



OCTOBER

GREATER COOPERATION IN CONFRONTING DRUG TRAFFICKING

The 10th Review Meeting of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Sub-Regional Drug Control Cooperation brought together senior officials from the five Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan), Azerbaijan, the Russian Federation and the Aga Khan Development Network to discuss the numerous challenges and threats to the region posed by drug trafficking.

The event was hosted by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and opened by Mr. Kairat Abdrakhmanov, the Minister of Foreign Affairs. "There is a shared global responsibility for this problem, with billions of dollars in profits from opiate trafficking to major consumer markets worldwide, and hundreds of tons of pre-



cursor chemicals being diverted from licit international markets to Afghanistan," said Mr. Abdrakhmanov.

The meeting included the adoption of a declaration recognizing the importance of the MoU on Sub-Regional Drug Control Cooperation in contributing towards enhanced regional and international cooperation to counter trafficking of drugs. This declaration was called a "roadmap" to combine the efforts of the Central Asian States.

NOVEMBER

THE UZBEKISTAN-UNODC ROAD MAP

A Plan of Practical Measures ("Road Map") on Further Development of Cooperation of the Republic of Uzbekistan with UNODC in 2017-2019 on countering drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and terrorism is one of the most valuable agreements achieved in 2017.

The creation of the strategic document was first discussed on 1 November 2017 in Tashkent when Mr. Yury Fedotov, the UNODC Executive Director met with the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan H.E. Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev. This timely meeting was welcomed by the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan, given that the state considers security and peace as key priorities of its national and international policy, and puts every effort towards countering organized crime, illicit drug trafficking and terrorism.

Only a month later, the parties officially signed the Road Map, at UNODC Headquarters in Vienna, Austria. The Road Map was developed by the Government of Uzbekistan in consultation with UN-



ODC ROCA. The document identifies areas where UNODC could provide technical assistance, including strengthening ongoing law enforcement reforms, criminal justice, anti-corruption efforts and the healthcare system.

A review mechanism of implementation of the joint Road Map will be established and aligned with the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and the 2030 Development Agenda for Sustainable Development.

DECEMBER

SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN CENTRAL ASIA

The Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan organized the International Conference on Security and Sustainable Development in Central Asia «Central Asia: Shared Past and Common Future, Cooperation for Sustainable Development and Mutual Prosperity» under the auspices of the United Nations and in cooperation with the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) and UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia, in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, on 10-11 November 2017.

The conference, inaugurated by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan H.E. Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, created an interactive platform for high level representatives of the UN, EU, OSCE, SCO, CIS, the Central Asian states, Afghanistan, USA, Russia, Chi-



na, Turkey, Iran, India, Pakistan, Japan, South Korea and others, as well as scientists, public figures and mass media.

At the conference, participants passed communiqué as an outcome document which summarizes key recommendations of the forum, and encourages the Heads of the Central Asian states to hold regular consultative meetings to maintain open dialogue and develop mutually acceptable approaches on contemporary regional issues.

“With 183 parties, we are nearly there, but there is a need to go still further. Anti-corruption partnerships formed with the private sector, civil society and academia can ensure that everyone is united in ending corruption. We must also be innovative and creative in ensuring that corruption remains high on the world’s agenda.” – Mr. Yury Fedotov, UNODC Executive Director on International Anti-Corruption Day, 9 December 2017.



Central Asian states marked International Anti-Corruption Day by engaging with the local and international community and promoting further anti-corruption reforms. Here are the brightest moments of the day:

In **Kyrgyzstan**, on International Anti-Corruption Day, UNODC and the Police Women Association of Kyrgyzstan came together to organize a student competition. Under the “No to corruption!” slogan a group of police women involved in UNODC’s police mentoring programme worked with students from one of Bishkek’s main universities to prepare theatre performances on anti-corruption. Students also competed to develop posters with anti-corruption messages.



In **Uzbekistan**, on 18 December 2017, the General Prosecutor’s Office of the Republic of Uzbekistan in cooperation with the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan held the Open Doors event marking the International Anti-Corruption Day. Representatives of the UNDP, UNODC, GIZ, the World Bank Group, as well as active actors of the civil society in Uzbekistan such as the Youth Union of Uzbekistan and “Makhalla” foundation and other NGOs were invited to the Open Doors Day.

Moreover, the representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as the Tashkent State University of Law and other academic institutions took active part in the event and shared their vision of anti-corruption actions. These and other ministries, agencies, and organizations, along with the National human rights center of the Republic of Uzbekistan, displayed their information and visual materials suggesting effective methods of combatting corruption.

The Open Doors day started with the “Anti-corruption reforms in the Republic of Uzbekistan: achievements and priority objectives” conference where the representatives of the abovementioned organizations and agencies discussed current global and national trends and threats to the anti-corruption reforms. The second part of the day was occupied by the Media Forum of the International Press Club with a session dedicated to anti-corruption policies in Uzbekistan and the world, and aired live on the satellite television. Finally, the event was wrapped up with the awards ceremony of the “Youth of Uzbekistan are against corruption” contest. The contest was organized in close cooperation with the Ministry of Public Education, the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the Youth Union. The awards were handed to the school and college/lyceum students for best creative works to combat corruption in the “Best Poster” and “Best Essay” categories, as well as to the representatives of the ministries, agencies and other organizations for the “The best informational material of public authority” nomination. The winners were awarded memorable gifts and prizes.



UNODC ROCA 2017 Capacity Building Activities

In 2017, UNODC facilitated the capacity building of various state agencies and organizations in Central Asia by training more than 4700 professionals within the framework of the UNODC Programme for Central Asia and the global initiatives such as the Global UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme, the NATO-UNODC Partnership for Countering Narcotics Training component, and “Treating drug dependence and its health consequences: Treatnet II.”



- Law enforcement officers
- Professionals from CARICC, Drug Control Agency of Tajikistan
- Civil society and academia representatives



- Police officers
- Prison staff
- Forensic laboratories specialists
- State statistical service specialists
- Coaches and teachers of schools and universities
- Local government representatives
- NGOs & international organizations



- Law enforcement officers
- Prison staff
- Addiction professionals
- Health managers of the drug treatment centres
- Social workers
- NGO representatives
- Decision makers from government agencies/ministries



Topics

- Application of IBM i2 software and Virtual Private Network (VPN)
- Customs control, examination of travel document and profiling techniques
- New methods and approaches to profile high risk consignments and daily inspection with improved detection tools
- Risk targeting and detection of potential drug smugglers at international border control points
- Methods of operative-search activities, provision of theoretical and practical assistance to on-going investigations
- Anti-corruption measures
- Intelligence led policing and criminal intelligence analysis
- Operational police tactics
- Undercover and informant training
- Organized crime investigations
- Interview and interrogation techniques
- Crime intelligence analysis
- Countering synthetic drugs and NPS
- Cybersecurity
- Preventing terrorism and violent extremism

- Crime prevention
- Prison reform
- Women in policing
- Trafficking in persons
- New criminal legislation
- Prevention of violent extremism
- Forensic laboratories
- Crime statistics

- Crisis interventions
- Ethics for addiction professionals
- Physiology and pharmacology for addiction professionals
- Management of drug dependence treatment
- New psychoactive substances
- Overdose prevention
- Cooperation with the criminal justice sector and social services
- Development and implementation of the MMT
- HIV prevention, treatment and care
- Creating partnerships with civil society organizations (CSO)
- HIV prevention and harm reduction among prison staff
- Opioid Substitution treatment

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The BLO Coordination Centre

In the fall of 2017, the Kyrgyz Republic State Border Service (SBS) in close cooperation with UNODC, and a funding support from the Government of Japan, officially opened a new coordination facility that provides a centralized location to collect, analyze and disseminate operational and strategic data among three BLOs established in the selected BCPs of Kyrgyzstan - “Bordobo,” “Dostuk,” “Karamyk.”

The Coordination Centre of the Border Liaison Offices provides a wide spectrum of analytical services for improving operational integration of border security efforts by enhancing detection capabilities and increasing situational awareness for SBS and other national law enforcement authorities. The Centre manages and oversees the BLO database powered by IBM software “i2” and geographic information system “ArcGIS.”

The Centre is also tasked to coordinate joint operations of competent authorities at the border, representing Customs and Counter Narcotics Service of the Ministry of Interior of the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as to facilitate efficient intelligence exchange.

Countering Transnational Organized Crime, Illicit Drug Trafficking and Terrorism

The Criminal Justice Response to Trafficking in Persons

To support implementation of the 2016-2018 National Action Plan of Turkmenistan, from 6-10 November 2017, UNODC conducted a series of consultations with government counterparts and international partners to discuss needs of criminal justice practitioners in relation to investigation and prosecution of human trafficking crimes.

The UNODC mission met with representatives of the General Prosecutor’s Office, the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Interior and the Migration Service.

As a result of the mission, preliminary priority issues were identified, which will now form the basis for the development of a basic training manual on the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking crimes for criminal justice practitioners in Turkmenistan. UNODC provides assistance to Turkmenistan and other countries in Central Asia in implementing the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children with funding provided by the US State Department’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL).

Criminal Justice, Crime Prevention and Integrity

Alternatives to Incarceration

Policies and programmes enabling effective and evidence-based treatment and care as an alternative to incarceration of people who use drugs for non-violent crimes were discussed in November 2017 in Astana, Kazakhstan, at the International Conference on “Alternatives to incarceration: Policies and practices to offer treatment and care for people with drug use disorders in contact with criminal justice system.”

More than 80 participants including policy-makers, academia, criminal justice and public health experts, representatives of civil society from all five Central Asian states, leading experts and practitioners in the fields of criminal justice and drug treatment participated in the conference. The event was sponsored by the Government of Sweden.

The participants received information about international standards and norms supporting the use of non-custodial measures; increased awareness about evidence-based drug dependence treatment and care services (including outreach, psychical and pharmacological treatment, HIV prevention and social integration); discussed existing policies, strategies and programmes in different countries.

Drug Prevention, Treatment and Reintegration and HIV Prevention

Research and Trend Analysis

Forensic Laboratories

In 2017, UNODC ROCA, with a funding support from the US Department of State’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, launched programmatic activities to support two forensic laboratories of the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan to get them prepared for international accreditation in accordance with the ISO 17025.

Technical assistance including provision of relevant laboratory equipment, training support, international tools and publications on forensic services, updating the library of mass spectrums, and strengthening of inter-agency coordination in order to enhance both the quality and impact of the forensic service capacity are being provided to both laboratories.

Through intensive consultations with national counterparts, an assessment of needs and gaps of the laboratories was undertaken. Based on the results and initial training needs of the forensic laboratory personnel, the training workshops were developed and delivered.

