H. Drug control, crime prevention and combating terrorism

UNODC SPONSORS DRUG AWARENESS WORKSHOP IN JALALABAD
Afghanistan
DRUG CONTROL
The World Drug Report for 2018 indicates that more than 31 million people suffer from drug use disorders and that opioids continue to pose the most serious challenge. The United Nations provides support to Governments on the basis of the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, held in 2016, prioritizing evidence-based policies to promote public health, human rights and development. Partnerships are key and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the World Health Organization launched a joint publication on the treatment of people with drug use disorders as alternatives to conviction. I believe that efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and effectively address the world drug problem are mutually reinforcing, as illustrated in the report “Evidence for enhancing resilience to opium poppy cultivation in Shan State, Myanmar” comparing 600 opium- and non-opium-growing villages.

CRIME PREVENTION
Preventing conflict and violence is one of my top priorities. Large-scale conflicts as well as intra-community violence and tensions are frequently fuelled by various forms of crime. The incidence of homicides and violence relating to organized crime remains high in many regions in the world and, when linked to the illicit trafficking of arms and commodities, can derail efforts towards peace, human rights protection and sustainable development.

Women and children remain particularly vulnerable to all forms of crime, including cybercrime such as online sexual exploitation and abuse, which is estimated to generate some $1.5 trillion in revenue per year. We are increasing our efforts to address these crimes. For example, in a particular case a paedophile who used the dark web to access and abuse more than 80 children in three countries was arrested and convicted as a result of support provided by the United Nations.

Finding solutions to cross-border challenges remains one of my greatest concerns, including the challenge of curbing illicit financial flows. In 2017, UNODC and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development made significant progress in developing a methodology to track these flows, which is currently being piloted in several locations with potential for scaling-up. I hope that in the near future we will find a solid basis for tackling the diversion of public resources away from the common good. Consequently, we have strengthened our partnerships with the World Bank and the review mechanism of the United Nations Convention against Corruption to provide a more comprehensive support to Governments that are committed to tackling corruption. Corruption is an increasingly destructive practice, leading to serious political consequences as it hollows out State structures and erodes trust between a Government and its people.

In June 2018, we launched the first Global Study on Smuggling of Migrants, in which key smuggling patterns and routes across the world were examined, and, in May 2018, we expanded the number of memberships in mechanisms such as the Inter Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons. This enables the United Nations to implement more holistic solutions to this problem and to related human rights abuses, such as sexual slavery and other forms of bonded labour.

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COMBATING INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM
There is no doubt that the transnational nature of terrorism requires a multidimensional international response. The General Assembly and the Security Council have repeatedly called for the strengthening of international cooperation on counter-terrorism and in 2017 they authorized the establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism. In the current year, the Office has been enhanced to ensure greater coherence and complementarity in United Nations programmes and technical assistance to Member States towards implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. This is based on a variety of criteria, including the assessments and analysis of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate as well as requests from Member States.

Strategic partnerships are key to providing comprehensive responses to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism. In May 2018, the Office of Counter-Terrorism partnered with the United Nations Development Programme to develop and implement national and regional plans of action to prevent violent extremism. Currently, over two thirds of all United Nations projects dedicated to curbing acts of terrorism and violent extremism have a focus on the preventive pillar of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. These involve 16 United Nations and other international entities that implement some 260 projects in more than 80 countries. Over 1,000 participants attended the first-ever United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States on 28 and 29 June 2018. The Conference helped to strengthen multilateral counter-terrorism cooperation, break down silos and build new partnerships.
GLOBAL DRUG USE AND SEIZURES

275 million people worldwide used drugs at least once during 2016.

Global cocaine manufacture reached its highest level ever at 1,410 tons.

Global opium production jumped by 65% from 2016 to 2017 to a record high of 10,500 tons.

Opioids account for 76% of deaths where drug use disorders were implicated.

Drug use and the associated harm are the highest among young people compared to older people.

Prevalence of drug use
Number of people who use drugs (millions)

Annual drug seizures
Seizures (metric tons)


Source: UNODC, UN