

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME (UNODC)

Support to NEPAD

Period of Report: July 2008 to June 2009

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 reference is made 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.

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) and various regional and sub-regional organizations and mechanisms, including NEPAD, for the implementation of the AU Plan of Action. Such assistance is being provided through UNODC network of Field Offices in Africa, located in Cairo, Egypt; Dakar, Senegal; Nairobi, Kenya; Abuja, Nigeria; and Pretoria, Republic of South Africa, respectively.

In addition, a joint AUC-UNODC project will support a core project team at the AUC in order to enable the AUC to establish the required partnership with the Regional Economic Communities. Such will establish the necessary operational and monitoring mechanism to implement the AUPA at the continental, regional and national level. 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 Commissioner of Social Affairs will act as the convener of the mechanism.