



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

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International cooperation, with particular emphasis on extradition, mutual legal assistance and international cooperation for the purpose of confiscation, and the establishment and strengthening of central authorities

Activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to promote the implementation of the provisions on international cooperation in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

Report of the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. The involvement of criminal groups in crimes that cut across national borders has been increasing rapidly. It is not unusual for persons investigating a crime in their country to find that there are victims of the crime in other countries, that the person or persons under investigation are part of a criminal group with members in other countries or that proceeds from the crime have been hidden or invested in another jurisdiction. The potential ramifications of organized crime in various countries are multifaceted and multilayered. Many of the benefits of globalization, such as easier and faster communication, the movement of finances and international travel, are used by criminal groups to carry out criminal activities, exploit individuals, wildlife and the environment, take advantage of weaknesses in legal and regulatory regimes and steal from government coffers in order to derive profits.

2. This means that investigating, prosecuting and punishing organized crime have become more complex, involving more than one jurisdiction. As States make efforts to combat transnational organized crime, international cooperation in criminal matters has become more important. Traditional forms of international cooperation

* CTOC/COP/2012/1.



involving bilateral arrangements alone do not always allow for swift responses to the needs of fighting modern-day organized crime. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, *inter alia*, provides Member States with the opportunity to seek extradition, mutual legal assistance and international cooperation for the purpose of confiscation from a large number of partners among the 168 States parties to the Convention without the need for bilateral agreements in each case.

3. The Working Group on International Cooperation, established pursuant to decision 3/2 of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, is a constant element of the Conference and holds substantive discussions on practical issues pertaining to extradition, mutual legal assistance and international cooperation for the purpose of confiscation.

4. At its meeting held during the fifth session of the Conference, the Working Group emphasized the importance of using the Convention for extradition, mutual legal assistance and international cooperation for the purpose of confiscation, either as the sole legal basis for such action or in conjunction with other international treaties.

5. Since October 2010, when the fifth session of the Conference was held, UNODC has carried out numerous activities and continued to provide technical assistance and promote the implementation of the Convention, in particular its provisions on international cooperation.

II. Tools developed to facilitate international cooperation in criminal matters

6. Pursuant to Conference resolution 5/8, UNODC, in addition to developing new tools, continued to improve and expand a number of existing tools to facilitate international cooperation in criminal matters.

7. The Secretariat also produced informative leaflets, for distribution at meetings, regional workshops and sessions of the Conference, that explain how to access and utilize the wide variety of tools available to Member States, in particular the online directory of competent national authorities, the Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool and the online legal library.

A. Online directory of competent national authorities

8. The number of competent national authorities designated by Member States pursuant to all relevant mandates contained in Conference decisions 3/2 and 4/2 has expanded. The directory now contains the contact information of 478 competent national authorities from 168 Member States, in addition to the European Union and the Holy See, that are designated to receive, respond to and process requests relating to extradition, the transfer of sentenced persons and mutual legal assistance in

criminal matters, as well as to efforts aimed at countering drug trafficking by sea, the smuggling of migrants by sea and trafficking in firearms.¹

9. The Secretariat regularly updates the directory on the basis of notifications received from States regarding changes in the designation and contact details of their authorities. Central authorities may edit their own records, subject to review and approval by the Secretariat. The directory is published twice a year by UNODC and distributed to designated authorities and the permanent missions of Member States. It is also available electronically on the UNODC website.²

10. The directory contains full contact details for the designated authorities, as well as their office hours, time zone, working languages, the information or documents that they require for requests to be executed, acceptable formats and channels of communication, an indication of whether or not requests may be made through the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), specific procedures in urgent cases and a field for comments. The field for comments enables States to provide additional information such as summaries of legal and procedural requirements for the granting of requests for extradition or mutual legal assistance, links to national laws and relevant websites, a list of treaties on bilateral and regional cooperation concluded by the State or any alternative arrangement available in respect of extradition or mutual legal assistance. The record also indicates whether a State party has declared, pursuant to article 16, paragraph 5, of the Organized Crime Convention, that it uses the Convention as the legal basis for extradition.

11. Access to the expanded directory is currently limited to the designated authorities, as was the case for the directory of competent national authorities under the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.³ The main considerations in limiting access to the directory were concern for the privacy and safety of the staff of the central authorities, who in some cases are identified by name and personal contact details, and the purpose of the directory, which is to provide designated authorities with easy access to the updated contact information of their counterparts in other countries. The Secretariat has recorded 445 registered users of the online directory.

B. Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool

12. The Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool was developed by UNODC to assist States in drafting mutual legal assistance requests to facilitate and strengthen international cooperation. The tool helps prevent incomplete requests for mutual legal assistance and therefore minimizes the risk of delay or refusal. The tool guides the casework practitioner step by step through the request process for each

¹ Authorities designated under the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 (arts. 6, 7 and 17), the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (arts. 16-18) and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air (art. 8) and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition (art. 13), supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

² Access to the directory requires a password, provided by UNODC upon request.

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

type of mutual assistance, prompting the drafter if essential information has been omitted. The tool consolidates all data entered and generates a correct, complete and effective request for final editing and signing.⁴

13. In its decision 4/2, the Conference welcomed the Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool and encouraged national central authorities to make use of the tool, as appropriate. The Conference requested the Secretariat to use the tool in training sessions delivered to central authorities and practitioners.

14. In order to further facilitate its use, versions of the tool in Arabic, Bosnian, Croatian, English, French, Montenegrin, Portuguese, Russian, Serbian and Spanish can be downloaded from the UNODC website. The tool is also being translated into Persian (Farsi) by the UNODC Country Office in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

15. With a view to promoting the use of the tool, presentations of it were given to central authorities and Government representatives at training sessions, conferences and seminars, in particular those relating to international cooperation. When possible, the introduction to the tool has been followed by practical exercises in which participants use the tool to draft a request for mutual legal assistance.

16. To date, 613 users have requested and received copies of the tool, up from 380 in 2010.⁵ The tool complements the online directory of competent national authorities and the legal library, and information from those sources may be loaded into the tool.

17. Participants in meetings at which the tool was presented commented on its usefulness both as an aid to drafting requests for mutual legal assistance and as a means of training staff on the requirements for effective requests. In order to receive more feedback from authorities on their actual use of the tool, the Secretariat requested users of the tool to answer a brief set of questions. The responses received have not yet enabled the Secretariat to form a complete picture of the use of the tool.

18. Furthermore, on 14 and 15 December 2011, UNODC organized an expert group meeting on the development of the tool to include additional features on asset recovery. The meeting produced recommendations outlining the features to be added to the tool. The updated tool is to be presented to the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery at its meeting to be held in August 2012. While the basic structure and features of the tool remain unaltered, this expanded version offers additional features and possibilities for asset recovery.

C. Legal library

19. The UNODC online legal library provides valuable access to legislation adopted by States and territories worldwide to implement the international drug control conventions and the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto.

⁴ The Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool also provides access to relevant bilateral, multilateral and regional treaties and agreements and national laws and includes a case-management tracking system for incoming and outgoing mutual legal assistance requests.

⁵ To request a user account and for further information, please visit the UNODC website (www.unodc.org/comppath).

It is a unique resource of information for legislative drafters, as it contains laws and regulations dating back to 1948 from more than 150 States in English, French and Spanish.⁶

20. The legal library has been upgraded and expanded to include legislation relevant to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children,⁷ the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air⁸ and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition,⁹ supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. To enhance the usability of the legal library and its available information, the Secretariat has introduced new features such as an interactive map of regions and countries and added links to informative Government websites. Furthermore, all legislation in the library has been categorized under the relevant conventions and protocols in order to optimize accessibility.

D. Knowledge management portal on transnational organized crime

21. UNODC will create a knowledge management portal on transnational organized crime, which will be designed as a single web-based platform on the UNODC website and will facilitate the dissemination of information regarding implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto.

22. The portal will host an improved and consolidated legal library, an electronic repository of laws relevant to the requirements of the Convention and its Protocols, and will be searchable by country, article and crime type. The portal is designed to be compatible with the mechanism for reviewing the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention, which may be approved by the Conference at its sixth session.

23. The portal will also host a case law database containing jurisprudence on organized crime in its different manifestations, including trafficking in persons, the smuggling of migrants, trafficking in firearms, money-laundering, participation in an organized criminal group, drug trafficking, trafficking in cultural property, cybercrime, counterfeiting, obstruction of justice and other serious crimes. This will allow users to see how Member States are tackling cases of organized crime in their courts.

24. The portal will also host the directory of competent national authorities mentioned in paragraphs 8-11 above.

25. Additionally, the portal will host a component on treaties, agreements and policy documents. This will contain relevant treaties concluded by States parties to facilitate international cooperation, such as extradition and mutual legal assistance treaties, and other agreements, as well as various strategies and other policy documents, concerning organized crime.

⁶ To access the legal library and for further information, please visit the UNODC website (www.unodc.org/enl).

⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. 2241, No. 39574.

⁹ *Ibid.*, vol. 2326, No. 39574.

E. Manual on mutual legal assistance and extradition

26. In its resolution 5/8, the Conference requested the Secretariat to continue to foster international and regional cooperation pursuant to Conference decision 4/2 by, inter alia, developing a practical guide to facilitate the drafting, transmission and execution of requests for extradition and mutual legal assistance pursuant to articles 16 and 18 of the Organized Crime Convention, in cases where the Convention was the legal basis for the request.

27. The Secretariat produced a manual on mutual legal assistance and extradition, which was subjected to critical review at an informal meeting of a group of experts held in Vienna on 1 and 2 September 2011. The manual is a comprehensive guide that deals with all the practical steps in the process of extradition and mutual legal assistance. It is to be used as a tool to further enhance international and interregional cooperation in criminal matters among States pursuant to articles 16 and 18 of the Organized Crime Convention. The manual will also serve as a training tool, complementing the Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool. The manual will be posted on the UNODC website in the six official languages of the United Nations; hard copies will also be available.

F. Manual on international cooperation for the purposes of confiscation

28. In its resolution 5/8, the Conference requested the Secretariat to draft a practical guide for practitioners to facilitate international and interregional cooperation for the purposes of confiscation in the framework of the fight against transnational organized crime, taking stock of existing studies.

29. Pursuant to that resolution, the Secretariat commissioned the drafting of a manual on international cooperation for purposes of confiscation. In February 2012, UNODC convened an informal expert group meeting to discuss, review and improve the draft, which was enriched by practical experiences and examples of cases from different countries. The manual will be launched at the sixth session of the Conference in three official languages of the United Nations: English, French and Spanish. The Secretariat is seeking funding for the translation of the manual into the other three official languages of the United Nations. The manual will be published in hard copy and also be made available on the UNODC website.

30. The manual is intended to be a comprehensive guide for use by criminal justice practitioners and central and other competent national authorities and policymakers who wish to either improve existing procedures and arrangements or set up new arrangements to improve international and interregional cooperation for the purpose of confiscation of proceeds of crime. It can also be used as a resource for training and serves as a companion to the manual on mutual legal assistance and extradition.

G. Handbook on the international transfer of sentenced persons

31. UNODC also produced a handbook on the international transfer of sentenced persons as part of its mandate to counter the proliferation of crime, drugs and terrorism and promote crime prevention and criminal justice reform.

32. That handbook focuses on how arrangements can be made to transfer persons sentenced to a term of imprisonment in one country to their home country in order to serve the sentence, or part of it, there. This specialized area of law forms part of the growing international cooperation between States in criminal justice matters. The handbook describes and explains the key elements of the numerous instruments that exist in this area and is intended to help States that have existing arrangements to use them more effectively.

33. The handbook is designed to be used by all actors involved in the criminal justice system, including policymakers, legislators, prison managers, prison staff, prosecutors, police, members of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other individuals for whom the subject is of interest and relevance. It may also be used as a reference document and as a training tool.

H. Digest of organized crime cases

34. In its decision 5/8, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to continue to enhance the activities mentioned in Conference decision 4/2 by, inter alia, analysing and using the examples provided by Member States of how they are applying articles 12, 13, 16 and 18 of the Organized Crime Convention, as well as the catalogue published by UNODC of cases involving extradition, mutual legal assistance and other forms of international legal cooperation. The purpose is to produce a digest and other tools highlighting good practices in order to avoid possible obstacles to the full and successful implementation of the Convention. An overview of the work done by the Secretariat to develop a digest of successful cases involving the investigation or prosecution of transnational organized crime is contained in document CTOC/COP/2012/11.

I. Other tools

35. UNODC has also prepared and made available to Member States other resources and tools to facilitate international cooperation. Some materials provide guidance in particular areas of international cooperation, while others meet the needs of a particular region or group.

36. UNODC published and/or contributed to a number of guides and handbooks on international cooperation, drawing on a wide range of expertise. UNODC assisted in the production of the *ASEAN Handbook on International Legal Cooperation in Trafficking in Persons Cases*, which was published in 2010 by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The UNODC Regional Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe published guidelines on international cooperation relating to cases involving trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants. Chapters on international cooperation are also included in a large number of other UNODC publications, such as the *International Framework for Action to*

*Implement the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, the Toolkit to Combat Trafficking in Persons*¹⁰ and the *Basic Training Manual on Investigating and Prosecuting the Smuggling of Migrants*.

37. UNODC has also, upon request, prepared legal publications for practitioners in order to facilitate international cooperation in particular countries and regions. UNODC continues to support the growth of the regional judicial platform for members of the Indian Ocean Commission (Comoros, France (Réunion), Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles), an international cooperation network of central authorities for which UNODC produced a compendium of bilateral, regional and international agreements on mutual legal assistance and extradition. Working closely with central authorities, UNODC supports the dissemination and use of the compendium for making effective requests for extradition and mutual legal assistance to the members of the Indian Ocean Commission. The compendium contains detailed practical information relating to the particular requirements of each member and will serve as a valuable resource for both members of the Commission and those seeking international cooperation with them.

38. Pursuant to Conference resolution 5/1, entitled “Ensuring effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto”, UNODC developed model legislative provisions on organized crime. The model legislative provisions will both facilitate and help systematize the provision of legislative assistance by UNODC, as well as facilitate the review and amendment of existing legislation and the adoption of new legislation by Member States themselves. The model legislative provisions have been designed to be adapted to the needs of each State, whatever its legal tradition and social, economic, cultural and geographical conditions. The finalized provisions will be printed, as well as posted in electronic form on the UNODC website. Consideration will be given to translating the provisions into all six official languages of the United Nations, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

39. The activities of UNODC to promote and support the implementation of the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol have consistently included components on strengthening international cooperation among States. The Model Law against the Smuggling of Migrants, published in 2010, contains provisions on international cooperation. Both the *In-Depth Training Manual on Investigating and Prosecuting the Smuggling of Migrants*, which was published in 2011 to assist in building the capacity of States to respond effectively to the smuggling of migrants, and the *Basic Training Manual on Investigating and Prosecuting the Smuggling of Migrants*, adapted for Mexico and Central America, include specific modules on international cooperation. In the area of strategic planning and policy development, the *International Framework for Action to Implement the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol*, released in 2011, also covers international cooperation.

¹⁰ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.V.14.

III. Strengthening interregional networking

40. UNODC continues to work with countries and regions to build and strengthen interregional networking for stronger regional cooperation in criminal matters.

41. A significant contribution to the strengthening of international judicial cooperation in Central America was initiated through the creation in 2011 of the Central American Network of Organized Crime Prosecutors (REFCO). REFCO is a forum for sharing knowledge and experience with respect to common issues regarding organized crime and drug trafficking, such as modes of investigation, the interception of communications, witness protection and money-laundering. REFCO provides a structure for developing uniform capacity-building, in cooperation with training institutes for prosecutors. It also offers intraregional training, facilitates prosecutor exchanges between offices within the region and promotes the exchange of operational information.

42. REFCO provides policy and technical advice on the implementation of national legislation, carries out specialized training and promotes common and coordinated activities at the regional level so as to enable prosecutors to build trust and confidence in order to exchange information on cases.

43. A wide range of specialist training courses for public prosecutors has been developed and delivered, and a series of practical technical guides has been produced. Training has been coordinated and delivered for prosecutors from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. Recently, the public prosecutors' offices of the Dominican Republic and Mexico joined REFCO, and Belize and Colombia participated regularly in its activities prior to becoming members.

44. In February 2012, UNODC sponsored a meeting to connect the judicial platform for Sahel countries and the judicial platform for Indian Ocean Commission members with the European Judicial Network. The meeting was co-hosted with the European Judicial Network and held in The Hague. The meeting allowed for an exchange of information about the functions, benefits and challenges of establishing and maintaining such networks. UNODC also led discussions to obtain views on the establishment of a network of central authorities and prosecutors of other West African countries. UNODC secured funding for a project to set up a prosecutorial network for West Africa, which will start in mid-2012.

IV. Strengthening central and competent authorities on international cooperation

45. Between October 2010 and February 2012, UNODC provided legislative and capacity-building assistance on international cooperation to Pakistan. Legislative assistance was provided with the drafting of the Mutual Legal Assistance Act by facilitating two drafting sessions with all relevant government authorities at the national and provincial levels. UNODC was also involved in the planning of and the provision of support for the establishment of a central national authority. During the same period, UNODC also provided general training sessions on international cooperation, in-depth training sessions on the use of the Mutual Legal Assistance

Request Writer Tool (by conducting case studies) and the directory of competent national authorities, and other types of training.

46. In Ethiopia, UNODC carried out a criminal justice assessment in March and April 2011 and finalized a programme in July 2011 that contains a chapter on international cooperation. Discussions have been held with Ethiopian justice officials to follow up on further technical assistance.

A. Activities to promote the use of the Convention as a basis for international cooperation

47. In its resolution 5/8, the Conference emphasized the particular relevance of the Organized Crime Convention as a basis for international cooperation in extradition, mutual legal assistance and international cooperation for purposes of confiscation.

48. Efforts to raise awareness and promote the use of the provisions of the Convention on international cooperation have been integrated into numerous seminars, training sessions and other technical assistance activities undertaken by UNODC.

49. UNODC delivered several presentations to promote the use of the Convention as a basis for international cooperation to judges, prosecutors and law enforcement authorities from Afghanistan, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and the Republic of Moldova. The use of the Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool within the framework of the fight against transnational organized crime was also explained. Participants were encouraged to use the tool when drafting requests for mutual legal assistance. Subsequent reports from participants indicated that they found the tool useful in their work.

50. Between July 2011 and May 2012, a series of workshops was held in Central Asia to train relevant personnel on international cooperation in criminal matters using the Organized Crime Convention, the international drug control treaties and the United Nations Convention against Corruption as bases.

51. In the area of trafficking in cultural property, UNODC actively promoted the use of the Organized Crime Convention as an effective basis for international cooperation to combat such trafficking during its meetings with partner organizations such as INTERPOL, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Council of Museums (ICOM) and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (Unidroit).

B. Regional workshops for central authorities

52. Within the framework of its Global Programme against Trafficking in Human Beings, UNODC strengthens national capacities to respond more effectively to this crime. UNODC developed training curricula to address core elements of a criminal justice response to human trafficking, including mutual legal assistance and extradition, utilizing specialized UNODC training materials and delivery by a multidisciplinary and international team of expert trainers. The training activities are based on the modules and strategy of the UNODC *Anti-Human Trafficking Manual for Criminal Justice Practitioners* and are targeted at criminal justice

practitioners in general, law enforcement in particular and at providers of support for victims. The workshops are designed to equip criminal justice practitioners to appropriately respond to the complex challenges of trafficking in persons. Workshops were organized in Fiji, Mali and Ukraine, as well as in Austria (for practitioners from Portugal, who participated in a “train-the-trainer” workshop to deliver training sessions in Portuguese-speaking countries).

53. The UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia organized training programmes on promoting law enforcement and judicial cooperation among source, transit and destination countries in response to human trafficking in Central Asia.

54. In October 2010, the third annual interregional workshop on promoting law enforcement and judicial cooperation among source, transit and destination countries in response to human trafficking in Central Asia was organized in Abu Dhabi, in cooperation with the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking of the United Arab Emirates. Forty senior investigators, prosecutors and judges, as well as representatives from NGOs, from Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan), Bahrain, Qatar, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates and the United States of America attended the workshop. The workshop facilitated the reinforcement of the network of judicial and law enforcement practitioners dealing with human trafficking casework. It also provided an opportunity to learn from good practices with regard to cooperation between NGOs and law enforcement agencies for the purpose of identifying, protecting and assisting victims.

55. In November 2011, the fourth annual interregional workshop on promoting law enforcement and judicial cooperation among source, transit and destination countries in response to human trafficking in Central Asia was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kazakhstan, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), IOM and the Embassy of the United States in Kazakhstan. More than 70 participants representing law enforcement, prosecutorial authorities, consular offices and NGOs from source, transit and destination countries, including experts from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States, the Council of the Baltic Sea States and the Collective Security Treaty Organization, attended the workshop. It allowed participants to exchange experiences and good practices on prosecuting and investigating human trafficking offences, assisting and protecting victims and tracing, freezing and confiscating proceeds derived from human trafficking offences involving more than one country. Participants also learned about good practices in effective international investigations of such offences and about developing professional networks and contacts.

56. In July 2011, UNODC, in collaboration with OSCE, hosted a three-day workshop in Almaty, Kazakhstan, for experts in criminal matters from countries in West and Central Asia. The event brought together over 30 practitioners from Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, as well as experts from Australia, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, UNODC and OSCE. The meeting was a follow-up to a workshop on criminal matters held in Astana in July 2010 and was organized in response to an OSCE ministerial decision in which the importance of the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention was recognized.

57. The objectives of the July 2011 workshop were threefold: an assessment of needs and gaps through the analysis of concrete cases, the facilitation of operational contacts between practitioners in international cooperation in criminal matters and raising the awareness of participating countries of the technical assistance and capacity-building tools and exercises made available to them by UNODC, including through its regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, and OSCE.

58. The workshop focused on problematic areas that are common to all countries in the region, namely: extradition; mutual legal assistance; measures to counter money-laundering and combat the financing of terrorism; seizures; the freezing and confiscation of assets; and exchange of data from criminal records. Participants discussed common problems in the area of international cooperation in criminal matters and made recommendations for further action, projects and regional interventions.

59. A third workshop on international cooperation for the countries participating in the UNODC regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries was held in Vienna from 16 to 18 May 2012. The workshop discussed the harmonization of legislative frameworks to enable international and interregional cooperation in criminal matters, including extradition, mutual legal assistance, transfer of prisoners, international cooperation for purposes of confiscation of proceeds of crime, prevention of money-laundering, asset forfeiture and asset recovery.

60. Participants in the May 2012 workshop concluded that there was an ongoing need for further capacity-building for experts and practitioners in the region and requested UNODC to continue its assistance in that regard. UNODC was also requested to assist the countries in (a) collecting, compiling and sharing relevant legal and judicial information regarding the difficulties and national requirements for facilitation; (b) expediting requests for extradition and mutual legal assistance within and outside the region; and (c) conducting a gap analysis with regard to the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the international drug control treaties, in order to map out the national requirements of countries in terms of the practical implementation of those conventions.
