



# Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

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Item 5 of the provisional agenda\*

### **Technical assistance**

## **Provision of technical assistance to States in the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto**

### **Report of the Secretariat**

#### **I. Introduction**

1. In its resolution 7/3, entitled “Implementation of the provisions on technical assistance of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime”, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime noted that technical assistance was a fundamental part of the work carried out by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to assist Member States in the effective implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto and welcomed the work of the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance.

2. The present report provides updated information on the status of technical assistance activities for the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto provided by UNODC to Member States since the seventh session of the Conference, held in Vienna from 6 to 10 October 2014.

#### **II. Strategic approach of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to delivering technical assistance pursuant to the Convention and the Protocols thereto**

3. UNODC continued to pursue a strategic approach to the technical assistance and policy advice it provides to Member States through its country, regional and

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\* CTOC/COP/2016/1.



global programmes, and within the broader framework of the Sustainable Development Goals, in order to counter organized crime and trafficking. In particular, in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Heads of State and Government and High Representatives affirmed explicitly that “there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development”, thereby underscoring the importance of tackling the instability, violence and weakening of state structures that are among the most serious consequences of organized crime.

4. UNODC is guided by the strategic framework for the period 2016-2017 (see A/69/6 (Prog. 13)), the aim of which is to promote an integrated programme approach at the national, regional, interregional and global levels. Within the overarching framework of the thematic programme on transnational organized crime and illicit trafficking, the UNODC global programmes that ensure direct delivery of technical assistance in the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols include the global programme of support to the Conference of the Parties to the Organized Crime Convention, the Global Programme for Strengthening the Capacities of Member States to Prevent and Combat Organized and Serious Crime, the Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, the Container Control Programme, the Global Programme against Cybercrime, the Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime, the Global Programme against Trafficking in Persons, the Global Programme against the Smuggling of Migrants, the Global Programme on Firearms, and a global programme on access to controlled drugs for medical purposes.

5. UNODC also continues its global work through integrated regional programmes in East Africa, the Arab States, West Africa, Southern Africa, South-Eastern Europe, Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, South Asia, East Asia and the Pacific, Central America, and the Caribbean. While each programme reflects the specific needs and priorities of the region, as agreed with the respective regional entities and partner States, the fight against organized crime and illicit trafficking constitutes a key component of all programmes.

6. In addition, UNODC assists Member States in working towards the targets of multiple goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. For instance, support is provided to Member States in preventing and combating the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, protecting trafficking victims and smuggled migrants, ensuring that the rights of those groups are respected, and promoting cooperation between Member States under the targets of Goal 10 (“Reduce inequality within and among countries”).

7. In addition, under Goal 15 (“Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”), UNODC has provided support at the frontline to law enforcement, prosecution, judiciary and relevant stakeholders at the national and international levels to address wildlife and forest crime through the Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime.

8. Moreover, in relation to Goal 16 (“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 offers Member States a full spectrum of tools to strengthen legal frameworks to combat money-laundering

and develop the capacities of national agencies to investigate money-laundering and terrorism financing, disrupt illicit financial flows and support the recovery of stolen assets.

### **III. Expanding and managing the knowledge base on organized crime, and providing legislative assistance**

9. With its 187 parties, the Organized Crime Convention has almost universal adherence. However, it continues to be an underutilized instrument, as implementation remains a challenge for many States parties. To continue to improve the ability of States parties to harmonize their domestic legal frameworks with the Organized Crime Convention, UNODC has endeavoured to expand and manage the knowledge base on legislative and administrative measures to combat organized crime.

10. To facilitate the exchange of information on the domestic implementation efforts of Member States, UNODC, through its global programme of support to the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Organized Crime Convention, has developed the knowledge management portal known as Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC). The SHERLOC portal includes a case-law database containing jurisprudence and records of successful law enforcement operations in cases of corruption, counterfeiting, fraudulent medicine, cybercrime, drug offences, money-laundering, obstruction of justice, participation in an organized criminal group, piracy, the smuggling of migrants, trafficking in firearms, trafficking in cultural property, wildlife, forest and fisheries crime and trafficking in persons. The information available allows users to see the ways in which Member States are addressing organized crime cases, both operationally and judicially. States are encouraged to submit legislation, case law and policy documents on combating organized crime to the secretariat by e-mail ([sherloc@unodc.org](mailto:sherloc@unodc.org)).

11. SHERLOC also hosts a database of legislation relevant to the provisions of the Organized Crime Convention. The database is searchable by country, article of the Convention, crime type and cross-cutting issues. While the database gives access to domestic laws in full, it also provides extracts of laws relevant to specific Convention articles and crime types, allowing the user to rapidly locate provisions relating to the search query.

12. UNODC has continued to redevelop and migrate the directory of competent national authorities under the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and the Organized Crime Convention into SHERLOC. Pursuant to the recommendations adopted by the Working Group on International Cooperation at its sixth meeting, the 2016 issue of the directory presents the information in two separate parts. Part I contains information on central authorities designated under various treaty provisions related to mutual legal assistance. Part II contains information on other competent authorities and executing authorities designated to receive, respond and process requests pertaining to extradition, the transfer of sentenced persons, the prevention of transnational organized crime, the smuggling of migrants, trafficking in firearms and trafficking in cultural property. The current version of the directory also allows

for the inclusion of information on channels for informal cooperation in criminal matters. It gives information on relevant legislation, templates and guidelines related to international cooperation, and on the legal basis for extradition and mutual legal assistance, and provides lists of applicable bilateral or multilateral agreements or arrangements.

13. Moreover, UNODC has expanded SHERLOC to include a bibliographic database with annotations providing a synopsis of key articles that are searchable by country, crime type and cross-cutting issues.

14. In order to assist Member States seeking to ratify, accede to or implement the Organized Crime Convention, the *Legislative Guides for the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto* was updated pursuant to Conference resolution 7/4, entitled “Implementation of the international cooperation provisions of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime”, and has been published electronically in SHERLOC.

15. SHERLOC is also available in all official languages of the United Nations and adaptable to mobile devices. For the future, UNODC envisages expanding SHERLOC to include a database on relevant policies, strategies and agreements, as well as a redeveloped version of the legal library on drugs.

16. Additionally, a series of background papers on selected provisions of the Convention have been drafted for the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance and the Working Group on International Cooperation.<sup>1</sup> UNODC has also finalized a publication provisionally entitled “Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: Needs Assessment Tools”, which will be available later in 2016. The purpose of the needs assessment tools is to provide guidance for assessing what should be done by States parties to ensure that the full potential of the Organized Crime Convention can be realized. The tools are to be used for the delivery of technical assistance, in particular assessing the needs of States parties for technical assistance, with a focus on implementing legislation. At the domestic level, the tools can also enable experts, in particular policymakers and legislators, to assess the implementation of the Convention, including through self-assessments.

17. During the reporting period, pre-ratification assistance was provided to Fiji and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, with the latter subsequently acceding to the Convention. Legislative assistance was provided to Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Viet Nam. Viet Nam subsequently amended its penal code, and UNODC delivered further training on its implementation. Evaluations held before and after the event showed a significant increase in the level of participants’ knowledge.

18. The UNODC *Model Legislative Provisions against Organized Crime* were utilized in the provision of legislative assistance and were adapted to the needs of States, depending on their legal tradition and social, economic, cultural and geographic conditions. The *Model Legislative Provisions* are available in the

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<sup>1</sup> Documentation for the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance and the Working Group on International Cooperation is available at [www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/working-groups.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/working-groups.html).

six official languages of the United Nations. UNODC also delivered training to experts from more than 70 States on the requirements of the Organized Crime Convention. The training focused on criminalizing participation in an organized criminal group, obstruction of justice, the liability of legal persons, jurisdiction, witness protection and prosecution.

#### **IV. Strengthening international judicial cooperation to fight transnational organized crime**

19. In order to facilitate international judicial cooperation, UNODC redeveloped the Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool. The Tool now includes additional features on asset recovery, digital evidence and specific forms of international cooperation in criminal matters. The revised tool was presented in China and Ukraine and pilot-tested in Ethiopia, Uganda and Kenya.

20. UNODC continued to support the Network of Prosecutors and Central Authorities from Source, Transit and Destination Countries in response to Transnational Organized Crime in Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus (CASC) and the Network of West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors (WACAP). Both networks facilitate the execution of requests for mutual legal assistance and extradition, and the exchange of contacts and good practices among senior prosecutors and central authorities responsible for mutual legal assistance.

21. The CASC network held four plenary meetings, at which the following issues were addressed: transnational trafficking of Afghan opiates via the northern routes; the exchange of electronic evidence in organized crime investigations and prosecutions; asset recovery; and practical solutions to overcome obstacles to extradition and mutual legal assistance. The meetings were hosted by Kazakhstan, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, respectively. The fact that they were held in different countries facilitated the exchange of contacts and good practices and the execution of requests for mutual legal assistance among 20 countries.

22. Within the framework of the CASC network, UNODC delivered an interregional training course on the detection and investigation of cases involving the laundering of proceeds of crime through the use of electronic money and virtual currencies. The course was attended by prosecutors, financial investigators, financial intelligence unit officials and trainers of national training institutions from eight countries. A national training course was held in Kazakhstan for prosecutors, financial intelligence unit officials and trainers of the country's training institute for prosecutors about informal and formal international cooperation to recover the proceeds of organized crime. Furthermore, the CASC network expanded its training courses to judges and national training institutions for judges by delivering, jointly with the Training Institute for Lawyers under the Ministry of Justice of Uzbekistan, an interregional training workshop on the use of electronic evidence in the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of criminal offences. Apart from enriching the knowledge of criminal justice practitioners, those training courses led to the development and delivery of relevant programmes by national training institutions. The CASC network also produced a practical tool entitled "Basic tips

for investigators and prosecutors for requesting electronic and digital data and evidence from foreign jurisdictions”.<sup>2</sup>

23. With support from UNODC, the WACAP network held two plenary meetings in 2015. The first was held in March in Accra, at the ministerial level, and resulted in the adoption, on 23 March 2015, of a ministerial declaration on strengthening international cooperation against organized crime in West Africa. The declaration sets forth what the States of the region should do to promote and strengthen international cooperation in criminal matters, in particular through the establishment of central authorities and the strengthening of existing ones. The second plenary meeting was held in October 2015 in Abuja and had been organized jointly with the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for West Africa and the regional judicial platform for the Sahel countries. The members of the WACAP network and of the Sahel platform also held coordination meetings to review past work and discuss plans for the future.

24. In 2015, in cooperation with the WACAP network, UNODC held one national training event each in Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Mali, Niger and Senegal on international cooperation in criminal matters and other pertinent topics such as drug trafficking and money-laundering, at which the train-the-trainers methodology was piloted. In 2016, two train-the-trainers courses on a methodology for adult learning and international cooperation in criminal matters were held. It is envisaged that all members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) will receive the training.

## **V. Strengthening criminal justice responses to laundering proceeds of crime**

25. During the reporting period, UNODC provided assistance to Member States to address the links between money-laundering and serious organized crime. The Office placed mentors in various subregions, each with their own goal: in the Balkans, the goal was to establish comprehensive regimes to counter money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, with a focus on the development and enhancement of financial intelligence units; in Southern Africa, the goal was to strengthen asset confiscation procedures; in South-East Asia, the goal was to build effective procedures to counter money-laundering and the financing of terrorism; in West Africa, as in the Balkans, the goal was to establish comprehensive regimes to counter money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, with a focus on the development and enhancement of financial intelligence units; in Central Africa, the goal was to strengthen the secretariat of the Groupe d’action contre le blanchiment d’argent en Afrique Centrale; and in the Pacific, as in South-East Asia, the goal was to build effective procedures to counter money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.

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<sup>2</sup> The English version is available at [www.unodc.org/documents/legal-tools/Tip\\_electronic\\_evidence\\_final\\_Eng\\_logo.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/legal-tools/Tip_electronic_evidence_final_Eng_logo.pdf). The basic tips are also available in French and Russian.

26. In addition, UNODC co-chaired the process leading to the publication of the joint study by UNODC and the Financial Action Task Force entitled “Financial flows linked to the production and trafficking of Afghan opiates”.

27. Approximately 70 States received tailor-made advisory services and other technical input relevant to the implementation of international standards so as to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, and to enhance legislation on asset forfeiture. For example, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, UNODC assisted the Government of Somalia in drafting its anti-money-laundering law and the anti-money-laundering manual for the country’s Central Bank. Furthermore, in cooperation with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the International Monetary Fund, UNODC updated the money-laundering and terrorist financing model law for common-law jurisdictions. In 2016, the Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism updated its training methodology. It now applies a modular approach to all its training courses, which means that each training course will be adapted and/or tailor-made for each beneficiary country based on an initial needs assessment prior to training delivery. The advantage of this is that the programme can accurately gauge the level of development of capacities and knowledge in the State.

## **VI. Improving law enforcement cooperation and inter-institutional coordination**

28. During the reporting period, UNODC continued to promote regional law enforcement cooperation through, inter alia, the establishment of and provision of support to regional centres such as the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, the joint planning cell of Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan, and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs. Those centres provide platforms for sharing criminal intelligence and coordinating multilateral operations.<sup>3</sup>

29. In order to strengthen interregional cooperation, UNODC promoted cooperation among international and regional law enforcement organizations and centres, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Chiefs of Police, the Asia-Pacific Information and Coordination Centre for Combating Drug Crimes, the European Police Office (Europol), the GCC Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the Southeast European Law Enforcement Centre, the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, and the World Customs Organization (WCO). This initiative, known as “networking the networks”, aims at building and strengthening cooperation between participating entities in order to enhance their effectiveness in the fight against organized crime through the exchange of criminal intelligence and the coordination of multilateral operations targeting organized crime and illicit financial flows.

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<sup>3</sup> UNODC has received requests from South Asia, West Africa and other regions to assist in building regional law enforcement cooperation structures and platforms.

30. To strengthen cooperation between law enforcement training institutions, UNODC promoted the platform known as “LE TrainNet”. The aim of this initiative is to create a network of training and educational institutions in the field of law enforcement, thus facilitating the exchange of training curricula, materials, methodologies, trainers and best practices. In promoting this initiative, UNODC cooperates with INTERPOL, WCO, Europol, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Police College and other organizations.

31. Furthermore, UNODC and WCO continue to assist States in building the capacity of law enforcement agencies to identify and inspect cargo containers that may be used for illicit purposes, such as trafficking in drugs, weapons, explosives, strategic dual-use goods and wildlife. The activities under the Container Control Programme are based on detailed assessments of container ports and the promotion of cooperation among law enforcement agencies through the creation of inter-agency port control units and cooperation with the private sector. The officers operating as part of the inter-agency port control units are given extensive training on risk management and profiling. In 2015, the air cargo segment of the Container Control Programme was launched in Karachi, Pakistan, and a roll-out in further States is planned.

32. The Container Control Programme currently operates in seaports, dry ports and airports in 30 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, West Africa, the Middle East, West and Central Asia and South and South-East Asia. The sites are located in major drug-producing regions and/or along established trade routes used for the illicit trans-shipment of drugs and other illicit commodities. In 2015, seizures under the global Container Control Programme amounted to 26,173 kg of cocaine, 3,679 kg of cannabis, 440 kg of heroin, 58,360 kg of precursor chemicals, 48,027 kg of tramadol, more than 100,300,000 cigarettes, 4,000 kg of pangolin scales, 1,023 kg of elephant ivory and six containers with protected wood. In addition, large quantities of counterfeit goods, medicines and spirits, as well as stolen cars, weapons, e-waste and strategic goods were detected. The results demonstrate the effectiveness of the Programme in bringing together the various front-line enforcement agencies and in promoting and increasing the professionalism of officers. They also demonstrate the ongoing utilization of the intelligence systems available through the Programme that facilitate the exchange of operational information.

## **VII. Technical assistance in combating trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants**

33. UNODC continued to support the ratification and implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized



Crime.<sup>4</sup> The Trafficking in Persons Protocol currently has 169 parties and the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol 142 parties.

34. During the reporting period, UNODC developed and produced four standard-setting and specialized publications for practitioners, entitled *The Role of Consent in the Trafficking in Persons Protocol* (published in 2014), *The Role of Recruitment Fees and Abusive Fraudulent Recruitment Practices of Recruitment Agencies in Trafficking in Persons* (2015), *The Concept of Exploitation in the Trafficking in Persons Protocol* (2015) and *Assessment Toolkit: Trafficking in Persons for the Purpose of Organ Removal* (2015). The utility of those and similar materials is increasingly recognized by practitioners. Similar UNODC tools have recently been used by courts in Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to make rulings in trafficking in persons cases.

35. In September 2015, UNODC launched the Regional Strategy for Combating Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants in West and Central Africa 2015-2020. The Strategy is the UNODC response to the challenges facing the region in the areas of trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants, including issues concerning the protection of potential victims.

36. Under specific country and regional programmes activities were implemented to combat the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons and provide mentoring and tailor-made technical assistance to Member States. In response to requests from Member States worldwide, the global programmes of UNODC against trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants were used to provide expertise in the key areas of legislative assistance, criminal justice responses and international cooperation, data collection and research, prevention and awareness-raising, and protection and support.

37. UNODC organized or provided substantive contributions to over 50 major technical assistance activities, including legislative assistance and capacity-building activities, assisting more than 70 countries and training more than 1,300 criminal justice practitioners and government officials in effectively investigating and prosecuting trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants.

38. As mandated by the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, in November 2014, UNODC published the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, which provides an overview of patterns and flows of trafficking in persons at the global, regional and national levels. UNODC is currently preparing the third edition of the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, to be published towards the end of 2016. UNODC has also taken the first steps towards developing a related global report on the smuggling of migrants. In support of its research activities, UNODC provides training upon request to enable the sustainable collection, sharing and analysis of data on trafficking in persons and, in the near future, the smuggling of migrants. To date, such training has been carried out for States members of ECOWAS and States members of the League of Arab States. The training focuses on the framework for collecting data and conducting research, the importance of sharing information among actors to prevent and combat

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<sup>4</sup> For more information on UNODC activities to promote and support the implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol and the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol see documents CTOC/COP/2016/2 and CTOC/COP/2016/3.

trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants, the relevant questionnaires and practical tips for compiling them, and the way data are analysed to serve as a basis for the UNODC global reports.

39. UNODC cooperated with more than 130 civil society organizations from around the world to combat trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants, mostly in the form of technical assistance.

## **VIII. Trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition**

40. UNODC continued to promote the ratification and implementation of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The Firearms Protocol currently has 114 parties.<sup>5</sup>

41. During the reporting period, over 380 practitioners, governmental officials and civil society representatives from 36 countries participated in over 40 capacity-building and technical assistance activities related to firearms, organized or contributed to by UNODC.

42. Thematic meetings and side events contributed to raising awareness of the Protocol and addressing special themes, including firearms trafficking in the Danube region, firearms trafficking and citizens' security in South America, firearms trafficking in the Sahel, public-private partnerships under article 13, paragraph 2, of the Protocol, poaching and the impact of illicit arms transfers in Africa, and implementation and monitoring of Sustainable Development Goal target 16.4 ("By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime").

43. With support from the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation, UNODC organized two regional meetings, one in Côte d'Ivoire and one in Costa Rica, on synergies between international arms control instruments. The seminars were attended by over 80 firearms control authorities and criminal justice practitioners from 26 countries in West Africa, the Sahel and Latin America. In addition, two issue papers on international arms control instruments were published.<sup>6</sup>

44. Legislative assistance was delivered to Afghanistan, Benin, Burkina Faso, the Gambia, Ghana, Mauritania, the Niger, Senegal and Togo. UNODC worked with legislative drafting committees and parliaments in several of those countries. Mauritania subsequently adopted a new firearms law.

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<sup>5</sup> More information on UNODC activities to promote and support the implementation of the Firearms Protocol, including technical assistance, is contained in document CTOC/COP/2016/4.

<sup>6</sup> *The Firearms Protocol and the Arms Trade Treaty: Divergence or Complementarity?* (UNODC, 2016) and *Comparative Analysis of Global Instruments on Firearms and other Conventional Arms: Synergies for Implementation* (UNODC, 2016) are available in English, French and Spanish.

45. Technical support to implement the Protocol was provided. UNODC purchased additional marking machines for Burkina Faso and Mali and contributed to the strengthening of national marking practices in six Sahel countries through training and technical support. UNODC supports physical stockpile security for seized firearms in Burkina Faso, the Niger and Senegal. Five courses on marking, record keeping and tracing were delivered to Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, the Niger, Senegal and Togo, followed by a subregional refresher course in Benin and a regional evaluation meeting in Mali jointly organized with ECOWAS. A regional course was delivered in Uruguay and in Togo on the role of civil society in firearms control. A technical mission was conducted in Panama to strengthen the national arms registry. Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and Ecuador received technical advice to support activities to collect and destroy arms, and Senegal launched its national arms collection campaign with support from UNODC.

46. A training-of-trainers course on investigation and prosecution of firearms trafficking was held in Vienna with experts from Burkina Faso, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and the Niger. UNODC also participated in the advanced training on tracing illicit small arms and light weapons for law enforcement officials from Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan organized jointly by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and INTERPOL. The training was held in Vienna.

47. In addition, regional and international cooperation was fostered through, inter alia, a cross-regional meeting held in Vienna between 40 firearms control authorities and criminal justice officers from 19 South American and Sahel-Saharan countries, held in Vienna.

48. The *UNODC Study on Firearms 2015* was completed in 2015 pursuant to Conference resolutions 5/4 and 6/2. It is based on data about seized firearms from 40 States. A firearms trafficking toolkit and a set of online questionnaires supported international data gathering and standardized reporting from States, laying the foundation for the regular collection of data on firearms and for the monitoring of Sustainable Development Goal target 16.4, which is related to illicit arms flows.

## **IX. Trafficking in cultural property**

49. In December 2014, the General Assembly adopted the International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences (see Assembly resolution 69/196, annex). The aim of the Guidelines was to assist lawmakers, policymakers, law enforcement practitioners and private sector professionals to effectively address illicit trafficking in cultural property and effect the return of confiscated property to its legitimate owners. The Guidelines were included in the updated Compendium of United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/196, UNODC also developed the *Practical Assistance Tool to Assist in the Implementation of the Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences*. The Tool can be used as a reference by relevant national authorities, law enforcement authorities, practitioners and policymakers working in the field of cultural property.

50. Other tools developed by UNODC to assist States in developing and strengthening their criminal justice responses to trafficking in cultural property include an online directory of competent national authorities that contains a list of contact points designated by States to facilitate international cooperation for the purpose of preventing trafficking in cultural property, and a database on national legislation and case law on cultural property, available in SHERLOC.

51. During the reporting period, UNODC also continued to work closely with partners such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law, INTERPOL and WCO, to provide technical assistance to Member States to enable them to strengthen their national legal frameworks and build the capacity of their law enforcement and judicial authorities for addressing crimes related to trafficking in cultural property.

## **X. Cybercrime**

52. Since 2013, under its Global Programme on Cybercrime, UNODC has provided technical assistance and support to developing countries in the areas of capacity-building, prevention, awareness-raising and international cooperation. Currently the Programme mainly focuses on East Africa, Central America and South-East Asia. Its aim is to make the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of cybercrime, especially the online sexual exploitation and abuse of children, more efficient and effective within a strong human rights framework. UNODC activities in this area are also aimed at supporting Member States in creating efficient and effective long-term, whole-of-government responses to cybercrime and strengthening national and international communication between government, law enforcement and the private sector.

53. During the reporting period, over 300 judges, prosecutors and police officers in eight States were trained in basic and advanced cybercrime investigation methods in line with international practice. The topics covered included understanding how electronic evidence is gathered, contemporary issues in evidence preservation, undercover online infiltration of paedophile networks and the challenges presented by darknet services and peer-to-peer networks. While these skills are focused on cybertechnology, they are readily usable in any organized crime and terrorist casework where the Internet is used.

54. Since January 2016, UNODC has forged new partnerships with specialist units including the Europol European Cybercrime Centre, the INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation in Singapore and the INTERPOL human trafficking and child exploitation unit in Lyon, France. Furthermore, the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, the United Nations Children's Fund, International Justice Mission, United Nations Member States, the private sector and academia are working closely with UNODC to ensure complementarity of approach and tangible strategic impact. Collaboration with the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise and the Global Cyber Security Capacity Centre of the University of Oxford is also helping to minimize the risks of duplication among partners, donors and recipients. The UNODC Cybercrime Repository, which complements SHERLOC, gives Member

States access to a variety of legal and experiential resources for the fight against cybercrime.

55. Public education and advocacy are critical to the fight against and prevention of cybercrime. UNODC has developed a number of learning resources to help educate children and their caregivers in El Salvador about the risks of online crime such as “sextortion”, cyberbullying and grooming. By engaging children directly, for example through schools and faith-based organizations, a consistent prevention message can be given in easy-to-understand, culturally relevant terms. In the reporting period, over 1,000 children have been sensitized to the risks of cybercrime, and UNODC will continue to prioritize a prevention-based approach, working with partners around the world.

56. International cooperation is also an essential part of combating cybercrime. In that regard, the networking of authorities responsible for combating cybercrime was promoted through regional initiatives. The Eastern African Networking Meeting on Cybercrime and Electronic Evidence, held in Nairobi on 19 and 20 August 2015, had as its outcome the establishment of the Eastern African Criminal Justice Network on Cybercrime and Electronic Evidence. The meeting was organized by UNODC and the Commonwealth Secretariat and brought together criminal justice officials and key stakeholders from member States of the East African Community and other African States.

57. The UNODC Global Programme on Cybercrime is seeking to expand its activities into other regions in the near future, subject to the availability of additional funds.

## **XI. Other emerging crimes**

58. UNODC supported more than 20 Member States in strengthening their response to wildlife and forest crime by reviewing national legislation, providing specialized training to front-line officers and equipping them, providing on-the-ground mentorship to intelligence analysts and investigators, working with prosecutors to increase the quality of cases submitted to court for prosecution, and raising awareness among the judiciary of the serious nature of the crime. The importance of the “follow-the-money” approach and of tracing the proceeds from wildlife crime was raised and support was provided to the wildlife authorities for strengthening anti-corruption measures. UNODC published the *World Wildlife Crime Report: Trafficking in Protected Species*, the first of its kind, which provides an overview of how protected species of wild fauna and flora are affected by wildlife and forest crime and trafficking. UNODC also began addressing transnational organized crime in the fisheries sector.

59. UNODC continued supporting States in combating piracy and maritime crime by assisting criminal justice systems and building capacity in maritime law enforcement. The Indian Ocean Forum on Maritime Crime was established, and a regional network promoting cooperation and strategic and operational responses to maritime crime was created. Support for the prosecution of piracy continued in Kenya, Mauritius, Seychelles and the United Republic of Tanzania and included a training platform for law enforcement and justice professionals. In Somalia, UNODC enhanced prison conditions and facilities, enabled the return of convicted

Somali pirates, assisted piracy hostages upon their release, built maritime law enforcement capacity and provided legislative assistance. In the Gulf of Guinea, UNODC continued supporting legal reform targeting piracy and armed robbery.

## **XII. Conclusions**

60. Universal adherence to the Organized Crime Convention is a goal within reach. The challenges lie in the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto.

61. UNODC continues to pursue a strategic approach to the delivery of technical assistance to implement the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto through its thematic and regional programmes with the aim of promoting an integrated programme approach at the national, regional, interregional and global levels.

62. During the reporting period, expanding and managing the knowledge base and disseminating the information were core elements of the Office's work to support States in their efforts to implement the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto. Through the expanded knowledge base, legislative assistance was delivered to bring national legislation into line with the provisions of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto.

63. In recognition that any treaty or legislation is only as good as its implementation, UNODC continued to deliver a broad range of technical assistance over a wide thematic portfolio to combat transnational organized crime in all its forms and manifestations. UNODC focused its law enforcement and prosecutorial assistance on the establishment of regional centres and networks for sharing criminal intelligence and coordination, as well as on the networking of such networks. Through networking the networks, cooperative links between centres and networks were strengthened and international cooperation facilitated. This is crucial, as criminals exploit safe havens, online and offline, where they can accumulate the proceeds of crime and have an incentive to continue undisturbed. Stemming the flows of proceeds of crime, including in the form of cryptocurrencies, continued to be a priority for UNODC.

64. The technical assistance UNODC provides to States to implement the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto is embedded in the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development across multiple of its goals. However, as development is a long-term process, so too is the fight against organized crime.