ONE UNODC CONCERTED APPROACH
INTERCONNECTING EUROPE WITH WEST AND CENTRAL ASIA

UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
Transnational organized crime is an illicit web that stretches across the globe exploiting vulnerabilities and weaknesses in the name of profit. Trafficking in Afghan opium is part of this trade, and one of the world’s major challenges and a critical obstacle to peace, development and good governance.

In recent years, it has become evident that our counter-narcotics responses must go beyond the immediate country, sub-regional or regional approaches. There is a real need for closely link global strategies with localized, and targeted interventions. It is also critical that all partners in Europe, West and Central Asia and the international community continue to work together to address a common challenge.

UNODC, as always, remains committed and stands ready to assist and to support. Such work is founded on the principle of shared responsibility. But, if we are to be successful there is a need for resources, allied to a long-term commitment to address a threat that imperils all our societies.

Yury Fedotov, UNODC
High Level Meeting of Partners for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries
Vienna, 14 December 2015

One UNODC concerted approach
interconnecting Europe with West and Central Asia

In September 2015, Member States formally adopted “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In particular, the 2030 Agenda affirms explicitly that “there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development”. The Agenda draws together the strands of peace, rule of law, human rights, development and equality into a comprehensive and forward-looking framework. Reducing conflict, crime, violence, discrimination, and ensuring inclusion and good governance, are key elements of people’s well-being and essential for securing sustainable development. This is a universal agenda that requires profound economic transformations and a new global partnership. It also requires that the international community, including the United Nations, embrace a more coherent and effective response to support the agenda.

The lessons of the past decade strongly suggest that counter-narcotics must be fully integrated in development and security strategies, and delivered as part of unified assistance. We must do more to ensure that action to weaken the stranglehold of drugs and crime which goes hand in hand with efforts to strengthen the licit economy.
Against this background, UNODC advocates for a concerted solution for Europe, West and Central Asia, and, to this end, devised an integrated and balanced one UNODC response which supports the Inter-regional Drug Control Approach and the Networking the Networks. This response aims at addressing the security, economic, governance and development challenges in Afghanistan, which are of an interconnected nature. The response includes: a robust action to confront the criminals behind illicit drug trafficking and Transnational Organized Crime (TOC); access to controlled medications for medical purposes; evidence- and health-based approaches to preventing and treating drug use disorders and HIV; and alternative livelihoods to reduce the vulnerabilities of poor farmers to illicit drug cultivation.

In particular, over the past year, UNODC has been moving towards more effective integration of country, regional and global programmes to enable synergy of efforts and increased impact on issues related to transnational organized crime, drug trafficking and terrorism threats. UNODC developed a harmonized approach to support Europe, West and Central Asia with interventions at three distinct yet closely inter-connected levels: country, regional and inter-regional.

UNODC remains committed to supporting Member States, including Country, Regional and Global Programmes, amongst which:
The Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe is in line with the UNODC global strategy and seeks maximum synergy with all relevant programmes in the region. It is also in line with the UNODC Inter-regional Drug Control Approach, the Networking the Networks Initiative and the Paris Pact Initiative. The Regional Programme is complementary to and aims at effective linkages with the “Integrated UNODC Solution for West and Central Asia” and the Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries. The Regional Programme will seek partnerships with UN sister agencies operating in the region as well as support from prospective funding partners.

The Regional Programme duly takes into consideration the experience of the previous Regional Programme (2012-2015) in terms of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and impact; the lessons learned and best practices identified; recommendations formulated by the Mid-Term In-Depth Evaluation of the Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe (released in May 2015); and international community support and funding prospects based on the principles of common and shared responsibility. UNODC operates in South Eastern Europe against a backdrop reflecting both progress and challenges as governments in the region work to meet the conditions necessary to secure EU membership and supports regional governments in key areas related to EU accession processes as well as in the implementation of the UN treaties.

The overall objective of the Regional Programme is to contribute to the promotion of the rule of law, good governance (especially in the areas of organized crime and trafficking in drugs, human beings and goods), countering money laundering, preventing and curbing corruption, supporting the development of national drug and crime policies as well as strategies and their implementation
plans, supporting drug prevention, treatment and care and, at the same time, promoting regional and inter-regional cooperation in line with the UN conventions and treaties as well as with the EU accession requirements, which are important for the region.

A number of cross-cutting components and principles were mainstreamed into all of the work foreseen under the Regional Programme, including human rights, the gender perspective and the cooperation with civil society. The Regional Programme is specifically tailored to the region, meets its priorities and has identified, with the Governments, targeted niches for UNODC engagement.

The new Regional Programme, with an indicative budget of approximately USD 21,000,000, is composed of three Sub-Programmes with research and analysis being a cross-cutting component of the Programme in the following areas:

### Sub-Programmes Budget (mln, US$)

- **1. Countering Illicit Drug Trafficking and Transnational Organized Crime**
  - 7

- **2. Strengthening Criminal Justice, Integrity and Legal Cooperation**
  - 9

- **3. Enhancing Substance Use Prevention, Drug Use Disorders Treatment, and Reintegration and Care**
  - 5
UNODC has been moving towards a more effective integration of country, regional and global programmes to enable synergy of efforts and increased impact on issues related to transnational organized crime, drug trafficking and terrorism threats. Pursuant to the adoption of the Inter-Regional Drug Control Approach, UNODC has launched a fully integrated ‘three-tier’ joint programme approach that comprises a comprehensive response to the challenge of transnational organized crime and illicit trafficking, especially of opiates, in West and Central Asia. The initiative is referred to as the Harmonized Programme (HARP), an Integrated UNODC Solution for West and Central Asia.

The HARP for West and Central Asia brings the achievements and impacts of country, regional and global programmes together in an integrated manner, builds on lessons learned and focuses on key areas where UNODC is envisaged to have the greatest added value and impact in the period 2016 till 2019. The harmonized programme focuses on a series of prioritized common deliverables with joint milestones in three key areas: i) Law Enforcement Cooperation; ii) Criminal Justice and Judicial Cooperation; and iii) Social and Human Development. It is based on joint and harmonized planning, implementation and monitoring between country, regional and global level programmes.

The ‘three-tier’ approach embodied in the HARP will bring the comparative advantages of each UNODC office in West and Central Asia (i.e. COAFG, COIRA, COPAK and ROCA) together in an integrated programming effort, with coordination through the Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries. The Paris Pact Initiative will provide strategic guidance through its Policy Consultative Group Meetings and related consultation with Member States. Global programmes that work in the region are also full partners: this list includes Global Programme on Money Laundering, the Container Control Programme, the Afghan Opiate Trade Project and the various Global Programmes on HIV/AIDS as well as Drug Use Prevention, Treatment and Care.

In summary, building on the trust gained in partnering the countries of the region over the past two decades, responding to the political transition in Afghanistan and calls for greater regional cooperation on drugs and crime, integrating the high impact responses of country, regional and global programmes of UNODC, and, coordinating with key international bodies and initiatives, UNODC has developed a new harmonized, output-focused programme for West and Central Asia. The key elements are outlined below.
Law Enforcement Cooperation

Joining country, regional and global support to scale up the work conducted under the following initiatives is prioritized: the Triangular Initiative (TI) involving cooperation between Afghanistan, Pakistan and (the Islamic Republic of) Iran focusing on the Southern Route, as well as on the Balkan Route; the Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan (AKT) Initiative focusing on the Northern Route; the Regional Intelligence Working Group on Precursors (RIWGP) involving all countries in the region; and the Regional Working Group on Forensic Capacity and Illicit Drugs (RWGFD), to strengthen illicit drug profiling and investigations on complex trafficking cases. In addition to addressing the growing use of maritime routes for trafficking both precursors and illicit drugs originating in Afghanistan, the maritime regional cooperation will be strengthened and scaled up.

Sharing intelligence in real time is key to effective action against drug trafficking and transnational organized criminal networks. UNODC has played an important role in strengthening national capacities to share information. By helping establish the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC), the Joint Planning Cell (JPC) and various Border Liaison Officers (BLOs) across the region, UNODC has supported countries to build a foundation for organized action and will further strengthen these areas.

At the country level, UNODC will continue to support intelligence data collection and analysis as well as BLOs at strategic points. At the regional level, it will continue to prioritize support for JPC and CARICC and collaboration between the two. At the global level, through the Networking the Networks (NtN) approach, UNODC will enhance intelligence sharing and cooperation between CARICC and JPC with neighbouring regions through GCC- Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs, SELEC, INTERPOL, WCO and EUROPOL among others.
The work of UNODC in building capacity and regional cooperation in the criminal justice field has been formative and ground-breaking. When addressing the various facets of illicit drugs and crime, many countries lack appropriate legal provisions and cooperation is hindered by different legal systems. UNODC has been able to address these issues through national and regional workshops and through building networks of prosecutors, judges and criminal justice officials. This has covered areas that include, but is not limited to, mutual legal assistance and extradition, transfer of prisoners, strengthening of legislative and regulatory frameworks for international cooperation and harmonization of legal provisions across the region. Much of this work is in the very early stages and continuing to build on success is a priority. Countering illicit financial flows requires support that integrates both law enforcement and criminal justice cooperation and is a critical part of the struggle to stem drug trafficking and to counter the financing of terrorism. Under the “Central Asia and Southern Hub (CASH)” Initiative, launched under the Regional Programme, considerable work has been undertaken to address money laundering in West and Central Asia, including facilitating cooperation between the Financial Investigative Units (FIUs), supporting the creation of networks among judicial offices and financial investigators, provision of training for both law enforcement and judicial officials in areas such as illicit use of Money Value Transfer Services, Control Delivery and Cybercrime. The work under CASH will continue as a priority.
Social and Human Development

The scale of illicit drug trafficking in West and Central Asia has a significant human dimension, with some countries having very high rates of illicit drug use and an increasing prevalence of HIV infection among high risk groups. Through an integrated package of priority deliverables at country, regional and global level, UNODC will boost services in critical areas, create networks and facilitate the sharing of good practices within the region, and promote the adoption and utilization of evidence-based international standards in drug use prevention, treatment, and HIV/AIDS prevention among most vulnerable groups.

Providing alternative livelihoods for those dependent on illicit opium cultivation for survival and supporting licit employment opportunities remains a major priority for Afghanistan. At the same time building trust between communities and law enforcement officials, so they can work together on the drug problem, particularly in the border areas has been shown as an important tool in the effort to counter illicit drugs and protect communities from its risks and consequences. This is at the heart of the STOP Initiative, which further aims to boost regional cooperation to support licit development opportunities in Afghanistan and concerned border areas, through inter-communal cooperation and cross border trade facilitation. While AD work continues in Afghanistan, through neighbouring country offices and the regional programme, additional cross border activities will be conducted as a priority.
Regional Programme for
Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries (2016-2019)

National and international efforts to address drug and crime related issues over the past decade in Afghanistan have resulted in progress being made, however the problems being faced remain an immense threat to national, regional and international stability, security and development. Building on the UNODC mandate and experiences in Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries, the new phase of the Regional Programme (2016-2019), in close coordination with all country and sub-regional programmes adopts an approach that allows UNODC the opportunity to ensure counter narcotics and rule of law to remain a central theme of the policy debate and to allow regional governments to receive the support required to develop the capacity necessary to meet this challenge. Furthermore, the Programme is inscribed within the “Integrated UNODC Solution for West and Central Asia”, which outlines an integrated and concerted one UNODC response for the Region and promotes the Networking the Networks approach.

The UNODC response to the complex reality in Afghanistan and the surrounding region is through an integrated programme aimed at identifying and addressing all major aspects of the drug and crime situation, including building regional cooperation in the law enforcement, judicial and health sectors through advocacy in the policy arena and practical implementation in the field, as well as increasing capacity to more broadly analyse and counter the illicit narco-economy. This is further recognised in UNSC Resolution 2210 (2015), which stresses the importance of a comprehensive approach to address the security, economic, governance and development challenges in Afghanistan, which are of an interconnected nature. It encourages the international community and regional partners to further effectively support Afghan-led sustained efforts to address drug production and trafficking in a balanced and integrated approach through regional initiatives, and recognizing the threat posed by the production, trade and trafficking of illicit drugs to international peace and stability in different regions of the world, and the important role played by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). In this regard it re-emphasises previous UNSC debates on Afghanistan (25 June 2014 and presidential statement, S/PRST/2014/12), which focused on the need to maintain the support to Afghanistan, included a strong Presidential Statement pointing to the work of UNODC, the centrality of the narcotics issue, its illicit industry of crime as well as the relevance of partnerships in addressing the problem.

The new Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries (2016 - 2019) is composed of four Sub-Programmes, all grounded in a gender responsive, human rights-based approach:
Sub-Programmes Budget (mln, US$)

1. Regional Law Enforcement Cooperation
   - 9.8
   - 11.3

2. International Cooperation in Legal Matters
   - 10.2
   - 9.6

3. Prevention and Treatment of Drug Dependence Among Vulnerable Groups

4. Trends and Impact Analysis

It is fully in line with the UNODC Medium Term Strategy and seeks to maximize synergies with existing and new programmes in the region, primarily the Country Partnership Programme for Iran, the Country Programme for Pakistan, the Country Programme for Afghanistan, and the Programme for Central Asia. The RP also further builds on the UNODC drug control and cooperation platform set-up through the Inter-Regional Drug Control Approach and ensures effective linkages with other UNODC Regional Programmes operating in regions affected by Afghan opiates traffic including the trafficking of precursors, notably along the Balkan, Northern and Southern routes.
The new UNODC Programme for Central Asia represents the overarching strategic framework under which UNODC provides technical assistance within the Central Asian States. It builds on previous UNODC assistance within the sub-region and aims to deliver effect in an integrated and comprehensive manner rather than a series of standalone projects. It is aligned with the UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF) for the Central Asian States and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With a projected budget of USD 70 million between 2015 and 2019, the Programme for Central Asia aims to enhance both national level capabilities and to develop increasing sub-regional cooperation between and within the Central Asian States. The Programme is structured along four Sub-Programmes:

Sub-Programme 1 - Countering Transnational Organized Crime, Illicit Drug Trafficking and Preventing Terrorism will help the Member States in becoming more capable and proficient at responding to transnational organised crime and illicit trafficking at the normative and operational levels in accordance with relevant UN conventions; and the criminal justice regimes will be strengthened and more capable at preventing and combating terrorism in accordance with the rule of law.

Sub-Programme 2 - Criminal Justice, Crime Prevention and Integrity will assist Central Asian States to strengthen the rule of law through the promotion of effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems in line with the UN standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice and other relevant international instruments – by increasing assistance to the development and updating of international standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice; providing guidance and expert advice to forensic institutions; and introducing quality management systems in forensic laboratories.

Sub-Programme 3 - Drug Prevention, Treatment and Reintegration, and HIV Prevention aims to address the problems of drugs through evidence based prevention strategies addressing schools, families, workplace and the community as well as to increase the quality, availability and access to services for people affected by drug use disorders, prisoners, and in relation to trafficking in human
beings. The major objective is to provide evidence-based prevention of drug use, treatment of drug dependence, and prevention of HIV and other health and social consequences associated with the use of illicit drugs.

**Sub-Programme 4 - Research and Trend Analysis** aims to enhance Member States research and analytical capacities and provide centralised reporting and research in support of policy advice and advocacy. It will assist Member States in seeking to enhance data collection and analysis capabilities, and it will further support Member States in understanding thematic and cross-cutting issues so that they can formulate effective national policies and in implementing evidence-based operational responses of countering the effects of drugs, crime and security issues.
Country Programme for Afghanistan (2016-2019)

Afghanistan is entering an important phase in its modern history with the completion of the Transition (Inteqal) Process at the end of 2014 and the initiation of the Transformation Decade (2015-2024). In an important development, a reform programme entitled “Realizing Self-Reliance: Commitments to Reforms and Renewed Partnership” was prepared which identifies strategic policy priorities for Afghanistan – presented at the London Conference held on 4 December 2014. A major obstacle to implementing the reforms is the fact that Afghanistan is the world’s largest producer of illicit opium and heroin. With around three million drug users and five percent of the population involved in drug cultivation, Afghanistan pays a very high cost for the illicit drug problem in the country.

The vision of the County Programme for Afghanistan is to strengthen the capacity of the Government, assist with the policy framework and provide accurate data and information to counter the consequences of drugs and crime in the country. With the goal of improving security and stability, advancing good governance, and promoting the rule of law and respect for human rights, particularly in relation to women and girls, the Programme is structured along four thematic areas:

Sub-Programme 1: Law Enforcement supports national partners in Afghanistan in specific niche areas such as border management, capacity development of the Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan, precursor control, investigative capacity development of the relevant government institutions to counter trafficking in persons, Smuggling of Migrants (TiP/SOM) and corruption as well as to implement the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations for Anti-money Laundering (AML) and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (CFT).

Sub-programme 2: Criminal Justice – prioritizes the addressing of corruption, economic crime and prison/juvenile justice reforms. It aims at strengthening the rule of law, building integrity, addressing impunity, and developing a professional judicial culture, which are all essential pre-requisites for peace and stability in Afghanistan and a fundamentality in addressing narcotics trafficking and transnational organised crime (TOC).
Sub-programme 3: Health and Alternative Development aims at addressing the needs of drug affected communities, offering alternative livelihood/development streams to poppy/cannabis growing households and persons affected by drug use and dependence, with a special focus on vulnerable groups such as children, adolescents, female injecting drug users and populations in closed settings.

Sub-programme 4: Advocacy, Policy and Research supports capacity development of the Ministry of Counter Narcotics (MCN) in the areas of crop monitoring, research, inter-agency cooperation and provincial outreach. In addition, UNODC aims at supporting MCN ability to promote public awareness on Counter Narcotics (CN) and Criminal Justice (CJ), and develop a strong statistical and analytical team within the MCN itself.

A number of cross-cutting components and principles were mainstreamed into all of the work foreseen under this Programme, including human rights, the gender perspective and the cooperation with civil society.

Sub-Programmes Budget (mln, US$)

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Iran (Islamic Republic of) accounted for 69% of the world’s opium seizures and 21% of heroin and morphine seizures. About 37% of produced heroin in Afghanistan is annually smuggled into Iran for domestic use and transit to other markets. The number of drug users in Iran is over 1,325,000 (2.26% of the adult population). Amphetamine-Type Stimulants have become the second most used drug in the country. 78,300 people were living with HIV in 2014, 68% of whom were drug injecting users (DIUs). The country is a State Party to the UNCAC and signatory to the UNTOC with a programme on the protection of cultural property.

UNODC Iran has jointly with the Government of Iran developed a new Country Partnership Programme for 2015-2019. The Programme is made up of four Sub-Programmes:

Sub-Programme 1: Border Management and Illicit Trafficking outcomes will enhance national drugs and precursors control capacities as well as regional and international partnership. The outputs will strengthen law enforcement mechanisms, analytical and scientific knowledge, and regional and international networking.

Sub-Programme 2: Crime, Corruption and Criminal Justice outcomes will enhance national institutions capacities to progress under the UNTOC, UNCAC, and countering of terrorism. The outputs will strengthen national capacities on transnational organized crime; advocacy for accession to crime and terrorism conventions; anti-corruption; mutual legal assistance; criminal justice procedures; and anti-money laundering cooperation.
UNODC will lead the Pillar IV of the UNDAF on Drugs and Crime programme (2017 – 2021) for Iran in cooperation with other UN sister agencies and the government of Iran.

Sub-Programme 3: Drug Use Prevention, Treatment, Rehabilitation, and HIV Care. The outputs will strengthen national and NGOs capacities on drug prevention tools, treatment programmes, public sector and civil society networking, HIV care and harm reduction services, and regional and international partnership.

Sub-Programme 4: Alternative Livelihoods and Sustainable Development outcome will enhance Sustainable Development programmes at borders of (I. R. of) Iran and Afghanistan. The outputs will support Alternative Livelihood and job creation schemes at the Western border provinces of Afghanistan and (I. R. of) Iran in close cooperation of regional and international community, private sector, UN agencies, and local communities.

Sub-Programmes Budget (mln, US$)

- 1. Border Management and Illicit Trafficking
- 2. Crime, Corruption and Criminal Justice
- 3. Drug Use Prevention, Treatment, Rehabilitation and HIV Care
- 4. Alternative Livelihoods and Sustainable Development
The new Country Programme for Pakistan (2016 - 2019), with a total budget of USD 80 million, builds on UNODC’s national, regional and global strategic priorities as well as on the priorities of the Government of Pakistan with an explicit focus on vulnerable groups. The application of a rights-based approach throughout programme planning, design and delivery will contribute to greater realisation of rights of the people in meeting with the criminal justice system, as well as enhancing the UN’s efforts to promote respect for human rights and the rule of law in Pakistan. The Programme consists of the three main programmatic pillars:

Sub-Programme 1: Secure Borders with Reduced Illicit Trafficking and Related Transnational Organised Crime (TOC)
UNODC in Pakistan will continue its focus on helping law enforcement agencies (LEAs) and particularly on illicit trafficking, migrant smuggling, and other TOCs. This includes specialised training and assistance with the provision of equipment, as well as through promotion and support of regional cooperation forums for information sharing, joint training and operational collaboration between regional and international counterpart agencies.

Sub-Programme 2: Criminal Justice and Legal Reform
The main focus of SP2 is to support long-term institutional capacity development of criminal justice system actors, including the aligning of legislative and regulatory frameworks with international conventions, standards and norms; enhancing international cooperation and inter-agency coordination; strategies to empower individuals and particularly vulnerable groups to claim their access to justice; and establishment of accountability mechanisms for the police as well as empowerment and rights awareness in communities.
Sub-Programme 3: Drug Demand Reduction, Prevention and Treatment of HIV, AIDS and other Blood-Borne Diseases

The main focus is to further increase access to quality drug treatment and harm reduction services for vulnerable populations. The activities will support the expanding of the capacity of counterparts to deliver evidence-based drug use prevention, drug dependence treatment and harm reduction services. To respond to the HIV epidemic and prevent further transmission among people who inject drugs (PWID), the prison population, intimate partners and children, UNODC will aim to scale up HIV prevention, treatment and care services, recommended by WHO, UNAIDS and UNODC.

Sub-Programmes Budget (mln, US$)

- 1. Secure Borders with Reduced Illicit Trafficking and Related Transnational Organised Crime
- 2. Criminal Justice and Legal Reform
- 3. Drug Demand Reduction, Prevention and Treatment of HIV, AIDS and other Blood-Borne Diseases

![Budget Chart]

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Funding Partners

Australia  Hungary  Romania  European Union
Austria  Iran  Russia  Federation  NATO/NRC
Belgium  Ireland  Saudi Arabia  OFID
Canada  Italy  Slovak Republic  One UN Pakistan
Czech Republic  Japan  Sweden  Peace Building Fund
Denmark  Kazakhstan  Switzerland  UNAIDS
Finland  Kyrgyzstan  Turkey  UNDP
France  Netherlands  United Kingdom  
Germany  Norway  United States of America  

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