



issues related to refugees and internally displaced persons to combating organized crime to constitution-making and legal reform.

- Five or more United Nations entities are currently working simultaneously on the rule of law in at least 24 countries, the majority of which are in conflict and post-conflict situations; 16 of these countries host Security Council-mandated peace operations. In addressing these areas, it is critical that gender analysis is systematically integrated with a view to ensuring that the rule of law extends to women's human rights entitlements.<sup>4</sup>
- In Afghanistan, for example, United Nations assistance since 2002 has covered a range of activities from support for constitution-making, to drafting national justice and security strategies; comprehensive legal reform and transitional justice; strengthening of the police and other law enforcement institutions; gender justice and justice for children, and from housing, land and property issues relating to refugees and internally displaced persons to combating organized crime. In Angola, following its decade-long involvement in the peace process, the United Nations now focuses on capacity-building for justice and law enforcement, gender justice and legal empowerment of women, combating corruption and organized crime.
- The demand for United Nations rule of law assistance at the national level has been growing steadily. For example, over 12,000 United Nations police officers, out of an authorized strength of 16,900, are currently deployed in 19 peace operations, representing an increase of more than 100 per cent of personnel deployed in this sector since 2006. Two hundred and fifty judicial affairs officers and more than 150 corrections officers are authorized in 12 United Nations peace operations to assist the host-country in legal, judicial and prison reforms. The United Nations is also increasingly engaged in security sector reform.<sup>5</sup>
- Presently, various UN departments, agencies, funds and programmes conduct a range of rule of law activities. Recently a new inter-departmental and inter-agency mechanism was established to ensure policy coherence and coordination among these entities. It consists of the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group which is supported by the Rule of Law Unit in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, with a system of designated lead entities for various aspects of the UN's rule of law framework.

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Key Issues for Consideration