

Efforts of United Nations to Combat International Organized Crime



Mandeep Kaur
Research Scholar,
Deptt.of Political Science,
Punjabi University,
Patiala

Abstract

The study of efforts of United Nations to combat international organized crime is most important in modern era. Organized crime is a not new phenomenon. It is one of the most ferocious and destructive instrument of any international, internal conflict in contemporary history and risen as one of the most tragedy misfortunes of many nations, both old and new in the modern world. It has emerged as a global concern. It poses a huge challenge to all the countries in the world. Organised crime can be defined as serious crime planned, coordinated and conducted by people working together on a continuing basis. Organised criminals working together for a particular criminal activity or activities are called an organised crime group. The core of organized crime activity is the supplying of illegal goods and services such as gambling, loan sharking, narcotics, and other forms of vice to countless numbers of citizens, customers, but organized crime is also extensively and deeply involved in legitimate business and in labour unions. Organized crime is not confined to the boundaries of any one country and has become a international problem. Drug trafficking, terrorism, money laundering, gunrunning, illegal immigration, etc., are good examples of this kind. The United Nations plays a major role to maintain peace and security solve international problems and promoting respect for human rights. Efforts by the United Nations to tackle organized crime can be traced to 1975, when the fifth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders examined changing dimensions of criminality, focusing on the concept of crime as business. The United Nations General Assembly adopted the United National Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, along with three protocols addressing human trafficking, migrant trafficking, transportation, the illicit manufacturing, trafficking in firearms. The Convention represents a major step forward in the struggle against transnational organized crime and signifies the recognition of United Nations Member States that this is a grave and growing trouble that can only be solved through close international cooperation. Various national and international laws have consequently been enacted to combat organized crime. . In order to have a proper and authentic understanding of the objectives of this study, historical and analytical methods have been used. The study has been primarily based on various primary sources which includes United Nations resolutions and conventions. The secondary source includes various books, journals, periodicals and news clippings etc. The present paper examine the various criminal activities of international organized crime. The present paper analyses the impact of International organized crime on peace and security and examine the response of United Nations in combating International organized crime. The present paper draws attention to the defects in current conceptualisations of organized crime by presenting an outline of United Nations efforts to combat the problem.

Keywords: Combat International Organized Crime.

Introduction

Organized crime is a global problem. It has been increasing at an alarming rate. It poses a enormous challenge to all the countries in the world. The widespread economic, social, political and technological changes as well as variations in criminal matters have allowed organized crime groups to become increasingly active in the worldwide sphere. It is a illegal activity for power and profit. Donald Taft observed that, "the organization of criminals introduced in the field of crime those factors of leadership, group discipline, obedience and loyalty, division of labour, fellowmen ship, sacrifice, co-operation and group planning which spell

efficiency in the normal economic, political and social life". Dr. Walter Reckless describes "organized crime as an unlawful misadventures which is carried on by a boss, his lieutenants and operators who form a hierarchical structure for a specific period".¹ Organized crime deals in illegitimate goods and services, including gambling, loan-sharking, narcotics, money-laundering, illicit drug trafficking, acts of corruption, prostitution, organ trafficking, the use of violence and extortion, illegal manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, trafficking in women and children. Organized crime is a continuing criminal activity that works to profit from illegal activities that are often in great public demand.² It employs illicit methods—monopolization, terrorism, extortion, tax evasion to drive out or control lawful ownership and leadership and to exact illegal profits from the public.³ The United Nations is a foremost focal point for conflict resolution and the establishment of universal legal norms, the setting of human rights standards. It plays a chief role to maintain peace and security solve international problems and promoting respect for human rights. It is an intergovernmental organization to promote international co-operation. The menace postured by organized crime to the financial, political and social structure of social orders was perceived by the global group starting in the mid-1990s. The ensuing arbitration of a universal convention against international organized crime was a significant step forward in countering this threat. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is the overseer of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the three protocols on trafficking in persons, trafficking of firearms and smuggling of migrants that supplement it. This is the main global convention, which manages organized crime. It is a landmark achievement representing to the international group's dedication to fighting transnational organized crime. The Law Enforcement, Organized Crime and Anti-Money-Laundering unit of UNODC is in charge of completing the comprehensive program against Money-Laundering and continues of crime, which was built up in 1977 in light of the order given to United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) through the United Nations conventions against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. The issue of money-laundering was also taken up in the United Nations Convention against Corruption 2003. The United Nations General Assembly resolution 45/108, the Ministerial Meeting on the Creation of an efficient United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Program occurred in Versailles from 21 to 23 November 1991. The meeting led the incorporation and solidification of actions by the global group to counteract and battle transnational crime, and also the reinforcing of local and international participation in the fight against all types of crime.⁴ The 40 member United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (UNCCPCJ) is a main body' with a brief to develop international policies and endorse activities to combat national and international crime, promoting the role of criminal law, crime prevention and

improving the efficiency and fairness of criminal justice administration systems. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) with around 400 staff members across the world undertakes this work within a criminal programme and the drug programme. The crime programme contains the combating of corruption, transnational organized crime and illicit trafficking in human beings.

Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of this research is to understand the framework of International organized crime, examine the impact of International organized crime on peace and security and analyse the response of United Nations in combating International organized crime.

Review of Literature

Jay S. Albanese, in his book "Organized Crime in Our Times" (Cincinnati: Anderson Publishing, 2011) describes that the organized crime remains one of the most fascinating manifestations of criminal behaviour, yet it remains one of the least understood. This book conveys in a concise manner the nature, history and theories of organized crime, together with the criminal justice response. He argues that organized crime is committed by a ethnic groups, making ethnicity a poor indicator of organized crime activity. This book is very useful for the present work to comprehend the different aspects of organized crime.

Prafullah Padhy, in his book "Organised Crime" (New Delhi: Isha Books, 2006) explores a comprehensive introduction to organized crime. It analyses various types of organized crime and their adverse impact of the society. He describes that the invasive nature of the organized crime in legitimate global and domestic commercial markets has a widespread impact to all areas of the society. The diverse legislative and law enforcement efforts to control organized crime are also discussed.

Stephen L. Mallory, in his book "Understanding Organized Crime" (Sudbury, Massachusetts: Jones and Bartlett, 2012) explores the dynamic nature of transnational organized crime. The world is changing and the criminal syndicates are adapting and emerging to meet the illegal and services demanded by the global community. The book explores techniques and techniques of criminal investigation of organized crime that have been successful in the past are still effective against members of organized crime.

Trafficking in Persons (TIP) (2005) report held that the causes of trafficking. According to that Report, the causes of human trafficking are complex and often reinforce each other. Victims establish the supply, and abusive employers or sexual exploiters represent the demand. And the people who act as conduits to trafficked persons are traffickers and represent distribution, normally demand side and distribution side gain economically and the supply side suffers from all angles. The supply of victims is encouraged by many factors including poverty, attraction of perceived higher standards of living, lack of employment opportunities, organized crimes, and violence against women, regional imbalance,

economic disparities, socially challenges, government corruption, politically instability and armed conflict.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) (2006) Report held that, in general, almost every country in the world is facing the dilemma of trafficking. Countries can be divided roughly into countries of origin (usually the resource poor countries or countries that are politically or economically unstable), countries of destination (usually resource-rich developed countries, where demand is located) and transit countries (countries along a trafficking route, where traffickers have safe passage and harbour). Some countries, such as India, Thailand and Nigeria are countries of origin, transit and destination. Human trafficking is widespread – data taken from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) Database on Human Trafficking Trends document the trafficking of human beings from 127 countries to be exploited in 137 countries worldwide. Despite the fact that all human trafficking cases have their attributes, most take after a similar example. Individuals are snatched or enrolled in the nation of a cause, exchanged through travel locales and afterward abused in the goal society. If at some stage, the misuse of the casualties is hindered or finished, they can be protected as victims of trafficking in people, and it is conceivable they may get Bolster in the nation of the goal.

Michael D. Lyman, in his book "Criminal Investigation: The Art and the science" (New Jersey: Prentice hall, 1999) Lyman focuses on the steps and considerations involved in actual criminal investigations and analyzes the many external variables than can influence an investigator's success in the field. The book also includes the legal and illicit activities of organized crime and understand diverse laws and legal initiatives used to collision organized crime.

United Nations Core Conventions, Commissions and Reports on International Organized Crime

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000)

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime adopted in Palermo in 2000⁵ is designed to be the foremost global crime repression convention in the fight against organized crime. It opened for signature by Member States at a High-level Political Conference organized for that purpose in Palermo (Italy), on 12-15 December 2000. It entered into force on 29 September 2003. With 185 states parties as at May 2015, this comprehensive legal arsenal has enjoined considerable formal support. Three Protocols—the Human Trafficking Protocol, the Migrant Smuggling Protocol, and the Firearms Protocol deal with particular crimes stipulated as adequately serious to justify application of the UNTOC's regime for international cooperation, and many of the provisions of the UNTOC were specially designed to be used to implement the Protocols. The UNTOC's intention is to promote co-operation to prevent and combat transnational organized crime more efficiently. This is to be achieved through legislative harmonization and more effectual repression while remaining within the bounds

of human rights safeguards. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime is the first universal agreement to comprehensively address organized crime. With its three protocols, it provides an international legal framework to improve the enforcement of organized crime, particularly international cooperation.

The United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (2000)

The Trafficking Protocol is the most important international legal instrument to address the crime of trafficking. It is the first international legally binding instrument with an agreed definition on trafficking in persons. It entered into force on 25 December 2003. The Trafficking Protocol can only be signed and ratified by parties to the United Nations Convention, currently 167 states. The objective of the Protocol is to protect and assist the victims of trafficking in persons with full respect for their human rights.⁶ The Protocol established the overall purpose to 'prevent and combat trafficking in person, paying particular attention to women and children; to protect and assist the victims of such trafficking, with full respect for their human rights; to encourage cooperation among States Parties in order to meet those objectives'. Even though trafficking is more often addressed through the human rights lens, the United Nations Trafficking Protocol itself is not a human rights instrument but was established through the United Nations Crime Commission with the incentive to fight the growing threat and consequences deriving from transnational organized crime. Therefore, the Protocol is considered a law enforcement instrument, addressing aspects of prevention, prosecution, and protection.⁷

The United Nations Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air (2000)

The United Nations Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea, and Air seeks 'to prevent and fight the smuggling of migrants, as well as to promote cooperation among States Parties to that end, whereas protecting the rights of smuggled migrants'. It entered into force on 28 January 2004. These objectives reflect the innate complexity of the phenomenon of migrant smuggling and the separate and at times conflicting goals of international efforts in this field. The Smuggling of Migrants Protocol supplements the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime. It deals with the growing problem of organized criminal group who smuggle migrants, often at high risk to the migrants and at great profit for the offenders. The Protocol aims at preventing and combating the smuggling of migrants, as well as promoting cooperation among States parties, while protecting the rights of smuggled migrants and preventing the worst forms of their exploitation which often characterize the smuggling process.⁸

The United Nations Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components, and Ammunition (2001)

The Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000. It entered into force on 3 July 2005. It was signed by 52 parties as of October 2018 it has 116 parties, comprising 115 states and the European Union. The objective of the Protocol, which is the first legally binding instrument on small arms that has been adopted at the global level is to promote facilitate and strengthen cooperation among States parties in order to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition.⁹ Its purpose is to strengthen and unify international cooperation and to develop unified mechanisms to prevent, combat and eliminate the illegal manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition. It contains crucial provisions on manufacturing, marketing and tracing record-keeping and international transfers of firearms. This Protocol distinguishes the rights of a Party to take action in the interest of its national security consistent with the Charter of the United Nations, Parties to the Protocol undertake to adopt and implement the strongest possible legislation to prosecute and investigate the offences stemming from the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms.

Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961)

The single convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961 was held at Geneva from 6th March, 1972 to 24th March 1972 under the conservancy of United Nations. It was a prime effort to simplify and consolidate international drug central machinery. This instrument codified all existing multilateral treaties and combined the permanent Central Board and Drug supervisory Board into the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) a important authority in the international field which lays down the rules and restrictions regarding narcotics.¹⁰ The single convention was not only a fusion of previous international instruments. It also extended the scope of control of other drugs (e.g. cannabis and coca leaf) and introduced a number of new control measures. Its main terms are as follows:

1. It prohibits the trade, production and use for non-medical purposes of all narcotics drugs.
2. It limits possession of narcotics drug to scientific and medical purposes and to persons authorized to possess them.
3. It extends the scope of control to coca leaf and cannabis.
4. It extends the system of import certificates and export authorizations introduced by the 1925 convention to poppy straw.
5. It incorporates the essential provisions of the 1953 Protocol (national opium monopoly licensing of farmer etc.) and extends these provisions also to coca leaves and cannabis.

Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971)

Another main international instrument in the series is the Convention on Psychotropic substances signed in 1971, it entered into force on 16th August 1976. Its purpose was to extend control of a broad range of man-made behaviour altering substances that could lead to destructive dependencies. The convention has also emphasized prevention of abuse of psychotropic substances and early identification, education, treatment, after care, rehabilitation and social reintegration of the persons involved. Apprehension about the sharp increase in drug problems during the late seventies led to formulation by the General Assembly in 1981, of an International Drug Abuse Control policy and a five year action programme. It provided for a series of policy measures dealing with various aspects of drug control, traffic and treatment of addicts. Its main terms are as follows:

1. Improving the international drug control system through wider devotion to existing treaties.
2. Co-coordinating efforts to ensure balance between supply and demand of drugs for lawful use.
3. Steps for abolition of illicit drug traffics containing finding income producing alternatives for illegal drug producers.
4. Strengthening efforts to detect and demolish clandestine laboratories and trafficking organizations.
5. Methods to prevent drug abuse and promote rehabilitation, treatment and social integration of drug abusers. The agenda of action set out specific activities for United Nations and member governments to achieve these objectives. The commission on Narcotics Drugs was asked to monitor and coordinate their implementation.

Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988)

The convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and Psychotropic substances was held at Vienna, from 25th November to 20th December 1988 under the conservancy of the United Nations. The parties to this convention were intensely concerned that there was a rising trend in the illegal production of, demand for and traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, which posed a serious menace to the health and welfare of human beings and harmfully affect the economic, cultural and political foundations of society. The parties were determined not only to deprive persons engaged in such an illicit traffic, but were desirous to eradicate the root cause of the problem of abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The objective of this convention was to promote cooperation among the parties so that they may address more effectively the diverse aspects of illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances having an international dimension, and they could take essential legislative and administrative measures in conformity with fundamental provisions of their respective domestic systems as well as in a matter consistent with the principles of sovereign equality and integrity of states and that of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of

other states. Under the convention of 1988 providing directives for determining offences and sanction required each party to adopt such measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences under its domestic law when committed internationally.

The United Nations Convention against Corruption (2003)

The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) is a multi-lateral agreement negotiated by member states of the United Nations and promoted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). This convention was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 58/4 on 31 October 2003. It entered into force on 14 December 2005. It was signed by 178 countries. It is one of numerous legally binding international anti-corruption agreements. UNCAC requires state parties to the treaty to implement several anti-corruption measures that focus on five main areas: prevention, law enforcement, international cooperation, asset recovery, and technical assistance and information exchange. UNCAC's objective is to decrease diverse types of corruption that can occur across country borders, such as trading in influence and abuse of power, as well as corruption in the private sector, such as embezzlement and money laundering. Another objective of the UNCAC is to strengthen international law enforcement and judicial cooperation between countries by providing efficient legal mechanisms for international asset recovery. The conference of the States Parties to the UNCAC provides participating countries with resources and assistance to improve implementation of the obligations set forth by the Convention.

The Hague Convention (1912)

The Hague Opium Convention of 1912 was the prime international convention in which an attempt was made to restrain the abuse of opium and other related substances. The Preamble of the convention read: "Desirous of advancing a step further on the road opened by the International Commission of Shanghai of 1909." This convention consists of six chapters which deal completely with opium (raw and prepared) and related substances (cocaine, morphine etc.) even though a special chapter (VI) was made applicable only to China giving effect to some of the Shanghai resolutions. The convention entered into force on 28th June, 1919. This convention established international co-operation in the control of narcotic drugs as a matter of international law and principles laid down in it have remained the basis of international narcotics control. The convention laid down that the production and distribution of raw opium were to be controlled by law, that opium smoking was to be slowly suppressed, and that the manufacture, sale and use of manufactured narcotic drugs were to be limited, by law completely to medical and legitimate needs, manufacturer of and traders in such drugs were also subjected to a system of permit. The League of Nations Covenant provided that the members of the League should "entrust the League with the general supervision over agreements with regard to the traffic in opium and other dangerous

drug." The first League assembly created an Advisory Committee on Traffic in opium and other hazardous Drugs to assist and advise the Leagues council in these tasks.¹¹

The Geneva Convention (1925)

The Geneva International Opium Convention of 1925 was the first convention concluded during the League period is an attempt to suppress the drug threat. This convention, which was adopted at the second opium conference held at Geneva from November 1924 to February 1925, was found necessary because of the breakdown of The Hague Opium Convention of 1912 to control contraband trade in and abuse of narcotic substances. The purpose of this convention was to bring about a more effective limitation of the production or manufacture of narcotic substances by exercising a closer control and supervision of the International trade. This Convention consists of seven chapters. Chapter VI of the convention was devoted to the Permanent Central Board which was created for the purpose of international supervision of drug industry. Under this convention governments were required to submit to Permanent Central Board annual statistics concerning production of opium and coca leaves and the manufacture, consumption and stocks of narcotic drugs and quarterly reports on the export and import of such drugs, comprising opium and coca leaves. It also established the system of import certificates and export authorization requiring governmental approval of each import and export.¹²

Political Declaration and Plan of Action (2009)

The 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced policy to counter the World Drug Problem was adopted at the High level segment of the 52nd Session of the CND 12th March 2009. Art.29 of the declaration states that "illicit crop cultivation and illicit drug production, manufacturing, distribution and trafficking have been increasingly consolidated into a criminally organized industry generating huge amounts of money laundered through the financial and non financial sectors." Parties to the Declaration committed themselves to "strengthening the effective and comprehensive implementation of regimes for countering money laundering and to improving international cooperation containing judicial cooperation, to prevent, detect and prosecute such crimes, dismantle criminal organizations and confiscate their illicit proceeds. Member states decided to establish 2019 as a target date for States to eradicate or reduce significantly and measurably money laundering related to illicit drugs. Art.50 states that the laundering of money derived from illicit drug trafficking and other serious crime continues to be a international problem that intimidates the security and stability of financial institutions and systems, undermines economic prosperity and weakens governance systems.

Political Declaration 1988

The Law Enforcement, Organized Crime and Anti-Money-Laundering Unit of UNODC is responsible for carrying out the Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the

Financing of Terrorism, which was established in 1997 in response to the mandate given to UNODC through the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. The Unit's mandate was strengthened in 1998 by the Political Declaration and the measures for countering money-laundering adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, which broadened the scope of the mandate to cover all serious crime, not just drug-related offences.

Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges, 2010 (Salvador, 2010)

The international attempts were followed up later in 2010 by the "Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World" was signed again calling upon Member States to take measures. The 2010 "Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenge: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice System and Their Development in a Changing World" was adopted by the 12th United Nations congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Salvador, Brazil, 12th to 19th April 2010) Art.22 of the Declaration stressed the need for adoption of efficient measures to implement the provisions on preventing, prosecuting, and punishing money laundering included in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and United Nations Convention against Corruption, and persuaded member states to develop strategies to combat money laundering based on the provisions of these two Conventions. In Art.23 it goes a step further and encourages "Member states to consider developing strategies or policies to fight illegal financial flows and to curb the destructive effects of uncooperative jurisdictions and territories in tax matters" In Art.24 of the Declaration recognized the need to deny criminals and criminal organizations the proceeds of their crime, and called on Member states to adopt effective mechanism for the seizure, restraint, and confiscation of proceeds of crime and to reinforce international cooperation to ensure effectual and prompt asset recovery.

United Nations Global Programme against Money Laundering - GPML (1988)

The United Nations is operating a programme called GPML headquartered in Vienna, Austria. It has the ability to adopt international conventions or treaties that have the consequence of law in a country once that country has signed, ratified and implemented the convention, depending upon the country's constitution and legal structure. In certain cases the United Nations Security Council has authority to combine all member countries through Resolution, regardless of the action of independent members. It has through United Nations International Drug Control Program (UNDCP) initiated an international agreement to fight drug trafficking and money laundering the Vienna Convention in 1988, it came into force on 11th November 1990. The obligations resulting from the 1988 Convention was

further detailed in 1998 Political Declaration and the related Action Plan ("Countering Money Laundering") passed generally by the United Nations General Assembly at its 20th special session on the World Drug Problem held 8 to 10th June 1998. The 1988 Vienna Convention is today almost generally adhered to (184 state parties as of July 2010) and has formed for many countries the basis for their anti-money-laundering legislation. The GPML is a research and assistance project with the aim of increasing the effectiveness of international action against money laundering by offering technical expertise, training and advice to member countries upon request.

United Nations Reports on International Organized Crime

The United Nations Secretary-General report on International cooperation against the world drug problem provided an overview of the status of implementation of the mandates relating to international drug control by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. It also provides an overview of the world drug situation, concluding that it continues to be significant and undermines sustainable development, political stability and democratic institutions, and that Member States have an obligation to continue to invest in drug control and take further action in the years to come. The report offers numerous conclusions and recommendations, emphasizing effectual prevention, early interventions, and a multidisciplinary approach as elements of drug demand reduction policies.¹³ It states that Member States should upgrade their preventive interventions and integrate drug treatment into public health programmes; carry out drug abuse prevention training in various settings (the school, the family and the community, as well as through the media); address the threat posed by drug trafficking and organized crime; implement the United Nations drug control conventions while strengthening the rule of law in countries susceptible to the production and trafficking of illicit drugs; institute intelligence-sharing as a way of strengthening sovereignty, not surrendering it; continue to reinforce the worldwide effort in preventing the diversion of precursor chemicals for the manufacturing of drugs; continue to strengthen drug data collection activities and reporting to the United Nations through periodic questionnaires and reports on individual seizures; and commit resources to help developing countries to design and improve systems for the generation, management, analysis, reporting and use of information on illicit drugs necessary for policy and programme development.

The United Nations Secretary-General report on improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons provided information about a global plan of action on preventing trafficking in persons, prosecuting traffickers and protecting and assisting victims of trafficking. It also contains input from regional organizations on challenges experienced and best practices in coordinating attempts to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, as well as proposals on strengthening the capacities of the Office for the efficient implementation of its

coordination functions.¹⁴ The report conclude by reiterating the request to provide the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme with adequate resources for the full implementation of its mandates on fighting trafficking in persons and sufficient support to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as well as by inviting Member States to provide voluntary contributions and an increased level of regular budget resources to United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for the purpose of providing assistance to Member States upon request.

The United Nations General Assembly resolution 5/4, entitled "Illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts, components and ammunition", the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime decided to establish an open-ended intergovernmental working group on firearms, in accordance with art. 32, para. 3, of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and rule 2, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure for the Conference, to be chaired by a member of the Bureau of the Conference, to advise and assist the Conference in the implementation of its mandate with regard to the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts, Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. In this resolution, the Conference also decided that the working group should perform the following functions: facilitate implementation of the Firearms Protocol through the exchange of experience and practices among experts and practitioners, make recommendations to the Conference on how States parties could better implement the provisions of the Firearms Protocol, assist the Conference in providing direction to its secretariat on the activities of the secretariat and on the development of technical assistance tools relating to the implementation of the Firearms Protocol, and make recommendations to the Conference on how the working group could better coordinate with the diverse international bodies fighting the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts, components and ammunition, in the area of supporting and promoting the implementation of the Firearms Protocol.¹⁵

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in January 2015 launched the policy for the Building of Capacity through an Integrated Response, as a contribution to international efforts to address the smuggling of migrants across the Mediterranean. Through this approach, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime seeks to largely address the smuggling of migrants by means of a planned and integrated response encompassing five mutually reinforcing areas of action: (a) research, analysis and assessments; (b) enhancing national capacities and legislative frameworks; (c) Promoting regional and trans-regional cooperation; (d) contributing to a global response; and (e) ensuring assistance to smuggled migrants and the protection of their rights.¹⁶ In September 2015, United Nations Office on Drugs and

Crime launched the Regional approach for Combating Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants in West and Central Africa, which covers 22 African countries and contains the following goals: (a) improving national and regional coordination and cooperation; (b) enhancing information and data and ensuring that they are kept up to date; (c) strengthening the legal frameworks and public policies of States involved; (d) building the capacity of the region's criminal justice systems; (e) providing support to victims of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants; and (f) raising awareness of these issues in the region. The Strategy is the response of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Regional Office for West and Central Africa to the challenges facing the region in this regard. At the global level, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime added three modules dedicated to the smuggling of migrants to its e-learning programme, on the following topics: (a) introduction to the smuggling of migrants; (b) investigative approaches to the smuggling of migrants; and (c) investigative techniques to counter the smuggling of migrants.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime also organized and contributed to worldwide events marking the World Day against Trafficking in Persons on 30 July 2015, containing a first joint video statement from the principals of the 16-member, system-wide Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons. In addition, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, through its role as both secretariat and working member of the Coordination Group, enabled the development and launch of a position paper by the Group on efficient remedies for trafficked persons. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime continued to manage the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, specially Women and Children, which in 2015 initiated support of 19 new projects worldwide. The United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon launched the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund For Victims of Trafficking in Persons to provide legal, humanitarian and financial assist to victims of human trafficking. The Trust fund is one of the most important aspect of the new United Nations action plan to combat Trafficking in Persons adopted by the General Assembly. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime also launched the UNODC-led Blue Heart Campaign against human trafficking. The objective of the Blue Heart Campaign is to mobilize support and to inspire people to act against human trafficking. This international proposal works to raise awareness of the dilemma of victims and build political support to struggle the criminals behind trafficking. The Blue Heart campaign is also on Facebook and Twitter "like" and follow us for updates and news on human trafficking and use these channels to share information with your contacts.

Conclusion

International organized crime is a major challenge for governance at both the national and international levels. It is a global problem. Countries all over the world are worried about the increase in the level and sophistication of organized crime. It can

destabilize democracy, drain national possessions and disrupt free markets, and inhibit the development of stable societies. It violates human rights, subjecting individuals and communities to high levels of violence, fear and increased exposure to disease. It has been argued, national and international criminal groups intimidate the security of all nations. Although the United Nations General Assembly has also issued many resolutions, conventions and commissions to fight International organized crime, but most have been fuzzy and irrelevant. The broader United Nations system has also tackled the issue of transnational crime through specialized agencies, programs, commissions, working groups, campaigns and even a research institute. It is absolutely important to increase cooperation between the world's law enforcement agencies and to continue to develop the tools which will help them successfully combat international organized crime.

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