UNODC’s support to the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) Planning and Coordinating Agency

Advocacy work by UNODC in support of African development

UNODC assists the African Union in the implementation of its Drug Control Plan 2013-2018. UNODC has expanded its cooperation with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and their Member States, as well as various inter-regional organizations, including NEPAD, through the development and endorsement of multi-year Regional Programmes on Drugs and Crime namely, the Regional Programme for Eastern Africa 2009-2013, the Regional Programme for West Africa 2010-2014, the Regional Programme for the Arab States 2011-2015 and the Regional Programme for Southern Africa 2013-2016, under the auspices of the Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS), the League of Arab States (LAS) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). UNODC is increasingly promoting cooperation not only within but also between sub-regions and regions, in particular the framework of the Container Control Programme, AIRCOP and the UNODC Sahel Strategy 2013-2017. The latter is an integrated response and focuses on Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Chad and includes cooperation with Morocco, Algeria and Libya as well as West Africa. At the national level, UNODC has continued to support the development and implementation of National Integrated Programmes (NIP) on illicit trafficking, criminal justice and drug-related health care. In all these efforts, UNODC has continued to advocate at the highest policy level for the need to strengthen cooperation and inter-linkages between the continental, regional and national levels, in order to ensure effective drug control and crime and terrorism prevention within the African continent.

1. North Africa

Under the framework of the Regional Programme on Drug Control, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Reform in the Arab States 2011-2015, UNODC continued to support governments in North Africa in their reform processes, particularly in the area of good governance and the rule of law within the context of the various political and social transitions in the region. In 2013, UNODC established an international presence in Tunisia to deepen its cooperation with the Government to support criminal justice reform and strengthen the rule of law. UNODC continued its assistance to national authorities in Egypt to establish effective mechanisms to combat money laundering, facilitate asset recovery, and their participation in the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) Review Mechanism. Following the previous years’ efforts in support of national rebuilding efforts in Libya under the framework of the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), UNODC in 2013 resumed its assistance portfolio in Libya, in close consultation with the Government, ensuring alignment with national needs and
priorities, and building on previous efforts and capacities established. UNODC also supported the continued work of the Regional Special Advocate for Asset Recovery who was instrumental in the resolution of high-visibility asset recovery cases in North Africa, promoting good governance and the benefits of international cooperation in the region and beyond.

### 2. West Africa

The UNODC Regional Programme for West Africa 2010-2014 supports the implementation of the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan against Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organized Crime and Drug Abuse 2008-2015, through a range of initiatives. In October 2013, in Abidjan, a High Level Donor Conference for West Africa was co-chaired by UNODC’s Executive Director, UNOWA SRSG Djinnit and the President of the ECOWAS Commission. Both the opening and closing ceremonies were attended by the Prime Minister of Côte d’Ivoire and several key government ministers. The conference was an opportunity for the international community to renew its commitment to support the implementation of drug control and crime prevention strategies as part of the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan. Four main issues were addressed: i) West Africa Coast Initiative (WACI); ii) UNODC contribution (2013-2017) to the implementation of the UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel; iii) Action of UNODC in the Gulf of Guinea; iv) Post-Praia Strategy: Follow-up to the (2008-2015) Regional Action Plan.

A key UNODC initiative in support of the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan is the West Africa Coast Initiative (WACI), which is jointly implemented by UNODC, DPKO, DPA/UNOWA and INTERPOL in three post-conflict countries, namely Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea-Bissau and will be expanded to Côte d’Ivoire and Guinea. The WACI has contributed to improved national capacities, cooperation and intelligence gathering. The Network of West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime (WACAP), created in 2012, has continued to support the strengthening of the capacities of central authorities and prosecutors specialized in organised crime and to facilitate regional and international cooperation.

UNODC also made progress in assisting the countries in the region to combat illicit trafficking, under the framework of the Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP) and the Global Container Control Programme (CCP), both of which are implemented jointly with the World Customs Organization (WCO). Joint Airport Interdiction Task Forces (JAITF) have been installed at priority international airports in Benin, Cape Verde, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria Togo and Senegal, where they have been instrumental in making drug seizures. Under the CCP, training on the detection, investigation and inspection of high risk containers was provided to national counterparts assigned to the Joint Port Control Units (JPCU), which are operational in Benin, Cape Verde, Ghana, Senegal and Togo. UNODC also supported regional efforts to establish a network of central authorities and prosecutors for West Africa, as well as supported Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania and Niger in the judicial aspects of counter-terrorism, though the Sahel Platform for Judicial Cooperation.
UNODC actively participated in the UN Integrated Regional Strategy for the Sahel, which was developed by the UN Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on the Sahel, pursuant to Security Council Resolution 2056(2012), and adopted in June 2013. The UNODC Sahel Strategy 2013-17 is to contribute to the UN Regional Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, in particular to its security and governance pillars. It was adopted with the support of the African countries concerned at a meeting in Ouagadougou in June 2013. This Strategy supports the development of accessible, efficient and accountable criminal justice systems in the Sahel, in order to effectively combat illicit trafficking drug trafficking, organized crime, terrorism and corruption in the region. The strategy focuses primarily on Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger, and to a lesser extent on Senegal.

Under the UNODC Maritime Crime Programme, a maritime strategy for the Gulf of Guinea has been developed and a Workshop was conducted in December 2013 for law enforcement and legal officials from the Gulf of Guinea region, with the purpose of mapping the maritime threat and capacity to respond. At the national level, UNODC continued to mobilize resources to support the implementation of National Integrated Programmes in Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Ghana, Mauritania and Togo, as well as initiated the development of similar strategies for Liberia, Mauritania, Niger and Sierra Leone, in consultation with national actors. UNODC also continued to support Nigeria through its large and comprehensive portfolio in the areas of drugs and related organized crime, anti-corruption, justice sector reform, anti-human trafficking and migrant smuggling and multidimensional security.

3. Eastern Africa

Under the framework of the UNODC Regional Programme on “Promoting the Rule of Law and Human Security in Eastern Africa”, UNODC launched a Transnational Organized Crime Threat Assessment (TOCTA) for Eastern Africa in September 2013. The TOCTA was the product of two and a half years of study on transnational organized crime in Eastern Africa, and highlights a range of transnational activities affecting the region. Its launch was followed by the publication of another important UNODC study: “The Causes of Piracy and Links to Organized Crime,” in October 2013.

During the reporting period, UNODC expanded its Counter Piracy Programme (CPP) into a Maritime Crime Programme (MCP), through which it continued to support national counterparts in Kenya, Seychelles and Mauritius to prosecute and detain suspected pirates, as well as develop anti-piracy communication strategies. The MCP will focus on other forms of crime at sea in addition to piracy and has expanded its geographical area of implementation to new regions, including the Gulf of Guinea. In addition, the MCP expanded its activities in Somalia to include continued work on prison reform, as well as capacity building of the Somali maritime police, for the latter to be in a position to protect the Somali Sea.

Following a request by the Government of Ethiopia, UNODC finalised the development of a National Integrated Programme (NIP) 2013-2016, which was approved by that Government in
November 2013. The NIP seeks to assist the Government of Ethiopia to combat drug trafficking and organized crime in the country. To facilitate its operationalization, UNODC developed comprehensive projects on criminal justice and on organised crime illicit trafficking and border management in Ethiopia. In Somaliland, UNODC continued with the implementation of the Criminal Justice Programme.

Other important activities in 2013 include the launching of a project to support police reform efforts in Kenya, which will assist national authorities to strengthen the legislative and institutional framework governing policing and the launching of the UNODC report “A Second Chance: A Report on Alternatives to Imprisonment and the Social Reintegration of Offenders in Kenya.” Following the adoption of this report, national authorities in Kenya initiated the development of a comprehensive strategy on alternatives to imprisonment.

During the reporting period, support was provided to enable several countries in the region to meaningfully participate in the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) Review Mechanism, as well as strengthen their criminal justice responses to Trafficking in Persons (TiP) and Smuggling of Migrants (SoM). UNODC also continued to assist national authorities in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda to enhance their legislative and institutional capacity in the area of witness protection. UNODC supported several countries in the region to develop and implement effective responses to HIV/AIDS in prisons settings and drug dependence treatment. A National Drug Observatory was established in Kenya refining the Lisbon Consensus Indicators, as well as integrating law enforcement and health data, including related HIV.

4. **Southern Africa**

During the reporting period, UNODC and SADC finalized the development of the joint Regional Programme for Southern Africa, entitled “Making the SADC Region Safer from Crime and Drugs”, 2013-2016, which will support countries in the region to address transnational organized crime, strengthen criminal justice and improve drug-related health care. The Regional Programme was approved during the SADC Expert Group Meeting in Gaborone, Botswana, in May 2013, and efforts are ongoing to mobilize funds for its implementation. UNODC, together with the SADC Secretariat, supported the implementation of a regional project aimed at building the capacity of Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Seychelles, Swaziland and Zimbabwe to implement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), as well as the additional Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (Trafficking Protocol).

UNODC also continued to support the countries in the region in the area of money laundering, as well as in the development and implementation of effective responses to HIV/AIDS in prisons settings. In this context, it is also worthwhile to mention that support was provided to the African HIV in Prison Partnership Network (AHPPN), a well functioning platform for coordination and exchange of expertise on HIV/AIDS-related prison activities in the region.