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Technical assistance

Analysis of technical assistance needs emerging from the country reviews and assistance delivered by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in support of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

　　In line with previous documents prepared by the secretariat focusing on analysis of the technical assistance needs identified under the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the present report provides an updated analysis of the technical assistance needs related to chapter II of the Convention highlighted during the second review cycle. It also provides an overview of the ways in which the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has responded to technical assistance needs and requests received since the ninth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 13 to 17 December 2021.

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[*] CAC/COSP/2023/1.

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I. Introduction

1. With a chapter of the United Nations Convention against Corruption dedicated to technical assistance and information exchange, the delivery of technical assistance is recognized as a key prerequisite for achieving the implementation of the Convention globally. To that end, one of the goals of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption is to identify and substantiate specific needs for technical assistance and to promote and facilitate the provision of such assistance. In line with paragraph 44 of the terms of reference of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the Convention, the Implementation Review Group is tasked with considering technical assistance requirements in order to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.

2. In its resolution 4/1, the Conference recommended that all States parties, where applicable, in their responses to the comprehensive self-assessment checklists and in the country reports, should identify technical assistance requirements, preferably prioritized and related to the implementation of the provisions of the Convention examined during a given review cycle. The Conference also recommended that States parties continue to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) with information on ongoing technical assistance projects related to the implementation of the Convention.

3. In its resolution 7/3, the Conference welcomed the promotion of anti-corruption technical assistance as a component of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and recognized the importance of coordination among donors, technical assistance providers and recipient countries in order to leverage resources, increase efficiencies and avoid duplication of effort while meeting the needs of recipient countries. Further, States parties were encouraged to continue to voluntarily provide the Implementation Review Group, consistent with the agreed terms of reference of the Mechanism, with information on the current, anticipated and unmet technical assistance needs, including those needs identified through the review process, and States parties were encouraged to use this information to inform technical assistance programmes.

4. Furthermore, the General Assembly, at its special session against corruption, in 2021, adopted the political declaration entitled "Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation", in which States, inter alia, pledged to continue sharing information on the provision of technical assistance and needs for such assistance, including those needs identified through the Implementation Review Mechanism.

5. The present document has two parts:

(a) An updated analysis of the chapter II technical assistance needs identified through the reviews carried out under the second cycle of the Implementation Review Mechanism[1] with a detailed breakdown by region;

(b) An overview of prevention-related technical assistance delivered by UNODC since the last report on technical assistance was prepared for the ninth session of the Conference.[2]

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[1] To be read in conjunction with the note by the Secretariat on good practices and experiences of, and relevant measures taken by, States parties after the completion of the country reviews, including information related to technical assistance (CAC/COSP/2021/9).

[2] Data used in the preparation of the present report are based on country reviews finalized as at 28 February 2023.
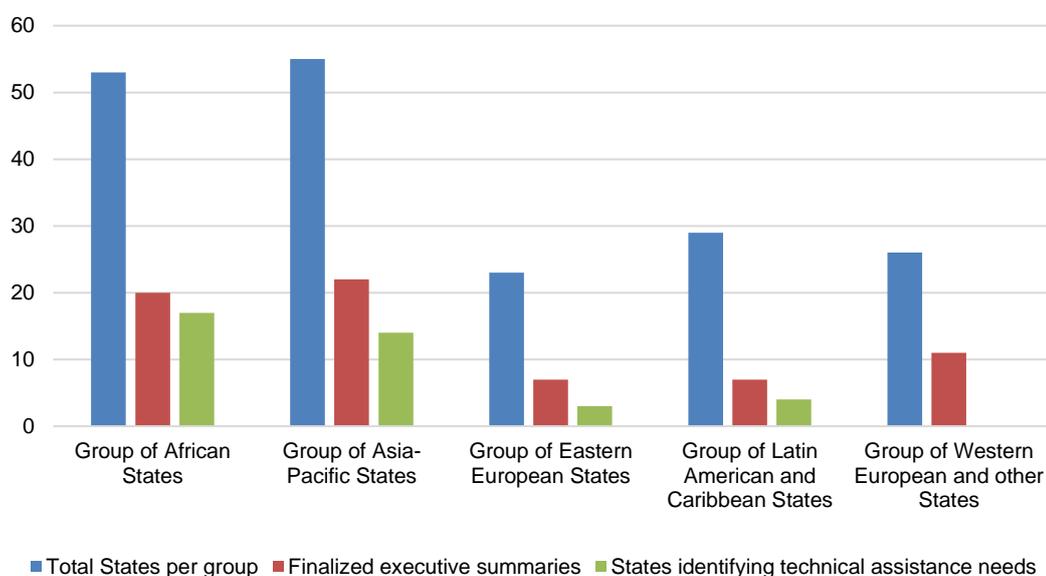
II. Analysis of chapter II technical assistance needs identified through the Implementation Review Mechanism

A. Overall assessment

6.   In October 2021, the Secretariat prepared a note entitled "Analysis of technical assistance needs emerging from the country reviews and assistance delivered by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in support of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption" (CAC/COSP/2021/10) for the ninth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Since then, nine additional States have completed the executive summaries of their country reviews, bringing the total to 67 completed executive summaries (see figure I below). Six of these States identified 24 technical assistance needs under the articles contained in chapter II. With these additional reviews, a total of 38 out of 57 States identified 315 individual chapter II technical assistance needs through the Implementation Review Mechanism.

Figure I
Regional breakdown of number of States having completed their executive summaries and States with chapter II technical assistance needs (second cycle)

■ Total States per group   ■ Finalized executive summaries   ■ States identifying technical assistance needs

7.   Figure II shows that while the types of needs across the articles vary considerably, the majority of needs identified corresponded to articles 5, 6, 7 and 9 in descending order. The lowest number of needs were cited under articles 10, 11 and 12 in descending order (for the percentage of individual technical assistance needs by category, see figure III below).

Figure II
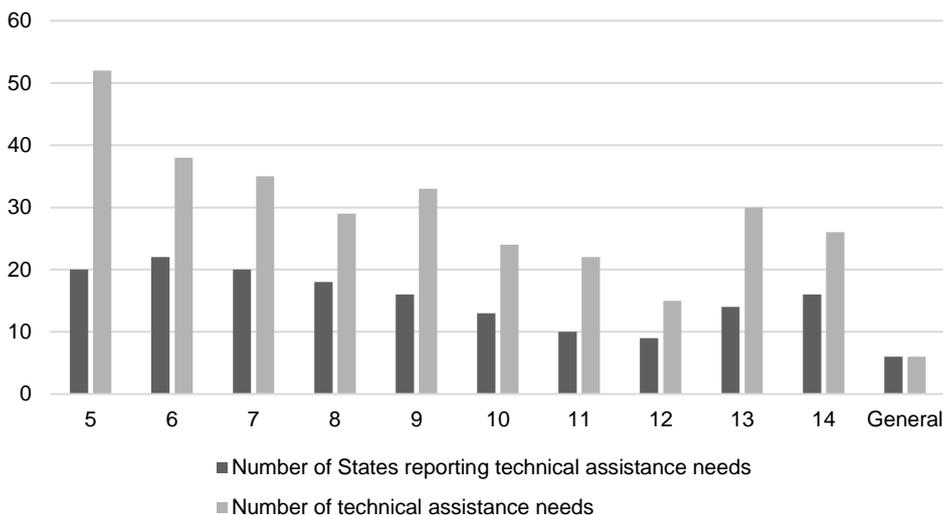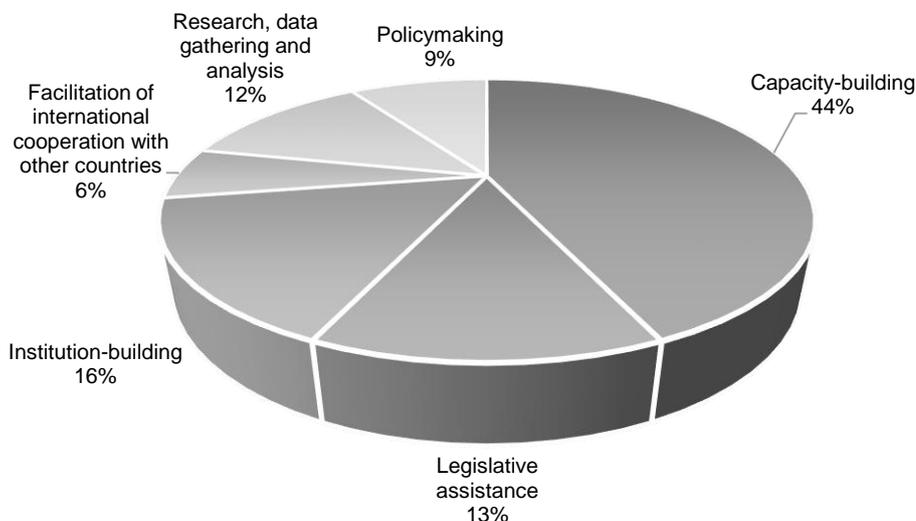**Number of technical assistance needs and number of States identifying needs, by article (chapter II)**

- Number of States reporting technical assistance needs
- Number of technical assistance needs

Figure III
Percentage of individual technical assistance needs by category

Research, data gathering and analysis 12%

Policymaking 9%

Facilitation of international cooperation with other countries 6%

Capacity-building 44%

Institution-building 16%

Legislative assistance 13%

1. **Capacity-building**

8.   In line with previous notes, the broad category of "capacity-building" continued to be the most prevalent category under chapter II (34 out of 38 States cited capacity-building needs, related to each article of chapter II, with a total of 137 such needs, constituting some 44 per cent of the aggregate needs under chapter II). Fifty-seven per cent were from States of the Group of African States, and 33 per cent were identified by States of the Group of Asia-Pacific States. The main types of assistance under chapter II were:

        (a)   Training of officials and institutions and development of training curricula;

        (b)   Sharing of best practices;

        (c)   Boosting of the functionality and operations of institutions and offices;

        (d)   Development of structures such as institutions, offices, technological platforms and frameworks, strategies, action plans and communication plans;

(e) Access to information, private sector, awareness-raising and participation of society;

(f) Mentoring.

9. Of those categories, the most widespread need highlighted was the training of officials and institutions and the development of curricula. The types of trainings and curricula specified encompassed:

(a) Public procurement, accounting and auditing;

(b) Research, data collection, data storage and data analysis;

(c) Technological tools and platforms;

(d) Asset declarations and conflicts of interest;

(e) Preventive tools, action plans, training and monitoring and evaluation;

(f) Risk management;

(g) Investigations, asset tracing and anti-money-laundering measures;

(h) Law enforcement and prosecution and case management.

2. Institution-building

10. Twenty States indicated 50 institution-building needs, representing 16 per cent of all needs identified. Sixty-four per cent were identified by States in the African Group, and 32 per cent were noted by States in the Asia-Pacific Group. The majority of institution-building needs fall within several subcategories of types of assistance:

(a) Good practices;

(b) Staff training, capacity-building and skill enhancement;

(c) Development, enhancement of strategies, frameworks and action plans;

(d) Expert advice, legal expertise and mentorship;

(e) System enhancement;

(f) Resources (financial and non-financial);

(g) Establishment of institutions and bodies;

(h) Inter-agency coordination.

11. The topics most prevalently highlighted within those categories were:

(a) Database management, storage and analysis;

(b) Governance and monitoring and evaluation;

(c) Whistle-blowing;

(d) Ethics and prevention.

12. The linkages between institution-building and capacity-building needs are notable. Ten needs (one fifth) of the capacity-building needs cited explicitly mentioned the need for capacity-building assistance, either to develop institutions or to strengthen institutional capacity. Furthermore, the majority of all capacity-building needs focused on the training of officials and staff of State institutions, and 12 institution-building needs explicitly mentioned some form of capacity-building or training of staff as part of the institution-building need.

3. Legislative assistance

13. Legislative assistance was the third greatest need under chapter II. Eighteen States cited 41 legislative assistance needs, representing 13 per cent of all needs. Sixty-eight per cent of those needs were noted by States within the Africa Group. States within the Asia and Pacific Group identified 24 per cent of the needs.

Thirty-four per cent of the needs focused on either developing or drafting several types of legislation and legal frameworks, while 21 per cent highlighted the sharing of good practices. Subcategories for the types of legislative assistance needed under chapter II were as follows:

(a) Developing, drafting and amending legislation, regulations, frameworks and charters;

(b) Good practices;

(c) Reviewing and evaluating;

(d) Consolidation and harmonization;

(e) Training and capacity-building.

14. The topic areas in which States most frequently identified needs for technical assistance and legislative support were as follows:

(a) Asset declaration;

(b) Whistle-blowing;

(c) Prevention and ethics;

(d) Anti-corruption criminal legislation for the private and public sectors;

(e) Procurement and administration;

(f) Money-laundering;

(g) Funding of political parties.

4. Research, data gathering and analysis

15. Closely following legislative assistance, 18 States indicated the need for research, data gathering and analysis, representing 12 per cent of all needs identified. Twenty-three per cent of that related to the need for support in developing systems for data collection, storage and analysis. The second most frequently cited types of research, data gathering and analysis needs related to conducting research and the collection of data (18 per cent each). A further 15 per cent mentioned the need for data analysis and for expert advice and training.

5. Policymaking

16. Technical assistance in policymaking, identified by 13 countries, accounted for 9 per cent of all needs under chapter II. States cited the need for development, implementation support and sharing good practices and examples of policymaking under an array of topics ranging from access to information, bribery, prevention, money-laundering, codes of conduct and whistle-blowing.

6. Facilitation of international cooperation with other countries

17. Although facilitation of international cooperation with other countries accounted for the lowest number of needs mentioned under chapter II, with only 19 needs, 11 countries highlighted such needs. The majority, 11 needs representing 58 per cent, focused on the sharing of good practices. It is worth mentioning the linkages between the needs related to good practices under the facilitation of international cooperation and those that were specified under the above-mentioned categories. Under facilitation of international cooperation, most needs related to the sharing of good practices were generic needs, while those under policymaking, research, data gathering and analysis, legislative assistance, institution-building, and capacity-building specified specific thematic areas for the sharing of good practices.
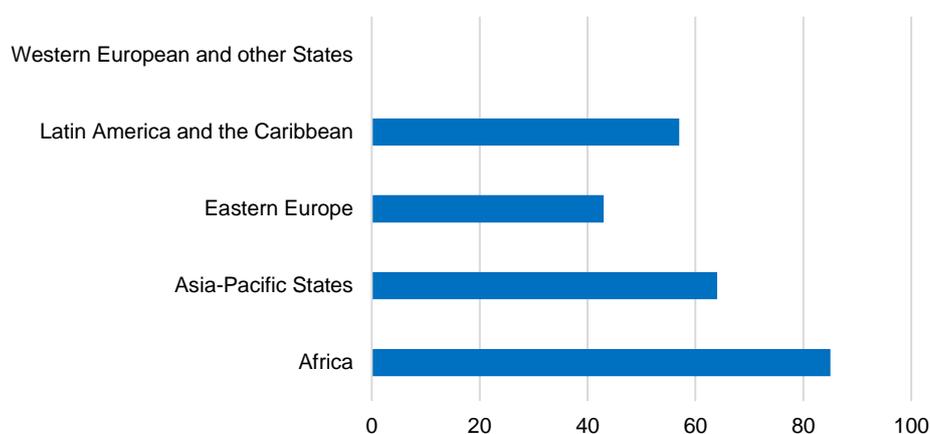
B. Analysis of technical assistance needs identified by region in relation to chapter II of the Convention

18.   Geographically, of the States parties that have completed executive summaries under the second review cycle, 32 identified technical assistance needs in relation to chapter II, focusing on preventive measures. The Group of Eastern European States and the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States have each completed seven executive summaries. Approximately 50 per cent of the States in both of these groups identified needs – three out of seven in the Eastern European Group and four out of seven in the Latin American and Caribbean Group. Eleven States in the Group of Western European and other States have completed executive summaries. However, none have reported technical assistance needs.

19.   Eighty-five per cent of States in the Group of African States have highlighted needs, while 64 per cent of States in the Asia-Pacific Group have outlined needs. Together, these needs totalled 291 needs, representing 92 per cent of all needs under chapter II thus far, as illustrated by figure IV. As the African and Asia-Pacific Groups account for a significantly larger sample of countries that have completed executive summaries containing technical needs than the other groups, this section primarily examines trends within these two regional groups, and offers an in-depth analysis of capacity-building needs within each region.

Figure IV
Percentage of States with completed executive summaries reporting technical assistance needs, by region

20.   When examining the breakdown of overall needs under each article of chapter II, the selected regions differ. Figure V shows that States of the African Group most frequently reported needs under article 5 (preventive anti-corruption policies and practices), accounting for 16 per cent of their reported needs, and least frequently under article 12 (private sector) accounting for only 2 per cent. The remaining needs cited were generally evenly divided among all the other articles under chapter II, with an additional 6 per cent of needs attributed to general chapter II needs.

21.   The distribution of needs identified among the articles under chapter II was even less for States of the Asia-Pacific Group. Within that Group, the most frequently cited needs were under article 7 (public sector), representing 20 per cent, and article 10 (public reporting), representing 16 per cent. Conversely, the least frequently mentioned needs were under article 11 (measures relating to judiciary and prosecution services) representing only 2 per cent and article 14 (measures to prevent money-laundering), representing 4 per cent of all needs highlighted by States within this group.

Figure V
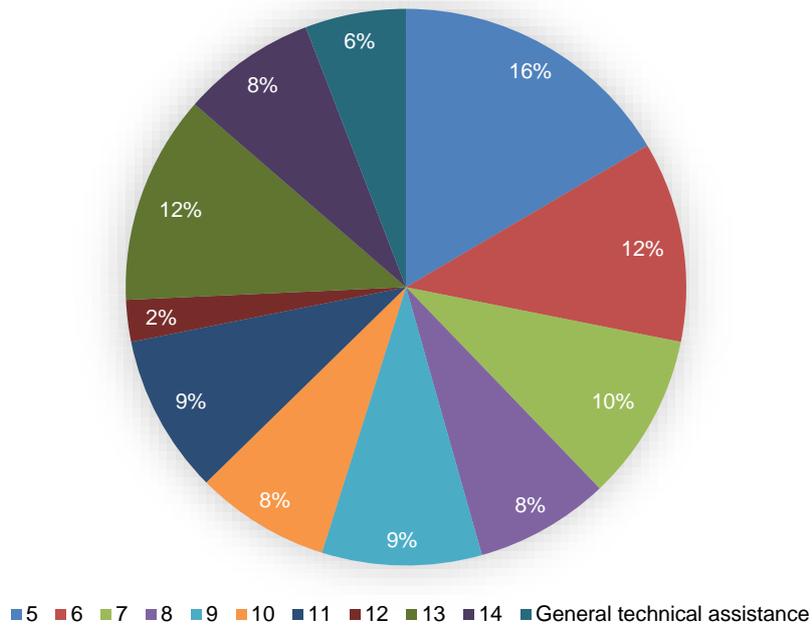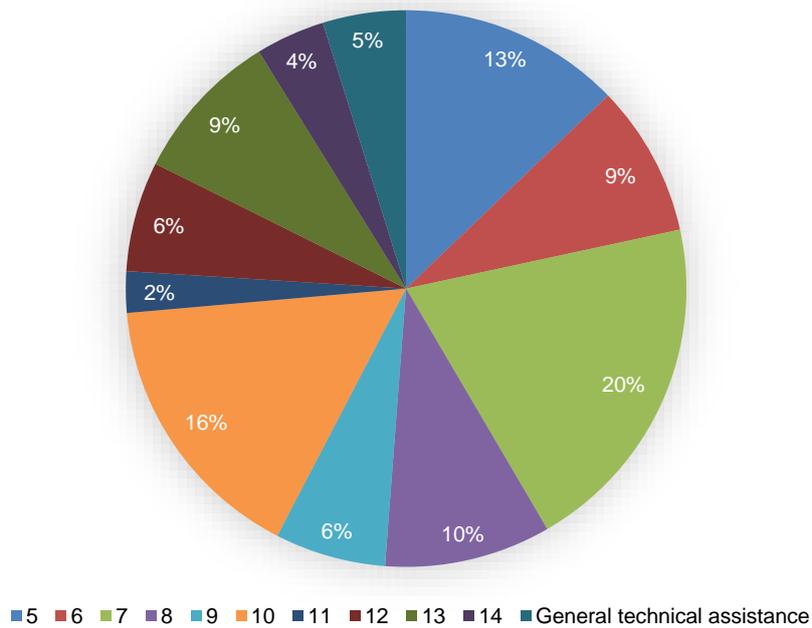**Africa: percentage of overall needs by article (chapter II)**

Figure VI
Asia-Pacific States: percentage of overall needs by article (chapter II)

22.   Tables 1 and 2 contain a more detailed breakdown of the number of needs in each region by category and article, revealing where the strongest regional needs are.

Table 1
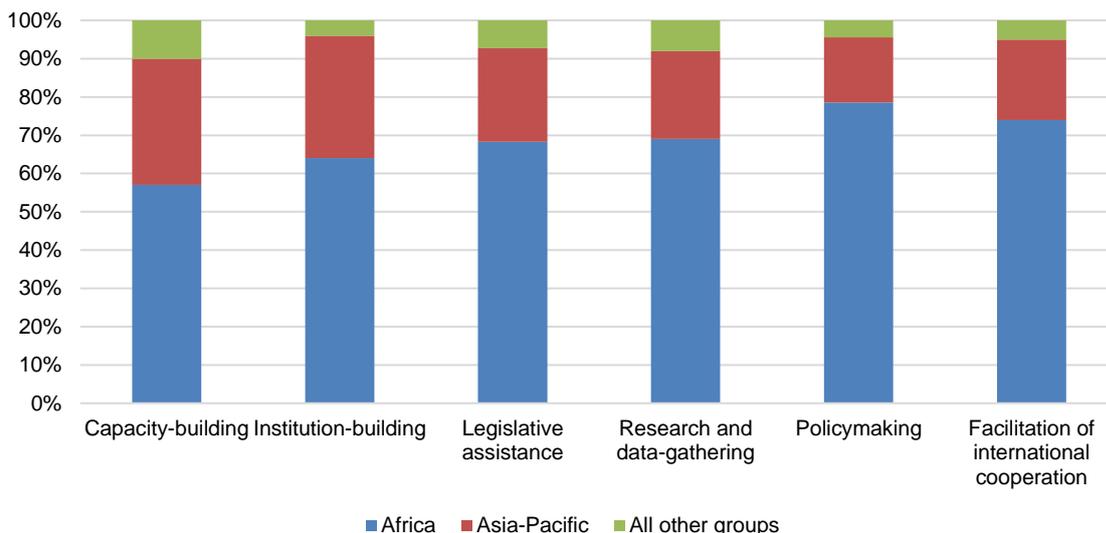**African States: breakdown of needs by article and category (chapter II)**

Article	Category of needs						Total
	Capacity-building	Facilitating of international cooperation	Institution-building	Legislative assistance	Policymaking	Research and data	
Art. 5	10	5	7	3	3	2	30
Art. 6	6	2	6	3	2	1	20
Art.7	9	0	2	4	1	4	20
Art. 8	7	0	1	3	3	2	16
Art. 9	10	0	2	4	1	2	19
Art. 10	6	0	2	2	2	4	16
Art. 11	8	3	3	1	1	3	19
Art. 12	1	0	0	2	2	0	5
Art. 13	9	2	4	3	5	2	25
Art. 14	6	1	1	2	2	4	16
Arts. 5, 6	2	0	1	0	0	1	4
General technical assistance needs	4	1	3	1	1	2	12
Total	78	14	32	28	23	27	

Table 2
Asia-Pacific States: breakdown of needs by article and category (chapter II)

Article	Category of needs						Total
	Capacity-building	Facilitating of international cooperation	Institution-building	Legislative assistance	Policymaking	Research and data	
Art. 5	4	2	3	1	3	2	15
Art. 6	7	0	2	1	0	0	10
Art.7	5	0	2	2	1	1	25
Art. 8	7	2	1	2	0	0	12
Art. 9	5	0	1	1	0	1	8
Art. 10	3	0	1	2	1	0	20
Art. 11	2	0	1	0	0	0	3
Art. 12	4	0	3	0	0	1	8
Art. 13	2	0	1	0	0	1	11
Art. 14	4	0	0	1	0	0	5
Arts. 5, 6	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
General technical assistance needs	2	0	0	0	0	3	6
Total	45	4	16	10	5	9	

23.   The percentage of needs indicated within each category (capacity-building, institution-building, legislative assistance, research, data-gathering and analysis, policymaking and facilitation of international cooperation) reveals that, across the board, the Group of African States reported the majority of needs within each category, followed by the Group of Asia-Pacific States. Those two regions account for more than 90 per cent of the needs identified in each category. Figure VII illustrates the breakdown of the percentage of the needs in each category indicated by African and Asia-Pacific States. For example, of the 50 institution-building needs identified, 64 per cent were from the Group of African States and 32 per cent from the Group of Asia-Pacific States.

Figure VII
Percentage of needs within each category identified, by region

■ Africa ■ Asia-Pacific ■ All other groups

1. Capacity-building trends in the regions of Africa and the Asia-Pacific States

24.   As the largest need category, with 44 per cent of the aggregate needs identified under chapter II thus far in the second cycle, a breakdown of the types of capacity-building needs per region reveals some trends. Combined, the States of the African Group and the Asia-Pacific Group indicated 123 out of 137 capacity-building needs, representing 90 per cent of the total.

25.   In both regions, there is a trend towards the need for staff training, with 42 per cent of the capacity-building needs in Africa and 43 per cent in the Asia-Pacific region relating to various forms of staff training. The second trend, though significantly less prominent than the need for staff training, was the common need to boost the capacity of the institutions themselves, as 19 per cent of capacity-building needs expressed by African States and 15 per cent by Asia-Pacific States referred to such types of technical assistance. Further, States in Africa highlighted technological development as the third most-needed type of capacity-building. In contrast, States in the Asia-Pacific Group more frequently cited awareness-raising and the sharing of good practices (see figures VIII and IX below).

Figure VIII
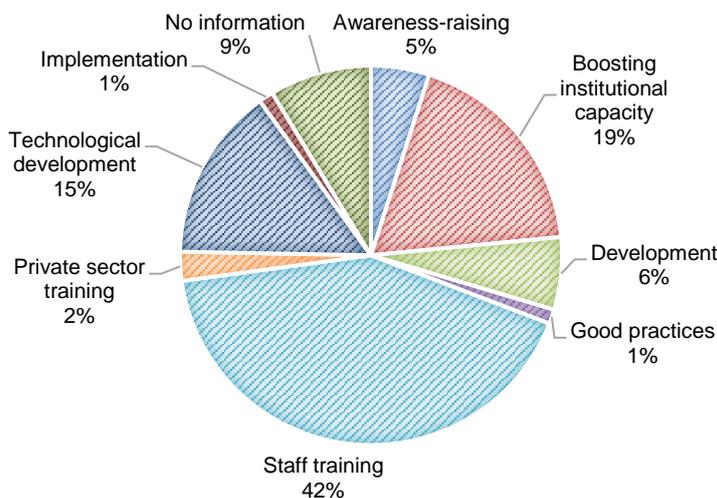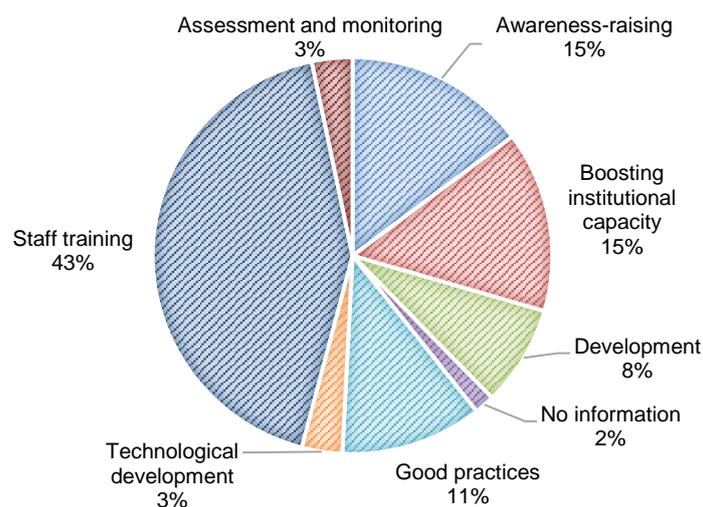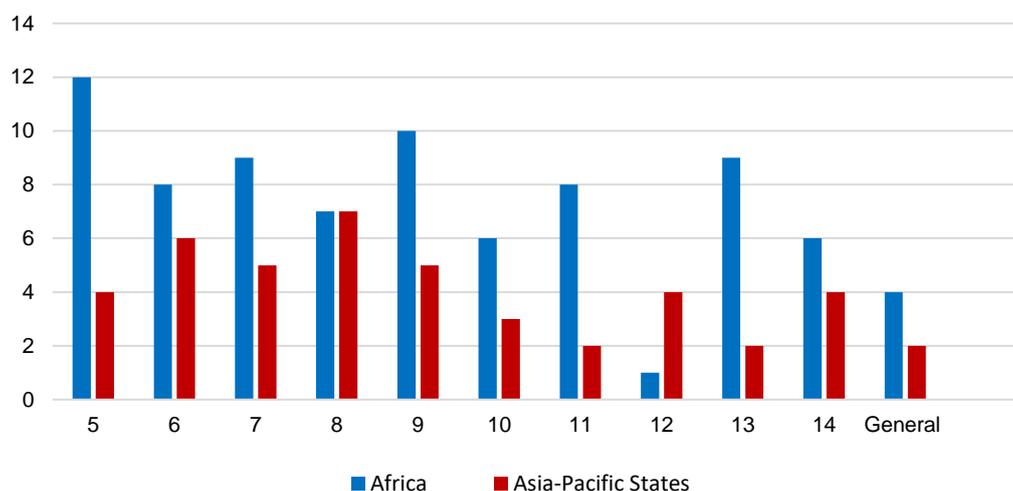**African States: types of capacity-building needs**

Figure IX
Asia-Pacific States: types of capacity-building needs

26. Figure X shows that the breakdown of the number of capacity-building needs by article differs in the two selected regions. African States identified the highest number of needs under article 5 (preventive anti-corruption policies and practices), with 12 needs out of the total 78 for the region, representing 15 per cent. This was followed, in descending order, by article 9 (public procurement and management of public finances) with 10 needs, representing 13 per cent, articles 7 (public sector) and 13 (participation of society), with nine needs each, and articles 6 (preventive anti-corruption body or bodies) and 11 (measures relating to the judiciary and prosecution services) with eight needs each.

27. Whereas the highest number of capacity-building needs among the Group of Asia-Pacific States was identified under article 8 (codes of conduct for public officials), with 7 needs out of the total 45 for the region, representing 16 per cent. These are followed, in descending order, by article 6 (preventive anti-corruption body or bodies) with 6 needs, representing 13 per cent; articles 7 (public sector) and 9 (public procurement and management of public finances), each with four needs; and article 5 (preventive anti-corruption policies and practices), article 12 (private sector) and article 14 (measures to prevent money-laundering), each with four needs.

Figure X
Number of capacity-building needs by article and region (chapter II)

2. Institution-building

28. Of the institution-building needs reported by African States, 24 per cent were under article 5 (preventive anti-corruption policies and practices) and 21 per cent were under article 6 (preventive anti-corruption body or bodies). Among those needs, there was a clear trend towards capacity-building needs related to strengthening institutions. Other needs identified under this category were evenly distributed among the articles, with the exception that there were no needs related to the private sector (article 12).

29. Of the institution-building needs reported by Asia-Pacific States, 22 per cent were under article 5 (preventive anti-corruption policies and practices), and 17 per cent under article 6 (preventive anti-corruption body or bodies). The majority of those related to developing, strengthening and implementing structures or frameworks. In contrast to the Group of African States, 17 per cent of the needs were under article 12 (private sector) requesting the sharing of good practices and expert advice. The remainder were largely evenly distributed among articles. No needs were identified under article 14 (measures to prevent money-laundering).

3. Legislative assistance

30. Legislative assistance needs identified by African States, although generally evenly distributed among the articles, were slightly higher under article 7 (public sector) and article 9 (public procurement and management of public finances), at 14 per cent each, identifying various needs from the sharing of good practices to the drafting of legislation and regulations.

31. The Asia-Pacific States identified legislative assistance needs relatively evenly under articles 5–10 and article 14, and the majority of those cited needs identified technical assistance with the development, drafting and reviewing of legislation.

4. Research, data gathering and analysis

32. Similar to legislative needs, the distribution of research, data gathering and analysis needs among the African States has thus far been relatively even, although slightly greater under articles 7 (public sector), 10 (public reporting) and 14 (measures to prevent money-laundering), representing 15 per cent each.

33. The Group of Asia-Pacific States identified 30 per cent of their needs as general chapter II needs, all highlighting the collection of statistical data.

5. Policymaking

34. The Group of African States identified 25 per cent of their policymaking needs under article 13 (participation of society), with an emphasis on implementation, and 13 per cent each under articles 5 (preventive anti-corruption policies and practices) and 8 (codes of conduct for public officials), with an emphasis on the development of policies and the sharing of good practices. The Group of Asia-Pacific States identified only five needs, with the majority being under article 5, all of which focused either on the development of policies or the sharing of good practices.

6. Facilitation of international cooperation

35. Facilitation of international cooperation needs represented the smallest category for both regions, with the greatest number of such needs among the African States under article 5 (preventive anti-corruption policies and practices), and only four needs, two each, under article 5 and article 8 (codes of conduct for public officials) identified by the Group of Asia-Pacific States.

C. Cross-cutting issues relating to the second review cycle

1. Sharing of good practices

36. Thirteen States identified the need for good practices. That accounted for 48 (15 per cent) of the 315 needs under chapter II cited to overcome the challenges outlined in the respective executive summaries, 33 per cent of which were under article 5. Eleven States in Africa and the Asia-Pacific region highlighted the sharing of good practices. They encompassed 46 of the 291 needs, representing 16 per cent of all needs in these regions. Thirty-five per cent of the good practice needs in these two regions were related to article 5.

37. While many of these needs were general or broad, those that specified the areas where the sharing of good practices was needed highlighted the sharing of examples of legislation, frameworks, strategies and codes of conduct, their implementation and distribution. Good practices in international, inter-agency and cross-sectoral cooperation were often mentioned among the good practice needs.

2. Training and capacity-building needs

38. Twenty-eight States (74 per cent) outlined needs under chapter II that included training or capacity-building of staff, the private sector and institutions. One hundred of the 315 technical assistance needs stipulated capacity-building needs. This constituted 32 per cent of all needs under chapter II thus far. Twenty-four States in Africa and the Asia-Pacific region outlined such needs. The vast majority were included directly under capacity-building. However, capacity-building needs also featured in institution-building, facilitation of international cooperation, legislative assistance, policymaking and research, and data gathering and analysis.

39. The types of training needed ranged from technical skills relating to data gathering and analysis, risk assessment, conducting investigations and drafting legislation to general competencies including awareness of the Convention itself, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation, analysis, and ethics. In most cases, States indicated the need to train specialized government officials, or entire government institutions. However, private sector entities, the media and civil society organizations were also cited as potential beneficiaries for training and capacity-building.

III. Technical assistance provided to national authorities to prevent corruption effectively

40. During the reporting period, UNODC continued to provide technical assistance to requesting States parties on a wide range of issues related to chapter II of the Convention. These included preventive anti-corruption policies and practices, the public sector, public procurement and the management of public finances, public reporting, judicial integrity, the private sector and the participation of society. UNODC delivered assistance with the objective of meeting the needs of States parties through its global, regional and national programmes, notwithstanding the continued challenges posed by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. To respond to such challenges, UNODC continued to support States parties' efforts to prevent corruption by conducting activities remotely, developing knowledge products and capacity-building tools and reinforcing its presence in the field.

1. Anti-corruption hubs and regional platforms

41. Following the adoption of resolution 9/4 on "Strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption at regional levels", UNODC has continued to expand its regional platform approach aimed at helping States parties to accelerate the effective implementation of the Convention through the identification of shared regional anti-corruption challenges and priorities, and the development of

a road map of commitments. Six regional platforms have been established, covering South America and Mexico, East Africa, South-East Asia, Southern Africa, South-Eastern Europe, and West Africa and the Sahel, with three additional regional platforms to be launched in 2023 for Central America, the Caribbean and Central Asia.

42. In line with increased efforts made by UNODC to mainstream gender in all of its programmes, the platform for South America and Mexico included gender and information technology as transversal thematic areas, while the platform for West Africa and the Sahel mainstreamed gender throughout its action plan indicating gender-specific measures and efforts to be taken in the agreed upon thematic areas.

43. In addition to the regional platforms, UNODC has developed a new approach to its anti-corruption service delivery through the establishment of regional hubs and centres integrated in the UNODC field office network to strengthen anti-corruption technical assistance in countries. In time, the regional anti-corruption hubs will serve as repositories of regional expertise, good practices and lessons learned in the implementation of the Convention, as well as facilitate the exchange of experiences between hubs in promotion of interregional and South-South cooperation.

44. The first anti-corruption regional hub was launched in Mexico in September 2021 to coordinate and provide technical assistance to States parties in Central America, the Caribbean and South America. Building on the experience gained under the regional platform for South America and Mexico, it identifies synergies with other anti-corruption initiatives, such as the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and its follow-up mechanism. Through a network of diverse and complementary expertise, the hub affords greater opportunities for UNODC to respond to needs arising out of Latin America and the Caribbean, closer to the point of delivery, in a quicker and more effective manner.

45. A second regional anti-corruption hub is being established in Kenya for Africa. Building on the experience gained under the regional platforms established for East Africa in 2017, Southern Africa in 2019, and West Africa and the Sahel in 2022, the hub will foster coordination and identify synergies with other anti-corruption initiatives, including those led by the African Union and the Southern African Development Community. This also aligns with the UNODC Strategic Vision for Africa 2030, which identifies safeguarding people and institutions from corruption and economic crime as one of its five goals and supports the Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want of the African Union.

46. UNODC is planning to expand its regional footprint further in the coming years, including through the establishment of additional regional anti-corruption hubs and platforms.

2. Supporting the development of laws, regulations, policies and systems aimed at preventing corruption

47. During the reporting period, UNODC provided legislative support for the development of laws, regulations and policies in 17 countries related to the establishment of anti-corruption bodies, integrity in the public sector and the protection of reporting persons. Assistance for the development of national anti-corruption strategies was provided to Chile, the Cook Islands, Ecuador, Fiji, Honduras, Jamaica, Kiribati, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, the Central African Republic, Colombia, Honduras, South Africa and South Sudan were supported in their efforts to develop systems for the prevention of conflicts of interest and for asset declarations.

3. Preventing corruption in public procurement

48. On the prevention of corruption in public procurement, UNODC continued to promote the application of information technologies and digitization tools for anti-corruption and worked closely with its ongoing partner, Open Contracting

Partnership. The collaboration between UNODC and Open Contracting Partnership expanded to support technical assistance delivery and mentorship on open contracting and public procurement transparency in 22 countries, including ways to improve data quality and publish procurement data in an accessible format to facilitate external monitoring. Additional work in this area included the holding of regional round tables with States parties in South America to map existing frameworks and initiatives concerning gender and inclusion in public procurement, with a view to strengthening them. UNODC also provided technical assistance to the countries of the regional platform for Southern Africa related to asset declarations and conflicts of interest in public procurement.

4. Enhancing integrity in the private sector

49.   UNODC continued to support efforts to prevent corruption involving the private sector by promoting collective action in Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Kenya, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, the United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan. In Kenya, Mexico and Pakistan, UNODC supported anti-corruption education of upcoming generations of private sector employees through the development of modules and training materials for universities, the facilitation of guest lectures by business representatives, the development of an ethics ambassador programme for students and the facilitation of internships for ethics ambassadors in businesses.

5. Preventing corruption in international investment

50.   In line with its mandates derived from resolution 8/9, UNODC continued raising awareness of the existence, causes and gravity of corruption in international investment. For example, in December 2021, at the ninth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, UNODC launched the Anti-Corruption Practitioners' Network for countries along the Silk Road Economic Belt, a platform for exchanging knowledge and good practices, facilitating peer learning and enhancing international cooperation in tackling corruption in international investment projects. Through a series of workshops, the Network has supported over 150 anti-corruption and investment practitioners across 16 countries along the Silk Road Economic Belt (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Georgia, Greece, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Montenegro, Serbia, Tajikistan, Türkiye and Uzbekistan) in the development of policies and systems aimed at preventing corruption in such projects. Under the umbrella of the Network, UNODC has developed several tools and knowledge products on various aspects aimed at ensuring the integrity of such projects.

6. Promoting judicial integrity

51.   The Global Judicial Integrity Network continued to play a leading role in promoting experience-sharing among judges and judiciaries and to serve as a platform for peers to discuss and address challenges. In March 2022 and March 2023, the Network organized various awareness-raising activities to promote the active participation of women in the judiciary on the occasion of the annual International Day of Women Judges. The judicial ethics training tools of the Network continued to serve judiciaries around the world in the roll-out of national ethics training activities, with over 70 jurisdictions worldwide implementing the training package. Under the umbrella of the Network, UNODC supported the delivery of training on various aspects of judicial integrity in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Spain, Thailand and the Caribbean region. The Network's website, a "one-stop hub" on judicial integrity, continued to be enriched with new content, including opinion pieces, webinar recordings and various thematic resources.

7. Preventing corruption through education and youth empowerment

52. Since the launch of its Global Resource for Anti-Corruption Education and Youth Empowerment initiative at the ninth session of the Conference, UNODC reached over 1,100 beneficiaries, including anti-corruption professionals, young people, educators and civil society organizations. UNODC organized a series of training workshops for 54 academics from 40 higher education institutions in Africa. In June and September 2022, UNODC, in cooperation with the International Anti-Corruption Academy, organized two online anti-corruption summer schools for 90 students and young people from 46 countries in Eastern Europe and the Asia-Pacific region. In September 2022, UNODC organized the second edition of the "Coding4Integrity" youth anti-corruption hackathon in Brazil. The third edition was organized in Mexico in March 2023, and a fourth hackathon for the Arab region is being planned for September 2023. In February 2023, UNODC organized a regional dialogue in Mexico City for civil society organizations, academia and youth to discuss how these non-State actors can support the implementation of the Convention and the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption. Other regional dialogues will be conducted in 2023.

8. Preventing corruption in the health sector

53. UNODC provided support for the prevention of corruption in the health sector to Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Ghana, Mexico, South Africa and Timor-Leste. This included the assessment and management of corruption risks both in the public and private health sectors, the promotion of transparency in public procurement and the protection of reporting persons. In September 2022, UNODC joined the steering committee of the Global Network for Anti-Corruption, Transparency and Accountability in Health established by the World Health Organization.

9. Strengthening whistle-blower reporting systems

54. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the development of robust mechanisms to facilitate reporting and better protect whistle-blowers has been recognized as one of the key elements to enable States to better respond to and recover from the global health crisis. UNODC continued to actively support countries in their efforts to strengthen their whistle-blower reporting and protection systems, through three regional events and the provision of support in the development of policy frameworks in ten countries.

10. Preventing corruption as it relates to crimes that affect the environment

55. UNODC integrated anti-corruption efforts in its broader work to address crimes that affect the environment. This included support to 16 authorities across 9 countries responsible for the management of wildlife, forests and fisheries resources, particularly on the assessment of corruption risks and the implementation of risk mitigation strategies. Two countries were supported through capacity-building in financial investigations related to crimes that affect the environment.

11. Preventing corruption in sport

56. Through its Programme on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption and Economic Crime, UNODC organized or supported over 60 activities for over 1,200 beneficiaries from 140 States parties to enhance the capacity of criminal justice authorities and sports organizations to tackle corruption in sport at the national, regional and global levels. Highlights included cooperating with the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) to deliver the FIFA Global Integrity Programme for over 400 criminal justice officials and integrity officers from football associations in over 150 countries; contributing to the work of the FIFA World Cup 2022 Integrity Task Force; delivering a workshop funded by the European Union for government officials and sports organizations from the Pacific region; co-organizing a virtual workshop with the International Olympic Committee and the International Criminal Police

Organization for government officials and sports organizations from the Nordic countries.

12. **Enhancing the collaboration between anti-corruption bodies and supreme audit institutions**

57.   UNODC continued to strengthen cooperation between anti-corruption bodies and supreme audit institutions in line with Conference resolutions 8/13 and 9/2. In November 2022, UNODC launched the Practical Guide on enhancing collaboration between supreme audit institutions and anti-corruption bodies at the International Congress of Supreme Audit Institutions held in Brazil. The publication, a key knowledge product delivered under the Abu Dhabi Declaration Programme, had been developed with contributions from more than 150 experts from supreme audit institutions and anti-corruption bodies in 50 countries.

58.   UNODC promoted the use of the Practical Guide through a series of regional training workshops. The first was held in Mexico in September 2022 with the participation of anti-corruption and supreme audit institutions from 20 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean region. The event was organized with the support of the Office of the Comptroller General of Chile in its capacity as the secretariat of the Organization of Latin American and Caribbean Supreme Audit Institutions. The second regional workshop was held in Bangkok from 14 to 16 March 2023 with the participation of supreme audit institutions and anti-corruption bodies from 24 member countries of the Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions.

13. **Preventing corruption in conflict and post-conflict situations**

59.   In addition to strengthening its cooperation with the Department of Peace Operations, UNODC increased its support to countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, including the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Mali and Somalia. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, assistance focused on strengthening the legal and regulatory frameworks and the capacity of anti-corruption bodies; strengthening judicial integrity; and supporting countries in the Great Lakes region in addressing corruption that may facilitate the loss of biodiversity. In the Central African Republic, UNODC provided support on judicial integrity and the mitigation of corruption risk in the prison sector.

IV. Technical assistance: issues for further consideration

60.   In line with resolution 9/4 on "Strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption at regional levels", analysing the technical needs identified per region provides region-specific details and thus insight into regional trends. Such an analysis identifies not only commonalities but also differences that are critical in tailoring the technical assistance delivered. In the light of the development of regional hubs to provide technical assistance, a greater understanding of regional trends in the types of assistance, subcategories, thematic areas and relevant articles can support the technical assistance delivery of these hubs, as they are established.

61.   In the future, a closer examination of the thematic areas corresponding to staff training and other types of capacity-building could serve to better support the development of tailored training. Similarly, such analysis could serve to inform the sharing of good practices.

62.   The limited number of completed executive summaries identifying technical assistance needs did not warrant an in-depth regional analysis of the Group of Eastern European States or the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. As more executive summaries are completed, regional analyses will allow for better comparison across the regions.

63.   A similar report will be drafted for chapter V, on asset recovery. These two reports will subsequently be followed by a more comprehensive report for the tenth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

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