

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 held on 3 July 2023, Japan and UNODC reviewed the progress of the implementation of the plan of action, based on the strong partnership, including the new areas of cooperation, and amended it as follows.

1. Basic Strategy

<Strengthening the rule of law>

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 bear in mind 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.

Japan and UNODC, through promoting the rule of law, which is the basis of the international order that consists of friendly and equitable relations between states, as well as an essential cornerstone of a fair and just society within a country, 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 combating drugs and other illicit goods trafficking, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, terrorism, violent extremism, organized crime and corruption, as well as their commitment to promoting international cooperation.

<FOIP based on the rule of law>

Japan and UNODC reaffirm rules-based maritime security upholding the rule of law and freedom of navigation for peace and stability according to the UN Charter. Based on the new plan for a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)” announced by Japan in March 2023, Japan and UNODC will extend their efforts for security and safe use of the sea to the air. To that end, Japan and UNODC continue providing countries in the Indo-Pacific region with support for effective border control and law enforcement through, *inter alia*, the Border Management Branch of the UNODC.

<Kyoto Declaration>

Japan and UNODC reiterate their commitment to contribute to the 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.

<Africa and TICAD>

Japan and UNODC bear in mind the Strategic Vision for Africa 2030, which outlines UNODC's mission to provide more safety to Africa's people, governments and institutions from drugs, crime, corruption, terrorism and illicit financial flows, while recognizing that Japan will continue to strongly support African-led development based on the outcomes and the Declaration of the 8th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 8) in August 2022 and toward the TICAD 9 in 2025.

<Ukraine>

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 organised crime posed by the aggression, *inter alia*, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, firearms and drugs, including in collaboration with neighbouring countries to Ukraine; strengthen border management to support trade and facilitate recovery efforts in Ukraine, within the UN Transitional Framework for Ukraine; supporting Ukraine's anti-corruption efforts and governance mechanisms. We reaffirm our commitment to address the growing needs of vulnerable countries which have been expanding due to Russia's aggression against Ukraine. In this regard, Japan and UNODC acknowledge the importance of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, which facilitates the safe transportation of grain, foodstuffs and fertilizers from Ukraine, in which UNODC plays a key role.

<Afghanistan>

While Japan and UNODC are concerned about 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 the Afghan people 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.

2. Priority Areas of Cooperation

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

Japan and UNODC through the Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP) will continue providing coastal countries in the Indo-Pacific region 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 including the response to the sanction evasions at sea such as capacity-building for open registries, and countering maritime-terrorism. A part of the assistance for strengthening MDA would be provided in line with the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness Initiative (IPMDA). 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 77/298 adopted by the General Assembly on 22 June 2023 on *The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy: eighth review*, which stresses the need for continued efforts to counter terrorism to enhance maritime security in accordance with international law. This is also reflected on the recent UNSC Presidential Statement (S/PRST/2021/15) on *Maintenance of international peace and security: Maritime Security*.

Japan and UNODC commend the evolving partnership with the Japan Coast Guard (JCG) since 2018. Taking cognizant of JCG's outstanding expertise on MLE and MDA, and the deployment of two JCG officers through the Non-reimbursable loan of personnel (NRLA), UNODC intends to deepen the partnership through GMCP for the rule of law, freedom of navigation and maritime law enforcement in Indo-Pacific. UNODC welcomes the deployment of further officers through the NRLA, and the dispatch of the Mobile Cooperation Team and other JCG's officers to GMCP-led activities, including four MDA Analytical training courses in the Pacific and Southeast Asia in 2023.

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 cooperation 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, recognizing the importance of ASEAN sectoral bodies related to transnational crime and drug trafficking and supporting frameworks including the ASEAN Border Management Cooperation Roadmap and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific. In this regard, Japan and UNODC will continue cooperation in promoting justice and the rule of law in ASEAN countries including through the provision of capacity building and technical assistance of relevant authorities, 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.

Japan and UNODC reaffirm the importance of supporting the priorities and needs of Pacific Island countries in accordance with the Pacific Islands Forum's 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

(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 instruments 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, firearms trafficking, and trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants;
- 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; and
- 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.

Japan welcomes the recently launched UNODC Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Terrorism (2022-2027), which was developed based on an integrated programming approach. The reference of this global programme was noted at OP95 of the eighth review resolution 77/298 adopted on 22 June 2023 at the UN General Assembly on the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

(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 prevent and 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 technical assistance and 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 resolutions 74/247 and 75/282, Japan acknowledges and welcomes the role of UNODC in assisting the Chair and helping Member States move the process forward. 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 Smuggling of Migrants

Japan and UNODC are concerned about the ongoing trafficking on the Andaman Sea and through land borders of Rohingya, and the alarming increase in cases of trafficking in persons for forced criminality in casinos and scam centers of Southeast Asia and recognize the need to address this issue. Japan and UNODC shared the view that the prevailing situation in Bangladesh with displaced Rohingya communities remains of essential nature to address to mitigate the risks of human trafficking and organized crime groups taking advantage of vulnerable communities.

Japan and UNODC share the concern that the aggression against Ukraine significantly raised risks to people fleeing the conflict, mainly women and children, who are particularly vulnerable to human trafficking, smuggling of migrants, risks of trafficking for labour exploitation and related offences. In this context, Japan welcomes UNODC's close cooperation with other UN agencies to address these crimes. Japan also acknowledges 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 offences as well as the identification and protection of victims. Japan and UNODC will further explore possible cooperation in providing support for combating trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, including through supporting fact-finding missions and assessments of human trafficking and migrants smuggling risks, training for law enforcement in the investigation and prosecution of these two crimes and the identification of victims of trafficking and smuggled migrants, 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 and anti-smuggling 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 be misused internally and also 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 needs to be implemented in these countries and 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, including by implementing observations emanating from the Mechanism, through legislation and strategies against organized crime, including increasing resilience to the exploitation of crisis and shocks by organized crime. 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. In this context, Japan and UNODC note the value of regional platforms created to fast-track UNCAC implementation.

(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 the recommendations made therein. Japan, as a responsible member of CND, is firmly committed to implementing its commitments and continuing 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 the illicit manufacture, production, diversion, and trafficking of drugs and precursor chemicals, in particular amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances (NPS) from and through Southeast Asia, with another emphasis on trafficking from Afghanistan to third destinations through the neighbouring countries and further into 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 UNODC's field offices, the Global SMART Programme of UNODC, and Global Rapid Interdiction of Dangerous Substances (GRIDS) programme of INCB. Japan and UNODC will also continue promoting the Border Offices network and other drug control measures in Southeast Asia.

Japan and UNODC will also promote evidence-based drug use prevention, treatment and recovery initiatives, including prevention initiatives for children, youth 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. Japan and UNODC appreciate the Drug Abuse Prevention Center's (DAPC) fundraising efforts in supporting drug use prevention around the world over the 30 years, and recalled the success of a high-level side event [on the margins of the 66th regular session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)] to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the DAPC grants.

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 and regional law enforcement cooperation, Border Liaison Offices, border outposts, Port Control Units, Interagency Mobile Teams. UNODC will continue to provide Member States with relevant information on the drug situation in Afghanistan, including the effect of the opium cultivation ban introduced on April 2022.

(5) 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 organizes thematic discussions annually from 2021 to 2024. This process also offers an opportunity to showcase the 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 and 2nd thematic discussions in November 2021 and December 2022 with financial support by Japan. The 3rd thematic discussion is scheduled to be held in September 2023.

To further support the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration, UNODC, with financial support by Japan, developed an e-Learning tool entitled "Implementing the Kyoto Declaration". On the basis of the e-Learning tool, UNODC held multilingual briefings for Member States on the follow-up to the

Kyoto Declaration in 2022. UNODC also organized special events at the occasion of the CCPCJ regular sessions, ECOSOC and GA.

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 for new model strategies on reducing reoffending.

Annotation: Pursuant to ECOSOC resolution 2022/13 entitled "Reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration", UNODC will convene a meeting of an open-ended intergovernmental expert group in September 2023.

c. Organizing the Criminal Justice Forum for Asia and the Pacific on a regular basis

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 2nd Meeting of the Crim-AP in February 2023 in Tokyo, Japan.

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 and 2nd Global Youth Fora for a Culture of Lawfulness, as part of the follow-up to the 14th UN Crime Congress, held on 9-10 October 2021 and 3-4 December 2022. 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 and 2nd Global Youth Forum by preparing a "Discussion Guide", providing backstopping and substantive support, as well as outreach and awareness raising activities. An outcome paper was submitted to the CCPCJ.

Japan and UNODC are currently engaging in an organizational and substantive dialogue to prepare for the 3rd Global Youth Forum for a Culture of Lawfulness.

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 preventing data and evidence-based crime; reducing the gender gap in the justice sector; ensuring equal access to justice and community engagement; preventing and responding to violence against women as well as increasing access to gender-responsive justice; strengthening the

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 realizing comprehensive penal and prison reform to reduce prison overcrowding and other prison challenges, and expand probation services.

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 provision of a final report and financial statement of the programmes and projects within six months after the date of completion. Japan recognizes and welcomes the continuous efforts of UNODC.

(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 communications 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).

(5) Gender

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.

Signed in Yokohama, 2 June 2013

Signed with amendments, at the tenth Strategic Policy Dialogue held on 3 July 2023

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