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**Submissions from entities in the United Nations system, international
organizations and other stakeholders on their efforts in 2022 to
implement the outcomes of the WSIS**

Submission by

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

This submission was prepared as an input to the report of the UN Secretary-General on "Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels" (to the 26th session of the CSTD), in response to the request by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2006/46, to the UN Secretary-General to inform the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS as part of his annual reporting to the Commission.

DISCLAIMER: The views presented here are the contributors' and do not necessarily reflect the views and position of the United Nations or the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

**UNODC's contribution to
the SG report on progress made in 2022 on the implementation of the outcomes
of the World Summit of the Information Society (WSIS)**

Part One: An executive summary (half a page) of activities undertaken by all stakeholders, progress made, and any obstacles encountered.

During the reporting period, UNODC continued to use information and communication technologies (ITC) to support Member States in addressing the challenges related to drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism. Learning from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Office continued the delivery of technical assistance in digital formats, including online capacity building initiatives, such as through its online platform for **drug use prevention and treatment and care for drug use disorders**. Additionally, intergovernmental meetings continued to be organized in a hybrid format, allowing for inclusive decision-making.

Moreover, through ITC, the Office worked with Member States to prevent and tackle **corruption** in a variety of areas. These include:

- 1) Promoting, through the Global Resource for Anti-Corruption Education and Youth Empowerment ([GRACE](#)) initiative, the safe and ethical use of ICT among youth and empower them to use ICT to prevent and tackle corruption;
- 2) Disseminating judicial integrity content through the [Global Judicial Integrity Network](#)'s website, quarterly newsletters, social media, online events and e-learning platforms;

In the area of preventing and combating **cybercrime**, the Office continued to deliver to Member States tailored technical support on framework development, capacity building, prevention, awareness raising and international cooperation on cyber-dependent and cyber-enabled crimes.

Furthermore, UNODC largely employed ITC to support States in implementing the **UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime** (UNTOC). This includes:

- 1) The collection and dissemination of legal information on organized crime and terrorism and data for international cooperation, through UNODC [SHERLOC Portal](#);
- 2) The development of tools to facilitate the use of [REVMOD](#), the user-friendly browser-based platform for online reviews under the UNTOC Review Mechanism¹.

Finally, to support Member States in strengthening effective, accountable and inclusive criminal justice institutions, UNODC worked to provide technical advice to ensure that all use of technology, in the field of **crime prevention and criminal justice**, is in line with international standards and norms, with a particular focus on non-discrimination, fair trial rights, and equal access to justice for all.

Part Two: A brief (1–2 pages) analytical overview of trends and experiences in implementation at the national, regional and international levels and by all stakeholders, highlighting achievements and obstacles since WSIS and taking into account the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This could include information on the facilitation process of implementation, monitoring and cooperation among stakeholders.

1) Corruption

Global Resource for Anti-Corruption Education and Youth Empowerment (GRACE)

Under the GRACE initiative, UNODC organized a variety of youth-oriented activities, such as workshops and dialogues. The Office has experienced that young people reached through such activities were determined to learn more about the interlinkages between corruption and other topics (most notably gender, technology and the environment), highlighting the reinforcing relationship between SDG 16 and other Goals. Simultaneously, a growing “virtual fatigue” was

¹ <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/intro/review-mechanism-untoc/home.html>

noted together with a strong preference for contributing to in-person events rather than virtual ones.

[Global Judicial Integrity Network](#)

Through the Global Judicial Integrity Network, UNODC assists judiciaries across the globe in strengthening judicial integrity and preventing corruption in the justice sector. The Network continuously strives to improve channels of communication, create meaningful partnerships and engage its participants through online consultations, events, and the creation of widely applicable and thought-provoking content, such as webinars, newsletters, or written opinion pieces. The Network embeds all its work in the SDGs, in particular Goals 3, 5, 9, 16, and 17.

2) [Crime prevention and criminal justice](#)

UNODC notes the increased use of technology in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. The social distancing restrictions that were introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the use of technology in the field of justice, including the use of remote proceedings for trials and bail hearings, and an increase in mechanisms to facilitate remote access to lawyers, legal information, and support services. While this increased use of technology serves an important function in ensuring the continuity of core criminal justice functions, and has the potential to broaden access to justice, these new modes of operation also bear possible human rights implications, and implications for human rights-based programming. In this respect, UNODC is continuing to work to support Member States to ensure that criminal justice processes and institutions align with international standards, including as relates to the development and application of technologies in the administration of criminal justice.

3) [Intergovernmental process](#)

During the reporting period, there has been growing discussion within UNODC's Governing Bodies on the use of information and communication technologies and its contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. For example, the 31st CCPCJ featured a thematic discussion on "Strengthening the use of digital evidence in criminal justice and countering cybercrime, including the abuse and exploitation of minors in illegal activities with the use of the Internet". Moreover, the resolution "Strengthening national and international efforts, including with the private sector, to protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse" was adopted.

Part Three: A brief description (1–2 pages) of:

(a) Innovative policies, programmes and projects which have been undertaken by all stakeholders to implement the outcomes. Where specific targets or strategies have been set, progress in achieving those targets and strategies should be reported.

1) [Drug demand reduction](#)

Through its online platform for drug use prevention and treatment and care for drug use disorders, the Office provides booster self-paced activities and videos for facilitators of UNODC family-based prevention programmes such as [Strong Families](#) programme. A new extension dedicated to parents is being developed, while UNODC expanded to new countries of French-speaking Africa the use of parenting tips for parents of very young children using the CimA vaccination reminders app (Children Immunization App). UNODC also launched a basic counselling online module for providers of psychosocial services for people with psychological distress, including for COVID-19 and humanitarian settings. [Treatnet Family](#), scalable family-based treatment programmes with element of family therapy for adolescents with drug use disorders, is also being digitalized to introduce it to broader Member States representatives and potential partners.

2) [Corruption](#)

[Global Resource for Anti-Corruption Education and Youth Empowerment \(GRACE\)](#)

Under GRACE, UNODC has been scaling digital innovation for the prevention of corruption through the Coding4Integrity youth anti-corruption hackathon series, a programme that connects digital innovation and social entrepreneurship to provide support to young people to develop

technology solutions to tackle corruption-related issues they have encountered in their communities and/or they are motivated to address. The second edition took place in Brazil, in September 2022, where participants were asked to develop an ICT-based solution to address gender-sensitive reporting of corruption, transparency and access to information for small businesses. The winning solution utilized artificial intelligence to support small and medium enterprises in establishing a gender-sensitive whistle-blowing system to detect and prevent gender-based corruption.²

[Global Judicial Integrity Network](#)

In 2022, the UNODC Global Judicial Integrity Network focused on providing ITC-based solutions to offer webinars, events and resources on the ethical considerations of the use of artificial intelligence in the judiciary, the use of social media by judges, and open justice and transparency. Over 70 jurisdictions worldwide have committed to using the Network's Judicial Ethics Training Tools and, to date, over 7,000 judges have been involved in training activities based on these training tools.

[Whistle-blower protection](#)

In 2022, UNODC provided technical assistance to the Kenya Wildlife Service in strengthening its whistle-blowing mechanisms and systems to address corruption in the wildlife sector. An automated centralized complaint intake method and system have been designed and will soon be operational. Moreover, UNODC is supporting the *Cellule Norbert Zongo pour le Journalisme d'Investigation en Afrique de l'Ouest* (CENOZO)³ in the development of a company records database to allow investigative journalists from West Africa and beyond to undertake better investigations on corruption and organized crime in the region.

[3\) Counter-terrorism](#)

In light of the counter-terrorism challenges exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, UNODC continued to scale up efforts to support Member States ensure the continuity of critical processes within their criminal justice institutions. During the reporting period, the Office provided legislative and policy support on special investigative techniques involving ITC, such as telephone interceptions and the utilization of mobile phone data, as well as further guidance on the methods to request information to Internet Service Providers. In Pakistan, the Office launched the first customized version of Practical Guide for Requesting Electronic Evidence Across Borders.

[4\) Organized Crime](#)

[Cybercrime](#)

UNODC provided support to 47 Member States in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, Central and Western Africa and Central and South America in increasing their knowledge of international standards and best practices, increasing their capabilities and improving standard operational procedures of the justice system to attend cyber-enabled and cyber-dependent crimes, including those on digital evidence handling, investigating criminal activity in the clear and dark web and the misuse of crypto assets. UNODC developed an e-learning course on cryptocurrencies and updated the Cyber Organized Crime Digest, containing more than 100 cases of 26 different jurisdictions. A threat analysis report on "The online Trafficking of Synthetic Drugs and Synthetic Opioids in Latin America and the Caribbean"⁴ was developed, as well as a guide on the admissibility of digital evidence within the criminal proceeding of El Salvador.

² More information on the second edition of Coding4Integrity is available at:

https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2022/October/coding4integrity_-unodc-investing-in-young-peoples-interest-in-using-technology-to-strengthen-business-integrity-in-brazil-and-mexico.html

³ More information on CENOZO is available at: <https://cenozo.org/>

⁴https://syntheticdrugs.unodc.org/uploads/syntheticdrugs/res/cybercrime/onlinetrafficking/index_html/08_OnlineTrafficking_Report_Revised.pdf

[SHERLOC Portal](#)

UNODC's SHERLOC knowledge management portal⁵ aims to facilitate the dissemination of information regarding the implementation of the UNTOC, the Protocols thereto and the international legal framework against terrorism. In 2022, SHERLOC has grown to include over 3,250 case summaries of organized crime and terrorism prosecutions, more than 11,850 annotated extracts of legislative provisions, as well as legal information on crimes affecting the environment, trafficking in cultural property, offences related to falsified medical products and other emerging forms of organized crime. The platform also hosts UNODC's Practical Guide for Requesting Electronic Evidence Across Borders, which provides practitioners with best practices, information about legal procedures, and contact points to assist with requesting and producing electronic evidence needed for trial. In the reporting period, the Office has developed multiple tools that build on, and contribute to, legal materials contained in SHERLOC, including an issue paper on the role of online intermediaries in preventing and combating illicit trafficking.

[REVMOD](#)

In order to support Focal Points and Governmental Experts in conducting country reviews in the context of the UNTOC Review Mechanism, UNODC developed a manual as well as an e-learning module with the purpose of facilitating the use of REVMOD. In addition, UNODC delivers regular REVMOD trainings in the six official languages. By September 2022, more than 1500 Focal Points and Governmental Experts from 134 countries participated in those activities. Additionally, UNODC has been supporting the organization of preliminary consultation meetings among Focal Points involved in a review, as well as providing general support to the country reviews in order to ensure that the envisaged outcome of the review mechanism, which is improving the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, will be achieved.

[5\) Crime prevention and criminal justice](#)

UNODC is conducting a pilot research project, to identify potential risks and promising practices, in the use of technology in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice – with a particular emphasis on identifying initiatives that have the potential to promote equal access to justice for all, while safeguarding against the potential risks of discrimination and an interference with human rights, and due process/fair trial rights. The findings of this research will further inform UNODC programming to strengthen human rights-based criminal justice institutions and practices, including in contexts that involve the use of new technologies.

[Brazil](#)

In December 2021, UNODC launched the Portuguese free version of the online course for the Nelson Mandela Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. The course is hosted at the UNODC Global Learning platform, is 200 minutes long and is divided into 5 modules. The course will benefit prison agents, professionals who work with prison supervision, and other interested personnel in Brazil and other Portuguese-speaking countries - such as Portugal, Angola, Mozambique, and Cape Verde.

To promote adherence to international standards on the legitimate use of force in the states of Rio Grande do Sul and Paraná in Brazil, UNODC continues to implement the Police Activity Compliance Index. The operationalization of the Index included the development of a technological solution for the collection and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data on the monitoring of the use of force. The initiative promotes an effective information management for the control and prevention of homicides and violent crimes and for properly monitoring the use of force in these two states.

[6\) Intergovernmental process](#)

In 2022, a customized online event platform was deployed, allowing both in-person and online

⁵ SHERLOC is the abbreviation for Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime

participants to contribute equally and meaningfully to the regular sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ).

(b) Future actions or initiatives to be taken, regionally and/or internationally, and by all stakeholders, to improve the facilitation and ensure full implementation in each of the action lines and themes, especially with regard to overcoming those obstacles identified in Part Two above. You are encouraged to indicate any new commitments made to further implement the outcomes.

1) Crime prevention and criminal justice

Consistent with the findings of the UN Secretary General’s report on the implementation and follow up to WSIS outcomes,⁶ UNODC notes that an increase in the use of technology in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice underscores the importance of ensuring cooperation among an increasingly broad range of stakeholders involved in the design and delivery of criminal justice functions. First, in addition to the government authorities and institutions that hold overall responsibility for criminal justice functions, the private sector, including technology design, delivery, and service companies, bear a significant and increasing direct or indirect influence on criminal justice processes and functions in many jurisdictions. Therefore, it is important to engage with these commercial actors and institutions. Secondly, to ensure that criminal justice functions align with international legal principles, including human rights and sustainable development goals, it is paramount to also work closely with other governmental departments that collect/share anonymized, or identifiable, data on individuals that can, in some jurisdictions, be used as part of criminal justice functions (including departments of social protection, housing, health, education, labor, and immigration). Finally, partnering up with civil society actors is key, as they often play an important role in monitoring legislative and policy changes in respect of data collection and sharing.

Brazil

In Brazil, UNODC will launch online courses on pre-trial detention hearings, targeting judges and other personnel involved with the criminal justice systems. The courses are based upon UNODC handbooks developed in partnership with the National Council of Justice and United Nations Development Programme, which approach pre-trial detention hearing in connection to themes such as prevention of torture and promotion of social protection. The initiative aims to disseminate the expertise developed for these handbooks and inform judges and criminal justice personnel on relevant practices regarding these types of hearings, in compliance with international standards such as the Nelson Mandela Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners⁷.

⁶ [A/77/62-E/2022/8](#)

⁷ https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/Nelson_Mandela_Rules-E-ebook.pdf