons ranging from a lack of primary data, poor access to existing information, and a lack of commitment to the transparent sharing of data within the international community.

At many different levels of analysis, the degree of data standardization is often limited, which hampers its interpretation. The lack of agreed-upon standards for data often undermine the compiling of aggregated statistics, either geographically or thematically. Moreover, the degree of data accuracy varies greatly from country to country and from year to year, due to disparities in capacities and diverse operating methods in different regions. While some countries have sufficient resources and adequate operational processes to generate data of the highest standard and accuracy, most are unable to provide consistent results, making it exceedingly difficult to compare results and draw useful conclusions for accurate trend analysis. There is therefore a need to improve the standardization of operating processes and procedures in order to ensure that quality control and assurance requirements are met by research and forensic units for the generation of consistent and comparable data across the board.

3.4 Weak national capacities in research, analysis and forensics

Many countries with limited resources continue to experience a shortage of skilled researchers to undertake empirical studies and explore policy options, or of forensic science personnel to
undertake effective forensic examinations and/or toxicological analysis in order to present admissible evidence in court.

Even though most researchers and forensic experts across the world are highly committed, not all are appropriately trained and/or certified, which impedes their ability to provide the services required. This problem is especially evident in many post-conflict countries where there is no coherent, organized training system designed to produce knowledgeable, highly skilled specialists. In the forensic field, refresher training in laboratory operations and professional mentoring is often necessary for building on this resource, in addition to developing the capacity of the available pool of scientists, technicians and both university and public health laboratory resources.

In drug-related cases, a range of other forensic disciplines may be relevant, such as questioned documents, computer forensics, the examination of firearms, etc. At all stages of the investigation, forensic best practices are fundamental for recognizing and preserving all items of evidence, avoiding contamination of evidence, and ensuring the chain of custody. It is essential to increase the number of fully trained specialist forensic scientists with such capabilities across the world forthwith, while putting an education and training system in place to sustain forensic science/medicine capacity in the future.

In respect of forensic evidence, using data that does not meet the required court standards could compromise the process of a fair criminal justice system. However, optimized use of even limited resources, based on a fit-for-purpose approach may enable laboratories to generate forensic data that meet internationally accepted standards. It is therefore essential for laboratories with resource constraints to receive appropriately tailored training and mentoring on best practices, which will strengthen their capacity.

Capacity-building in research and forensic science services requires a long-term commitment to implement best practices, invest in staff development and follow-up initiatives to change current practice. In many developing countries, the capacity to generate quality data and information may be impeded by a lack of appropriate science infrastructure and limited staff training. However, it should be noted that capacity development involves much more than enhancing the knowledge and skills of individuals; it extends to enabling environments (the structures of power and influence, and institutions) in which they are embedded.\(^\text{12}\)

### 3.5 Lack of international methodological standards

One aspect that limits the accuracy and comparability of statistics on crime and drugs across countries is the lack of internationally agreed methodological standards. UNODC has led various initiatives to produce methodological tools,\(^\text{13}\) but further work is needed to provide guidance to countries for the production of improved statistics. For example, in the field of crime statistics, international comparability of crime data is hampered by the lack of a common vocabulary for criminal offences, whose data are strictly based on national concepts. Moreover, a number of complex crimes such as transnational organized crime, trafficking in persons or corruption have gained prominence over the last few decades. However, no international standards have been developed about how to measure these complex crimes and collect statistics on their levels and trends. Complex forms of crime are characterized by very low detection rates and while statistics based on cases reported to the authorities provide relevant information on the government response to the crime, they heavily underestimate the size of the phenomena. Similarly,

\(^{12}\) OECD, 2006, DAC Guidelines and Reference Series Applying Strategic Environmental Assessment: Good Practice Guidance for Development Co-operation, Paris.\(^{13}\) See for example UNODC-UNECE Manual on Victimisation Surveys, Geneva, 2010 and United Nations, Manual for development of a system of Criminal Justice Statistics, New York, as well as the series of methodological toolkits developed for monitoring the different aspects of drug use situation and epidemiology that were developed under the erstwhile UNODC Global Assessment Programme on Drug Abuse.
although there is an international consensus on the key epidemiological indicators on drug use, with methodological guidelines developed for some, there is still not a consensus on indicators for drug supply and their standardization.

3.6. Insufficient integration of research and analysis in programme and policy formulation

As the pace of policymaking is often faster than that of research, drugs and crime research is still not optimally placed in the policy and programmatic cycle. Evidence-based policy and programmes remain at the core of UNODC work requiring the integration of research and analysis in all relevant thematic and regional programmes. Ideally, all major UNODC programmes should be preceded by targeted research able to describe the problems that the programme aims to address.

In the field of forensic evidence, there is insufficient recognition of the fact that scientific research data and laboratory results help identify new potential threats and health hazards, especially those relating to new drugs, new manufacturing methods, new precursors, and changes in drug purity and availability. Indeed, key clients of forensic medicine and science services (in other words the police, prosecutors, defence and judicial services) often demonstrate a limited awareness of the full probative value of forensic examinations and analysis in the evidence submission process and utilization of forensic reports. Such a lack of awareness of the value of physical evidence at the crime scene may jeopardize the quality of the services provided. Nevertheless, the operations of many national forensic science laboratories are poorly funded because they receive limited consideration among key decision-makers.

4. DESCRIPTION OF TOOLS AND SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED BY UNODC IN RESPECT OF SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

UNODC research outputs include:

- international data series on drugs, crime and criminal justice disseminated through the internet or reports (See 4.1, 4.2, 4.4). These include data on drug use, seizures, drug prices and purity, homicide, drug-related crime, and other statistics on crime and criminal justice;
- regular or ad-hoc studies that analyse collected evidence and describe drug and crime phenomena at the global or regional levels. These studies may focus on a generic subject on a specific crime or drug problem. They can be heterogeneous in nature, responding to different needs and different audiences. Descriptive reports, for example, mostly focus on quantitative data and quantitative analysis. On the other hand, threat analysis reports are oriented to identify areas most at risk, and are more future oriented and less descriptive;
- national reports finalized in partnership with national governments, which describe joint data collection activities (such as surveys on drug use, illicit crop monitoring, or surveys on victimization of the population and private sector) or a joint research activity;
- capacity building activities targeted at improving the capacity of drug laboratories and forensic science institutions in drug analysis, crime scene management, forensic documents examination and promotion of research activities aimed at drug control and crime prevention;

14 For example the annual World Drug Report covers all aspects related to drug markets, drug demand and supply and Threat Assessment Studies on transnational organized crime encompass all major areas where TOC operates.

15 For example studies on trafficking in persons, corruption, money laundering, violent crime.
• capacity building activities targeted at improving the capacity of national experts in setting up drug monitoring systems and in producing crime and criminal justice statistics, as well as reporting the information through mandated data reporting mechanisms;

• guidelines, manuals, standards as methodological documents for implementation of different aspects of drugs and crime-related data production and research that can be used by national counterparts, research institutions and UNODC field offices in implementing these activities. UNODC has also developed a series of guidelines, including: interpretation keys for analyzing satellite imagery to map fields with illicit crops; recommended methods of analysis of traditional drugs (e.g. cocaine, heroin, cannabis, amphetamine type stimulants, LSD) and new psychoactive substances (synthetic cannabinoids, piperazines, synthetic cathinones) in seized materials and biological matrices; forensic best practices manuals/toolkits for infrastructure assessment; examinations of drug-facilitated sexual assaults; security document examinations and crime scene management; and

• methods and tools to develop spatial sampling frames and geo-statistical analysis for illicit crop monitoring.

• development of statistical standards and methodological guidelines to harmonize the production of statistical information by national systems and to maximize their policy relevance.

Annex C provides a detailed list of reports, guidelines, databases and services to be provided in 2015-2016 in respect of each of the thematic areas noted below.
Research priorities 2015-2016

In response to the request from Member States to “continue developing global analyses of the threats and modalities of transnational organized crime, studying new forms and dimensions of transnational organized crime and analysing new and emerging challenges, in order to support evidence-based policy guidance”, UNODC will continue development work on methods to assess emerging transnational threats, with a view to improving support of the identification of strategic and programme priorities. While UNODC will continue to pay particular attention to long standing organized crime activities, such as illicit drug trafficking and trafficking in persons, it will also expand its work on emerging, or re-emerging, transnational criminal markets for products such as wild fauna and flora.

Research priorities on trafficking in persons will focus on: expanding the content base for the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons by including more qualitative information gleaned from field work and case files; continuing the implementation of the recommendations of the GLOTIP Expert Group meeting in December 2013; and initiating global research activities on Smuggling on Migrants (resources permitting).

In response to growing international attention to the pressing issue of illicit trafficking in protected wild species of fauna and flora, and requests for research on this multi-faceted issue, UNODC will prioritize this topic. Following the adoption of mandates received from the CCPCJ in 2013 and 2014, the launch of UNODC new global programme on wildlife and forest crime in June 2014, and the approval by ExCom of the research proposal on the topic, research activities will initially focus on trafficking in protected wild species of fauna and flora. During 2015-2016, UNODC will also explore ways and means to further develop its capacity to undertake research on the broader sector of wildlife and forest crime (i.e. not only protected species), in line with the objectives of the Global Programme on Wildlife and Forest Crime. In addition, as a member of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCCWC), UNODC is the leading light in the development of guidelines to address the challenges posed by this crime and to provide support to law enforcement operations through the use of forensic technology and laboratory data.

New psychoactive substances: in several resolutions of the CND, Member States have requested that UNODC conduct research to improve understanding of the synthetic drugs market, including the rapidly emerging new psychoactive substances, and share such results and information with relevant international organizations, to foster effective international policy responses.

Mapping data collection and dissemination: given the number and diversity of UNODC data collection instruments in place on drugs and crime issues, there is a need to map what is being collected and how, in order to highlight potential overlaps and where synergies can be developed. The ultimate goal is to rationalise and simplify member states reporting to the UNODC, improve data management procedures and improve data dissemination.

4.1. Transnational organized crime

As requested by Member States, UNODC will continue to conduct research on the evolution of transnational criminal threats and to develop or support threat assessments and analysis, combining quantitative and qualitative information, to help UNODC and Member States identify trends, emerging issues and priorities.

Outputs and products vary depending on emerging programme priorities and requests from Members States and, in the past, typically included thematic chapters for the World Drug Report,
regional assessments in support of UNODC regional programme development, thematic studies, etc.

4.1.1. Trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants

The key UNODC research output with regard to trafficking in persons is the biennial Global Report on Trafficking in Persons (GLOTIP),\textsuperscript{16} produced by the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons Unit in consultation with the Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section in the Division for Treaty Affairs. In addition to shedding light on the patterns and flows of trafficking in persons at the global, regional and national levels, this report presents an overview of the international response to trafficking in persons.

\textbf{Global Report on Trafficking in Persons}

The International Labour Organization estimates that 20.9 million people are victims of forced labour globally. This estimate also includes victims of human trafficking for labour and sexual exploitation. While it is not known how many of these victims were trafficked, the estimate implies that currently there are millions of victims in the world. GLOTIP helps Member States and the international community to gain a better understanding of, and to develop responses to, this phenomenon. It provides much-needed information and explores the nature of this crime and how it varies across the different regions of the world. Although the officially reported information that forms the basis of GLOTIP cannot be used to generate a global estimate of the number of victims, it has shed light on the patterns and flows of human trafficking, in line with the requests of Member States. GLOTIP provides a solid basis for understanding the global nature of trafficking in persons and presents a list of key findings that can be used to identify interventions to address the problem.

The data used for the preparation of GLOTIP mainly come from Member States; either through their responses to a questionnaire dedicated to reporting on trafficking in persons or from official national-level reports. This is occasionally supplemented by information from international organizations and/or NGOs, particularly where official data is scarce.

In addition to statistical analyses, which form the backbone of the report, UNODC aims to expand the available knowledge base on trafficking in persons by gathering a range of qualitative data. These data will be used to study aspects of trafficking that are particularly challenging to capture through statistics, such as the involvement of organized criminal elements in the trafficking process. While this work is still in its infancy, it will be a key component of future GLOTIP reports, and may also be reported on separately. The aim of all UNODC research on trafficking in persons is to generate a thorough understanding of the nature of trafficking in persons and its varied manifestations across the world. Such an understanding will, in turn, assist Member States to tackle the problem efficiently.

With respect to the smuggling of migrants, UNODC’s goal is to harmonize data collection efforts across the globe and to assist States in increasing their capacities in conducting data collection and analysis. This includes development and dissemination of guidance material on common definitions, standards, methodologies and structures (reporting and storage) with regard to collecting data on migrant smuggling trends and patterns, mapping the types of relevant data with regard to the issue, which is currently collected by State authorities as well as international organizations, identifying knowledge gaps and developing an agenda for further research.

UNODC field offices, in cooperation with the Studies and Threat Analysis Section and the Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section, have conducted a number of regional studies, applying a standardized analytical and methodological approach. Studies have been carried out

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\textsuperscript{16} Published in November 2014 and subsequently in late 2016.
in West Africa, North Africa and Europe, in South Asia, East Asia and the Pacific region, as well as in Central America. An important, albeit non-global, source of data is the Voluntary Reporting System on Migrant Smuggling and Related Conduct (VRS-MSRC).\textsuperscript{17} Given the gap in the overall understanding of the problem of migrant smuggling at the global level, UNODC would be in a position to undertake the preparation of a Global Report on the Smuggling of Migrants should it be mandated and funded to do so.

4.1.2 Wildlife and Forest Crime

The UNODC global research activities on wildlife crime are part of the Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime (managed by DO/HSB/SLU) and aim to provide a broad assessment of the nature and extent of the problem at the global level and identify the most pressing threats and knowledge gaps.

The research work consists of two components:

1. A quantitative assessment of illicit wildlife markets by triangulating the data on supply, trafficking and demand, primarily based on the official data submitted by parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);

2. In-depth illicit trade case studies, using largely qualitative methods. The analysis will include a series of case studies of CITES-listed species developed with the input of interested countries.

Main outputs include: (1) a global wildlife seizures database; (2) case studies of illicit wildlife markets; and (3) publication of the global wildlife crime research findings.

4.2. Drug trafficking and drug use

The main UNODC research activity in relation to drug trafficking and use is the annual publication of the \textit{World Drug Report}, the production of which involves extensive data collection and analysis aimed at providing an annual update of the drug situation worldwide.

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\textbf{World Drug Report} \\
Established to provide comprehensive and balanced information about the world drug problem in order to make significant progress towards the control and supply of illicit drugs, the World Drug Report presents a comprehensive overview of the latest developments in drug markets. As well as focusing on one topical aspect of the drug problem, it gives an annual overview of the drug situation at the global, regional, sub-regional and national levels by looking in depth at the four main drug markets – cannabis, opiates, cocaine and amphetamine-type stimulants. It covers both supply and demand, from cultivation (see ICMP below) and production to trafficking, consumption and its related health consequences. In so doing, it aims to enhance Member States’ understanding of global illicit drug trends and to sensitize all Governments about the need for more systematic collection and reporting of data related to illicit drugs. www.unodc.org/wdr \\
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Partnerships with other regional and international organizations help UNODC to cover the broader spectrum of the drug problem, whereby partnering with other international and regional organizations with similar mandates on collecting and reporting data on drugs and crime, such as WCO, INTERPOL, INCB, WHO, UNAIDS, WB, OAS/CICAD and EMCDDA, EUROSTAT, etc., helps reduce redundancy in collecting data on similar indicators. It further capitalizes on

\textsuperscript{17} Voluntary Reporting System on Migrant Smuggling and Related Conduct (VRS-MSRC) was launched July 2013 by the UNODC Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific. The VRS-MSRC is an internet-based, secure IT solution to collect, share and analyse authoritative information on migrant smuggling, irregular migration and other related conduct.
their resources to improve the availability and quality of data on drugs and crime from different regions. In particular, partnerships with UNAIDS, WHO and the World Bank to estimate the number of people who inject drugs, who live with HIV, and the extent of services available for reducing harm caused, can complement the data sources of stakeholders and enable the development of joint estimates based on consensus. These joint estimates can then be used by all the stakeholders in advocacy and in the development of programmes to address the situation in priority countries.

The institutional input of research in the intergovernmental process (CND) is the regular production of two reports for the CND. The first report is entitled World situation with regard to drug abuse, which covers current patterns and emerging trends in drug use and its health consequences both regionally and globally. The second report World situation with regard to drug trafficking outlines the extent of trafficking of different drugs globally, as well as the emerging patterns in the trafficking of illicit drugs in different regions.

While the objective of the World Drug Report is to provide an overall picture that extends to all drug types in all regions, other UNODC research activities focus on specific drug type and/or have a specific geographical scope. In the field of synthetic drugs, UNODC publishes a triennial global report covering trends and patterns of amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances, complemented by regional reports in priority regions. Information on new psychoactive substances are made available through an Internet-based portal, the Early Warning Advisory on New Psychoactive Substances (EWA), which presents the latest NPS emergence trends and legal responses to the problem in a user-friendly way. Publications and briefs on specific themes related to NPS present in-depth analysis of a more technical nature. UNODC has also established research activities to monitor the flows of Afghan opiates in different regions of the world, such as The Afghan Opiate Trade Project (see page 34).

The Paris Pact project, an initiative launched in 2003 to promote coordinated measures to counter narco-trafficking in and from Afghanistan in partnership with the Afghan Opiate Trade Project also carries out research and has the following outputs/products:

- Country Fact Sheets summarise statistics on drug and precursor seizures and prices, drug purity, drug-related crimes, drug abuse and treatment and cases of HIV/AIDS infection, as well as the signature and ratification status of UNTOC and UNCAC. They are prepared on an annual basis for 20 countries in South Eastern Europe, East Europe and Transcaucasia, as well as West and Central Asia by Paris Pact Research and Liaison Officers and AOTP National Officers based in these regions. Sources of the data presented in the fact sheets are national government agencies. The data is consolidated and verified first by the Paris Pact staff at Coordination and Analysis Unit (CAU) in UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia and then AOTP in the Headquarters.

- The Drugs Monitoring Platform (DMP) is the joint Paris Pact and AOTP online tool for collecting, monitoring and mapping drug-related data which is operated by the lead Paris Pact RLO based in the Coordination and Analysis Unit (CAU) in UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia in Tashkent.

Within the context of research on different aspects of the drug situation in Afghanistan and its neighbouring countries the Regional Programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries is attempting to streamline and coordinate the different research and capacity building activities that are led by RAB, the Paris Pact (its different research tools and products), country-specific projects in the region and specific activities within the programme itself for optimising the resources and research products available to national and international stakeholders.
4.3. Drug Production and Alternative Development

Alternative Development programmes cannot be planned without effective monitoring and statistical information-gathering tools. For that reason, UNODC has developed the Illicit Crop Monitoring Programme (ICMP), which works directly with the Governments of countries that cultivate illicit crops: Colombia, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia in the case of coca; Afghanistan, Lao (PDR), Myanmar and Mexico in the case of opium poppy; and Mexico and Nigeria in the case of cannabis (see page 34). Crop survey data also helps governments in their policy development and in planning how to tackle the cultivation of illicit crops, and also provides essential data on levels and trends of cultivation and production for the World Drug Report.

4.4. Crime prevention and criminal justice

Much of UNODC research on crime prevention and criminal justice is grounded on the United Nations Surveys on Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (CTS). The major goal of CTS is to collect data on the incidence of reported crime and the operation of criminal justice systems with a view to improving the analysis and dissemination of that information globally. Survey results provide an overview of trends and interrelationships between various parts of the criminal justice system, by investigating access to justice, the efficiency of the criminal justice system, as well as prison conditions, in an effort to promote informed decision-making in administration, both nationally and internationally.

The most comprehensive UNODC publication in this field is the Global Study on Homicide, which has become the reference source for monitoring the “ultimate crime”, its main drivers and its impact at the global, regional and national levels. Besides presenting patterns and trends, the Study analyses specific aspects related to intentional homicide that can be particularly relevant from a prevention policy perspective; for example, in relation to risk factors and contexts conducive to violent behaviour and killing. The Global Study on Homicide builds on a growing network of collaboration with international organizations and individual experts and presents the evidence collected in an expanding dataset on intentional homicide covering more than 200 countries/territories across the world.

Global Study on Homicide

By giving a comprehensive overview of intentional homicide across the world, through the filter of data from the global to the sub-national level, the Global Study on Homicide enables the international community to gain a better understanding of the complexity of homicide and the different ways it affects the population. By improving understanding of the underlying patterns and trends related to different typologies, settings and mechanisms of homicide, the study is designed to be a strategic tool for supporting governments’ efforts to address its root causes and to develop strategies and policies for protecting those most at risk and tackling those most likely to offend. As homicide is one of the most comparable and accurate indicators for measuring violence, the Global Study on Homicide also aims to improve understanding of criminal violence. Since its impact goes beyond the loss of human life and can create a climate of fear and uncertainty, intentional homicide (and violent crime) is a threat to the population. Homicide data can therefore play an important role in monitoring security and justice.

The research contribution to the intergovernmental discussion on crime and criminal justice is the annual report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on World Crime Trends, and a report on the State of Crime and Criminal Justice Worldwide for the United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in Doha, Qatar, in 2015.

Following the adoption by the Economic and Social Council of resolution 2013/37 on improving the quality and availability of statistics on crime and criminal justice for policy development, UNODC is currently working to implement the Road map to improve the quality and availability of crime statistics at the national and international levels, a far-reaching workplan to enhance statistical information in this area. Among other products, the Road map envisages the finalization, by 2015, of an international classification of crimes for statistical purposes.

Building on the long-term work of UNODC in collecting information from Member States on crime trends, on the operations of the criminal justice system, and on the development of standards for national crime and justice information systems, as well as for the conduct of victimization surveys, UNODC seeks to enhance the cross-national comparability of data through the development of standardized methodologies, key indicators and data reporting tools.

4.5 Corruption

The measurement of corruption is a sensitive topic and therefore all UNODC research activities in this substantive area are based on two main pillars: (1) the use of methodologically sound approaches to measure corruption and its vulnerabilities, and to produce studies strictly based on available evidence; and (2) the need to undertake data collection and research activities in close collaboration with relevant national authorities.

Research on corruption at UNODC is focused on four different thematic and functional areas:

1. The development of standard methods to measure corruption;19
2. The conduct of surveys and studies on corruption and integrity at the national and regional levels and/or on specific topics relevant to corruption;
3. Technical assistance to support the capacities of Member States in the measurement and analysis of corruption, thereby building a closer link between statistical information and analysis on the one hand, and technical assistance activities supported by UNODC on the other;20
4. Data collection activities at the global and regional levels to expand and systematize the available statistical information on corruption.

4.7 Forensic science in the context of drug control and criminal justice

UNODC has a clear mandate on drug control and crime prevention, and on reforming and building the capacity of criminal justice institutions as well as a growing programme of technical assistance in the criminal justice area. With this unique combination of mandates, and forensic science services being the strategic nexus between science and the law, UNODC is ideally suited to act as a central focal point to assist Member States in developing and strengthening integrated and sustainable forensic science services to address the interlinked challenges posed to human security by all forms of trafficking as well as organized crime.

UNODC provides scientific advice and support for national, regional, international and UNODC activities. Scientific support is provided for a number of different purposes, from developing capacity and enhancing performance of national laboratories, developing standards and laboratory working procedures to ensuring that scientific findings are followed up and used

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20 See United Nations Convention against Corruption, art.60 and 61
effectively for operational purposes (in support of the criminal justice system, regulatory and health authorities, and law enforcement activities), and for trend analysis and policy development.

UNODC’s activities in the forensic sectors are widely recognized, and have continued for almost six decades, with examples in all continents and a focus on the least developed regions. UNODC has consistently provided direct assistance to many States in improving their national policies, as well as their research and data acquisition capabilities. These and other related activities have provided UNODC with long-standing contacts and working relationships with numerous research institutes and repositories of information with expertise on drugs and crime, national laboratories and scientists, both in developed countries and in countries with limited resources. Lessons learnt from past experiences are built into the development of new activities and are particularly beneficial for designing integrated programmes, which address research and forensic capacity building as an integral element of criminal justice reform and rule of law.

UNODC forensic services focus on the following:

1. **Availability & relevance.** Internationally accepted standards for forensic best practices are made available and accessible worldwide, through awareness raising and through standardized tools and approach;

2. **Standardization & fit-for-purpose.** Forensic service providers should meet internationally accepted standards of performance. This includes the development of such standards where they do not exist, and the identification and review of their suitability. The work of UNODC in this area is delivered through scientific and forensic capacity building, and through quality assurance;

3. **Impact.** Forensic science services, data and information are progressively used for evidence-based operational purposes, strategic interventions, and policy and decision-making. This is done through ensuring continued improvement, the promotion of international information-sharing, and the integration of relevant parties.

Each intervention area performs a different function and involves a distinct set of activities. Nevertheless, approaches are linked, activities are inter-dependent and overall success depends upon the achievements of all three approaches. The activities undertaken within each intervention area include normative services, technical assistance and research and analysis (Annex 3). Great attention is paid to integrating forensics into programmes and activities, including integrated regional/country programming activities that address issues on rule of law, justice and integrity, and the health sector.

5. **DESCRIPTION OF TOOLS AND SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED BY UNODC IN RESPECT OF FUNCTIONAL ISSUES**

5.1 Improvement of the availability and quality of information, including data collection, dissemination and analysis

The development of national data generation capacities not only furthers the sustainability of the national evidence-based policy response, but also serves to improve data reporting feedback to UNODC, both for analyses and the generation of reports.

UNODC supports the technical capacity of countries in collecting data on organized crime, drug trafficking and use, corruption, crime trends and operations of criminal justice systems through:

- technical support to governments and UNODC field offices on related information and monitoring systems. This includes assistance in improving administrative data on crime and criminal justice and developing population-based surveys on victimization and corruption;
• technical support to governments and UNODC field offices on drug use surveys and implementation of drug use information and monitoring systems, based on the key epidemiological indicators of drug use, drug production estimation, improving administrative data on drug seizures, monitoring the prices and purities of drugs and trend monitoring;

• provision of expert technical assistance and advice to countries to enhance data collection;

• organization of workshops to share experiences among countries and increase understanding of collection, dissemination and analysis of drugs and crime data;

• development of training material for supporting countries in regularly reporting crime and drug-related data at the international level; and

• provision of analytical capacity and advice to produce assessments and reports on drugs and crime, including the development of training material for supporting countries in regularly reporting data at the international level.

Examples of these activities include capacity-building workshops for national counterparts responsible for drug monitoring in the context of the Global SMART programme’s Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific, and CICAD’s network of national drug observatories to improve understanding of drug demand and supply indicators as well as technical advice on drug demand survey tools in Latin America.

These activities also include developing research and monitoring capacity of national institutions through the Afghan Opiate Trade Programme, workshops on sharing practices in design and implementation of drug use surveys and in collecting and analysing drug supply data in partnership with the regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries; training/orientation of Paris Pact research analysts working in UNODC field offices, on the mandatory reporting mechanisms on drugs –ARQ and IDS – to facilitate national counterparts in submission of these with quality data and in a timely manner.

The creation of regional hubs for supporting countries’ capacities and facilitating coordination processes is another valuable means of providing technical assistance: the UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence for Statistical Information on Government, Crime, Victimization and Justice, based in Mexico City, represents a very successful experience in developing best practices in statistical processes, facilitating cooperation among countries and enhancing technical capacities at the regional level.

A number of initiatives are carried out by UNODC to support countries in strengthening their information systems on drugs and crime in order to promote regional and international cooperation in the field of drugs and crime statistics.
5.2 Support to national capacities in forensics

UNODC assists countries in developing improved scientific and forensic capacity. This enables the relevant agencies to meet the appropriate professional standards, including for the use of
scientific information and laboratory data for inter-agency cooperation activities and in strategic operations, policy and decision-making.

5.3 Development of international standards

UNODC has a specific role to play when it comes to international standards. Standardizing operating processes and procedures ensures that quality control and assurance requirements are met by forensic units to generate consistent and comparable data across the board. UNODC’s strategy establishes specific implementation plans to translate international standards into best practices which enhance the capacity and performance of forensic service providers. A set of services, activities and fit-for-purpose training assist laboratories in identifying and addressing performance limitations, implementing internationally accepted standards and eventually working towards accreditation. To this end, the provision of proficiency tests and collaborative exercises enable laboratories to obtain the necessary proof of their performance.

UNODC has developed a series of methodological tools, including the Manual on Victimization Surveys, the Manual for the Measurement of Juvenile Justice Indicators, and the United Nations Manual for the Development of a System of Criminal Justice Statistics. Manuals and methodological toolkits have also been developed to guide the setting up of drug monitoring and information systems, and on indirect techniques in estimating problem drug users, conducting school surveys, implementing treatment reporting systems, ethical considerations in drug use epidemiology, and for yield assessment of opium gum and coca leaf.

UNODC is currently leading the work to develop the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS), as requested by the UN Statistical Commission and the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. One of the limiting factors affecting the quality and comparability of crime statistics across countries is the lack of a common set of definitions and concepts to describe criminal offences in a uniform manner. The ICCS addresses this limitation and, once finalized, will create a comprehensive definitional framework of criminal offences that will improve the standardization and comparability of data on crime. The ICCS is scheduled to be presented to the UN Statistical Commission and the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for endorsement in 2015.

A collaborative initiative to improve standardisation of drugs statistics has recently been undertaken and UNODC, in collaboration with WHO, WCO, CI CAD and EMCDDA, presented a report for the Statistical Commission to illustrate current challenges in drugs data and on ways to improve the quality and availability of drug statistics.

5.4 Improved integration of research and analysis in programme formulation, including in field programme formulation and monitoring

As an organization with specialized areas of technical expertise, UNODC has also committed itself to evidence-based operational and policy responses. In designing and implementing the Office’s main planning and operational vehicles, the Country and Regional Programmes, UNODC uses a policymaking framework. In more specific terms, this means that research and information from data gathering provide the basis for trend analysis; this analysis is used for priority setting (taking into account other organizational and political factors, and especially the views of Member States); these priorities are reflected in country and regional programmes; monitoring, reporting and evaluation of these programmes provides a further input into data gathering. The analysis supports priority-setting for country and regional programmes, which in turn support further capacity development for data generation. Research also supports the integrated and connective approach recently developed by UNODC to confront drugs and crime.
6. HOW WILL UNODC RESEARCH AND TREND ANALYSIS REACH THESE GOALS?

6.1 Research methodology

In order to reduce biased interpretations of results, UNODC research is intended to be as objective and as transparent as possible. Therefore all data, information and methodology are documented, archived and shared so as to be available for careful scrutiny by other scholars, giving to external users the opportunity to verify results by attempting to reproduce them. Called “full disclosure”, this practice also allows for statistical measures of the reliability of scientific data to be established.

The thematic areas covered by UNODC can be investigated via quantitative and qualitative designs. Quantitative designs approach social phenomena through quantifiable evidence, often relying on statistical analysis of many cases (or across intentionally designed treatments in an experiment) to create valid and reliable general claims often related to quantifiable measurements. Qualitative designs, on the other hand, emphasize quality and the contextual subjective accuracy over generality and therefore aim to reach understanding of social phenomena through direct observation, communication with participants, or analysis of texts.

The scientific method of inquiry followed at UNODC is based on empirical and measurable evidence, subsequently subject to rigorous principles of reasoning, in an effort to let reality speak for itself – supporting a theory when a theory’s predictions are confirmed, and challenging it if its predictions prove false. The research must be repeatable, to guard against mistakes or confusion in any particular data collection, and comply with the research standards outlined in more detail in Annex D.

6.2 Quality assurance

UNODC is committed to the quality of its data, and all UNODC offices – both at headquarters and at the field level – play a role in upholding UNODC’s quality commitment.

Editorial policy of reviewing preceding publication within UNODC. UNODC generates knowledge outputs in various forms, such as complete reports, datasets or corresponding analyses. Subsequent to the completion of each knowledge output by the relevant publication manager, each report is subject to an internal review process by the chief of the research branch, the director of DPA as well as the directors of the other divisions, followed by the review of the executive director if the publication is expected to have high visibility.

Maintenance of efficient data collection and knowledge management, and dissemination systems. As the fast-evolving IT environment continues to evolve, new cost-effective solutions are offered in order to manage the collection, processing and analysis of data. UNODC continues to improve its statistical system and knowledge generation and knowledge management processes by adopting efficient solutions for decreasing data entry time, maximizing automatic data checking, and optimizing data storage. New data entry solutions, such as web portals, will be adopted in order to provide Member States with a user-friendly interface for the reporting of data at the international level.

6.3 Cooperation with Member States

Collaborative relationship with Member States. UNODC follows consistent and transparent procedures in deciding what data and evidence can be used and disseminated in its publications. These procedures include the provision of standard methodology and definitions, the development of a standard and transparent process for the assessment of the quality of the data provided by Member States, and the encouragement of Member States to appoint technical
focal points with whom UNODC can have technical discussions on the data and evidence provided.

**Managing partnerships between UNODC and Member States in primary data collection.** UNODC supports some Member States in the collection of primary information through surveys or other data collection mechanisms. As a result of these activities raw data or publications are released jointly by UNODC and national governments.

**Information exchange with Member States during knowledge generation.** Throughout the knowledge-generation process, particularly its early stage, a transparent process has been established to fill data gaps or to substitute national data when these do not meet quality standards, and to submit draft national data to Member States for their review. Data include those originally provided by Member States, those obtained by other sources or estimates made by UNODC. Feedback provided by Member States on the draft data are incorporated in the final data series. This step can considerably improve data quality, as errors or misunderstandings can be clarified.

**Final pre-review of consolidated knowledge with Member States.** In the final stages of knowledge generation and before final publication, UNODC submits draft national data to Member States for their review. UNODC does not ask Member States to pre-review the narrative or the analysis derived from the data, unless the narrative includes national information (qualitative or quantitative) other than the reported national data.

### 6.4 Clients of UNODC research

The key clients and stakeholders in UNODC’s research work include:

- Member States that need comparable data at the global level to:
  
  i) monitor the international control systems (through the CCPCJ and CND),
  
  ii) develop national policies to tackle transnational crime and drug markets, and
  
  iii) enhance understanding of national outcomes by comparing with those of other countries;

- Member States that need support in forensics;

- academic institutions as the major users of UNODC primary data. Such data represents one of the primary data sources for cross-national research undertaken in the field of drugs and crime at the global level;

- the mass media, which bring the evidence produced by the data to the attention of the global community; and

- non-governmental organizations and the public at large, which keep a watchful eye on research and statistics that can most shape the political debate on drugs and crime at the national and international levels.

### 6.5 Outreach

UNODC conducts a policy of results promotion and outreach. A number of activities are usually undertaken to reach out to different typologies of users, raising the profile of UNODC research activities and outputs. These include:

- taking a pro-active role in specifically targeting the promotion of research products to different users (UNODC units, relevant national institutions, research, community, media, NGOs and the public);
- facilitating international cooperation among regional networks of forensic science institutes as a means of promoting development, dissemination and use of international best practices;
- translating reports into other languages when funds are available, and involving national stakeholders in developing and promoting research outputs;
- improving the lay-out and functionality of the UNODC research webpage in order to present activities and outputs in a more systematic and user-friendly manner;
- increasing the availability and accessibility of statistical data on-line, through use of open data formats and making the navigation more user-friendly;
- improving the presentation of statistical data in order to clearly and effectively communicate the information, by making use of data visualisation and also using other communication channels like social media; and
- raising the profile of research activities in regional and thematic programmes.

In addition, for the flagship and major research products, resources permitting, a communications strategy (including media, social media and other outreach activities) will be developed and implemented by the UNODC Advocacy Section in cooperation with RAB.

### 6.6 Internal UNODC IT infrastructure and knowledge management for research

The lack of an integrated approach to knowledge and learning within UNODC has limited its effort to leverage its research and analysis work, thereby restricting its impact. In his recent address to build a strong and responsive United Nations tuned to the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century, Secretary General Ban Ki-moon focused on “efficiency, which is essential in a time of scarce resources, knowledge management, to harness the experience and expertise throughout the system, as well as communication, to best tell the story of our work in meaningful and engaging ways to people around the world”, as the most important aspects upon which the UN should build.21

The Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS)22 conducted a programme evaluation of UNODC in 2012 and called for it to embrace a knowledge-centric culture promoting learning in order to: (1) enhance UNODC’s unique technical competencies in the production of evidence-based data and analysis, while sharing this knowledge and pushing its research products to specialized constituencies, thereby strengthening its contribution to influencing policy; and to (2) contribute to the provision of a comprehensive and coherent strategic vision that effectively and cohesively links together operations in the field as well as at headquarters.

Knowledge management and e-learning systems are not only useful in aiding the delivery of UNODC’s strategy and ensuring the preservation of an institutional memory – systematically sharing knowledge and providing learning across the board for all structured information available within UNODC – but also in offering a useful tool for outreach directed towards both staff members and external communities of stakeholders, delivering the organization’s brand as a public service provider while enabling the sharing of best practices and lessons learnt.

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22 OIOS report entitled “Programme Evaluation of the UNODC” (E/AC.51/2013/1).
7. **LIST OF STANDARD OUTCOME-LEVEL INDICATORS FOR USE IN UNODC COUNTRY, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL PROGRAMMES**

**Standard indicators on Research and Trend Analysis**

**EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENT 1:** Enhanced access to increased knowledge to formulate strategic responses in relation to drugs and crime issues

### RAB global programme indicators

- Number of research publications/or information published by UNODC
- Number of references to research publications and/or information generated by UNODC
- Percentage of positive assessments of relevance and usefulness of research outputs for strategic response formulation
- Number of country-data series disseminated by UNODC disaggregated by drug demand, drug supply, crime and criminal justice
- Downloads of UNODC data series on drugs and crime
- Downloads of UNODC research publications on drugs and crime

### Suggested country/regional programme indicators

**Data collection:**

- Country/number of countries in the region submitting data for the mandated regular global data collection, including the Annual Reports Questionnaire (ARQ), Individual Drug Seizures database (IDS), Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (CTS) and Global Report on Trafficking in Persons (GLOTIP), disaggregated for each of these mechanisms
- Number of countries submitting ad hoc quantitative and/or qualitative data in line with standards and methodologies promoted by UNODC/RAB
- Number of data collection tools/methodologies developed at the country/regional level in line with the standards and guidelines promoted by UNODC/RAB, such as:
  - National/regional questionnaires for drug and crime issues
  - National/regional qualitative methodologies
- Number of countries including plans to improve (expand the geographical scope or indicators) or set up national drug and/or crime monitoring systems in their national action plans

**Reporting and research outputs**

- Number of research reports/analytical papers/information prepared by national and regional partners in line with standards/methodology/guidelines promoted by UNODC/RAB
- Number of references to national and regional research reports/analytical papers/information produced jointly with UNODC or in line with UNODC guidelines
- Country/number of countries in the region taking into account UNODC research findings when developing strategic responses (to be measured by references in concerned documents or policy statements, or other means of verification)
- Percentage of positive assessments of relevance and usefulness of research outputs by their users
EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENT 2: Increased capacity to produce and analyse data on trends including those in emerging drug and specific crime issues

RAB global programme indicators

- Methodological guidelines and best practices available for setting up information systems on collecting data on drugs and crime issues
- Number of Member States receiving targeted training or other forms of technical assistance on data collection related to drugs and crime
- Number of countries meeting international standards on selected indicators

Suggested country/regional programme indicators

Training

- Number of trainings organized by national/regional partners on the data collection and research in line with the guidelines developed and promoted by UNODC/RAB
- Number of practitioners at the national level applying training received on the data collection and research in line with the guidelines developed and promoted by UNODC/RAB (as evidenced by training evaluation documents)

Data management and knowledge production

- Number of relevant databases/data management tools created at the national/regional level, such as:
  - National/regional clearing houses/observatories
  - National mechanisms to manage drug/criminal justice data
- Development and use of national/regional mechanisms to ensure sustainable data collection on drugs and crime issues, such as:
  - Thematic national action plans and coordination mechanisms include data collection and research components
  - UNODC guidelines and best practices integrated/adopted within national data collection systems
- Drug and crime related survey(s) implemented in partnership with relevant national institutions
- Drug or crime related survey(s) implemented in line with the guidelines developed and promoted by UNODC/RAB
- National survey results published within 12 months of the data collected in the field
- Survey micro-data properly anonymized publicly available in line with national statistical law
- Establishment of a national technical committee which oversees the design and implementation of the survey(s)
- Number of national/regional data series in line with the standards/guidelines promoted by UNODC/RAB, such as:
  - Data series disaggregated by age and gender
**Expected accomplishment 3:** Internationally accepted standards for forensic best practices are available and accessible worldwide

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<th>RAB global programme indicators</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Number of forensic best practices, laboratory standards, working procedures, recommended method manuals and technical guidelines published</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Number of available standardized training curricula and modules</td>
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<th>Suggested country/regional programme indicators</th>
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<tr>
<td>Forensic science in the context of drug control and criminal justice</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Number of publications of internationally accepted standards for forensic best practices made available and routinely used at the national or regional level</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Number of UNODC forensic best practices, laboratory working procedures and technical guidelines tailored to national and/or regional requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Number of training courses implemented at the regional and national level using the UNODC standardized training curricula and modules</td>
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**Expected accomplishment 4:** Forensic service providers improve their scientific and forensic capacity in meeting internationally accepted standards of performance through quality assurance and technical support on standardized approaches in forensics

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<th>RAB global programme indicators</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Number of laboratories actively participating in International Collaborative Exercises (ICE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Number of recommendations to technical cooperation activities including inputs to country, regional and thematic programmes; materials and tools provided</td>
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<th>Suggested country/regional programme indicators</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forensic science in the context of drug control and criminal justice</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Number of laboratories actively participating in the International Collaborative Exercises (ICE) at the national and regional level</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Increased percentage of institutions in receipt of UNODC assistance reporting enhanced scientific and forensic capacity (including materials, tools, training and enhancement of regional and international cooperation)</td>
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**Expected accomplishment 5:** Forensic science services, data and information progressively impact evidence-based operational purposes, strategic interventions, and policy and decision-making

**RAB global programme indicators**

- Increased use of forensic data and information in relevant national and regional operations and strategic plans for drug control and crime prevention

**Suggested country/regional programme indicators**

Forensic science in the context of drug control and criminal justice

- Increased use of forensic data and information in relevant national and regional operations and strategic plans for drug control and crime prevention at national and regional level (to be measured by references in concerned operational or strategic plans, or other means of verification)

- Percentage of laboratories report participation in and/or use of forensic data for inter-agency activities with law enforcement, regulatory, judicial, health authorities and/or trend analysis

**Expected accomplishment 6:** Enhanced cooperation with and among relevant stakeholders, notably international organisations, academia, civil society organisations, media and the private sector, in order to increase knowledge relating to drugs and crime.

**RAB global programme indicators**

- Number of joint publications/activities with the aim to collect and disseminate information on drugs and crime

- Number of Memoranda of Understanding, Letters of Agreement and/or initiatives on research developed and implemented jointly with other entities within and outside the UN system or with international and regional organisations

**Suggested Country/regional programme indicators**

Cooperation agreements

- Number of cooperation agreements with governments/academia/international and non-governmental organizations on research, data collection and dissemination

  Joint action

- Joint research publications/events/projects with governments, international and non-governmental organizations, academia, media and private sector to collect and disseminate information

- Number of references to national/regional research publications developed jointly with UNODC, including media references
ANNEX A

UNODC Mandates in Research, Trend Analysis and Forensics

The mandates for UNODC’s work in research, trend analysis and forensics emanate from the drugs and crime conventions and resolutions by the UN General Assembly (UNGA), the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), the Conferences of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (CAC/COSP) and the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (CTOC/COP). The most relevant mandates for the thematic areas are noted below.

Mandates related to transnational organized crime

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime entered into force in 2003. In April 2010, the Salvador declaration adopted at the 12th UN Crime Congress called “upon Member States to cooperate, including through information-sharing, in an effort to address ... evolving transnational criminal threats”. It also invited “the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in coordination with the relevant United Nations bodies, to study the nature of the challenge and ways to deal with it effectively”.23

In February 2010, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon declared: “With transnational threats, States have no choice but to work together. We are all affected – whether as countries of supply, trafficking or demand. Therefore, we have a shared responsibility to act. ... The UN Office on Drugs and Crime continues to carry out important work in providing the evidence on these transnational threats, and the technical assistance with which to respond”.

In 2012, the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime asked UNODC to continue its activities to strengthen the collection, analysis and reporting of accurate, reliable and comparable data on organized crime trends and patterns.24

Member States have also requested UNODC to continue “developing global analyses of the threats and modalities of transnational organized crime, studying new forms and dimensions of transnational organized crime and analysing new and emerging challenges, in order to support evidence-based policy guidance”. 25

In other recent resolutions, Member States have also indicated some specific areas of concern and in need of research, including illicit trafficking in wild flora and fauna. UNGASS Resolution 55/25 states that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime constitutes an effective tool and the necessary legal framework for international cooperation in combating such criminal activities as illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna, in furtherance of the principles of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna.

More specifically, ECOSOC Resolution 2013/40 on ‘Crime prevention and criminal justice responses to illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora’ requests UNODC, in consultation with Member States and in cooperation with other competent intergovernmental organizations, to undertake case studies that focus on organized crime networks involved in the

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24 Resolution 6/1, CTOC/COP/2015/15, OP 2 and 4.
25 ECOSOC Resolution 2012/19.
illicit trafficking of specific protected species of wild fauna and flora, their parts and derivatives. CCPCJ resolution E/CN.15/2014/L.4/Rev.1 on ‘Strengthening a targeted crime prevention and criminal justice response to combat illicit trafficking in forest products, including timber’ requests UNODC to undertake research that focuses on organized criminal networks involved in illicit trafficking in forest products, including timber, and invites Member States to contribute, on a voluntary basis, to such research.

**Mandates related to trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants**

Trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants are dealt with in the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air respectively, both supplementing the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime. As custodian of the Convention and its protocols, UNODC is mandated to promote global adherence to the protocols and assist States in implementing them. As with the substantive issue of transnational organized crime, further mandates for the work of UNODC on trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants emanate from the resolutions of a number of UN inter-governmental bodies.

In 2010, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution A/RES/64/293 entitled “United Nations Global Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons”. As part of the plan, the Member States decided to “[c]onduct research and collect suitably disaggregated data that would enable a proper analysis of the nature and extent of trafficking in persons” (para. 16). The Member States also mandated UNODC to collect information and present a global report every two years, starting in 2012:

"Request the Secretary-General, as a matter of priority, to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to collect information and report biennially, starting in 2012, on patterns and flows of trafficking in persons at the national, regional and international levels in a balanced, reliable and comprehensive manner, in close cooperation and collaboration with Member States, and share best practices and lessons learned from various initiatives and mechanisms.” (A/RES/64/293, para. 60.)

This request was reiterated in resolution E/CN.15/2011/L.13/Rev.1 adopted by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in April 2011: “Also requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to strengthen its capacity to collect and analyse information and to report biennially, starting in 2012, on patterns, forms and flows of trafficking in persons at all levels in a reliable and comprehensive manner, with a balanced perspective on both supply and demand, as a step towards, inter alia, improving the implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, in close cooperation and collaboration with Member States, and to share best practices and lessons learned from various initiatives and mechanisms.”

The Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, in its Resolution 6/3 on the implementation of the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol, encouraged State Parties to reinforce multi-agency cooperation and coordination, such as by considering the establishment of multi-agency centres, for the purpose of data collection, strategic and tactical analysis, and information-sharing in order to detect, prevent and suppress the smuggling of migrants (CTOC/COP/2012/15, para. 17).

**Mandates relating to drug trafficking and drug use**

UNODC’s work in respect of drug trafficking and drug use is led by various resolutions from the GA, ECOSOC, CND and CCPJ which have shaped its functions in research, standards setting and institutional strengthening, with a focus on monitoring global drug trends, the health response, supporting the regulatory response in drug and precursor control, and the criminal justice response.
The International Drug Control Conventions form the basis of reporting statistics on drug use and supply. Parties signatory to the Conventions are required to furnish reports on the working of conventions on their territories, particularly information on significant developments in the abuse of and trafficking of illicit substances. The availability of quality data on drug use and supply remains key to a fuller understanding of the drug situation in countries and regions, as well as globally, and thereby the working of the Drug Control Conventions.

In addition to the provisions of the UN Drug Control Conventions, resolutions adopted by the General Assembly (most recently A/C.3/67/L.14/Rev.2), the Economic and Social Council, and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (most recently 43/1 and 52/12), have also shaped UNODC functions in research, standard setting and institutional strengthening, with a focus on monitoring global drug trends, health consequences and responses, supporting the regulatory response in drug and precursor control, and the criminal justice response. This also includes data on arrests, seizures, price and purity of illicit drugs, data on the illicit manufacture of controlled substances, including data on clandestine laboratories and data on significant individual drug seizures. UNODC also supports Member States in developing capacity to collect internationally comparable data on drug trafficking.

The UNODC mandate related to data collection and dissemination extends to the area of developing standard methodology. General Assembly resolution A/C.3/63/L.8/Rev.1 calls for the development of standard indicators on drug use. The mandated responsibility to support countries calls on UNODC also to develop training material and manuals to support the implementation of sound methodology.

In line with these mandates, UNODC has the responsibility of informing Member States on the nature, extent and recent trends in the cultivation, production, manufacture, trafficking and use of illicit substances globally through the annual *World Drug Report* (A/RES/52/92, A/C.3/67/L.14/Rev.2), the annual report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) on the global situation with regards to drug use and supply.


UNODC has a mandated role to support capacity building efforts that assist Member States in providing reliable and comparable statistical drug information. The UNODC mandate also entails compiling best practices and developing standard methodology for collection, analysis and dissemination of internationally comparable drug statistics.

**Mandates relating to crime prevention and criminal justice**

A number of GA, ECOSOC and CCPCJ resolutions mandate UNODC research work in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice. For example, ECOSOC resolution 1984/48 requested that the Secretary-General maintain and develop the United Nations crime-related database by continuing to conduct surveys on crime trends and the operation of criminal justice systems.

Similarly, at the 19th Session of the CCPCJ in May 2010, Member States highlighted UNODC’s role in promoting “interregional cooperation in criminal matters through the exchange of experience and reliable statistics, along with regional capacity-building for experts and officials”. In this respect, ECOSOC resolutions highlight the particular need for capacity building in the area of crime victimization surveys, “assisting Member States, at their request, through, inter alia... technical cooperation projects to strengthen national capacities... including participation in international surveys of victims of crime”. A number of national data collection activities are

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supported by UNODC which include surveys in the areas of victimization, drug-use and corruption and regular surveys to monitor the cultivation and production of illicit drug in the major producing countries.

ECOSOC Resolution 2013/37 on improving the quality and availability of statistics on crime and criminal justice for policy development, and Resolution 22/5 on strengthening of international cooperation to promote the analysis of trends in transnational organized crime, adopted by the 2013 Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, recall and reaffirm UNODC’s role in strengthening the collection, analysis and dissemination of accurate, reliable and comparable data and information to enhance knowledge on crime trends and support Member States in designing appropriate responses in specific areas of crime.

The UNODC mandate related to data collection and dissemination extends to the area of developing standard methodology. GA resolution (A/C.3/63/L.8/Rev.1) calls for the development of standard indicators on drug use. The mandated responsibility to support countries calls on UNODC to also develop training material and manuals to support the implementation of sound methodology. It is within this context that UNODC has developed a series of methodological tools, including the Manual on Victimization Surveys, the Manual for the Measurement of Juvenile Justice Indicators, and the Guidelines for yield assessment of opium gum and coca leaf. In addition, UNODC technical support is based on principles set out in the United Nations Manual for the Development of a System of Criminal Justice Statistics.

**Mandates relating to corruption**

The most relevant mandates relating to corruption arise from the United Nations Convention against Corruption and from its Conference of the States Parties that call upon the UNODC, as the guardian of the Convention, to collect information and provide assistance to States parties on request. Mandates to UNODC in respect of responding to corruption come also from the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the quinquennial United Nations Congresses on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

Since its entry into force on 14 December 2005, the United Nations Convention against Corruption now has 172 States parties and is the only legally binding universal anti-corruption instrument. Several mandates of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption call upon UNODC, as the custodian of the Convention, to collect information. In addition, UNODC is regularly requested to provide data, research and analyses on corruption by a broad range of users (Member States, NGOs, anti-corruption practitioners, the media, research community).

**Mandates relating to forensic science in the context of drug control and criminal justice**

In the field of forensic services, the UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Section, in the form of the United Nations Narcotics Laboratory, was established by United Nations General Assembly (GA) Resolution 834 (IX) in 1954. In 1959, GA Resolution 1395 (XIV) established a continuing programme of technical assistance in narcotics control within the regular budget of the United Nations. Since then, various resolutions from the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs have shaped the functions of the section in research, standard setting and institutional strengthening.

Within the function of providing standard setting of forensic best practices and institutional strengthening in forensic capacity building, UNODC’s mandates in the scientific and forensic sector can be broadly classified under two main categories: the three international drug conventions and the crime conventions.
Specifically, General Assembly (GA) Resolutions 49/168, 48/12 and 45/179; Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Resolutions 1993/40, 1992/29A and Commission on Narcotic Drugs Resolutions 52/7, 50/4, 45/6, 44/14, 39/1, 38/12 have mandated areas of work such as the establishment and strengthening of national drug testing laboratories, the development of reliable field and laboratory testing methods, the development of internationally acceptable guidelines, criteria, methodologies and best practice for national testing programmes and the establishment of a central source of reference standards of major drugs, their metabolites, and precursors. In support of the UNODC quality assurance programme for drug analysis laboratories, CND Resolutions 50/4, 52/7, 54/3 recommended UNODC to continue to support Member States in enhancing the analytical work and performance of laboratories.

With regard to the scientific and forensic support to synthetic drugs and precursors issues, GA Resolution 20/4A (Action Plan against illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of ATS and precursors, 1998) and ECOSOC resolution 2001/14 (Prevention of diversion of precursors used in the illicit manufacture of synthetic drug) form the basis of the Programme’s intervention.

In light of the increasing number of reports about the production of synthetic cannabinoids in herbal products, the CND adopted Resolution 53/11 in 2010 (Promoting the sharing of information on the potential abuse of and trafficking in synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists). 28

As a response to the serious public health risks and challenges posed by new psychoactive substances, CND Resolution 55/1 in 2012, which was followed by CND Resolutions 56/4 (2013) and 57/9 (2014), encouraged UNODC to provide Member States with technical assistance and forensic and toxicological capability support, and requested UNODC “to serve as an early warning advisory” and called for “enhancing international cooperation in the identification and reporting of new psychoactive substances”, by sharing and exchanging ideas, efforts, good practices and experiences; providing analytical methodologies, reference documents and mass spectra, as well as trend-analysis data, with a view to providing a global reference on new psychoactive substances; and to consider the provision of technical assistance in the identification and reporting of new psychoactive substances.

The Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, 29 which follows up on GA Resolution 20/4A, emphasizes that “continued and persistent national, regional and international efforts based on improved understanding of the problem through the examination of scientific evidence and the sharing of experiences, forensic data and information are essential to preventing the diversion of precursors and other substances under international control that are used in the illicit production and manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances”. The Plan of Action calls for “Enhanced frameworks for the exchange of high-quality and reliable forensic information among drug control agencies, customs authorities and police authorities, including, when appropriate, through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime forensic laboratory”. In addition, operative paragraphs C1 32(b), C2 34(a) and 5, 41 (d, g, m and n) call for increased used of forensic data in improving understanding of the phenomenon of synthetic drugs; targeting the clandestine manufacture of synthetic drugs and addressing emerging issues in precursor control.

From 2009 onwards, the UNODC legal framework extended UNODC’s role in forensic areas other than drugs, by incorporating scientific and forensic materials and assistance in criminal prosecution proceedings to prevent and combat economic fraud and identity-related crime. 30

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28 This marked an extension of CND Resolution 48/1 in 2005 (“Promoting the sharing of information on emerging trends in the abuse of and trafficking in substances not controlled under the international drug control conventions”)

29 UNODC, Commission on Narcotic Drugs, International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, Vienna 11-12 March 2009.

30 This was requested by UNODC in ECOSOC Resolution 2009/22 and echoed in the 20th Session of the CCPCJ in 2011; see Annex I for a summary of the anti-crime conventions in the forensic field.
Following GA Resolution 61/183 paragraph 33 (International cooperation against the world drug problem) which called on UNODC to provide assistance to Member States requesting support in establishing or strengthening scientific and forensic capabilities, and to promote the integration of scientific support to national, regional and international drug control frameworks, legislation and practices, the 19th Session of the CCPCJ in Resolution 19/5 of 2010 requested the UNODC to “continue to support international cooperation in the forensic field, promote and facilitate the establishment and/or sustainability of regional forensic science associations or networks and, to that end, further explore areas of synergy between its traditional support for the work of drug analysis laboratories and forensic science institutions more generally”.

**Mandates related to statistics in general**

The importance of statistics and, more generally, research at the national, regional and international levels has been acknowledged on many occasions by intergovernmental bodies, particularly since 2000 when the Millennium Declaration and its monitoring process put quantitative evidence at the centre of the efforts to promote economic and social development. In 2006, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)\(^ {31} \) encouraged the strengthening of statistical capacity of relevant international organizations, called upon Member States to intensify their efforts to strengthen national statistical capacity, and encouraged international agencies to support national efforts in building and strengthening national statistical capacity. In addition to the provisions of the drug and crime-related treaties, resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice have mandated UNODC to collect, analyse and disseminate drugs and crime statistics.\(^ {32} \)

In line with these mandates, in addition to the *World Drug Report* (A/RES/52/92) and the annual report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) on world crime trends, UNODC maintains a number of on-line databases and ad-hoc statistical, thematic and analytical reports. UNODC also has a mandated role to support capacity building efforts that assist Member States in providing reliable and comparable statistical drug and crime information. The report summarizing the round-table discussions of the high-level segment of the 52nd Session of the CND (E/2009/28; E/CN.7/2009/12) concluded, for example, that “There is a need to improve the capacity of Member States to collect the data and information necessary to formulate evidence-based drug control policies and responses”.

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\(^ {31} \) ECOSOC 2006/6: Strengthening Statistical Capacity.

\(^ {32} \) See Annex 1 [to be added].
ANNEX B  STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE PERIOD 2014-2015

Research, trend analysis and forensics

Objective of the Organization: Enhanced knowledge of thematic and cross-sectoral trends for effective policy formulation, operational response and impact assessment, based on a sound understanding of drug, crime and terrorism issues

EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENT

(a) Enhanced access to increased knowledge to formulate strategic responses to address existing and emerging drugs and crime issues.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

(i) Increased number of references in research publications to documents or information generated by UNODC

Performance measures:
- In 2010 – 2011: 1916
- Estimate 2012 – 2013: 2100
- Target 2014 – 2015: 2400

(ii) Percentage of positive assessments of relevance and usefulness of research outputs for strategic response formulation

Performance measures:
- In 2010 – 2011: n/a
- Estimate 2012 – 2013: n/a
- Target 2014 – 2015: >60 per cent

(iii) Number of country-data series disseminated by UNODC disaggregated by: drug demand, drug supply, crime and criminal justice

Performance measures:
Data series for crime
- Target 2014 – 2015: 600 data series for crime

Data series for drugs
- Target 2014 – 2015: 600 data series for drugs
EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENT

(b) Increased capacity to produce and analyze statistical data on trends including those in emerging drug and specific crime issues

(c) Improved scientific and forensic capacity to meet appropriate professional standards, including increased use of scientific information and laboratory data for interagency cooperation activities and in strategic operations, policy and decision-making

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

(i) Number of national institutions which received targeted training or other forms of technical assistance on data collection related to drugs and crime

Performance measures:
Number of national institutions working on drug statistics
- In 2010 – 2011: n.a. (new indicator)
- Target 2014 – 2015: 20 national institutions

Number of national institutions working on crime statistics
- In 2010 – 2011: n.a. (new indicator)
- Target 2014 – 2015: 25 national institutions

(ii) Increased percentage of institutions in receipt of UNODC assistance reporting enhanced scientific and forensic capacity

Performance measures:
- In 2010-2011: 82 per cent
- Estimate 2012-2013: 85 per cent
- Target 2014 – 2015: 85 per cent

(iii) Increased number of laboratories participating actively in the international collaborative exercise

Performance measures:
- In 2010 – 2011: 100 laboratories
- Estimate 2012 – 2013: 105 laboratories
- Target 2014 - 2015: 120 laboratories

(iii) Increased percentage of laboratories in receipt of UNODC assistance reporting participation in, and/or use of forensic data for, inter-agency activities with law enforcement, regulatory, judicial, health authorities and/or trend analyses

Performance measures:
- In 2010 – 2011: 75 per cent
- Estimate 2012 – 2013: 75 per cent
- Target 2014 – 2015: 75 per cent
ANNEX C   LISTING OF TOOLS AND SERVICES

Transnational organized crime

Reports, Guidelines and Databases

Outputs and products vary depending on emerging programme priorities and requests from Members States and, in the past, have typically included thematic chapters for the World Drug Report, regional assessments in support of UNODC regional programme development, thematic studies, etc...

Services

During the period 2015-2016, UNODC will concentrate its global research efforts and services on :

- Development work on threat assessment methods to support strategic and programme development
- Trafficking in persons (see next subsection for details)
- Trafficking in wild fauna and flora with an initial focus on protected species. During 2015-2016, UNODC will also look at the broader sector of wildlife and forest crime.
- Trafficking in firearms

Support for the technical capacity of countries to collect data on organized crime through:

- Technical support to governments and UNODC field offices on organized crime-related information and monitoring systems
- Provision of expert technical assistance and advice to countries to enhance data collections on organized crime
- Research on methodologies for collection and analysis of data.

Trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants

Reports, Guidelines and Databases

The flagship tool provided to Member States in respect of trafficking in persons is the biennial Global Report on Trafficking in Persons

Services

- Collection, analysis and dissemination of data on trafficking in persons, smuggling of persons and related crimes, with specific focus on the following subjects:
  - Victims, smugglers, traffickers and forms of exploitation
  - Smuggling and trafficking flows at the global and local levels
  - Criminal justice responses
- Support for the technical capacity of countries to collect data on trafficking in persons (TIP) and smuggling of migrants, including related conduct in line with the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol through through:
  - Technical support to governments and UNODC field offices on information and monitoring systems to collect data on trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants and related conduct; and
Provision of expert technical assistance and advice to countries to enhance data collection on trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants and related conduct.

Drug production, trafficking and drug use

Reports, Guidelines and Databases

The flagship tool provided to States in respect of drug trafficking and drug use is the annual World Drug Report as well as the survey reports on “Global Afghan Opium Trade” and “Misuse of Licit Trade for Opiate Trafficking in Western and Central Asia” and national level reports on the extent of drug cultivation and production such as the annual “Afghanistan Opium Survey Report” and “Coca cultivation Survey in Colombia, Bolivia and Peru”.

In addition, the UNODC issues annual CND Reports on drug use, and semi-annual reports on individual seizures, as well as a variety of survey and monitoring reports.

On-line databases

- Statistical series on drug use and supply
- Statistical series on seizures

Services

- Collection, analysis and dissemination of data on cross-national drug and crime trends through:
  - Annual Report Questionnaires on illicit drugs
  - Individual Drug Seizures on seizures of illicit drugs by countries
- Support for the technical capacity of countries to collect data on drugs through:
  - Technical support to governments and UNODC field offices on drug use surveys and implementation of drug use information and monitoring systems, drug cultivation and production estimation and trends monitoring
  - Technical support to national and regional drug price monitoring systems of coca and derivatives in the Andean countries and of opium and derivatives in South-West Asia
  - Support to countries to regularly report information mandated by CND and CCPCJ
  - Development of training material for supporting countries in regularly reporting drug data at the international level
  - Provision of analytical capacity and advice to produce assessments and reports on drugs
- Normative development and research on methodologies for collection and analysis of data on drugs:
  - Methodologies developed/improved for global production estimates of major drugs
  - Methodologies developed/improved for geographic information systems to capture, store, manipulate, analyse, manage, and present all types of geographical data from satellites and overflights essentially relating to illicit crop monitoring.

Conventional crime and criminal justice

Reports, Guidelines and Databases

In addition, UNODC prepares chapters on selected crime trends in analytical reports

Survey reports

- Victimization surveys

On-line databases

- Crime and criminal justice statistics
- Homicide statistics

Services

In respect of conventional crime and criminal justice, the flagship activity of the UNODC in respect of research and trend analysis is the collection, analysis and dissemination of data on cross-national drug and crime trends through the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems on recorded crime and criminal justice system response.

- Normative development and research on methodologies for collection and analysis of data:
  - Development of indicators for measurement of crime, corruption and the effective delivery of justice
- Support for the technical capacity of countries to collect data on crime and criminal justice through:
  - Provision of expert technical assistance and advice to countries to enhance data collections on crime and criminal justice. This includes assistance in improving administrative data on crime and criminal justice and developing population-based surveys on victimization and corruption
  - Development of training material for supporting countries in regularly reporting crime data at the international level
  - Provision of analytical capacity and advice to produce assessments and reports on crime

Corruption

Reports, Guidelines and Databases

- Collection, analysis and dissemination of data on cross-national corruption trends
- Corruption surveys

Services

- Support for the technical capacity of countries to collect data on corruption through:
  - Provision of expert technical assistance and advice to countries to enhance data collection on corruption.
Forensic science in the context of drug control and crime prevention

Reports, Guidelines and Databases

Analytical Reports

- Patterns and Trends of AMPHETAMINE-TYPE STIMULANTS (ATS) and Other Drugs, (annual report)
- Global Synthetic Drugs Assessment (Triennial Report)
- The Challenge of New Psychoactive Substances (annual report)

Services

- Provision of specialized laboratory analyses and examinations, delivering an objective evidence-base for effective drug control and crime prevention.
- Design effective interventions based on an improved understanding of emerging trends.
- Monitoring global drug trends
  - Provision of comparative analysis of drug or precursor samples, leading to strategic forensic information (“forensic intelligence”)
  - Supply of objective data on the supply of drugs, therefore enriching policy and trend analysis, while at the same time also improving the accuracy of estimations on drug manufacture and production to address such demand
  - Supply of process analysis on the synthesis methods for various drugs, uncovering which precursor chemicals are used in the process, reverse-engineering the manufacturing capacity of clandestine laboratories from their outputs, identifying whether, where and how drugs are further processed, cut or adulterated
  - Delivery of systematic forensic information to improve the overall understanding of drug distribution networks, trafficking routes and flows, by providing conclusive answers to questions such as: where do the different stages of drug manufacture/production take place
  - Provision of associated services on the logistics of drug trafficking routes, their associated changes and degree of compartmentalization in the production/trafficking chain among criminal networks
  - Methodical analysis of data and information from hospital emergency room examinations – on the demand side – serves an important epidemiological purpose, e.g. for monitoring drug overdose cases or drug-related deaths.
- Health response to drug use
  - Provision of toxicological analyses (i.e. analyses of drugs in body fluids or tissue) and forensic examinations
  - Comparative analysis of drug or precursor samples, leading to strategic forensic information (“forensic intelligence”)
  - Using these analyses map out the effects of drugs upon users and provides some insight into the mechanisms that lead to intoxication or death. They are also critical to monitoring compliance with drug treatment and rehabilitation programs, and parole/probation programs, and are increasingly used in routine employee drug tests and in roadside drug-driving tests.
• Support for the regulatory response in drug and precursor control
  o Provision of specialized analyses to assist in the monitoring of clandestine drug manufacture
  o Aid regulatory authorities at national, regional and global levels to identify new targets for precursor monitoring programs, or otherwise alert to newly emerging drugs for scheduling
  o Aid regulatory authorities at national, regional and global levels to identify between illicitly manufactured drugs and legitimate diverted drugs, including counterfeit medicines
  o Provide identification of characteristic chemical features of specific precursors to discriminate between clandestine and commercial sources
  o Identification of the types of drugs available on illicit markets, determining whether they are of high or low quality and whether their chemical composition changes (this is important given that drugs are typically marketed using 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.

• Criminal justice response
  o Provision of objective information in support of fair and transparent criminal justice systems enforcing the rule of law, monitoring the reliability and admissibility of physical evidence
  o Lever upon forensic information to build cases on physical evidence rather than only on confession and testimony.
  o Provide direction, contribute to operational crime analysis, or gather intelligence. 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. A crime scene typically holds a multitude of forensic evidence that not only provide the scene of crime investigator with objective data from which investigative theories can be tested and testimonial evidence can be collaborated or refuted, but also make available to the court the conditions and circumstances defined by the scene.
  o Systematic generation and analysis of quality forensic data contributing to the identification of new crime trends and threats, for example, into the identification and the methods being used to counterfeit or forge official documents, which serve as a prerequisite for trafficking in persons as well as the smuggling of migrants.
ANNEX D  STANDARDS FOR UNODC RESEARCH

The United Nations has a reputation of being impartial and that is why there is a high level of trust in the findings presented by the UN. In this context, UNODC research products have a particularly high requirement to support the UN reputation of objectivity.

UNODC research and trend analysis is inspired by internationally established principles and practices, such as the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities. The work is conducted in accordance with impartial, transparent and scientific methodology, making use of quantitative and qualitative evidence.

Adopting the highest quality standards in processing and producing collected information is a fundamental element in maintaining the trust of the users of UNODC research. Data on drugs and crime can represent a sensitive, and sometimes politically charged topic, and it is important that data and qualitative evidence are processed and analysed with the utmost objectivity. The quality of the UNODC’s data and qualitative evidence helps to ensure the relevance, accuracy, timeliness, coherence, comparability, accessibility and clarity of its research. In order to ensure the high quality of UNODC research outputs the following standards are used.

1. Clear and relevant research questions

Research questions at UNODC are formulated within the general framework which is based on the mandates included in international treaties and in resolutions of relevant intergovernmental bodies. The research topics support the formulation, analysis and implementation of policies and contribute to the strategic priorities of UNODC.

The research also identifies emerging issues in order to support the formulation of strategic priorities in the future. The identification of new threats and estimating their impact to the society can help authorities to prevent them or prepare for addressing them in a proper way.

2. Well-designed methodology

Research methodology describes the strategy that is used to conduct the research using different methods to collect data and qualitative information. Sound methodology is based on established scientific principles and it must be appropriate to the research question. The methodology that is used is always described in a detailed manner allowing the audience to assess its suitability regarding the research question as well as the quality of the research results.

Research at UNODC applies different methodologies for data collection. They can be quantitative or qualitative, and are often innovative. However, the methodologies are always based on established principles and requirements in order to ensure the quality of data and other information.

Quantitative designs approach social phenomena through quantifiable evidence, often relying on statistical analysis of many cases (or across intentionally designed treatments in an experiment) to create valid and reliable general claims often related to quantifiable measurements.

Qualitative designs emphasize quality and the contextual subjective accuracy over generality and therefore aim to reach understanding of social phenomena through direct observation, communication with participants, or analysis of texts.

Establishment of innovative methodologies. Information on drugs and crime are often hard to collect and interpret since they involve illicit activities which can be hidden and difficult to detect. In some crime and drug fields, there is no consolidated set of globally accepted methodological standards. UNODC is often the pioneer in developing new methodologies which may require a long time in order to be accepted (an

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example is the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes which will be submitted to the UN Statistical Commission for endorsement in 2015. The classification is a pioneering tool to consolidate crime data at national and international level, but it requires many years to become operational in all countries. Innovative methodologies are also needed to collect, compare and analyse information reported by member states which do not all function under the same legal, conceptual and methodological frameworks.

All collected data is stored in a way that it can be properly screened and verified, for example, in well-designed data bases. The limitations to the data quality are systematically described. As the fast-evolving IT environment continues to grow, new cost-effective solutions are offered to manage the collection, processing and analysis of data. UNODC continues to improve its statistical system and its knowledge generation and knowledge management processes by adopting efficient solutions for decreasing data entry time, maximizing automatic data checking, and optimizing data storage. New data entry solutions, such as web-portals, are going to be adopted in order to provide member states with a user-friendly interface for reporting of data at the international level.

3. Integrity and impartiality of the research

In order to maintain the trust of the international community, UNODC research is impartial and strictly based on the highest professional standards. Research products have a clear distinction between research findings (which are grounded in verifiable evidence) and policy perspectives.

Research is not conducted with a view to reaching pre-determined conclusions since it strives to be objective and balanced. Any limitations to objectivity are made transparent.

In defining the professional values, ethical principles and data quality, UNODC reflects a synthesis of pre-existing policies originated during prior decades. Fundamental declarations and principles that influence the current UNODC research include the following:

- the Declaration on Professional Ethics, Adopted by the International Statistical Institute in 1985;
- Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, Adopted by the UN General Assembly in January 2014;
- the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities, Adopted by the UN Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities in 2005.

4. Accurate and accessible presentation of the research outputs

The accessibility of the research outputs maximizes their use. UNODC knowledge outputs have various forms, such as published reports, datasets or corresponding analyses. Key findings and other relevant information as well as key limitations are presented using clear and concise language avoiding emotional tone, with the objective of also preventing any possible misinterpretation. Accuracy in presenting the findings indicates the quality and credibility of research.

All means of communicating the research outputs, such as printed material, web-based information, audio-visual material and oral presentations, share the requirement of high quality.

5. Avoiding isolation – promoting cooperation

The research at UNODC builds on the existing body of knowledge in the thematic area in question. Links to other relevant studies and information are established in order to help the audience to understand how new evidence shapes the existing knowledge base.

Links with governments, other organizations, research community, civil society and media support the cooperative nature of UNODC research.
ANNEX E  PRINCIPLES GOVERNING INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES

Bearing in mind that statistics are essential for sustainable economic, environmental and social development and that public trust in official statistics is anchored in professional independence and impartiality of statisticians, their use of scientific and transparent methods and equal access for all to official statistical information, the Chief Statisticians or coordinators of statistical activities of United Nations agencies and international and supranational organizations assembled in the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities, agree that implementation of the following principles will enhance the functioning of the international statistical system.

In doing so, they note the endorsement of these principles by the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities on 14 September, 2005; these principles were reaffirmed by the Committee with a new preamble in March 2014. They further recall the adoption by the United Nations Statistical Commission of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in its Special Session of 11-15 April 1994; the Fundamental Principles were reaffirmed by the Statistical Commission with a new preamble in March 2013 and subsequently endorsed by the Economic and Social Council on 24 July 2013 (Resolution 2013/21) and by the United Nations General Assembly on 29 January 2014 (Resolution A/RES/68/261).

1) High quality international statistics, accessible for all, are a fundamental element of global information systems

Good practices include:

- Having regular consultations with key users both inside and outside the relevant organisation to ascertain that their needs are met
- Periodic review of statistical programmes to ensure their relevance
- Compiling and disseminating international statistics based on impartiality
- Providing equal access to statistics for all users
- Ensuring free public accessibility of key statistics

2) To maintain the trust in international statistics, their production is to be impartial and strictly based on the highest professional standards

Good practices include:

- Using strictly professional considerations for decisions on methodology, terminology and data presentation
- Developing and using professional codes of conduct
- Making a clear distinction, in statistical publications, between statistical and analytical comments on the one hand and policy-prescriptive and advocacy comments on the other

3) The public has a right to be informed about the mandates for the statistical work of the organisations

Good practices include:

- Making decisions about statistical work programmes publicly available
- Making documents for and reports of statistical meetings publicly available
4) Concepts, definitions, classifications, sources, methods and procedures employed in the production of international statistics are chosen to meet professional scientific standards and are made transparent for the users

Good practices include:

- Aiming continuously to introduce methodological improvements and systems to manage and improve the quality and transparency of statistics
- Enhancing the professional level of staff by encouraging them to attend training courses, to do analytical work, to publish scientific papers and to participate in seminars and conferences.
- Documenting the concepts, definitions and classifications, as well as data collection and processing procedures used and the quality assessments carried out and making this information publicly accessible
- Documenting how data are collected, processed and disseminated, including information about editing mechanisms applied to country data
- Giving credit, in the dissemination of international statistics, to the original source and using agreed quotation standards when re-using statistics originally collected by others
- Making officially agreed standards publicly available

5) Sources and methods for data collection are appropriately chosen to ensure timeliness and other aspects of quality, to be cost-efficient and to minimise the reporting burden for data providers

Good practices include:

- Facilitating the provision of data by countries
- Working systematically on the improvement of the timeliness of international statistics
- Periodic review of statistical programmes to minimise the burden on data providers
- Sharing collected data with other organisations and collecting data jointly where appropriate
- Contributing to an integrated presentation of statistical programmes, including data collection plans, thereby making gaps or overlaps clearly visible
- Ensuring that national statistical offices and other national organisations for official statistics are duly involved and advocating that the FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS are applied when data are collected in countries

6) Individual data collected about natural persons and legal entities, or about small aggregates that are subject to national confidentiality rules, are to be kept strictly confidential and are to be used exclusively for statistical purposes or for purposes mandated by legislation

Good practices include:

- Putting measures in place to prevent the direct or indirect disclosure of data on persons, households, businesses and other individual respondents
- Developing a framework describing methods and procedures to provide sets of anonymous micro-data for further analysis by bona fide researchers, maintaining the requirements of confidentiality
7) **Erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics are to be immediately appropriately addressed**

*Good practices include:*

- Responding to perceived erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics
- Enhancing the use of statistics by developing educational material for important user groups

8) **Standards for national and international statistics are to be developed on the basis of sound professional criteria, while also meeting the test of practical utility and feasibility**

*Good practices include:*

- Systematically involving national statistical offices and other national organisations for official statistics in the development of international statistical programmes, including the development and promulgation of methods, standards and good practices
- Ensuring that decisions on such standards are free from conflicts of interest, and are perceived to be so
- Advising countries on implementation issues concerning international standards
- Monitoring the implementation of agreed standards

9) **Coordination of international statistical programmes is essential to strengthen the quality, coherence and governance of international statistics, and avoiding duplication of work**

*Good practices include:*

- Designating one or more statistical units to implement statistical programmes, including one unit that coordinates the statistical work of the organisation and represents the organisation in international statistical meetings
- Participating in international statistical meetings and bilateral and multilateral consultations whenever necessary
- Working systematically towards agreements about common concepts, classifications, standards and methods
- Working systematically towards agreement on which series to consider as authoritative for each important set of statistics
- Coordinating technical cooperation activities with countries between donors and between different organisations in the national statistical system to avoid duplication of effort and to encourage complementarities and synergy

10) **Bilateral and multilateral cooperation in statistics contribute to the professional growth of the statisticians involved and to the improvement of statistics in the organisations and in countries**

*Good practices include:*

- Cooperating and sharing knowledge among international organisations and with countries and regions to further develop national and regional statistical systems
• Basing cooperation projects on user requirements, promoting full participation of the main stakeholders, taking account of local circumstances and stage of statistical development
• Empowering recipient national statistical systems and governments to take the lead
• Advocating the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in countries
• Setting cooperation projects within a balanced overall strategic framework for national development of official statistics

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS

The Economic and Social Council

Recalling recent resolutions1 of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council highlighting the fundamental importance of official statistics for the national and global development agenda,

Bearing in mind the critical role of high-quality official statistical information in analysis and informed policy decision making in support of sustainable development, peace and security, as well as for mutual knowledge and trade among the States and peoples of an increasingly connected world, demanding openness and transparency,

Bearing in mind also that the essential trust of the public in the integrity of official statistical systems and confidence in statistics depend to a large extent on respect for the fundamental values and principles that are the basis of any society seeking to understand itself and respect the rights of its members, and in this context that professional independence and accountability of statistical agencies are crucial,

Stressing that, in order to be effective, the fundamental values and principles that govern statistical work have to be guaranteed by legal and institutional frameworks and be respected at all political levels and by all stakeholders in national statistical systems,

Endorses the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics set out below, as adopted by the Statistical Commission in 19942 and reaffirmed in 2013, and recommends them further to the General Assembly for endorsement.

Principle 1. Official statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of a democratic society, serving the Government, the economy and the public with data about the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation. To this end, official statistics that meet the test of practical utility are to be compiled and made available on an impartial basis by official statistical agencies to honour citizens’ entitlement to public information.

Principle 2. To retain trust in official statistics, the statistical agencies need to decide according to strictly professional considerations, including scientific principles and professional ethics, on the methods and procedures for the collection, processing, storage and presentation of statistical data.

Principle 3. To facilitate a correct interpretation of the data, the statistical agencies are to present information according to scientific standards on the sources, methods and procedures of the statistics.

Principle 4. The statistical agencies are entitled to comment on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics.

Principle 5. Data for statistical purposes may be drawn from all types of sources, be they statistical surveys or administrative records. Statistical agencies are to choose the source with regard to quality, timeliness, costs and the burden on respondents.

Principle 6. Individual data collected by statistical agencies for statistical compilation, whether they refer to natural or legal persons, are to be strictly confidential and used exclusively for statistical purposes.
**Principle 7.** The laws, regulations and measures under which the statistical systems operate are to be made public.

**Principle 8.** Coordination among statistical agencies within countries is essential to achieve consistency and efficiency in the statistical system.

**Principle 9.** The use by statistical agencies in each country of international concepts, classifications and methods promotes the consistency and efficiency of statistical systems at all official levels.

**Principle 10.** Bilateral and multilateral cooperation in statistics contributes to the improvement of systems of official statistics in all countries.