

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, human rights, peace, and justice 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 trafficking of drugs and other illicit goods, terrorism, violent extremism, organized crime and corruption, as well as their commitment to promoting international cooperation.

Japan and UNODC reiterate their commitment to contribute to its effective implementation of the Kyoto Declaration adopted as the outcome document of the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in March 2021.

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 strongly support African-led development toward the 8th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD8) in August 2022.

Japan and UNODC share deep concern on the humanitarian, food and refugee crises caused by Russia's aggression against Ukraine, and recognize an urgent need to help Ukraine address the risk of crimes posed by the aggression, inter alia, trafficking in persons, firearms and drugs, including in collaboration with neighbouring countries to Ukraine.

In light of the current developments in Afghanistan, which have the potential to significantly impact stability on a broad scale, Japan and UNODC are committed to providing support for Afghanistan while considering the development of the "UNODC Strategic Stability Grid" as a framework for tackling transnational challenges stemming from drugs, crime and terrorism in and around Afghanistan.

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 Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (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 Multi-Year Workplan 2021-2024 for the Thematic Discussions on the Implementation of the Kyoto Declaration through the sharing of information, good practices and lessons learned. UNODC will organize the thematic discussions annually from 2021 to 2024. 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 policy advocacy, promotional activities and outreach activities to relevant stakeholders.

Annotation: UNODC organized the 1st thematic discussions in November 2021 with financial support by Japan. The 2nd thematic discussion is scheduled to be held on 5-7 December 2022.

To further support the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration, UNODC has, with financial support by Japan, developed an e-Learning tool entitled “Implementing the Kyoto Declaration”. UNODC is holding multilingual briefings for Member States on the follow-up to the Kyoto Declaration.

- b.** Intergovernmental process of developing a new set of UN standards and norms on reducing reoffending (Kyoto Model Strategies)

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 international 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 and Japan’s support to the development of new Model strategies on reducing reoffending.

Annotation: Pursuant to GA resolution 76/182 entitled “Reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration”, UNODC convened, with financial support from Japan, a virtual expert group meeting to share information on promising practices to reduce reoffending, from 6 to 8 April 2022. Pursuant to CCPCJ resolution E/CN.15/2022/L.4/Rev.1 entitled Reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration”, UNODC will convene a meeting of an open-ended intergovernmental expert group.

- c.** Establishing the Criminal Justice Forum for Asia and the Pacific

Pursuant to paragraphs 5 and 63 of the Kyoto Declaration, Japan and UNODC established a platform in the Asia-Pacific region (Criminal Justice Forum for Asia and the Pacific, in short, Crim-AP) in February 2022, which brought 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.

Annotation: Japan and UNODC organized the 1st Meeting of the Criminal Justice Forum for Asia and the Pacific (Crim-AP) in February 2022. The 2nd Meeting of the Crim-AP will be organized in February 2023.

d. Organizing the Global Youth Forum for a Culture of Lawfulness on a regular basis

Japan and UNODC reaffirm the important role of youth as “torch-bearers of the future”. The latter supported the former in organizing the 1st Global Youth Forum for a Culture of Lawfulness, as part of the follow-up to the 14th UN Crime Congress, held on 9-10 October 2021. The theme was “The role of youth in achieving a diverse and inclusive society”. UNODC supported Japan in the organization and conduct of the 1st Global Youth Forum by preparing a “Discussion Guide”, providing backstopping and substantive support, as well as outreach and awareness raising activities. An outcome was submitted to the CCPCJ.

Work with youth is also an integral part of the Global Resource for Anti-Corruption Education and Youth Empowerment (GRACE-Initiative) recently launched by UNODC.

Annotation: Japan and UNODC organized the 1st Global Youth Forum for a Culture of Lawfulness in October 2021.

Japan and UNODC are currently engaging in an organizational and substantive dialogue to prepare for the 2nd Global Youth Forum for a Culture of Lawfulness to be held in December 2022.

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 (CPCJ) 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, and expand probation services.

(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, including UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy 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 the prison and probation systems;
- addressing the needs and protecting the rights of children and youth, with due consideration to their vulnerabilities in the context of recruitment by violent extremist and terrorist groups and ensuring effective measures to promote their rehabilitation and reintegration.

UNODC welcomes Japan's continued commitment to the former's terrorism prevention programmes, 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 acknowledges and welcomes that UNODC has strengthened the functions of the secretariat through an increase in personnel. Japan and UNODC reiterate that UNODC should continue to play a necessary role as the secretariat to facilitate this process, emphasizing the importance of promoting the rule of law in cyberspace and diminishing safe havens for cybercrime through elaborating an instrument which is agreeable for all Member States by consensus.

b. Countering Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling

Japan and UNODC share the concern that the aggression against Ukraine significantly raised risks for people fleeing the conflict, mainly women and children, who are particularly vulnerable to human trafficking and other abuse. In this context, Japan welcomes UNODC's close cooperation with other UN agencies to address this issue. Japan also acknowledges the UNODC's assistance to NGOs and law enforcement officials in countries affected by the refugee crisis to strengthen anti-trafficking efforts particularly to enable the early detection and disruption of related criminal activities and the identification and protection of victims. Japan and UNODC will explore possible cooperation in providing support for combating trafficking in persons, including through supporting fact-finding missions and assessments of human trafficking risks, training for law enforcement in the investigation and prosecution of the crime and the identification of victims especially women and children in countries hosting refugee populations from Ukraine especially Moldova, closer cross-border cooperation and information sharing among specialized anti-trafficking police units and enhancing border responses in neighbouring countries to Ukraine.

c. Containing the threat of trafficking of firearms

Japan and UNODC share the concern that the aggression against Ukraine – coupled with the take-over by the Taliban in Afghanistan in August 2021- could pose security risks and vulnerabilities. Further, the arms stockpiles of those two countries could fall into the hands of traffickers and used

in crimes or in terrorist attacks. In this context, Japan and UNODC share the view that an integrated approach to contain this threat need to be implemented in countries along potential trafficking routes.

d. Supporting the implementation of UNTOC and its Review Mechanism

Japan and UNODC will continue to support the operation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) Review Mechanism 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. UNODC will also endeavour to support and facilitate the engagement of civil society, academia and the private sector in the UNTOC Review Mechanism in line with paragraph 53 of resolution 9/1. 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 Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC).

e. Supporting the implementation of UNCAC and the Implementation of Review Mechanism

Japan and UNODC reaffirm the important role of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and support its Implementation Review Mechanism, as well as the follow-up to the UNGASS political declaration. Japan and UNODC will continue to collaborate to prevent and combat corruption through supporting the effective implementation of UNCAC, in particular, through 1) supporting the practical implementation of recommendations emanating from the country reviews; and 2) providing further technical assistance based on the review results, subject to the availability of resources and upon request, in corruption prevention, criminalization and related law enforcement, asset recovery and international cooperation.

(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, through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), including progressive discussion on cannabis and cannabis-related substances, following up on all relevant drug policy documents, with an emphasis on the implementation of recommendations made therein. Japan, as a responsible member of CND, is firmly committed to implementing the commitments and aims to continue the successful cooperation with the CND Secretariat. Japan will continuously collaborate with the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) in its efforts to facilitate discussion among Member States on the standards for monitoring and reporting cannabis and cannabis-related substances to strengthen compliance with the international drug conventions, ensuring access to those substances for medical and research purposes, following the CND vote on the WHO recommendations at the reconvened 63th session of the CND in December 2020

Japan and UNODC will help Member States prevent and counter illicit manufacture, production and diversion of, and trafficking in drugs, in particular amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances (NPS) from and through Southeast Asia, with emphasis in countering methamphetamine and opiates trafficking from Afghanistan to third destinations through the South Asian route.

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 and relevant drug precursors, sharing relevant information on their illicit manufacture, distribution, sale and use, through the Global SMART Programme of UNODC, and GRIDS programme of INCB.

Japan and UNODC will also promote science-based drug use prevention, treatment and recovery initiatives, including prevention initiatives for children, youths and families in gender- and age-sensitive approaches with full respect for individual 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 as evidenced by the increasing trafficking of narcotics and synthetic drugs. 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 reaffirm its importance of the on-going support toward the Member States located around Afghanistan to strengthen their border control and law enforcement response to drug problem emerging from Afghanistan including through strengthening national capacities, Border Liaison Offices, border outposts, Port Control Units, Interagency Mobile Teams.

(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 welcomes the deployment of the second Non-reimbursable loan of personnel (NRLA) to Bangkok in January 2022. 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.

Japan and UNODC affirm the central role of ASEAN in realizing a Free and Open Indo-Pacific. In this regard, Japan and UNODC will continue cooperation in promoting justice and the rule of law in ASEAN countries including through provision of capacity building and technical assistance as well in the follow-up to the initiatives undertaken in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice on the occasion of the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation.

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 Junior Professional Officers (JPOs) as regular staff based on a fair assessment of their good performance and appointment of qualified external Japanese candidates. Japan and UNODC will consider appropriate and impartial measures that could be taken to address this interest, such as outreach efforts to attract qualified Japanese candidates to apply 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 are 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 six 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, inter alia, 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 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 in the areas specified under 2 of this Joint Plan of Action.

(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 ninth Strategic Policy Dialogue held on 25 July 2022

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