UNODC Tools and Publications

UNODC provides normative, analytical and operational assistance to Member States for strengthening the effectiveness, fairness, and accountability of their criminal justice institutions to tackle crime, corruption and terrorism. UNODC’s work, therefore, supports all the Targets included under SDG 16, and in particular the following:

Target 16.1: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

UNODC keeps a database on Homicide Statistics and has published three Global Studies on Homicide to date, the first in 2011, then in 2013 and recently in 2019. UNODC’s work on the prevention and response to violence against women (referred to under SDG 5) and violence against children (Target 16.2) as well as the work on drug prevention and treatment (SDG 3) also contribute towards Target 16.1.

UNODC tools and publications:

- UNODC Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics
- Manual for the development of a system of criminal justice statistics
- UNODC/UNECE Manual on victimization surveys
- UNODC/UNICEF Manual for the measurement of juvenile justice indicators
- Measuring violence against women and other gender issues through the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS) lenses (2017);
- ICCS Briefing Note: Unlawful killings in conflict situations(2017);
Target 16.3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

UNODC directly makes contribution to promotion of the rule of law through providing secretariat services to the intergovernmental bodies, i.e., the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

Also, as mentioned earlier, UNODC supports Member States to put an end to all forms of violence against children and ensuring rights-based justice for children, which plays a crucial role in strengthening the rule of law (target 16.3) and goes hand in hand with development and peace.

Access to justice for all is a focus area in UNODC’s work on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. UNODC supports the establishment of effective, fair and humane criminal justice systems. Recognizing that poor prison conditions and prison overcrowding point towards systemic deficiencies in States’ justice systems, UNODC promotes penal and prison reform, as well as access to justice. These areas include a lack of: access to legal aid, alternatives to imprisonment, youth crime prevention programmes, offenders’ rehabilitation, social reintegration measures, as well as the overuse of pre-trial detention.

UNODC is also well placed to monitor Target 16.3 through its annual United Nations Survey on Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS) and its annual report on ‘World crime trends and emerging issues and responses in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice’ to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

UNODC tools and publications:

- UNODC/UNECE Manual on victimization surveys
- Handbook on strategies to reduce overcrowding in prisons
- Handbook on Early access to legal aid in criminal justice processes
- Model Law on Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems with Commentaries
- United Nations Surveys on Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems
- Crime statistics: see, for instance, the world crime trend reports here
- Crime victimization surveys (CVS)
- Manual on victimization surveys
- A Practitioner’s Toolkit on Women’s Access to Justice Programming
- Handbook of basic principles and promising practices on alternatives to imprisonment
- Handbook on restorative justice programmes
- Tenth Survey on Capital Punishment and on the implementation of the safeguards guaranteeing the protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty, covering the period 2014-2018 - Questionnaires in
- UNODC’s contribution to addressing the global prison crisis, presentation by the Justice Section
- The UNDP/UNODC Global Study on Legal Aid 2015