

Annex III

Terms of reference for the High-level Committee on Programmes task team on transnational organized crime

1. The time-bound task team will operate within the framework of the High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCPP) under the leadership of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Aims and objectives

2. The overarching aims of bringing the United Nations system together to coherently address transnational organized crime through a common approach are to enhance early warning and analysis; reduce risks and vulnerabilities; strengthen technical capacities and criminal justice systems to promote cross-border collaboration and improved information and data-sharing; amplify efforts to protect people and their rights, including through prevention and assistance to victims; and promote regional and national United Nations system planning as well as cooperation by building upon agreed frameworks and standards, partnering with governments, the private sector and civil society, optimizing the use of donor resources and leveraging the convening power and expertise of the United Nations system.

3. To achieve these aims, the following objectives will be pursued:

(a) Promote policy coherence and aid the United Nations system leadership in advocating for and facilitating international cooperation and evidence-based responses to prevent and address transnational organized crime that are rooted in respect for human rights and the rule of law;

(b) Facilitate inter-agency coordination, leverage data and analytical capacities, reduce duplication, optimize resource mobilization and maximize impact, including by leveraging existing relevant United Nations system work, processes and initiatives related to transnational organized crime;

(c) Contribute to the capacity of the resident coordinator system and United Nations country teams as well as missions to provide integrated, data-driven policy advice and support to Member States that speak to national and regional needs and priorities, and increase buy-in.

Outputs

4. The following outputs are foreseen:

(a) The first phase of work will establish some key building blocks to inform the common approach. The task team will develop a conceptual framework capturing the multiple dimensions of transnational organized crime, as well as State responses, and produce an outline for the common approach;

(b) The task team, through the global and field processes, will further undertake a mapping of existing workstreams and operational gaps, which will also identify good practices and effective responses, examples of inter-agency cooperation and possibilities for consolidating and rationalizing mechanisms;

(c) Building on the above outputs, in the second phase of work, the task team will elaborate a United Nations system common approach to prevent and address

transnational organized crime, to be outlined in a succinct document potentially including:

- (i) A set of recommendations for the United Nations system in support of Member States and other stakeholders, including multilateral institutions, academia, civil society and the private sector, aligned with intergovernmental processes and United Nations norms and standards and aimed at supporting strategic responses, international cooperation and foresight addressing transnational organized crime;
- (ii) Guidance on evidence-based measures and metrics to prevent and address transnational organized crime, addressing the sequencing of interventions, from short-term frontline responses and capacity-building to medium- and longer-term efforts to strengthen prevention and build resilience;
- (iii) Examples of relevant United Nations programmes and initiatives, with an emphasis on existing inter-agency workstreams that could be strengthened or integrated to use system resources and expertise more effectively;
- (iv) A proposal to monitor and report system efforts to address transnational organized crime through the common approach, with the aim of sustaining cooperation and continuously improving efforts;
- (v) In the context of the newly established International Day for the Prevention of and Fight Against All Forms of Transnational Organized Crime (15 November), joint agreed messaging on transnational organized crime, to be facilitated by UNODC as custodian of the day, and proposals for inter-agency collaboration on themes and activities.

5. The process will further be informed by a complementary workstream led by UNODC outside of the context of the HLCP task team (with other entities invited and encouraged to contribute) involving a series of dialogues in the field that are being initiated in parallel and that will serve to capture field-based insights on local, national and regional manifestations of transnational organized crime and their impacts, as well as on Member State capacities, responses, challenges and policy needs. Data, analysis and recommendations resulting from the dialogues will be gathered by UNODC and reported to the United Nations Sustainable Development Group and shared with the HLCP task team.

Membership and working methods

6. The task team is open to all interested HLCP member entities. Each entity is invited to appoint primary and secondary focal points, who will regularly and actively participate in exchanges and meetings, to be convened by UNODC, and contribute to the delivery of the agreed outputs.

7. The work of the task team is time-bound and envisaged to conclude upon producing the agreed outputs. The establishment of a standing coordination mechanism, communities of practice, peer-to-peer exchanges or other platform(s) outside of HLCP could be considered if deemed useful.

8. As a priority, the process will seek to leverage existing coordination mechanisms and benefit from their insights, including, inter alia, decisions of the Secretary-General's Executive Committee addressing small arms and light weapons as well as trafficking in all its forms; the United Nations system common positions on drug policy, incarceration and corruption; and the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Policing, the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law and the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group. It will further bear in mind the planned

Executive Committee agenda item on the impact of organized crime on peace and security, and the regional monthly review on Ecuador.

9. Moreover, the process could benefit from engagement with relevant stakeholders, including from academia, the private sector and civil society, and UNODC will convene a balanced (in terms of geography, gender and expertise) group of experts to provide input to the work of the task team.

Timeline

10. HLCP forty-eighth session on 7 October 2024: Commitment by HLCP to develop a United Nations system common approach to prevent and address transnational organized crime. Terms of reference for the time-bound task team on transnational organized crime to be established under the leadership of UNODC approved. Further to approval, UNODC to subsequently convene the task team.

11. HLCP forty-ninth session: The proposed conceptual framework will be presented along with the mapping and an outline for the common approach for consideration by HLCP.

12. HLCP fiftieth session: Following approval of the conceptual framework and outline, the task team will continue its work to develop the common approach, to be presented for consideration by HLCP, and, if approved, transmitted for endorsement by CEB.
