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The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is a global leader in the fight against illicit drugs and international crime, and the United Nations lead programme on terrorism. Established in 1997, UNODC has approximately 500 staff members worldwide. Its headquarters are in Vienna and it operates 20 field offices as well as a liaison office in New York and a permanent presence in Brussels.

UNODC works to educate the world about the dangers of drug abuse and to strengthen international action against drug production, trafficking and drug-related crime. In order to achieve this, UNODC carries out a broad range of initiatives, including alternative development projects, illicit crop monitoring and anti-money laundering programmes.

UNODC also works to improve crime prevention and to assist with criminal justice reform in a number of countries. The Office works with Member States to strengthen the rule of law, promote stable and viable criminal justice systems and combat the growing threats of transnational organized crime and corruption.

Moreover, in 2002, the General Assembly approved an expanded programme of activities for the Terrorism Prevention Branch. This programme focuses on the provision of assistance to countries, upon request, for ratifying and implementing the 12 universal legal instruments against terrorism.

UNODC has country and regional field offices in 20 locations around the world, covering over 150 countries. Working directly with governments and non-governmental organizations, field staff develop and implement drug control and crime prevention programmes that are tailored to the needs of assisted countries.

The three pillars of UNODC’s work are:

- **Research and analytical work** to increase knowledge and understanding of drugs and crime issues and expand the evidence-base for policy and operational decisions;
- **Normative work** to assist States in the ratification of the international treaties, the development of domestic legislation on drugs, crime and terrorism, and the provision of secretariat and substantive services to the treaty-based and governing bodies; and
- **Field-based technical cooperation projects** to enhance the capacity of Member States to counteract illicit drugs, crime and terrorism.

UNODC relies on voluntary contributions, mainly from governments, for 90 per cent of its budget.

### UNODC in the world:
- *Afghanistan* • *Austria* • *Belgium* • *Bolivia* • *Brazil* • *Colombia* • *Egypt* • *India* • *Islamic Republic of Iran* • *Kenya* • *Lao People’s Democratic Republic* • *Mexico* • *Myanmar* • *Nigeria* • *Pakistan* • *Peru* • *Russian Federation* • *Senegal* • *South Africa* • *Thailand* • *United States of America* • *Uzbekistan* • *Viet Nam*

### Counter narcotics and law enforcement:
UNODC works to establish adequate, functional legal and institutional frameworks for drug control through effective implementation of international drug control conventions.

### Drug prevention, treatment and rehabilitation:
UNODC supports a number of projects, often implemented by partner organizations, to prevent drug use. The Office also publishes a toolkit on treatment and rehabilitation best practices.

### Sustainable livelihoods:
Most of the world’s coca is produced in three countries—Colombia, Peru and Bolivia—and most of the opium is produced in Afghanistan and Myanmar. UNODC works with these countries to develop alternative, sustainable livelihoods for farmers and others involved in drug production.

### Research and analysis:
The yearly *World Drug Report* provides one of the most comprehensive international overviews of illicit drug trends. UNODC produces a number of other studies and reports on drugs and crime. It also produces annual crop surveys in the main drug-producing countries.

### Human trafficking:
Data collection, assessment and technical cooperation are the key components of UNODC’s work in this area. The Office assists countries of origin, transit and destination for trafficking victims through assessment-based programmes of cooperation.

### Terrorism:
UNODC is the United Nations lead programme in this area. The key operational focus is to strengthen the legal regime against terrorism. This is chiefly done through providing legislative and technical assistance to Member States.

### Money-laundering:
UNODC encourages anti-money laundering policy development, monitors and analyses the problems and responses, and coordinates anti-money laundering initiatives with other international organizations.

### Corruption:
The United Nations Convention against Corruption, of which UNODC is the custodian, entered into force on 14 December 2006. UNODC helps Member States to implement the Convention, particularly through technical assistance with legislation and asset recovery.

### Organized crime:
UNODC trains criminal justice practitioners in a number of countries to better cope with organized crime. It also promotes information-sharing across borders and assesses and analyses organized crime trends.

### HIV/AIDS:
As a UNAIDS cosponsor since 1999, and as the lead organization in the UNAIDS family to address HIV/AIDS prevention and care among injecting drug users and in prison settings, UNODC supports countries to respond to the HIV/AIDS epidemics following a comprehensive approach. In addition, UNODC coordinates the global response to HIV/AIDS as it relates to people vulnerable to human trafficking.

### Outreach/partnerships:
The Office produces information and advocacy material on topics such as drugs, HIV/AIDS, corruption and human trafficking. UNODC also works closely with non-governmental organizations and other civil society groups across the world.
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