



### **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was established in 1997 after the merger of the United Nations Drug Control Program (UNDCP) and the Center for International Crime Prevention (CICP). Its mission is to tackle issues such as drug trafficking, organized crime, corruption, and violent extremism. In general, the UNODC promotes peace, security, justice, and human rights globally. It plays a key role in enforcing international treaties on drugs and crime, and it also provides technical assistance to Member States, monitors drug trafficking, and combats issues like human trafficking and money laundering. The organization has also helped seize illicit goods and substances and promoted access to controlled medications for medical use. It is also the main partner of the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in providing care for people who use drugs or live in detention facilities.

Currently, the UNODC is led by Egyptian policy expert Ghada Fathi Waly, and its headquarters are in Vienna, Austria. The organization has more than 500 staff members and 21 offices in various countries. Moreover, the UNODC is involved in multiple global initiatives, including the following:

- Development of programs to prevent and treat drug abuse.
- Support for the fight against human trafficking and migrant smuggling.
- Promotion of more effective and equitable criminal justice systems.
- Monitoring and analyzing trends related to drug trafficking and organized crime.
- Support in the fight against corruption and money laundering.

Nonetheless, a significant limitation of the UNODC is its dependency on voluntary contributions from Member States, multilateral organizations, private sector and other donors, which makes predictable and adequate funding to remain a challenge. This often restricts the organization's ability to implement long-term initiatives effectively. Additionally, the resolutions issued by the agency are usually non-binding, meaning they lack legal enforcement power and rely on the political will of the international community to act upon them. Also, its decision-making processes often require consensus and





overseeing its operational activities is quite complex, considering the UNODC has two parallel governing organisms: the Commission on Narcotics Drugs (CND) and the Secretariat.

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