

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 Crimes (hereafter referred to as UNODC) identified areas for strategic cooperation, and developed a joint plan of action 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 also agreed to hold annual Strategic Policy Dialogues at the senior level in Tokyo or Vienna (alternately).

During the Strategic Policy Dialogue recently held, Japan and UNODC reviewed the progress of the implementation of the plan of action and amended it as follows.

1. Basic Strategy

Japan and UNODC confirmed their shared understanding that UNODC plays an important role in maintaining law and order based on fundamental values including the rule of law through its wide ranging support to member states.

Japan and UNODC, through promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels, support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development while leaving no one behind and, for that purpose, support the meaningful engagement of youth and women in such efforts.

Japan and UNODC are committed to promoting justice and the rule of law while addressing challenges thereto, including terrorism, organized crime and corruption, as well as their commitment to promoting the international cooperation.

Japan and UNODC consider the recent adoption of the Kyoto Declaration as the outcome document of the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

Japan and UNODC consider the adoption of the UNODC Strategy 2021-2025, which recognizes the multi-dimensional nature of the Office, whose work links the peace and security, development and human rights pillars of the United Nations, and the adoption of the Strategic Vision for Africa while recognizing that Japan will continue to support African-led development toward the 8th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD8) in 2022.

Japan and UNODC recognize that COVID-19 is posing dramatic challenges to the promotion of the rule of law and they are committed to fully cooperate in promoting the rule of law during the COVID-19 pandemic and in its recovery process, while considering the perspective of human security.

2. Priority Areas of Cooperation

(1) Following up on the Kyoto declaration on advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law

- a. Intergovernmental follow-up on the Kyoto Declaration through the CCPCJ channels with ECOSOC, GA, etc.

Japan and UNODC will cooperate to facilitate the effective follow-up to the Kyoto Declaration at the intergovernmental level in organizing thematic discussions around the four pillars of the Declaration, following the CCPCJ workplan through the sharing of information, good practices and lessons learned. UNODC will organize the thematic discussions annually from 2021 to 2024 including through remote participation. This process will also offer an opportunity to showcase follow up initiatives and projects supported by Japan, carried out at UNODC HQ and in the field. UNODC will conduct promotional activities and outreach activities to relevant stakeholders.

- b. Assisting Member States in the intergovernmental process of developing a new international normative instrument in the area of reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration (Kyoto Model Strategy)**

Japan and UNODC reaffirm that preventing reoffending is one of the core objectives of the criminal justice system and recognize that efforts to reduce reoffending require a multifaceted approach that includes effective use of non-custodial measures and provision of rehabilitation and social reintegration programmes in prisons as well as in the community post-release. In the absence of a comprehensive normative instrument on reducing reoffending, UNODC will assist Member States in the intergovernmental process of developing model strategies on reducing reoffending. UNODC welcomes Japan's continued commitment to its work on crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law.

- c. Establishing a Regional Platform in Asia-Pacific on Mutual Legal Assistance and Offender Treatment and Rehabilitation (CRIM-AP)**

Pursuant to paragraphs 5 and 63 of the Kyoto Declaration, Japan and UNODC will establish a platform in the Asia-Pacific region (Criminal Justice Forum for Asia and the Pacific, in short, Crim-AP) by February 2022, which will bring together criminal justice practitioners to strengthen regional cohesion and commitment in promoting international cooperation, and to regularly meet and exchange information on various criminal justice issues, ranging from mutual legal assistance (MLA) to offender treatment and reintegration.

- d. Establishing a permanent Youth Forum**

Japan and UNODC reaffirm the important role of youths as "torch-bearers of the future" and the latter will support the former in organizing the 1st Global Youth Forum on a Culture of Lawfulness, as part of the follow-up to the 14th UN Crime Congress, to be held on 9-10 October 2021. The theme is "The role of youth in achieving a diverse and inclusive society" and builds on two previous dialogues with South-East Asian youth. UNODC will support Japan in preparing a "Discussion Guide" and as well as outreach and awareness raising activities. An outcome will be submitted to the CCPCJ.

- e. Capacity Building and Technical Assistance in CPCJ to implement the Kyoto Declaration**

Japan welcomes UNODC's continued delivery of technical assistance and capacity-building activities in crime prevention and criminal justice reform to requesting Member States. In line with the Kyoto Declaration, UNODC will support Member States' efforts to strengthen their justice systems, in particular through: evidence-based crime prevention; ensuring equal access to justice; prevention of and responses to violence against women as well as increased access to gender-responsive justice; strengthened prevention of and responses to violence against children with due consideration to their vulnerabilities, including recruitment by organized criminal groups as well as by terrorist groups;; and comprehensive penal and prison reform to reduce prison overcrowding and other prison challenges.

(2) Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism

Japan and UNODC share a common resolve to address terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. In support of the Kyoto Declaration, Japan and UNODC are committed to:

- strengthening cooperation at the international, regional and sub-regional levels to prevent and combat terrorism, including by strengthening the rule of law, ensuring the protection of human rights and integrating gender dimensions and by ensuring the implementation of the relevant international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism and by formulating strategies aimed at addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism;
- identifying, analysing and countering links between the financing of terrorism and transnational organized crime, illicit drug-related activities, money-laundering, kidnapping for ransom, and firearms trafficking;
- addressing the growing threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters; including through the improvement of border security in South and Southeast Asia to address cross-border terrorist movements as well as the improvement of prison system;
- addressing the needs and protect the rights of children and youth, with due consideration to their vulnerabilities in the context of recruitment by terrorist groups and ensuring effective measures to promote their rehabilitation and reintegration.

UNODC welcomes Japan's continued commitment to UNODC's terrorism prevention programming and UNODC commits to continue strengthening its integrated programming approach.

(3) Preventing and Countering Organised Crime and Corruption

a. Countering 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 providing policy advice and capacity building to counter cybercrime internationally and appreciates the achievements of the Global Programme on Cybercrime. Following the guidance of the Kyoto Declaration, Japan and UNODC will enhance coordination and international cooperation to effectively prevent and combat the growing threat of cybercrime. Our work will add value to the debate through strategic threat analysis, building upon our 2020/2021 darknet and cybercrime assessments and operational advice. With regards to the discussion on a new international instrument pursuant to UN General Assembly resolution 74/247 and 75/282, Japan and UNODC particularly emphasize that UNODC should continue to play a necessary role as the secretariat to facilitate this process, including, as per its mandate, to support Member States in taking into full consideration existing international instruments and efforts at the national, regional and international levels on combating cybercrime.

b. Countering Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants

Japan and UNODC share the concerns that situations of crisis and conflict, which result in population displacement, also give rise to trafficking in persons as criminal networks thrive in such contexts. Japan welcomes the intention of UNODC to work with relevant first responders including law enforcement, border control officials, service providers and personnel of reception facilities for refugees and other displaced persons in selected countries through a victim-centered, multidisciplinary approach to strengthen identification and protection of victims of trafficking among refugees and displaced persons. Japan 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.

c. Supporting the implementation of UNTOC and the Implementation Review Mechanisms

Japan and the UNODC welcomes the launch of the UNTOC Review Mechanism and support its operation, with a view to strengthen international cooperation. UNODC will endeavour to provide comprehensive support to Member States on two parallel tracks: assisting States in their substantive participation in the UNTOC Review Mechanism and strengthening the implementation of the Convention through enhancing legislative and strategic frameworks, including by implementing the observations emanating from the Mechanism. Japan will actively engage in the Review Mechanism as well as provide support to facilitate international cooperation to combat transnational organized crime, including through the maintenance of SHERLOC.

d. Supporting the implementation of UNCAC and the Implementation Review Mechanisms

Japan and UNODC reaffirm the important role of UNCAC and support the implementation of the second cycle of the Review Mechanism. Japan and UNODC will continue to collaborate to prevent and combat corruption through effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, in particular, through 1) supporting the Implementation Review Mechanism; 2) providing technical assistance, upon request, in the preparation and conduct of the country reviews as well as implementing the recommendations emanating from the country reviews; and; 3) providing working translations in the course of the country reviews.

(4) Addressing and Countering the World Drug Problem

Japan and UNODC reaffirm that the three international drug control conventions remain the cornerstone of international drug control and will continue cooperation in order to address and counter the world drug problem including current discussion on cannabis and cannabis-related substances, following up on all relevant drug policy documents, with an emphasis on implementation of recommendations made therein. Japan, as a responsible member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), is firmly committed to implementing the commitments made and aims to continue the successful cooperation with the CND Secretariat. INCB welcomes Japan's continued commitment to support INCB in its efforts to facilitate the discussion among Member States on the development of standards for monitoring and reporting cannabis and cannabis-related substances following the CND vote on the WHO recommendations.

Japan and UNODC will support Member States to help preventing and countering illicit manufacture, production and diversion of, and trafficking in drugs, in particular crystalline methamphetamine and new psychoactive substances (NPS) from South and Southeast Asia.

In this context, Japan, UNODC and INCB will cooperate to counter and address the trafficking in illicit synthetic drugs, such as amphetamine-type stimulants, new psychoactive substances and non-medical synthetic opioids, by sharing relevant information on their illicit manufacture, distribution, sale and use, through the Global SMART Programme of UNODC, and GRIDS programme of INCB

Also Japan and UNODC will promote science-based drug use prevention, treatment and recovery initiatives, including prevention initiatives for children, youths and families that are gender- and age-sensitive and based on human rights. Current initiatives will be expanded in broader regions of South and Southeast Asia.

The drug problem in Afghanistan continues to pose threats to peace and stability in the country and beyond. Japan and UNODC will closely consult on appropriate measures that could be taken to address this issue while considering the rapidly changing political environment in Afghanistan. Japan and UNODC appreciate the efforts in addressing the challenges related to the impact of illicit drugs in this region that have been conducted in cooperation with the Russian Federation.

(5) Securing peace and stability toward a Free and Open Indo Pacific

Japan and UNODC reaffirm rules-based maritime security upholding the rule of law and freedom of navigation for peace and stability.

Japan and UNODC through the Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP) will continue providing coastal countries in the Indo-Pacific region from Southeast Asia to East Africa with technical assistance for maritime law enforcement (MLE) agencies and the judiciary on maritime crimes toward a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP). The assistance will range from strengthening MLE and Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) against maritime crime, including fishery crime, to supporting anti-piracy, enforcing UN sanction regimes at sea, and countering maritime-terrorism. UNODC will also work on emerging issues at maritime domain, such as marine pollution, critical incident response and protection of submarine cables in cooperation with Japan.

In this regard, Japan and UNODC welcome the resolution 75/291 adopted by the General Assembly on 30 June 2021 on *The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy: seventh review*, which stresses the need for continued efforts to counter terrorism to enhance maritime security in accordance with international law, recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought to the fore the importance of maritime transport (OP 64, page 18). This is also reflected on the recent UNSC Presidential Statement (S/PRST/2021/15) on *Maintenance of international peace and security: Maritime Security*.

Noting the Yokohama Declaration 2019 and the New Approach for Peace and Stability in Africa (NAPSA) that were adopted and announced at TICAD 7 as well as the upcoming TICAD 8 to be held in 2022, UNODC is cognizant of the critical role of MLE and MDA for sustainable blue economy, peace and stability in Africa.

Japan and UNODC acknowledges the evolving partnership with the Japan Coast Guard (JCG) since 2018 when their Mobile Cooperation Team (MCT) dispatched instructors to Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure (VBSS) training in Seychelles for Indian Ocean states. Noting the JCG's outstanding expertise on MLE, UNODC intends to deepen the partnership through GMCP for the rule of law, freedom of navigation and maritime law enforcement in Indo-Pacific. In this regard, UNODC looks forward to the deployment of the second Non-reimbursable loan of personnel (NRLA) in the second half of 2021. Japan and UNODC continue forging regional and international cooperation to tackle maritime crime and threat through international platforms, such as the Indian Ocean Forum on Maritime Crime (IOFMC), and in corporation with regional and sub-regional organisations, such as the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), and other Member States.

3. Other Areas of Cooperation

(1) Strengthening personnel contributions of Japan

UNODC is fully aware of the interest of Japan in strengthening Japanese personnel contributions in UNODC through internal promotion, recruitment of JPOs dispatched to UNODC as regular staff and appointment of qualified Japanese nationals from outside. Japan and UNODC will consider 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.

(2) Activities of UNODC funded by Japan

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. For this purpose, 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 and UNODC will cooperate in enhancing the visibility of programmes and projects funded by Japan, sharing the view that the enhancement of the visibility contributes to strengthening the financial basis of UNODC. UNODC will take all appropriate measures to publicize the funding it receives from Japan for its activities, through an enhanced UNODC approach to communications including the standardized communications, ensuring that UNODC communications is consistent, coherent and of high quality. UNODC will endeavour to maintain effective communication with Japan on this matter.

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.

Under a strong UN-wide imperative to mainstream gender equality considerations in all its work, UNODC is committed to enhancing the gender-specific results it produces. Japan supports systematic and effective gender mainstreaming in the work of UNODC, specifically by incorporating a gender perspective in all programmes and projects, i.a. through capacity-building and supporting targeted activities that promote women's equal participation and empowerment.

(3) Cooperation with International Institutions

Japan and UNODC will strengthen mutual cooperation and coordination through international institutions inter alia through UNAFEI with a view to enhancing synergies in capacity building and technical assistance activities in the areas specified under 2.

(4) 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).

Signed in Yokohama, 2 June 2013

Signed with amendments, at the eighth Strategic Policy Dialogue held on 27 August 2021

OKANO Masataka
Deputy Minister for Foreign Policy
Director-General
Foreign Policy Bureau
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Ghada WALY
Executive Director
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime