

## **Piracy**

UNODC is assisting in international efforts to combat piracy off the coast of Somalia. Given the particular situation of Somalia, UNODC is working to strengthen sub-regional cooperation to investigate and prosecute pirates through the use of existing international instruments including the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation. Endorsed by the Security Council in Resolution 1851 of 16 December 2008, one aspect of the strategy of UNODC will be to enhance the legal regime for effective arrests at sea through the elaboration of shiprider agreements with willing countries in the region. A longer-term strategy will focus on encouraging the ratification of the relevant international treaties and the implementation of their provisions into domestic law, enhancing international cooperation such as extradition and mutual legal assistance, and strengthening the prosecutorial and judicial capacity of countries in the region and eventually in Somalia itself.

## **Transnational Organized Crime**

UNODC is the guardian of the United Nations conventions on drug control, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols against human trafficking, migrant smuggling and firearms, and the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

Organized criminal groups are involved in a large variety of criminal activities that have changed over time in response to both profits and law enforcement activities. Many of these crimes, in particular those relating to illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants and trafficking in firearms, may take place at sea. The 1988 UN Convention against the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime contain particular provisions designed to address the commission of these crimes at sea.

The Organized Crime and Criminal Justice Section of the Treaty and Legal Assistance Branch of UNODC promotes the ratification of UNTOC and its protocols and assists Member States in implementing the treaty and its protocols. At the request of Member States, UNODC has developed an online directory of competent authorities designated under the 1988 Drug Convention, UNTOC and its Protocols. The directory includes those authorities designated as responsible for requests relating to illicit drug traffic and migrant smuggling at sea. UNODC has also developed a number of tools to assist Member States, including a Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool that is available to all Member States. The Organized Crime Section has also undertaken a large number of activities designed to strengthen the capacity of countries in international cooperation and has conducted a series of regional workshops for central authorities around the world.

## **Terrorism**

The Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC is assisting Member States in becoming parties to and in implementing the currently 16 international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, including the 1988 Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation and related Protocols. Since the launch of its Global Project on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism in January 2003, UNODC has assisted 164

countries, trained more than 7,700 criminal justice officials and developed a dozen technical assistance tools. In 2008, 45 countries were assisted through tailor-made direct assistance, another 84 countries were reached through 16 regional and sub-regional workshops, including two at the ministerial level, and more than 1,600 criminal justice officials were trained. The Branch is increasingly being requested to provide specialized assistance in enhancing international cooperation in criminal matters related to maritime terrorism.

In 2008, the Branch has organized in Vienna (14-16 July 2008), a Legal Workshop on the Criminal Law Aspects of Countering Maritime Terrorism in the light of Relevant Universal Instruments for Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The workshop was attended by 39 countries and representatives of CTED, the 1540 Committee, the International Maritime Organization, the Indian Ocean Commission, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and national legal experts from Fiji, France, South Africa and the United States.