UNODC Tools and Publications

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

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 16.3: 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:

- International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS)
- 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
Target 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

UNODC supports efforts by States to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions through the comprehensive implementation of chapter II of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. This work includes policies, legislation and mechanisms to strengthen the prevention of corruption at all levels. Through its role as Secretariat to the Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption – a body established by the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention – UNODC facilitates the sharing of information on lessons learned and the adaptability of good practices on the prevention of corruption in public and private sector institutions, including accountability measures, strengthening professionalism and integrity, and promoting public access to information and the transparency of institutional functions and services.

In advance of the forthcoming review of the effective implementation of chapter II under the framework of the Implementation Review Mechanism, UNODC has promoted and supported early reporting by States of progress in the implementation of chapter II. In addition, UNODC has produced guidance materials and provided technical assistance to support States in such areas as the development and implementation of comprehensive anti-corruption strategies, strengthening judicial and prosecutorial integrity and accountability, developing asset and interest disclosure procedures to avoid conflicts of interest, promoting transparency in public procurement, and measures to protect witnesses and whistle-blowers.

In addition, UNODC promotes transparency and the prevention of corruption in the private sector, in partnership with the United Nations Global Compact. This work includes the development of tools and training materials to further integrity and transparent business practices across the private sector as well as engagement with other bodies, such as the G20 and its Business-20 Anti-Corruption Working Group as well as the World Economic Forum.
Target 16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

In designing and delivering its programmes, as well as in the international policy debate around its mandates, UNODC encourages and facilitates the participation of a wide range of civil society organizations, contributing to an open, responsive and accountable decision-making process on crime-and drug-related matters at the international level. Examples of this work include multi-stakeholder workshops on the United Nations Convention against Corruption to allow civil society to be equipped and participate in the Implementation Review Mechanism of the Convention. Another example UNODC HAS established a group of 17 regional and global harm reduction and community representative organizations to inform and joint planning of work.

UNODC is scaling up its regular data collection and analysis system to make it fit the needs of monitoring SDG 16. Furthermore, UNODC is consolidating its long-time global series related to homicide, trafficking in persons and criminal justice efficiency, among others, as well as refining the indicators to address new needs, while at the same assisting countries to strengthen their capacity to monitor