

**IV Annual Coordination Conference of the Regional Organizations and International  
Partners in the area of Justice Home Affairs and Security Cooperation**

remarks by

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Mr. Chariman,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, allow me to thank the Regional Cooperation Council for organising this important meeting to promote regional cooperation in the area of Justice and Home Affairs and Security. Allow me also to congratulate you all for the decisions adopted by the Steering Group on Regional Strategy.

UNODC has been cooperating with your countries and with the Regional Cooperation Council for several years. The most recent joint effort was part of the Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe. The programme promoted the strengthening of mutual coordination and enhanced partnership among participating Governments with the aim of contributing to good Governance, Justice and Security in the region.

The Regional Programme has served to reinforce the national and regional responses to transnational crime threats, based on a common platform centred on three thematic and inter-linked pillars of (1) Organised crime and terrorism; (2) Justice and Integrity; and (3) Drug prevention, and HIV treatment and care.

To date, UNODC has been able to deliver a set of inter-related global, regional and country level activities. We have, for example, managed together to achieve anticipated programme outcomes in the areas of research and trend analysis, criminal justice development, anti-human trafficking,

anti-corruption and drug abuse prevention, treatment and care and achieved, inter-alia, the following results:

- Strengthened national statistical systems on justice and home affairs in the Western Balkans;
- Guidelines on international legal cooperation instruments for combating human trafficking and smuggling of migrants;
- Report on “Corruption in the western Balkans: bribery as experienced by the population” and detailed individual reports for each country or area surveyed under this project.

These achievements were recently discussed in detail in Vienna during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Regional Programme Steering Committee, as part of the concluding review exercise.

Some donors have been generous towards this programme, but unfortunately the initially positive funding trends could not be maintained, funds mobilized from donors until mid 2011 were less than 30% of the anticipated programme volume, and programme delivery stayed well below set targets. We closed the UNODC Programme Office in Bulgaria in late 2010, in direct relation to the regional programme’s funding shortfall, and the UNODC overall financial situation, and continued only those successful ongoing programme components at regional and individual country levels that had sufficient funding and a good prospect for future continuation or expansion. UNODC has maintain six project operations and secure the continued service of at least our essential staff operating in the project offices in Albania and Serbia.

UNODC together with countries of the region has developed a new programme outline 2012-2015 for the Regional Programme which serves as a tool to continue and consolidate ongoing successful work in areas of mutual concern, notably human trafficking, drug demand reduction and law enforcement interventions, but also as a framework for joint action between the countries in the region, strong bilateral actors and regional entities, and UNODC. This new programme clearly builds upon previous and current joint achievements in the region, entails new partnership components for joint resource mobilization and improved technical focus. The new programme will focus more attention on the key transnational crime threat that the region is facing, and that is the southern corridor of Afghan heroin trafficking leading straight through the region, with the related crime, corruption and social problems. Therefore, we propose new action in three main

areas: (1) countering illicit trafficking and organized crime; (2) promoting integrity and judicial development; and (3) enhanced drug prevention, treatment and care for drug users, HIV-AIDS patients and risk groups.

With the countries of the region having created improved legal framework, policies and action plans against drugs and illicit trafficking, also within the 2009-2011 regional programme, it is vital now to focus on operational achievements and prosecution results against drug traffickers, organized crime groups and their networks at country level. Strong national programme components are to be backed up by regional interventions to strengthen, for example, cooperation between neighbouring countries, joint border control action, mutual legal assistance, and joint investigations, as the criminal networks clearly operate throughout your region, and beyond.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to conclude by stressing the good exiting cooperation with the authorities in the region and the Regional Council for Cooperation and expressed our sincere appreciation for the work done until today, and the achievements made under the 2009-2011 programme. We expect to be able to build upon these results and continue work successfully to achieve our joint goals for the upcoming years in the region.

Thank you for your attention,