

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, and in countering terrorism and violent extremism. Japan has been a leading provider of core support to the operations of UNODC. UNODC continues to be a global leader in the fight against illicit drugs, crime and terrorism, and Japan and UNODC continue sharing a 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), Japan and UNODC identified regional, thematic and other areas for strategic cooperation, and developed a joint plan of action. They also agreed to hold annual Strategic Policy Dialogues at the senior level in Tokyo or Vienna (alternately). Recognizing the important role of UNODC in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Goal 16, and the reform efforts of the UN for greater field-focus, 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) Asia

While the territory controlled by ISIL in Iraq and Syria has been liberated, the return or relocation of foreign terrorist fighters (FTF) to their home countries or to third countries has spread the threat of terrorism and violent extremism around the world, including Asia. In this regard, Japan and UNODC recognize the importance to take measures for/against returning FTF and their families including the appropriate judicial prosecution and correction, as well as, to create a social environment where individuals, especially youth and women, are not influenced by violent extremism, while they will enhance their collaboration to promote measures to counter terrorism financing, maritime security measures, improved border security, measures against cybercrime, improved law

enforcement and criminal justice systems, measures to reduce prison overcrowding and efforts to address illicit drug issues, as well as the empowerment of women and youth and their role in promoting peace and security. Japan and UNODC recognize the importance of addressing security challenges and promoting community-based approach in support of peaceful transition processes in areas affected by violent extremism.

Japan and UNODC continue to cooperate in promoting border security in the Asian region, particularly ASEAN region, as a key measure to address risks associated with enhanced connectivity and to support Asian countries to realize the benefits from growing integration and trade in the region.

Japan and UNODC also recognize the importance of strengthening measures to protect women and girls who are vulnerable to human trafficking.

(2) Middle East and North Africa, including Afghanistan and neighbouring countries

Considering the frequent terrorist attacks in the region, Japan and UNODC continue to cooperate for peace and security in the region through measures to improve law enforcement and criminal justice, anti-corruption measures, strengthen border control, promote capacity building against terrorism, and counter terrorism financing. It is recognized jointly that organized drug trafficking networks revenues and money laundering have remained at an alarming level posing unprecedented destabilizing effects on the international community.

Both Japan and UNODC note the urgent need to develop capacities to collecting digital and physical evidence from conflict zones that can be used to help prosecute FTFs. Japan and UNODC also acknowledge the need to counter the resurgence of violent extremism by supporting rehabilitation and improving the situation of children and youth associated with ISIL.

Both share concerns for the significant expansion of opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan and share the view that counter-narcotics measures are indispensable for the sustainable and self-reliant development in the country. Japan and UNODC will continue to cooperate in countering those threats in a balanced, comprehensive and sustainable manner by, inter alia, strengthening capacities of law enforcement and criminal justice, including forensics, reducing drug demand, strengthening community resilience and developing alternative livelihoods, which will be supported by trends analysis and research, developed 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 Asian countries has entered its sixth phase in 2019. 195 counter narcotic officers have been 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 the Russian Federation, will enhance their cooperation in implementing Counter Narcotics Canine Project in Afghanistan in order to further strengthen Afghanistan's counter narcotics capacity.

(3) Africa

Japan and UNODC will continue efforts to fight against terrorism and violent extremism in Africa. They will focus on fostering collaboration to strengthen border control measures, including the prevention of illicit trafficking, strengthening the capacity of law enforcement and criminal justice, countering terrorism financing, ensuring maritime security.

Japan appreciates the participation of UNODC in the TICAD V in June 2013 and the TICAD VI in August 2016, and welcomes its participation in TICAD 7 from August 28 to 30 2019 in Yokohama. Japan also welcomes the official side event that UNODC plans to hold during TICAD 7 and recognizes the potential role of UNODC in promoting positive change and addressing security risks associated with increasing connectivity and integration on the continental level, and in particular in the Horn of Africa region.

2. Priority Areas of Cooperation

(1) Countering terrorism and violent extremism

Japan and UNODC strongly condemn the bombing attack in Sri Lanka in April 2019, which killed more than 250 people, including one Japanese national, and express determination to continue their cooperation in fighting against all forms of terrorism and violent extremism. They are deeply concerned about the threat posed by the Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF) phenomenon, including when individuals return to their countries of origins or seek to enter third countries after leaving conflict zones, and acknowledge the cross-regional linkages and relevance of capacity building assistance, particularly in the Middle East, Africa and Asia. They also share their recognition of growing concern in recent years about terrorism targeting so-called soft-targets and abuse of the Internet for

terrorism and violent extremism. Japan and UNODC also share the view that terrorism does not exist in isolation but stands in some cases in connection with various forms of organized crime, including trafficking in drugs, oil, cultural artefacts and illegal trafficking of weapons. In this connection, Japan acknowledges the role of UNODC in supporting Member States to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism through (1) the full implementation of relevant Security Council Resolutions including the Resolution 2396, (2) strengthening international judicial and law enforcement cooperation (3) the enhancement of maritime security, (4) the countering the financing of terrorism including illicit financial flows, (5) taking measures for returning FTFs and their families (including the capacity-building for judicial prosecution, de-radicalization, rehabilitation and reintegration), and (6) prison management and treatment of violent extremism offenders. Japan also acknowledges the role of UNODC in supporting 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 the Office for its counter-terrorism programmes in several regions, and further commits to an integrated approach for counter-terrorism and preventing violent extremism, through holistic assistance geared to improving actual conditions on the ground. Japan recognizes that cooperation with UNODC will also have the effect to contribute to ensuring safe Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo in 2020.

(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 and new psychoactive substances (NPS), by sharing relevant information on the 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 building strategies and capacities to address trafficking of drugs and precursor chemicals, and by sharing national experiences on the intensive control of NPS and the current status of substance abuse in Japan with UNODC.

Japan and UNODC reaffirm that the international drug control conventions remain the cornerstone of international drug control and will also continue cooperation in order to address and counter the world drug problem in accordance with following up on the Political Declaration and Plan of Action of

the 52nd session of the CND in 2009, the outcome of the Special Session of the UN General Assembly on the world drug problem (UNGASS) 2016, as well as the Ministerial Declaration of the 62nd session of the CND in 2019.

Japan and UNODC will also cooperate to counter the illicit trade of goods related to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and support Member States to fully implement relevant Security Council Resolutions.

In order to counter trafficking in illicit drugs and other goods, Japan and UNODC will further consider cooperation under UNODC initiatives focusing on strengthening land, air and sea border control capacities, such as the Container Control Programme, the Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP), the Global Maritime Crime Programme, and the Border Liaison Programme in Southeast Asia.

(3) Human Trafficking

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

(4) Cybercrime

Japan and UNODC share the concerns over the increase of crimes aimed at, amongst others, stealing confidential information and cryptocurrencies in cyber space. Japan acknowledges the role of UNODC in delivering technical assistance to developing countries to counter cybercrime and takes note of the achievements of the Global Programme on Cybercrime and related field-based projects 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 Japan becoming a State Party to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) in 2017. Japan and UNODC will work together to fight

against transnational organized crime including terrorism and corruption, reaffirming the important role of these treaties, to promote technical assistance in support of the full and effective implementation of these UN Conventions. Japan welcomes the decision of ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNTOC in October 2018 on the establishment of the Review Mechanism. Japan and UNODC will continue to cooperate on the establishment of the Review Mechanism of the UNTOC to be most effective and less burdensome for practitioners in the preparatory phase until 2020. Japan and UNODC will continue cooperation in the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group, taking into account "G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration", "G20 High Level Principles for Effective Protection of Whistleblowers", and "G20 Compendium of Good Practices for Promoting Integrity and Transparency in Infrastructure Development" endorsed at the G20 Osaka Summit in June 2019. Japan and UNODC recognized that the eighth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the UNCAC in December 2019 is an important opportunity for ensuring effective implementation of the Convention, especially for ensuring sustainability and efficiency of UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism. They will cooperate in preparation for and follow up on outcomes of the Conference of the States Parties.

Japan and UNODC will continue to cooperate in implementing anti-money laundering measures to prevent and eradicate transnational organized crime.

(6) Maritime Security and Safety

Japan and UNODC express their concern on the continuing transnational criminal activities, including abduction in the Sulu-Celebes Sea, and note the nexus between terrorism in the maritime domain, piracy and armed robbery against ships. Maintaining and strengthening the free and open maritime order in the Indo-Pacific region, which stretches from the Asia-Pacific through the Indian Ocean to the Middle East and Africa, will bring stability and prosperity to all the countries in this region without discrimination. Japan promotes the vision of "Free and Open Indo-Pacific", which underlines the importance of rules-based maritime order and freedom and safety of navigation in these oceans. From this perspective, Japan and UNODC will cooperate in strengthening maritime law enforcement capacity of coastal states globally.

3. Other Areas of Cooperation

(1) Enhancing cooperation towards the 14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 2020 in Kyoto

Japan and UNODC will accelerate mutual cooperation towards successful conclusion of the hosting of the 14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 2020 in Kyoto, with its overall theme entitled “*Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda*”, also aiming to translate the discussions into concrete action positively impacting the lives of people around the world. Japan and UNODC reaffirm the interlinkages between the overall theme, substantive agenda items and workshop topics of the Congress and the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 16. Japan and UNODC will also enhance their cooperative ties in the preparation for the Youth Forum for the 14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

(2) Strengthening cooperation on gender mainstreaming

Under a strong UN-wide imperative to mainstream gender equality considerations in all its work, UNODC is committed to enhancing the results it produces. Japan supports systematic and effective gender mainstreaming in the work of UNODC, specifically by incorporating a gender perspective in programmes and projects.

(3) 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, and the Ministry of Finance in customs affairs.

(4) Strengthening Cooperation and Coordination through UNAFEI

Noting the vital role of United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI), as a United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network Institute (PNI) in capacity building and technical assistance activities, Japan and UNODC will strengthen mutual cooperation and coordination through UNAFEI with a view

to enhancing synergies in capacity building and technical assistance activities related to crime prevention and criminal justice, including in the areas specified under 2.

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

Japan and UNODC will enhance the exchange of information at the field level to maintain good communication and coordination, inter alia, between overseas diplomatic establishments of Japan and relevant UNODC Field Offices. Japan encourages UNODC to continue its efforts to further strengthen strategic direction and programmatic coherence in planning its activities as an important element of facilitating coordination at the field level.

(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 senior level, mindful that UN Secretariat staff 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, provided adequate resources are considered within the programmes to be developed, 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 providing a final report and financial statement of the project within 6 months after the date of completion of the project.

(9) Governance and Finance

Japan and UNODC will cooperate in improving the governance and finance

situation of UNODC, through timely and constructive communication at all appropriate levels and through all appropriate fora, including the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (FINGOV).

Japan and UNODC cooperate on ongoing efforts by the Secretary-General to reform the UN development system which aim to strengthen coherence and coordination around the Sustainable Development Goals, recognizing that enhancing effective and efficient implementation of activities by UNODC Field Offices is particularly important to achieving sustainable impact and change on the ground. In this regard, Japan welcomes and encourages continued efforts by UNODC to further enhance strategic planning of its field operations, and to strengthen its field presence in key strategic priority contexts including by drawing upon and strengthening its global expertise in key thematic areas.

Both Japan and UNODC recognize the need for strategic and programmatic direction towards maximizing results and impact of activities and making the Japan-UNODC partnership a catalytic example for an effective partnership for development in UNODC mandate areas.

Signed in Yokohama, 2 June 2013

Signed with amendments, at the sixth Strategic Policy Dialogue held on 22 August 2019 in Vienna

Satoshi Suzuki
Deputy Minister for Foreign Policy
Director-General
Foreign Policy Bureau
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Yury Fedotov
Executive Director
United Nations Office
on Drugs and Crime