

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME (UNODC)

Support to AU/NEPAD (Period of July 2009 to June 2010)

Advocacy work by UNODC in support of African development

Against the background of the ECOSOC Resolution 2006/21 relating to the Programme of Action for Africa 2006-2010 on strengthening the rule of law and the criminal justice systems in Africa, where reference is made to Operative Paragraph 4 that "Invites all African States and regional and sub regional institutions to mainstream crime and drug control measures in their national and regional development strategies, to mobilize all national stakeholders and to make every effort to allocate national resources for the implementation of the Programme of Action"; and to Operative Paragraph 8 that "Requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within available extra budgetary resources but not excluding the use of existing resources appropriated to it from the regular budget of the United Nations, to support the implementation of the Programme of Action, 2006-2010, in cooperation with all African States, the African Union and other regional organizations, in particular in the context of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)", such requested support has been ongoing through UNODC's field offices in Africa.

Technical Assistance and Capacity-building

Additionally, as called upon in the revised "AU Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention, 2007 –2012" (AUPA), which was endorsed at the African Heads of State Summit in January 2009, UNODC is currently offering its technical assistance to the African Union Commission (AUC), the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and various regional and sub-regional organizations and mechanisms (including NEPAD) for the implementation of the AUPA. UNODC is committed to supporting the implementation of the AUPA by strengthening policy-making, norm-setting and capacity-building at the continental, regional and national level. Such assistance is being provided through UNODC HQ as well as through its network of Field Offices in Africa, located in Cairo, Egypt; Dakar, Senegal; Nairobi, Kenya; Abuja, Nigeria; and Pretoria, Republic of South Africa respectively.

A joint AUC-UNODC project supports the AUC and the RECs in implementing the AUPA through i) equipping the AUC with an AUPA implementation team, ii) policy and technical support, iii) support for regional workshops on key drug control and crime prevention areas for Member States organised by the AUC and the RECs, and iv) mainstreaming of drug control and crime prevention into continental/regional/national development plans and MDG-based country strategies.

In this context, AUC has established an inter-departmental coordinating mechanism in support of the objectives of the AUPA to coordinate all AUC activities related to the AUPA. Members of the mechanism include, besides the Department for Social Affairs, Political Affairs and Peace and Security, the NEPAD Coordinator Office from Economic Affairs as well as offices dealing

with civil society organizations (not part of the Department for Social Affairs) and external relations. The AU Commissioner of Social Affairs acts as the convener of the mechanism.

Development of the West Africa Coast Initiative

In the context of the implementation of the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan on drugs and crime adopted by the Summit of ECOWAS in December of 2008, UNODC together with its partners is also supporting the ECOWAS Commission and its Member States in the implementation of the Action Plan through a number of regional and national-level initiatives. In addition to the Operational Plan, a programme targeting priority areas mandated to the ECOWAS Commission for implementation with support from UNODC and the European Commission, UNODC, DPKO, DPA/UNOWA and INTERPOL have developed a joint initiative entitled the West Africa Coast Initiative (WACI).

WACI is an inter-agency initiative being implemented jointly by UNODC, DPKO, DPA, UNOWA and INTERPOL, starting in post conflict countries, namely in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea Bissau. The primary component of this programme is the establishment of Transnational Crime Units (TCUs) in each country and the linkage of these TCUs into a regional center, with the main objective of sharing information and intelligence, and cross border collaboration. This is an important initial step to start a dialogue and exchange, not only at the national level among the different law enforcement agencies, but also at the regional level, based on the principles and commitments made at the ECOWAS Praia Ministerial Conference held in October 2008. WACI is an innovative inter-agency programme, involving different important partners complementing each other, and therefore *quick win* results are to be expected. WACI is also very much supported by the UN Security Council.

A WACI Ministerial level conference was held in Freetown, Sierra Leone, on 17 February 2010, bringing together high level representatives from the 4 countries as well as high level UN and international partners, including UNODC's Executive Director, DPKO ASG, UN Special Representative of the Secretary General, and others. The objective of the conference was to introduce the WACI and TCU Concept, the results of the WACI joint evaluation missions to the four countries, and to endorse a political commitment among the four countries indicative of the four countries agreeing on cross border collaboration, exchange of information and intelligence, and the adoption of the TCU concept. Through WACI, UNODC will continue to support West African states in the establishment and implementation of transnational mechanism against organized crime. Particular efforts need to be pursued to strengthen national and regional capacities of criminal justice systems to ensure the prosecution and punishment of traffickers, especially drug traffickers.

UNODC Country Programme for Nigeria

UNODC's work in Nigeria relates to the key NEPAD thematic areas on governance, and more specifically, the NEPAD objectives addressing social and human rights, including women and children, corruption and money-laundering, judicial independence/integrity/fairness.

The 2007 NEPAD Country Self-Assessment Report (CSAR) assessed a limited awareness for NEPAD and its progress in the country, but also attested the high relevance of the NEPAD thematic governance areas for Nigeria. Regarding Nigeria's fight against corruption, the CSAR acknowledged the relevance of EFCC's work, and UNODC's support, for Nigeria's progress. The assessment also concluded, however, that there were other anti-corruption problems and shortcomings in Nigeria that EFCC interventions alone could not address. Unfortunately, the CSAR failed to review the relevance of ongoing work regarding judicial integrity and fairness.

To date, UNODC's Country Programme for Nigeria covers several of the NEPAD thematic areas and their objectives under ongoing programme action and planned interventions as of 2011, with current annual programme portfolios of 6-10 million USD:

- Human and social rights: prison reform, human trafficking and smuggling of migrants
- Corruption and money laundering: development of a national anti-corruption strategy to include prevention, budget transparency and monitoring, and public-private sector partnership
- Judiciary: judicial integrity, access to justice, reduction of trial duration, etc, in 11 Nigerian states

Most of the above UNODC programme interventions work towards the achievement of recommendations that the 2007 NEPAD CSAR made for an advancement of Nigeria in key governance areas.