UNODC SAHEL PROGRAMME
3rd MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE: 6-8 March 2018
REPORT

From 6 to 8 March 2018, government representatives from Burkina Faso, Chad, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, Niger and representatives of the Permanent Secretariat of the G5 Sahel and experts from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) participated in the 3rd Steering Committee meeting organized by UNODC in Dakar, Senegal, to evaluate the progress made under the UNODC Contribution to the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS), and to agree on directives for the future of the programme.

During the first day of discussions, UNODC experts had the opportunity to discuss results achieved in relation to terrorism prevention, border control, responses to firearms trafficking, and trafficking in persons / smuggling of migrants. The delegations of Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad also took the floor, to discuss the challenges facing their countries, as well as the responses of their governments in recent years.

The second day of the meeting included presentations on the results achieved through the activities of the UNODC Justice Section, particularly in terms of the fight against corruption, legal assistance, protection of victims and witnesses and protection of human rights. A presentation on the efforts and results achieved by UNODC in preventing radicalization in prisons, the management of violent extremists in prisons and the treatment of children recruited and exploited by violent extremist groups was also held. The Libyan and Moroccan delegations were also able to discuss the challenges and strategic solutions of their countries, as well as the future opportunities for regional cooperation. A representative of the UNODC Office for the Middle East and North Africa offered a summary of UNODC’s commitments in this region.

Finally, presentations on UNODC’s collaboration with the G5 Sahel, both for the Security Cooperation Platform and the G5 Sahel Joint Force a well as UNODC’s cooperation with other United Nations agencies were held.

At the end of the meeting, the delegations agreed on the following recommendations1 to strengthen the implementation of the Sahel Programme:

Outcome 1: Updated national legislation and increased use of regional and international cooperation mechanisms enable factors for combating drug trafficking, illicit trafficking, organized crime, terrorism and corruption efficiently
- Strengthen advocacy activities in Chad to accelerate the ratification process of the UNCAC;
- Accompany Chad in the process of the adoption of the draft law on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants;
- Accelerate the process of developing a coherent legislative framework for the protection of victims and witnesses;
- Strengthen advocacy activities for the ratification of the Firearms Protocol in Niger and Chad;
- Support the process of adoption of a harmonized legislation on firearms in the Sahel countries which is better adapted to the regional context;

1 The recommendations followed by an asterisk imply a revision of the Sahel Programme Project Document (see attachment).
Facilitate and strengthen cooperation between the Sahel countries and the Maghreb countries in the field of experience and data sharing, and training in the fight against terrorism and transnational organized crime.

Outcome 2: Increased capacity of, and information exchange between, law enforcement entities leads to higher detection and interdiction rates

- Accelerate the operationalization of the G5 Sahel's Security Cooperation Platform (PCMS), including the training on encryption software;
- Support the development of a guide for National Security Cooperation Platforms to support the operationalization of the G5 Sahel Regional Security Cooperation Platform (PCMS);
- Consider Chad and Mauritania for the AIRCOP project;
- Facilitate the creation of a pole of excellence of the Scientific and Technical Police (PTS) within the Security Cooperation Platform of the G5 Sahel;
- Support the establishment of a network for financial intelligence units within the G5 Sahel Security Cooperation Platform (PCMS);

Outcome 3: Accountable criminal justice officials investigate, prosecute and adjudicate crimes in a more effective and efficient manner

- Assist in the digitalization and rationalization of criminal records;
- Continue to support the anti-corruption institutions of all Sahel states, considering their specific needs;
- Continue to provide capacity building for the investigation and prosecution of firearm-related offenses;
- Strengthen the capacities of national and regional authorities in the fight against money laundering and the financing of terrorism;
- Include non-designated financial institutions and professions in anti-money laundering and financing of terrorism trainings;
- Keep supporting the framework for the exchange of experiences and good practices between magistrates and the PJOs in the fight against terrorism and transnational organized crime;
- Support the operationalization and capacity building of magistrates and PJOs, specialized in judicial centres and specialized investigation units;
- Continue to provide capacity building for national authorities to meet the challenges posed by the return of foreign terrorist fighters;
- Strengthen the capacity of all actors involved in the management of terrorist files and / or in the fight against CTO, exploitation and management of crime scenes;

Outcome 4: Scientific evidence in support of judicial investigations and proceedings is generated

Support the strengthening and / or creation of national commissions for the control and collection of illicit firearms.

- Facilitate information exchange and knowledge-sharing sessions on illicit flows of firearms between the Maghreb and Sahel countries;
- Build capacity and develop cooperation between the scientific and technique police (PTS) based on their comparative advantages;
Outcome 5: Improvement in the access and treatment of people in contact with the judicial system and improvement of prison management, in line with human rights standards and norms

- Strengthen the capacities of the Sahel countries in preventing and combating violent radicalization and extremism in prisons;
- Strengthen the capacity of prison administrations in the management of terrorist detainees and/or violent extremists;
- Improve the capacity of national authorities to meet the challenges of the management of repented and released persons.

Crosscutting recommendations:

- Integrate activities to build the capacity of the G5 Sahel Joint Force police component;*
- Strengthen consideration of human rights aspects throughout the criminal justice chain, in partnership with other specialized agencies.
- Involve civil society and concerned communities in the implementation of the UNODC Sahel Programme;
- Integrate the use of cryptocurrencies and its evolution in money laundering and terrorist financing in training;*
- Extend the Sahel Programme until 2023.*