



Cover: The "Journey" exhibition on modern-day slavery at the Vienna Forum

to Fight Human Trafficking in February.

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# Report 2009

covering activities in 2008

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#### **Preface**

2009 marks a centenary of drug control. One hundred years ago, a select group of States met in Shanghai to address a global opium epidemic. Since then, the world's supply of illicit drugs has been reduced dramatically. Over the past few years, drug use and production have stabilized. Still, there are too many illicit drugs in the world, too many people suffering from addiction, and too much crime and violence associated with the drugs trade.

This *Annual Report* provides an overview of what UNODC is doing to address the threat posed by drugs and crime.

Concerning drugs, the Office's crop surveys keep the world informed about the amount of opium in Afghanistan and South-East Asia, and the amount of coca in the Andean countries. In 2008, a *Global Assessment* sounded the alarm about the use of amphetamine-type stimulants, particularly in the developing world.

Operationally, UNODC has rallied regional and international cooperation to stem the flow of Afghanistan's opium (through the Paris Pact), and to address the threat posed by drug trafficking to the security of West Africa. We are stepping up our engagement in Central America and the Caribbean to reduce the vulnerability of these regions to drugs and crime.

UNODC is a leader in enhancing drug prevention and treatment, and in assisting states to reduce the adverse health and social consequences of drug abuse (including the spread of HIV through injecting drug use). After all, health is the first principle of drug control.

The Office is expanding its portfolio of crime control activities to strengthen the rule of law. This is not only

an important end in itself, it is the basis for socioeconomic growth. In that sense, it can be considered a prerequisite for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

In 2008, a major focus was on fighting human trafficking—a cause which gained considerable attention and momentum as a result of the Vienna Forum against Human Trafficking.

The Office is stepping up its work against other emerging forms of crime, like environmental crime, and maritime piracy, particularly around the Horn of Africa. UNODC is also deepening its engagement in peacebuilding and peacekeeping operations to strengthen criminal justice in post-conflict situations.

Corruption enables crime, and is a crime in itself. UNODC therefore works with States to fight corruption, take action against money-laundering, prevent terrorism financing, and recover stolen assets. This takes on added significance as criminals exploit the economic crisis to launder the proceeds of crime through a financial system starved of liquidity.

As this *Annual Report* demonstrates, in an unstable world, the information and expertise provided by UNODC are in high demand. In response, UNODC is expanding its portfolio, and becoming active in new issues and theatres.

Antonio Maria Costa Executive Director

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

### Highlights of 2008



**2008:** a milestone for international drug control. One hundred years have passed since the first international drug control conference, the 1909 International Opium Commission in Shanghai. The year 2008 also marks

the end of a decade since the 1998 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the world drug problem. Today, there is a high level of international consensus on drug control.



Rule of law: an important tool to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Where the rule of law is weak or absent, crime and corruption hold back development and participatory government. The rule of law is a

cross-cutting issue, and strengthening the rule-of-law component of development assistance thus helps countries attain the Millennium Development Goals.



Health at the centre of drugs and crime policies. Substance abuse and dependence is a public health, developmental and security problem. UNODC calls for a comprehensive approach to drug abuse in which

prevention and treatment of substance use disorders make up the initial stages. Provision of public health facilities to reduce the harmful consequences of drug abuse complete the approach.

#### Money-laundering and the link to terrorism financing.

Money-laundering is the method by which criminals disguise the illegal origins of their wealth and protect their asset bases. Terrorist organizations employ techniques not dissimilar to criminal money-launderers to disguise money.



Towards justice and security for all. Crime, usually organized and often transnational, profits from instability and tends to perpetuate it. Human trafficking is one example. UNODC and the Global

Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) are working to eradicate this crime that shames us all.



ATS consumption on the rise.
UNODC's Amphetamines and
Ecstasy: 2008 Global ATS
Assessment shows that although the
number of people who have used
amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS)

at least once in the last 12 months has stabilized, increases have occurred in parts of the world that previously had small ATS-related problems.



Integrity and good governance: at the top of the agenda. Across the world, corruption undermines democracy and impedes economic development. UNODC encourages good governance by helping countries, particu-

larly those with vulnerable, developing or transitional economies, to prepare and use solid anti-corruption measures applicable to all spheres of society.



Regional strategies to fight drugs, crime and terrorism. Many of the issues on UNODC's agenda call for regional responses. The UNODCcoordinated Rainbow Strategy, which engages both Afghanistan

and surrounding countries in finding solutions to the threat posed by Afghan opiates, is one of many examples.



Strategy implementation and expenditures. As part of working towards results-based management, UNODC is making the links between the medium-term strategy and the budget more explicit.



Resource mobilization and partnership development. UNODC is strengthening its partnerships to pool expertise and leverage resources.

### Abbreviations and acronyms

The following abbreviations have been used in this report:

ANCAP Administracion Nacional de Combustible Alcohol y Portland
ANTEL Administracion Nacional de Telecomunicaciones de Uruguay

ATS amphetamine-type stimulants (methamphetamine, amphetamine, ecstasy)

CARICOM Caribbean Community EC European Commission

ECOWAS Economic Community of West African States

FIU Financial Intelligence Unit

ILO International Labour Organization

INTERPOL International Criminal Police Organization
 IOM International Organization for Migration
 MDGs United Nations Millennium Development Goals

NATO North Atlantic Treaty Organization NGO non-governmental organization OAS Organization of American States

OHCHR Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OIF Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie
OPEC Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
OSCE Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

SICA Central American Integration System

StAR Stolen Asset Recovery

UNAIDS Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCAC United Nations Convention against Corruption

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNDEF United Nations Democracy Fund

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

UN.GIFT United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking

UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund

UNICRI United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

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