

**Regional Programme for the Arab States
to Prevent and Combat Crime, Terrorism and Health Threats
and Strengthen Criminal Justice Systems in Line with
International Human Rights Standards (2016-2021)**

The Third Steering and Follow-up Committee Meeting

**Cairo, Egypt
7-8 November 2018**

Recommendations

Following the working group discussions of the five Subprogrammes of the Regional Programme (2016-2021), the Steering and Follow-Up Committee recommends the following:

- 1- Partners to continue to cooperate for the full implementation of the Regional Programme for the Arab States to Prevent and Combat Criminal, Terrorist and Health Threats, and to Strengthen Criminal Justice Systems, in line with International Human Rights Standards (2016-2021).
- 2- Call on Member States covered by the Regional Programme, LAS Specialized Councils, and UNODC to update joint priorities and support efforts in order to address criminal and terrorist threats and achieve criminal justice and health care.

Subprogramme I: “Combating Organized Crime”

- 3- Support member states to develop their national capacities and personnel to meet the requirements of the review mechanism for the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Organized Crime, adopted by the Conference of the States Parties held in Vienna in October 2018.
- 4- Support the efforts of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, at its request, to develop and update legislative frameworks and regional mechanisms to meet the challenges of organized crime, including its relevant specialized councils.
- 5- The implementation of initiatives aimed to secure land, air and sea borders, to extend these initiatives and to maximize the benefit from them. Encourage the Arab States to join UNODC’s initiatives on border control so as to improve the mechanisms of detection and combating organized crime and illicit trafficking in all forms and movements of terrorist fighters;
- 6- Call on the UNODC’s Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects to support the efforts of member states, at their request, in the collection of weapons and reintegration.

- 7- Support the use of special investigation techniques, such as using digital evidence, open-source investigations and criminal intelligence analysis, in order to more effectively dismantle organized criminal and terrorist groups.
- 8- Increase national competencies of member states in the use of crime lab and forensics as a means of investigating and reporting, integrate them into the means of evidence procedures, and to use them to detect crimes, and to improve crime scene management, laboratory analyses (ballistics, chemicals, fingerprints, DNA, etc.), the chain of evidence custody, and international certifications on national laboratories.
- 9- Support national legislation development on cybercrimes and digital evidence management.
- 10- Support national and regional training academies and centers in combating cybercrimes and technological investigations such as cryptocurrency, mobile device forensics including vehicle forensics, as well as darknet investigations.
- 11- Continue to build and strengthen states' capacities to fight trafficking in persons (TiP) and smuggling of migrants (SoM) through:
 - i. Developing and strengthening national and regional legislative frameworks and evidence-based inclusive policies in accordance with the UNTOC and the two supplementary protocols on TiP and SoM; and the Arab Convention on Combating Transnational Crime;
 - ii. Providing technical support to the criminal justice systems in the Arab states for effective identification, investigation and prosecution of TiP and SoM, including the establishment of effective National Referral Mechanisms (NRM) for protecting and assisting victims;
 - iii. Promoting states' capacities in taking prevention measures and raising awareness on the gravity of TiP and SoM crimes, especially among vulnerable groups;
 - iv. Support the use of all possible regional, and international cooperation mechanisms to ensure the swift processing of mutual legal assistance and extradition requests in the areas of transnational organized crime and terrorism, including through the use of the UNODC Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool.

Subprogramme II: “Countering Terrorism”

- 12- Develop national strategies and legislations to address emerging terrorism threats, such as protecting the infrastructure from terrorist attacks and preventing the use of chemicals of dual-use in the manufacture of explosives for terrorist purposes, in light of the United Nations Security Council resolutions in this regard.
- 13- Enhance the knowledge and capacities of criminal justice and law enforcement officers on countering recruitment of terrorist fighters, with special focus on vulnerable groups (children and women); notably on aspects related to investigation and trials of related cases, in addition to policies on anti-polarization, anti-radicalization, extremism, rehabilitation and reintegration and benefit from successful experiences in the region;
- 14- Support member states to develop the necessary mechanisms to support the legal status of the victims of families of terrorist fighters and to provide them with the necessary legal protection, rehabilitation and community reintegration.

- 15- Support the efforts of member states, upon request, to develop procedural and legislative mechanisms and preventive measures against the use of kidnapping and ransom by terrorist groups as a means of achieving terrorist purposes.
- 16- Develop, in cooperation with the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and upon request of member states, counter terrorism legislations and regional and international action plans for countering terrorism and violent extremism, and to benefit from regional and international experiences in this field through experience exchange;
- 17- Continue to enhance criminal justice measures to address terrorism threats, through strengthening the capacities of criminal justice and law enforcement officials to effectively investigate and prosecute cases of terrorism, in addition to developing strategies on prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of women and children who have been arrested in conflict zones freed from the control of terrorist organizations.
- 18- Support the efforts of member states to address the exploitation of modern technological means by terrorist groups for the purpose of recruiting, financing and carrying out terrorist operations.
- 19- Support the efforts of the law enforcement and criminal justice officials in combating and breaking the links between terrorist groups, organized criminal groups and related crimes.

Subprogramme III: “Countering Corruption and Financial Crimes”

- 20- Intensify states’ efforts to combat anti-corruption, promote integrity and develop effective preventive measures, as per the international and regional framework for anti-corruption (United Nations Convention against Corruption and Arab Anti-Corruption Convention) - such as:
 - i. The development of comprehensive national anti-corruption policies and strategies and promoting integrity;
 - ii. The establishment and application of an asset and property declaration system, promoting the enactment of conflict-of-interest prohibition laws and inspection and internal oversight mechanisms;
 - iii. The promotion of the principles of integrity, transparency and governance in society.
- 21- Support the capacities of law enforcement agencies and criminal justice in the fight against corruption and money-laundering and promote the participation and utilization of internationally and regionally successful experiences.
- 22- Further increase the focus on countering anti-money laundering and terrorism financing in all its forms.

Subprogramme IV: “Criminal Justice and Crime Prevention”

- 23- Enhance Member States efforts in relation to preventing, prosecuting and adjudicating cases of violence against women. In this regard, also provide support in the development of relevant

legislations and law enforcement to encourage victims' reporting and to develop regulations that provide appropriate protection for them.

- 24- Pursue the support of the efforts to develop prison systems in the region, through:
- i. The promotion of alternatives to imprisonment and the development of national action plans in this regard as a means to reduce prison overcrowding;
 - ii. The promotion of United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners "Mandela Rules" in the treatment and care of prisoners and those in correctional facilities whether those arrested or convicted with a focus on improving detention conditions and inspection mechanisms;
 - iii. The development of rehabilitation and reintegration programmes aimed at preventing recidivism and violent extremism;
 - iv. The provision of legal assistance during criminal justice procedures.
- 25- Developing prevention and response mechanisms on violence against children in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.
- 26- Ensuring special attention for children recruited and exploited by terrorist groups, organized crime and violent extremist groups according to the United Nations standards for justice for children.

Subprogramme V: "Prevention of Drug Use, Treatment and Care of Drug Use Disorders, and HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care"

- 27- Call on UNODC and the General Secretariat of the League of the Arab States to develop a time-bound action plan for the full implementation of the MoU signed between them on 03 October 2018 on the prevention of drug abuse, treatment, and care for drug abuse disorders, including HIV /AIDS prevention.
- 28- Support and provide an evidence-based HIV prevention, guidance, outreach and treatment through official and community national institutions in line with international standards and norms^{1,2}.
- 29- Strengthen member states' capacities to develop appropriate evidence-based measures to combat use of drugs and psychotropic substances, through national action plans, and support of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation programmes, including psychological and social rehabilitation and effective follow-up- especially in schools, prisons and correctional institutions.
- 30- Support the establishment and development of national databases and improve existing mechanisms to collect, monitor and analyze information and data on the use and supply of different kinds of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and use methods including synthetic cannabinoids.

Cross-cutting Recommendations:

- 31- Strengthening bilateral, regional, and international cooperation between Arab member states in addition to strengthening inter-agency cooperation between judicial authorities and law enforcement agencies.

¹ http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/hiv-aids/new/drug-use_and_HIV.html

² https://www.unodc.org/documents/hiv-aids/HIV_prisons_advance_copy_july_2012_leaflet_UNODC_ILO_UNDP_Ebook.pdf

- 32- Expand on the cooperation between the regional office and information sharing initiatives as identified and agreed upon by LAS and UNODC.
- 33- Support the mainstreaming of gender perspective in programmes and activities adopted under the Regional Programme.
- 34- Develop legislation and mechanisms for the protection of victims, witnesses and whistleblowers in terrorist and organized crimes and crimes of violence against women.
- 35- Invite Arab member states and donors to provide the financial and technical support necessary to implement the above-mentioned recommendations and seek partnerships to enhance the impact of the Regional Programme for Arab states.