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Yury Fedotov
Executive Director of UNODC
June 2011
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In 2010, UNODC and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in consultation with Mini-Dublin Group members and the European Union presidency in Tehran, developed a new multilateral programme of technical cooperation on drugs and crime for the period 2011 to 2014.

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The Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Education, State Welfare Organization, Prisons Organization, Ministry of Education, research and training institutions, and non-governmental and civil society organizations are key national partners in the area of drug demand reduction and HIV and AIDS control.

The counterparts in crime prevention, justice and corruption are the Judiciary, the Iranian Prison Organization, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, the Financial Intelligence Unit, the Ministry of Justice, the High Council on Money Laundering, Anti-Money Laundering Secretariat, the Iranian Cultural, Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization, Police, Customs, as well as the Government Inspection Organization.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME IN THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

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PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AND TIMELINE
EARLY 2010-May 2011

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UNODC COUNTRY PROGRAMME OF ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN: AREAS OF WORK

The Country Programme is structured around three sub-programmes, each of which focuses on a different area of work:

- Sub-programme 1: Illicit trafficking and border management;
- Sub-programme 2: Drug demand reduction and HIV control;
- Sub-programme 3: Crime, justice and corruption.

The three sub-programmes foresee a number of expected outcomes, each organized according to a range of outputs or activities delivered in partnership with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and other stakeholders in the different areas of work.
SUB-PROGRAMME 1: ILLICIT TRAFFICKING AND BORDER MANAGEMENT

The geographical location of the Islamic Republic of Iran - particularly its long porous eastern border with Afghanistan and Pakistan - has turned it into a major transit country for illicit drugs. The 1,845 long border consists largely of mountainous or harsh desert terrain. There are obvious challenges to achieve control over this area, although 12,000 anti-narcotics police and border guards are reportedly deployed to control it.

Trafficking of illicit drugs is a critical issue for both economic development and security in Islamic Republic of Iran. In addition to opium and heroin trafficking, the country also faces new difficulties from emerging trends of illicit production and trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants; between 2009 and 2010, a sudden and massive increase of reported seizures of high purity crystalline methamphetamine (“Shisheh”) was registered.

Sub-Programme Structure

Under the first sub-programme, border management and the country's capacities to interdict illicit drugs and precursors will be enhanced through the delivery of value-added technical assistance and cooperation to relevant authorities.

Bilateral, regional and international cooperation under the sub-programme will be fostered within the framework of existing regional and international initiatives. Specific support will be provided to the Government to facilitate the implementation of the Triangular Initiative on counter narcotics enforcement amongst the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, particularly within four areas: establishment of border liaison offices, information-intelligence exchange, intelligence-led investigations and cross-border communication system.

Given the strategic position of the country, dialogue and exchange with the broader international anti-narcotics community will also be promoted under sub-programme 1. Sub-programme 1 comprises two expected outcomes, implemented through the delivery of six key outputs.
SUB-PROGRAMME 3 : CRIME, JUSTICE AND CORRUPTION

The Islamic Republic of Iran faces the challenge of transnational and domestic organized crime. Illicit drug related activities and other illicit exports and imports, have led to money laundering and corruption, which represent a serious obstacle to development. The Government acknowledges the necessity to prevent and suppress serious crimes through a coordinated approach at the national and international level.

Sub-Programme Structure

Sub-programme 3 aims to enhance national ability to tackle transnational organized crime, money laundering and corruption. Legislative, regulatory and institutional capacity building will be delivered in the areas related to the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime, particularly on anti-money laundering, terrorism financing and mutual legal assistance. In this respect, regional – including amongst the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, of Iran and Pakistan – and international cooperation will be facilitated and fostered.

This sub-programme will also support national efforts to establish an integrity-based, accountable and effective anti-corruption regime in line with the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, through technical assistance in the areas of legislation, as well as capacity and institution building.

Furthermore, an innovative initiative will be launched by UNODC in collaboration with the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to enhance national efforts in countering trafficking in cultural properties, art and antiquities in line with the Transnational Organized Crime Convention.

Sub-programme 3 comprises three expected outcomes, implemented through the delivery of nine key outputs.
SUB-PROGRAMME 2: DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION AND HIV CONTROL

With 1.2 million opiate-dependent users, equivalent to 2.26 per cent of the population aged 15-64 years, the Islamic Republic of Iran has one of the most severe opiate addiction problems in the world. The prevalence of drugs in certain sub-populations, such as youth and women, is an additional cause for concern.

HIV prevalence among injecting and non-injecting drug users through needle sharing as well as sexual transmission is high at 15 per cent and between 3 and 6 per cent respectively. The latest figures from the HIV and AIDS case registration report more than 21,000 detected cases of HIV. In around 70 per cent of registered cases, the infection occurred through injecting drug use.

Sub-Programme Structure

Sub-programme two aims to promote public health; protect individuals, families and communities from drug addiction; and provide evidence-based treatment and rehabilitation as well as HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment and care.

National drug demand reduction, HIV control and harm reduction programmes will be strengthened through specific scientific-based actions. In all these areas, activities carried out in partnership with a number of national and international partners will target mainly vulnerable groups.

A specific component has been designed to strengthen capacities of non-governmental organizations in the areas of interest within the sub-programme. South-South cooperation will also be facilitated through actions that will promote good practices carried out by national authorities. This will publicize the country’s work in the areas of opiate substitution treatments and HIV prevention, treatment and care in the prison settings amongst other middle-income and developing countries.

Sub-programme 2 comprises three expected outcomes, implemented through the delivery of fifteen key outputs.
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**SUB-PROGRAMME 1**

Illicit Trafficking and Border Management

**OUTCOME 1**

Law Enforcement mechanisms and capacities enhanced and operationally supported

- **OUTPUT 1.1:** Improved national, regional and international cooperation and integrated response for countering trafficking of drugs and precursors to/from Afghanistan

- **OUTPUT 1.2:** Border Liaison Offices established and operationally supported

- **OUTPUT 1.3:** Cross border communication system established, tested and operational

- **OUTPUT 1.4:** Law Enforcement mechanisms and capacities enhanced and operationally supported

**OUTCOME 2**

Organized crime drug networks and serious operatives identified and acted upon

- **OUTPUT 2.1:** Law enforcement criminal intelligence information exchange and intelligence-led investigation capacities enhanced and operational

- **OUTPUT 2.2:** Joint Planning Cell enhanced and operational

**SUB-PROGRAMME 3 : CRIME, JUSTICE AND CORRUPTION**

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