

Strategic Cooperation between Japan and UNODC

-The joint plan of action-

The Government of Japan (hereafter referred to as Japan) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (hereafter referred to as UNODC) have a long history of collaboration in countering illicit narcotic drugs, in crime prevention and criminal justice reform, as well as in countering terrorism. Japan has also been a leading provider of core support to the operations of UNODC. Japan and UNODC share mutual interest in further enhancing cooperation.

During the first Strategic Policy Dialogue between Japan and UNODC, held in Yokohama on 2 June 2013 in the margins of the 5th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V), they identified regional, thematic and other areas for strategic cooperation, and developed a joint plan of action. They also agreed to hold Strategic Policy Dialogue at the senior level annually in Tokyo or Vienna (alternately). Japan and UNODC reviewed the progress of the implementation of the plan of action during the Strategic Policy Dialogue recently held, and amended it as follows.

1. Regional Cooperation

(1) Africa

Japan welcomes the participation of UNODC in the TICAD V in June 2013 and the TICAD VI in August 2016 in the TICAD process. Through the follow-up of TICAD VI, Japan and UNODC will enhance substantive and operational collaboration in Africa, in particular, in areas related to peace and security such as strengthening of criminal justice systems, countering transnational organized crime (illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, firearms, and persons), corruption and cybercrime as well as combating terrorism, violent extremism and piracy. UNODC acknowledges Japan's reinforced commitment and significantly increased funding support for UNODC projects in this respect.

(2) Asia

UNODC acknowledges Japan's commitment in providing technical

assistance for countries in Southeast and Southwest Asia through Japan's provision of voluntary contributions to the projects of UNODC in the region. Japan and UNODC will enhance their collaboration to assist economic and social development in Southeast and Southwest Asia by strengthening the region's capacity to deal effectively with various forms of transnational organized crime that impact development and human security, including cultivation, production and trafficking of illicit drugs, firearms trafficking, human trafficking, corruption, cybercrime and terrorism. They recognize increasing threats of terrorism and violent extremism in the whole of Asia and will work together to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism in this region, underlining the importance of building resilient society to violent extremism, including through empowerment of women, particularly mothers, who have critical role in preventing youth from violent extremism and through educational and vocational supports, in cooperation with other international organizations. They also recognize the importance of strengthening measures to protect women and girls who are vulnerable to human trafficking.

(3) Afghanistan and neighbouring countries

Japan and UNODC share the view that narcotics and other illicit drugs in Afghanistan is a global issue and that counter-narcotics measures are indispensable for the sustainable and self-reliant development of Afghanistan. They will continue to cooperate in countering those threats in a balanced, comprehensive and sustainable manner by, i.e., strengthening capacities of law enforcement and criminal justice, including forensics, reducing drug demand and developing alternative livelihood with all these interventions supported by trends analysis and research for evidence based policy and strategy formulation. In this context, the joint operational partnership between Japan, UNODC and the Russian Federation on improving the capacity of the national police of Afghanistan and Central Asia has entered its fourth phase in 2017, with 128 counter narcotic officers trained at the Domodedovo Training Centre of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation, since the initiation of this trilateral cooperation in 2012. Based on the success of this cooperation, Japan and UNODC, in partnership with Russian Federation, will seek ways to enhance the trilateral cooperation in order to further strengthen the Afghanistan's counter narcotics capacity.

2. Priority Areas of Cooperation

(1) Countering terrorism and violent extremism

Japan and UNODC strongly condemn terrorist attacks and killing of people, including when Japanese nationals are the target, as it was the case in the attacks perpetrated in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 2016, and express determination to continue their cooperation in fighting against all forms of terrorism and violent extremism. They are deeply concerned about the unprecedented threat posed by the terrorist groups such as ISIL, Al-Qaeda and Boko Haram as well as by the Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF) phenomenon, including when returning to their countries of origins or seeking to enter third countries out of conflict zones, and acknowledge the relevance of capacity building assistance, especially in the Middle East, Africa and Asia. They also share the view that terrorism does not exist in isolation but stands in connection with various forms of organized crime, including trafficking in drugs, oil, cultural artefacts and weapons. In this connection, Japan acknowledges the role of UNODC in supporting Member States to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism and will take measures with UNODC, as aiming to promote the implementation of relevant Security Council Resolutions, as well as information sharing, border security, aviation security, countering the financing of terrorism, and criminal justice responses for the prevention of violent extremism, and to support capacity building, in line with *“the G7 Action Plan on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism”* endorsed at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit. UNODC acknowledges Japan’s reinforced commitment and significantly increased funding support to UNODC for its counter-terrorism programmes in several regions.

(2) Trafficking in drugs and other goods

Japan and UNODC will cooperate to counter the global trade of illicit drugs such as amphetamine- type stimulants, cannabis and new psychoactive substances, by sharing relevant information on illicit manufacture, distribution, sale and use of these drugs, through the global early warning system and the Global SMART (Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends) Programme, as well as other relevant programmes, and by sharing Japanese experience on the intensive control of NPS.

In order to counter trafficking in illicit drugs and other goods, Japan and UNODC will consider cooperation under the Container Control Programme,

implemented by UNODC and the World Customs Organization (WCO).

They will also cooperate in following up on the outcome of the Special Session of the UN General Assembly on the world drug problem (UNGASS) held in New York in April 2016.

(3) Human Trafficking

Having become a State Party of the Human Trafficking Protocol, Japan and UNODC will continue to cooperate to enhance the global capacity to counter human trafficking by strengthening the capacity of countries to deal with this threat. Such steps will include the delivery and coordination of technical assistance and promotion of assistance to countries facing the challenge of human trafficking.

(4) Cybercrime

Japan acknowledges the role of UNODC in delivering technical assistance in countering cybercrime to developing countries and takes note of the achievements of the Global Programme on Cybercrime by UNODC. Japan and UNODC recognize cybercrime assistance needs, in particular, of countries with limited criminal justice capacities. They will further explore means of cooperation with a view to facilitating the assessment of needs and criminal justice capabilities of developing countries and the delivery and coordination of technical assistance.

(5) Transnational Organized Crime including Terrorism and Corruption

UNODC welcomed that Japan had become a state party to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) on 11th July 2017. Japan and UNODC will work together to fight against transnational organized crime including terrorism and corruption, taking into account “*G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration*” and “*the G7 Action to Fight Corruption*” endorsed at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit, in particular, to promote technical assistance in support of the full and effective implementation of these UN Conventions .

They will also continue to cooperate in implementing anti-money laundering measures to prevent and eradicate transnational organised crime.

(6) Maritime Security and Safety

Japan and UNODC express their concern on the increasing transnational criminal activities including abduction in the Sulu-Celebes Sea, and note the nexus between terrorism in the maritime domain and piracy and armed robbery against ships. Japan advocates “Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy” which underlines the importance of rules-based maritime order and safety of navigation in those oceans. From this perspective, they will cooperate in strengthening maritime law enforcement capability of coastal states globally.

3. Other Areas of Cooperation

(1) Reinforcing cooperation between UNODC and relevant ministries/agencies of Japan

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan will enhance the necessary coordination for UNODC to reinforce cooperation with relevant ministries and agencies of Japan, in particular, the Ministry of Justice in criminal justice matters, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare in drug-related matters as well as the Ministry of Finance in customs affairs.

(2) Strengthening communication between Japan and UNODC at the field level

Japan and UNODC will explore ways to enhance the exchange of information at the field level to maintain good communication and coordination, inter alia, between Embassies of Japan and relevant UNODC Field Offices.

(3) Gender mainstreaming

Japan supports gender mainstreaming in the work of UNODC, specifically by incorporating a gender perspective in programmes and projects, when defining outcomes and outputs to be achieved, through utilizing the relevant entry points and innovative approaches for their incorporation, as well as reporting on their achievement as part of regular programme and project reports.

(4) Enhancing cooperation towards the UN Crime Congress 2020 in Kyoto

Japan and UNODC will enhance mutual cooperation in following-up on the 13th UN Crime Congress as well as Japan’s preparation for the hosting of the 14th UN Crime Congress in 2020 in Kyoto.

(5) Strengthening Cooperation and Coordination through UNAFEI

Japan and UNODC will strengthen mutual cooperation and coordination through the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI) with a view to enhancing synergies in capacity building and technical assistance activities related to crime prevention and criminal justice.

(6) Increasing the number of Japanese staff

UNODC is fully aware of the interest of Japan in increasing the representation of Japanese nationals amongst the staff of UNODC. Japan and UNODC will discuss appropriate measures that could be taken to address this interest, such as outreach efforts to attract qualified Japanese candidates for positions both in HQs and in UNODC field offices, including at the senior levels, mindful that the staff of the UN Secretariat are appointed by the Secretary-General under regulations established by the General Assembly, with due regard to recruiting staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible.

(7) Enhancing visibility and publicity of the activities of UNODC funded by Japan

Japan and UNODC will cooperate in enhancing the visibility of projects funded by Japan. UNODC will take all appropriate measures to publicize the funding it receives from Japan for its activities, and will endeavour to maintain effective communication with Japan on this matter.

(8) Delivering and reporting results

UNODC will continue its efforts to deliver results under Japan-funded projects, through effective project implementation, and efficient monitoring and reporting.

(9) Governance and Finance

Japan and UNODC will cooperate in improving the governance and finance situations of UNODC, through timely and constructive communication at all appropriate levels and through all appropriate fora, including FINGOV.

Signed in Yokohama, 2 June 2013

Signed with amendments, at the fourth Strategic Policy Dialogue held on 28 August 2017 in Vienna

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