

Annual Report 2008

covering activities in 2007

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Preface

Drugs, crime and terrorism remain three of the greatest threats to the peace, security and well-being of humanity. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is therefore in high demand.

Growing confidence in the ability of UNODC to help States confront these challenges was reflected in a healthy increase in voluntary contributions in 2007. Recognition of the valuable work that the Office is carrying out is growing in the media, the public and among peer organizations.

The work carried out by UNODC in 2007 reaffirmed the merits of the Office's three-pronged approach, which is based on *research* that ensures that policy is evidence-based, a *strong legal framework* that helps States fight drugs, crime and terrorism according to the rule of law and an *operational response* that is made possible by the political ownership of the States concerned, technical assistance from UNODC headquarters and the involvement of the Office's worldwide network of field offices.

Success depends on building partnerships between UNODC and Member States and between UNODC and other United Nations entities, regional organizations, development banks, international financial institutions, civil society, the private sector and the media. This is important for generating political will, pooling resources, sharing information and mobilizing support. Most of all, it is essential for generating a society-wide response to issues like drugs, human trafficking and corruption, which affect us all.

In 2007, UNODC continued its active engagement in core countries and regions—Afghanistan, Myanmar, Central Asia and the Andean countries—while expanding its work in West Africa. Human trafficking and corruption took centre stage. Drug control efforts, which have long focused on supply and interdiction, stressed demand reduction. These issues are profiled in this annual report. As you will see, the challenges are great.

Opium trafficking is fuelling instability in one of the world's most dangerous regions. Afghanistan and its neighbours are trying to cope with the consequences and UNODC is there to help by providing and analysing data on opium poppy crops, facilitating regional cooperation and assisting affected countries to strengthen border management and drug control. Cocaine trafficking is threatening the security and sovereignty of vulnerable West African countries that are being used as a hub for drug consignments travelling between Andean producers and European consumers. UNODC has alerted the world to the problem and is on the ground helping embattled Governments to bolster their defences.

The menace of drug trafficking has caught Central America and the Caribbean in a cross-fire that is jeopardizing security and development. UNODC has studied the factors that make this region vulnerable in order to stimulate a suitable response.

Drug addiction is killing millions of people every year and creating misery for tens of millions of others. The injection of drugs is spreading HIV and hepatitis. UNODC is urging States to put a stronger emphasis on drug prevention and treatment, and is providing technical assistance to reduce the harm that drugs pose to users and society as a whole.

Human trafficking is becoming more exposed and better understood thanks, in part, to the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT). The challenge now is to take action.

Corruption is a cancer that continues to kill people's trust in public administration and erode the common wealth built by society. UNODC is helping States prevent corruption, build integrity and recover stolen assets.

This wide range of activities is taking on a more strategic direction now that policy planning and the budget have become more closely integrated. UNODC has set clearer milestones for itself by adopting a new medium-term Strategy for the period 2008-2011 and has made it easier for Member States to understand what the Office can offer by drawing up a new Menu of Services.

All of this will enable UNODC to live up to growing expectations.

Antonio Maria Costa Executive Director United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Highlights of 2007



Containing the world drug problem: Drug control is working, said the *World Drug Report 2007*, UNODC's flagship publication. Global supply, trafficking and consumption of cocaine, heroin, cannabis and

amphetamines have stabilized. Worldwide efforts to contain the world drug problem have effectively reversed a quarter-century-long rise in drug abuse and headed off a global pandemic. Afghanistan, however, bucked the trend with soaring opium production.



Seeds of insecurity: In 2007 Afghanistan's opium poppy cultivation reached record levels. There have been some successes: opium is grown in fewer provinces. But in the main growing area of Helmand the

increases have far outstripped reductions elsewhere. Heroin transiting through Central Asia to Europe is causing addiction, spreading HIV and funding organized crime.



Human trafficking: No country is immune from the crime of human trafficking, either as source or destination countries. To tackle this inhuman trade, UNODC is spearheading the Global Initiative to

Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) with partners in the United Nations system and beyond.



Africa under attack: The beleaguered nations of West Africa, and Guinea-Bissau in particular, are struggling to repel the onslaught of cocaine trafficked from South America. In 2007, UNODC rang the warning bell

and is mobilizing international assistance to help prevent a crisis.



Central America and the Caribbean caught in the cross-fire: Drug trafficking is fuelling violent crime and posing a serious obstacle to economic development in Central America and the Caribbean, which are trapped between the world's biggest suppliers and consumers of cocaine. In 2007, two reports examined this situation and called for an effective operational response.



Fighting corruption: For decades, corrupt leaders have absconded with the national treasury of impoverished nations. The Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative, launched in September 2007 by UNODC and

the World Bank, is designed not only to help developing countries recover such stolen assets, but also to work with the developed world to eliminate impediments to returning these vital assets.



Strengthening the legal regime against terrorism: The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted by the General Assembly in September 2006, calls for greater action to prevent terrorism, a main

plank of UNODC's mandate. To strengthen international law against terrorism, UNODC lends its expertise in the ratification and implementation of international legal treaties and related domestic legislation.



Adding value: To respond more effectively to the global threats of drugs and crime, UNODC set out a blueprint for action in its Strategy for the period 2008-2011. To implement the Strategy, the Office has devel-

oped a Menu of Services to showcase the kinds of technical assistance it can provide to Member States.



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

Abbreviations and acronyms

The following abbreviations have been used in this report:

AIRCOP	Airport Communication Project	
ATS	amphetamine-type stimulants (methamphetamine, amphetamine, ecstasy)	
CARICC	Central Asia Regional Information and Coordination Centre	
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States	
CTC	Counter Terrorism Committee (of the Security Council)	
CTED	Executive Directorate (of the Security Council)	
DAPC-Japan	Drug Abuse Prevention Centre	
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States	
EFCC	Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (of Nigeria)	
Europol	European Law Enforcement Organisation	
Interpol	International Criminal Police Organization	
NGO	non-governmental organization	
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	
OPEC	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries	
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe	
ProFi	Programme and Financial Management and Information System	
StAR	Stolen Asset Recovery	
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS	
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme	
UNDEF	United Nations Democracy Fund	
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	
UN.GIFT	United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking	
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund	
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services	
WCO	World Customs Organization	
WHO	World Health Organization	

Measurements:

ha	hectares
tons	metric tons

Amphetamine-type stimulants. Photo: Ioulia Kondratovitch

Containing the world drug problem

Containment is working. That was the positive and significant headline message from the *World Drug Report 2007*, the flagship publication of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). In the report, UNODC said that global efforts to combat the production and use of illicit drugs were succeeding in bringing drug abuse under control, although the situation was still fragile. Belying doomsday forecasts of an ever-expanding nightmare of addiction, the Office also said there was robust evidence that the global supply of, trafficking in and consumption of all drugs had stabilized.

"For almost every kind of drug—cocaine, heroin, cannabis and amphetamine-type stimulants—there are signs of overall stability, whether we speak of cultivation, production or consumption. Hopefully, within the next few years evidence to support this claim will become statistically and logically incontrovertible," said UNODC Executive Director Antonio Maria Costa in the preface to the *World Drug Report 2007*.

While a number of factors contributed to this upbeat note, progress in containment coincided with drug control efforts led by the United Nations and a recession in the drug economy. These gains could rapidly come undone. Nor was the good news universal. Progress in some areas was offset by setbacks elsewhere. The situation in Afghanistan, in particular, was a black mark on a positive report card: the dramatic 50 per cent jump in opium production witnessed in that country in 2006 far outweighed the declining contribution made by the once-infamous Golden Triangle of South-East Asia. Other concerns included increasing cocaine consumption in Europe, drug trafficking in parts of Africa and the unsolved dilemma of the world's 25 million problem drug users. It is estimated that approximately 200 million people, nearly 5 per cent of the world population aged 15 to 64, use illegal drugs.

Cocaine. The *World Drug Report 2007* tracked a continued decline in coca bush cultivation in the Andean



countries. Global cocaine consumption remained steady, although a reduction in the United States was undermined by alarming increases in Europe, particularly in Spain, Italy and the United Kingdom. In Spain, the main entry point for cocaine to Europe, the report showed that 3 per cent of the population used cocaine; among teenagers, the figure rose to 4.1 per cent. In contrast, 2.8 per cent of the population of the United States and 3.6 per cent of its teenagers used cocaine in 2006.

Amphetamine-type stimulants. The global production of amphetamine-type stimulants or ATS (methamphetamine, amphetamine and ecstasy) stabilized in 2005. The production of methamphetamine continued to be concentrated in North America, notably in Mexico and the United States, and in South-East Asia, particularly in Myanmar, China and the Philippines. Ecstasy production remained concentrated in Europe, notably in the Netherlands and Belgium, although production also grew outside Europe, particularly in North America and South-East Asia. Europe continued to be the main producer of amphetamine, with the Netherlands and Poland leading, followed by the countries of the Baltic region and Belgium. At close to 25 million consumers, the market for methamphetamines and amphetamines continued to be larger than that for cocaine (14 million users) or heroin (11 million users).

To help countries in South-East Asia deal with the rising use of ATS, UNODC is working on a training manual, the first of its kind for service providers. UNODC collected data on ATS from States members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations and China. A common database for ecstasy tablets, which covers photographic and basic forensic information on significant seizures, was finalized.

Cannabis. The production and consumption of cannabis levelled off for the first time in the last decade. Still, marijuana, which is grown in 172 of the 198 countries and territories for which UNODC obtained information, attracted close to 160 million customers annually, or 3.8 per cent of the population aged 15 to 64. The cultivation of cannabis herb remained concentrated in North America and Africa. The largest amounts of cannabis resin were produced in Morocco, followed by Afghanistan and Pakistan. While the production of cannabis resin declined in Morocco, it increased in Afghanistan.

New strains of higher potency cannabis made people sick as well as high. As a result, more people had to be admitted into emergency rooms and more pot smokers sought treatment.

Opium. Levels of opium poppy cultivation and opium production were significant and increased in both 2006 and 2007. Cultivation and production were concentrated in the southern provinces of Afghanistan. The greatest spike in figures was recorded in Helmand province, which alone is the most important source of opium in the world and where the security situation is extremely poor. Since opium production declined in several other parts of Afghanistan where conditions

The area in Myanmar devoted to opium poppy cultivation rebounded by 29 per cent in 2007 to reach 27,700 ha and production jumped by 46 per cent to 460 tons, according to a UNODC report entitled *Opium Poppy Cultivation in South-East Asia: Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand.* That followed a decline to just 21,500 ha in 2006 from 130,000 ha in 1998.

The *World Drug Report 2007* attributed the surge in opium poppy cultivation to corruption and lack of Government control in areas held by insurgents. The situation was mainly restricted to Shan State,where, as in parts of Afghanistan and Colombia, drugs and insurgency combined to fuel insecurity.

Also worrying is the emergence of a more lucrative trade in methamphetamines, which has offset the decade-long decline in opium cultivation.

Alternative development in the Andes

In the Andean countries of Bolivia, Colombia and Peru, together the world's main cocaine-producing region, the overall situation was stable yet fragile. Global cocaine production in 2006 was unchanged at 984 tons. Areas of land devoted to coca bush cultivation grew by 7 per cent in Peru and 8 per cent in Bolivia in 2006 to reach 51,400 ha and 27,500 ha, respectively, but decreased in Colombia by 9 per cent. In 2006, 156,900 ha were under coca bush cultivation in the three countries, a 2 per cent decrease from the 159,600 ha that were under such cultivation in 2005, according to a survey entitled *Coca Cultivation in the Andean Region: A Survey of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.*

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