

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, terrorism and corruption, and Japan and UNODC continue to share 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 ongoing development of UNODC's strategy for the 2021-25 which highlights its important role in assisting Member States efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Goal 16; also taking cognisance of UNODCs renewed focus on effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of Field Offices, in line with the UN Development System Reform, and in addressing the global challenges posed by coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), 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 in 2019, the influence of ISIL is also widespread in Asia, and most of the recent terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka in the same year and in the Philippines and Indonesia were also caused by ISIL-related organizations or ISIL supporters.

Most recently, ISIL-Khorasan is allegedly working with a network of supporters in Maldives, claiming responsibility for multiple attacks against the properties of the Government in April in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. The targets of ISIL-related terrorism are diversified and indiscriminate. In this regard, Japan and UNODC share the concern that terrorist organizations are trying to utilize the COVID-19 pandemic situation and its impact to society, including through malicious use of ICT. Japan and UNODC recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic presents recruitment and operational opportunities to terrorist organisations in Asia. Japan and UNODC will continue to support measures to prevent terrorist organisations from exploiting these opportunities, including use of the internet for these purposes. Under these circumstances, countering violent extremism has become more important than ever. It is necessary to further strengthen measures such as supporting criminal justice authorities to cooperate in detecting, investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating terrorist offences involving the use of the Internet and digital evidence and to adhere to international conventions as frameworks for effective international cooperation in terrorism cases with the necessary rule of law safeguards. It is also important to continue preventing violent extremism (PVE) through education, including by applying international best practices such as lessons learned from the Japanese education system, and support effective strategies of de-radicalisation in prisons and community-based rehabilitation and reintegration efforts, such as those under the internationally recognized Volunteer Probation Officer system, through joint community-centered approaches that promote peace and seek to break the cycle of violence. Japan and UNODC recognize the importance of promoting the development of the South and South East Asia PVE Network for PVE practitioners at the regional level to share knowledge, experience and challenges developing and implementing PVE strategies, in particular efforts related to prevent youth and women from being influenced by violent extremism, engaging and supporting terrorism, and to develop effective partnerships with civil society organisations and the private sector, implementing whole-of-society and whole-of-government approaches, which is consistent with the notion of “Human Security”.

Japan and UNODC welcome the establishment of the South East Asia Justice Network (SEAJUST) as a catalyst to strengthen and facilitate international cooperation to tackle transnational crime in the region and other networks.

Japan and UNODC continue to cooperate in promoting border security in the Asian region, particularly the ASEAN region, as a key measure to address

risks associated with enhanced connectivity and to support Asian countries to realize the benefits from the growing exchange and integration in the region.

Japan and UNODC also recognize the importance of strengthening measures to protect those who are vulnerable to trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, and end the impunity of traffickers by strengthening and improving prosecutions and adjudication of cases. They also acknowledge the risks and threats posed by the activity of organized crime groups engaging in migrant smuggling, including in situations where conflict and/ or specific terrorist activities flourish, in particular by sea.. To these ends, both Japan and UNODC also recognize the importance of the joint participation of men and women in counter-trafficking and related law enforcement activities.

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

Terrorist attacks continue to occur frequently in these regions. Based on this point, Japan and UNODC continue to cooperate for peace and security in the regions, including at the local level, through measures to improve law enforcement and criminal justice capacities and responses to terrorism, anti-corruption measures, strengthen border control, promote capacity building against terrorism, and counter terrorism financing including financing of and supply of weapons to terrorist groups. 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. Links between organized crime and terrorism are also recognized (i.e. terrorism and drug trafficking, terrorism and trafficking in persons).

Both Japan and UNODC note the urgent need to develop capacities to collect digital and physical evidence from conflict zones that can be used to help investigate and prosecute Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs), but also forms of organized crime that are exacerbated by conflict, such as trafficking in persons.. Japan and UNODC also note that women and children who have accompanied FTF to the conflict areas are not accepted to enter their home countries with a concern that the radical thoughts promoted by ISIL will spread in their own countries. These women and children need to be supported. Japan and UNODC acknowledge the need to counter the resurgence of violent extremism by supporting rehabilitation and improving the situation of children and youth associated with ISIL. In line with UN Security Council Resolution 1325, Japan and UNODC aim to take concrete actions for women, peace, and security (WPS),

such as ensuring women's active participation in conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding processes, and protecting women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence in conflicts.

Both share concerns for the significant expansion of opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan and share the view that counternarcotic 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 seventh phase in 2020. 234 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.

Japan and UNODC are concerned about the illicit drug trafficking situation in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries. In this context, Japan acknowledges the initiatives of UNODC to enhance regional cross border cooperation by strengthening the capacity of Border Liaison Offices in Central Asia, which is supported through grant provided by Japan.

(3) West and East Africa

Japan and UNODC will continue efforts to fight against terrorism and violent extremism in Africa. They will focus on fostering collaboration towards strengthening the capacity of law enforcement and criminal justice actors to investigate, detect, prosecute and adjudicate terrorist crimes, enhancing border control measures, including through the prevention of illicit trafficking, countering terrorism financing, supply of weapons to terrorist groups, combatting trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants and ensuring maritime security and effective and evidence-based interventions at the urban level to strengthen

resilience of the most vulnerable communities to crime, violence and radicalization. Both Japan and UNODC note the urgent need to further develop capacities to collect digital and physical evidence from conflict zones, in particular in the Sahel countries and Mozambique, that can be used to help prosecute terrorist crimes.

Japan appreciates the participation of UNODC in TICAD V in June 2013, TICAD VI in August 2016, and TICAD 7 in August 2019. Japan welcomes the UNODC Strategic Vision for Africa 2020 – 2030 and recognizes the important role of UNODC in supporting Africa towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and priority goals of the African Union Agenda 2063. Japan and UNODC will further consider cooperation to address issues critical for Africa's peace and stability, with particular attention to supporting regional transformation and integration in the Horn of Africa in the context of the current transition.

2. Priority Areas of Cooperation

(1) Countering terrorism and violent extremism

Japan and UNODC share the concern that the spread of the coronavirus affects social, economic, and political situations all over the world, and as a result, anxiety about poverty, isolation due to lockdowns and quarantine, and dissatisfaction with various restrictions might come into peoples' mind. Japan and UNODC share the concern that terrorist organizations try to utilize this situation to gain people's support, promote violent narratives and even incite them to terrorism through Internet. Japan and UNODC are also deeply concerned about the threat posed by the FTFs moving from Syria or Iraq in search of next guerrilla war after the territorial defeat of ISIL 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 terrorists using new technologies and exploitation of the Internet for terrorism and violent extremism. Japan and the UNODC acknowledge the progress made by the UNODC Global Initiative on handling electronic evidence across borders in counter terrorism and organized crime cases. 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, weapons and human trafficking, particularly as they intersect at the local level.

In this connection, Japan acknowledges the role of UNODC in supporting Member States to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism in the “with Corona” era through (1) the full implementation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions including resolutions 2396 (2017) and 2482 (2019), (2) the enhancement of maritime security, (3) strengthening border control, (4) de-radicalisation in prison, (5) rehabilitation and reintegration of former terrorists, (6) empowerment and engagement of youth and women in criminal justice and PVE efforts, (7) countering the financing of terrorist groups and their supply of weapons, including illicit financial flows and arms, (8) taking measures to counter misuse of internet/social networking service, (9) capacity-building for cybercrime investigation, (10) enhancement of collection and preservation of electronic evidences, (11) diagnosing and addressing priority areas of concern at the local level, including radicalization, armed violence, and organized crime. (12) tackling CBRN terrorism, including preventing improvised explosive devices with dual-use chemical materials, and (13) strengthening the criminal justice measures against the potential recruitment and infiltration of terrorist militants among the refugee population.

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, and in supporting Member States through strengthening international judicial and law enforcement cooperation. 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 assistance whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches geared at improving actual conditions on the ground. Japan recognizes that cooperation with UNODC through its mission mandate will also contribute to holding the “Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020” in a safe and secure manner for athletes from all over the world.

(2) Trafficking in drugs and other goods

Japan and UNODC will cooperate to counter the global drug trafficking, including of 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 UNODC Early Warning Advisory on New Psychoactive Substances 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 Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) in 2009, the outcome of the Special Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGASS) on the world drug problem in 2016, as well as the Ministerial Declaration of the 62nd session of the CND in 2019.

Japan appreciates the substantial support continuously provided by CND Secretariat in the preparations of the ongoing discussions of the WHO recommendations on cannabis and cannabis-related substances, for which Japan provided financial resources to ensure interpretation into the six official languages of the CND topical meetings. In this regard, Japan and UNODC acknowledge valuable support also provided by the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) to Member States to facilitate the analysis of the WHO recommendations and the possible impact on the international drug control system.

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 UN 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) Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants

Japan recognizes that the Trafficking in Persons Protocol and the Smuggling of Migrants Protocols, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, are the key international instruments guiding the efforts of States against trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.

Japan, as a State Party to both Protocols, will continue its cooperation with UNODC to enhance the global capacity of countering trafficking in persons and

smuggling of migrants by strengthening the knowledge and capacity of countries as well as promote international cooperation and information exchange to that effect. Such steps will include the delivery and coordination of technical assistance and the continuous assistance to countries facing the challenge of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.

(4) Cybercrime

Japan and UNODC share the concerns about the seriousness of cybercrime even aggravated by the COVID-19 crisis. Japan acknowledges the role of UNODC in delivering technical assistance to developing countries to counter cybercrime and appreciates 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 and in the time of COVID-19. 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.

With regards to the discussion on a new international instrument pursuant to UN General Assembly resolution 74/247, Japan and UNODC share the view that the UNODC should continue to play a central role in this process through providing support from a neutral standpoint, and that Vienna should be the venue for negotiations.

(5) Transnational Organized Crime and Corruption

Japan and UNODC share the concern that the COVID-19 crisis could also hinder the international efforts in combating transnational organized crime. 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 prevent and combat 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 cooperate to ensure efficiency of the Review Mechanism which will start in October 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 recognize that the Special Session of the General Assembly (UNGASS) against corruption is an important opportunity for Member States to reaffirm international efforts and commitment to prevent and combat corruption.

Japan and UNODC recognize that the supply of firearms to terrorists and organized criminal groups through their illicit trafficking and manufacturing continue to pose threats to peace and security. In this regard, Japan appreciates the support that UNODC is providing to Member States in their fight against the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition.

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. Furthermore, Japan has dispatched a coast guard officer to UNODC Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP), which has been combating maritime crimes such as smuggling of migrants by sea, illegal migration and piracy in February 2020. Japan and UNODC are developing their cooperation 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 2021 in Kyoto and its follow-up

With the new dates set for the 14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and

Criminal Justice in March 2021, Japan and UNODC will further accelerate mutual cooperation towards the conduct of a safe and successful 14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 2021 in Kyoto. Its overall theme entitled “Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda”, aims to translate the discussions into concrete action positively impacting the lives of people around the world. Japan and UNODC will work to take full advantage of digital means to facilitate the holding of an intergovernmental meetings in the light of the impact of COVID19. Japan and UNODC will also work together to revitalize preparations for the Congress, and enhance follow-up to and implementation of the political declaration to be adopted at the Congress. 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 continue their cooperation in the preparation for a successful Youth Forum immediately preceding 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, inter alia through supporting targeted activities that promote women’s participation and empowerment.

(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, the Japan Coast Guard in maritime safety 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 programmes and 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 further strengthen its Results Based Management efforts to ensure timely and effective delivery of outcomes under Japan-funded programmes and projects, through effective implementation within a given period, and efficient monitoring and providing a final report and financial statement of the

programmes and projects within 6 months after the date of completion.

(9) Governance and Finance

Japan and UNODC will cooperate in improving the governance and financial 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 in 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 seventh Strategic Policy Dialogue held on 1 September 2020 virtually

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