



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

UNODC in the Islamic Republic of Iran and “South-South Cooperation”:

Facilitating international partnerships



“...on this United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, let us resolve to expand our networks of solidarity as the Millennium Development Goals target date of 2015 approaches, and as we work on the even longer horizon of building a more peaceful, prosperous and equitable world for all...”

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
19 December 2010

South-South Cooperation

The idea of cooperation among developing countries originates from the Afro-Asian Conference held in Bandung in 1955. South-South Cooperation is an important element of international cooperation for development and offers viable opportunities for developing countries in their individual and collective pursuit of sustained economic growth and sustainable development.



Participants from the Islamic Republics of Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asian countries in a regional meeting on drug demand reduction. Tehran, October 2010

South-South Cooperation should be seen as partnership among equals, based on solidarity. South-South Cooperation can take different and evolving forms, including inter alia the sharing of knowledge and experience, training, technology transfer, financial and monetary cooperation and in-kind contributions.

It embraces a multi-stakeholder approach, including cooperation between non-governmental organizations, the private sector, civil society, academia and other actors.

UNODC in the Islamic Republic of Iran and South-South Cooperation

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the Islamic Republic of Iran has effectively facilitated South-South cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and other middle income and developing countries in the areas of drugs, crime and health since its establishment in 1999.

Drug Supply Reduction

UNODC's focus on South-South anti narcotics technical cooperation has been the cornerstone for launching a regional forum, the Triangular Initiative among the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan in 2007. The Triangular Initiative umbrella of cooperation operationally engage the three countries in finding field-oriented solutions to the transnational threat posed by the trafficking of Afghan opium, morphine, heroin, and cannabis.

The Joint Planning Cell under Triangular Initiative was established in Tehran in 2008. The Cell has coordinated several joint operations, which led to significant seizures of more than 6 tons of drugs and arrests of drug traffickers. South-South Cooperation is further enhanced under Operation TARCET (Targeted Anti-trafficking Regional Communication Expertise Training) aimed at tackling the diversion and smuggling of illicit precursor chemicals used in heroin laboratories in Afghanistan. The TARCET Operation in Iran has led to the seizure of about 46 tons of diverted chemicals since 2008.

Drugs, HIV and Health

Tens of bilateral meetings and study tours aimed at sharing knowledge in the fields of drug demand reduction and HIV/AIDS between the Islamic Republic of Iran and other countries have been organized by UNODC Iran. Thanks to UNODC country programme's activities, concerned Iranian institutions have gained extensive experience in both harm reduction and HIV control. The Islamic Republic of Iran, in recent years, has assisted other middle-income as well as developing countries in the development of Methadone Maintenance Treatment, research and training capacities on HIV prevention and control, and treatment and care in prison settings. Iranian good practices on Opiate Substitution Therapy have been promoted through study tours and bilateral meetings. These initiatives have contributed to the establishment of harm reduction activities in countries such as Indonesia and Pakistan. On the other hand, a visit of the Iranian authorities to Pakistan, organized by UNODC under the Syringe Programme, was crucial for the launch of such a programme in the Islamic Republic of Iran.



Drug addict receives methadone treatment during an Afghan delegation's visit to Tehran, October 2010

Crime, Justice and Corruption

UNODC has also promoted South-South Cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and developing countries with the aim to tackle organized crime and money laundering through exchange of ideas, experience, knowledge, technical skills and expertise across a broad range of anti crime sectors. Missions to foreign countries related to the areas of crime, justice and corruption have improved national knowledge on foreign practices in tackling crime and money laundering, and broadened judicial and crime prevention cooperation.

Under the Financial Intelligence Unit to Financial Intelligence Unit programme, the Iranian Financial Intelligence Unit has established bilateral cooperation agreements with Armenia, Brazil and Slovenia.

South -South Cooperation under UNODC Country Programme 2011-2014

UNODC Country Programme for the Islamic Republic of Iran 2011-2014 foresees building bridges and facilitating dialogue and exchange at the bilateral, regional and international level.

UNODC in the Islamic Republic of Iran will focus on South-South Cooperation in the following areas:

- Establish and initiate actual operation of Border Liaison Offices in the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan.
- Achieve successful and effective cross-border communication during joint operations among Triangular Initiative countries.
- Support the Joint Planning Cell, established in the framework of the Triangular Initiative, in facilitating information exchange and coordinating regional operations targeting drug and precursor trafficking.
- Increase awareness and information exchange in areas like prison settings, drug demand reduction, HIV control and law enforcement between the Islamic Republic of Iran and developing countries.
- Strengthen harm reduction activities in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Tajikistan by presenting good practices from the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- Organize missions with the aim to allow Iranian NGOs to familiarize themselves with the organization of NGOs and civil society's role in other countries.
- Strengthen cooperation between different national Financial Intelligence Units in order to fight money laundering and financing of terrorism.
- Improve national knowledge on foreign practices and experiences in tackling crime, money laundering, corruption and stolen cultural property.
- Broaden judicial, law enforcement and anti-money laundering cooperation under bilateral programmes.