

**UNODC contributions to the
Secretary-General's report on Oceans and the law of the sea**

Implementation of A/RES/72/73

OP 18. *Also calls upon* States and international institutions, including through bilateral, regional and global cooperation programmes, technical partnerships and fellowships, to support and strengthen capacity-building activities in developing

With regard to *technical aspects*, UNODC seeks to identify novel, resource efficient, and sustainable ways for Member States to tackle crime at sea, including through use of technological advance such as satellite-based technology. UNODC is piloting the use of satellite-based technology to monitor, prevent and respond to maritime crime threats in partnership with Vulcan Inc. The SkyLight system developed by Vulcan Inc. incorporates both satellite imagery and Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)/Automatic Identification System (AIS) data to identify suspicious activity at sea. UNODC will support maritime law enforcement authorities in planning and executing operations in response to information from this platform to build expertise in building intelligence- led operations. Focus will, in the first instance, be on suspected illegal trans-shipments at sea as these are a marker for illicit activity.

OP 119. Recognizes the crucial role of international cooperation at the global, regional, sub-regional and bilateral levels in combating, in accordance with international law, threats to maritime security, including piracy, armed robbery against ships at sea and terrorist acts against shipping, offshore installations and

in Seychelles. UNODC also continues to support the prisons in Kenya, Seychelles, Puntland and Somaliland that hold those charged with/suspected of piracy.

UNODC is supporting Nigeria in passing a Suppression of Piracy and other Maritime Offences Bill, as part of the legal reform on piracy in the Gulf of Guinea. The draft is with the President's Office for submission to the National Assembly as an Executive Bill. A legal advisor is embedded within the Federal Ministry of Justice, Department for Public Prosecution to provide support on the draft bill and training in prosecutors on legal matters related to piracy and maritime offences.

OP. 128. *Recognizes continued national, bilateral and trilateral initiatives, as well as regional cooperative mechanisms, in accordance with international law, to address piracy, including the financing or facilitation of acts of piracy, and armed robbery at sea, and calls upon States to give immediate attention to adopting, concluding and implementing cooperation agreements at the regional level on combating piracy and armed robbery against ships;*

UNODC acts as secretariat to the Law Enforcement Task Force (LETF) of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS). The LETF is a closed meeting of law enforcement officials from a number of states along with INTERPOL and EUROPOL, engaged in the investigation of those individuals who are believed to have been involved in the organization of piracy attacks, associated kidnap for ransom, ransom negotiation and money laundering.

OP. 129. *Expresses serious concern at the inhuman conditions hostages taken at sea face in captivity and also the adverse impact on their families, calls for the immediate release of all hostages taken at sea, and stresses the importance of cooperation among Member States on the issue of hostage-taking at sea;*

OP. 130. *Welcomes, in this regard, the ongoing work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Hostage Support Programme, funded by the Board of the Trust Fund to Support Initiatives of States Countering Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, in securing the release of seafarers held hostage off the coast of Somalia;*

UNODC work in support of the eight Iranian hostages still held by

strengthening institutional capacity to fight piracy and tackle its underlying causes,

Piracy, Armed Robbery against Ships, and Illegal Maritime Activity in West and Central Africa, and calls upon States in the region to implement the Code of

drugs and psychotropic substances, within the scope of the United Nations instruments against illicit drug trafficking, as well as the smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and illicit trafficking in firearms and criminal activities at sea falling within the scope of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

UNODC, in partnership with the World Customs Organization (WCO), works with countries to enhance trade supply chain security to prevent cross-border movement of illicit goods and to facilitate legal trade. A key focus is the establishment of Port Control Units in seaports, dry ports and at airports. To date, more than 70 Units have been established, most of which are in seaports, in 49 countries across the world. Large quantities of illegal goods have been seized by the CCP Port Control Units, including illicitly trafficked drugs, counterfeit goods, strategic trade and dual use goods, and proceeds of wildlife crime. Officials trained under the Programme apply their newly-acquired skills and use risk-based targeting methodology in their work.

In 2017, UNODC launched a new technical assistance programme focusing on fisheries crime. Over the past year, the training programme has been implemented in South Asia and West Africa; implementation in East Africa and Southeast Asia will take place in the coming years.

UNODC supports the Indian Ocean Forum on Maritime Crime which engenders international cooperation at all levels to fight transnational organized criminal activities at sea. The Forum focuses on a wide array of Maritime Crime from Somali charcoal and sugar smuggling, to heroin trade from Makran Coast into East Africa.

International cooperation to secure the prosecution of piracy financiers and high level organisers is supported by UNODC under the Law Enforcement Task Force.

In South East Asia, UNODC runs Maritime Law Enforcement Dialogues aimed at building stronger cooperation among Member States in the Region to tackle shared challenges related to transnational organized crime in the maritime domain.

UNODC is managing a Contact Group on Kidnap for Ransom in the Sulu and Celebes Sea.

OP 152. *Calls upon* States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and to take appropriate measures to ensure their effective implementation;

Fiji ratified the Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants Protocols on 19 September 2017; the State of Palestine ratified the Trafficking in Persons Protocol on 29 December 2017.

OP. 172. *Encourages* greater dialogue and cooperation among States and the relevant regional and global organizations through workshops and seminars on the

protection and maintenance of fibre-optic submarine cables to promote the security of such critical communications infrastructure;

OP. 173. Also encourages the adoption by States of laws and regulations addressing the breaking or injury of submarine cables or pipelines beneath the high seas done wilfully or through culpable negligence by a ship flying its flag or by a person subject to its jurisdiction, in accordance with international law, as reflected in the Convention;

OP. 355. Encourages States to work closely with and through international organizations, funds and programmes, as well as the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and relevant international conventions, to identify emerging areas of focus for improved coordination and cooperation and how best to address these issues;

UNODC continuously monitors trends in transnational maritime crime. As well as piracy and armed robbery at sea, the trafficking of people, arms and drugs by sea, smuggling of migrants, and crimes associated with the fishing industry, UNODC is starting to work on the following emergent crimes:

- x Destruction of submarine cables
- x Fuel theft
- x Attacks of shipping by armed terrorist groups
- x Kidnap for ransom in Sulu and Celebes sea
- x Trafficking of arms to terrorist groups by sea

Work to engender international cooperation to tackle maritime crime has been presented in the section related to § 148 above.