



United Nations

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

**Report on the reconvened
sixty-first session
(5–7 December 2018)**

**Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2018
Supplement No. 8A**

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

[24 December 2018]

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decision for adoption by the Economic and Social Council

1. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Draft decision

Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened sixty-first session

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened sixty-first session.

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

2. The attention of the Economic and Social Council is drawn to the following resolution, adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its reconvened sixty-first session, and to the action taken pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/185 C, in section XVI of which the Assembly authorized the Commission to approve the programme budget for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme:

Resolution 61/12

Implementation of the budget for the biennium 2018–2019 for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Exercising the administrative and financial functions entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/185 C, section XVI, paragraph 2, of 20 December 1991, and fulfilling its mandate set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/30 of 28 July 1999,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on the implementation of the consolidated budget for the biennium 2018–2019 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,¹ as well as the additional information provided to the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the Office for its deliberations,

Noting with concern the financial challenges facing the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime due to the shortfall in general-purpose funding and underlying funding trends affecting the Office's ability to effectively uphold core programmatic functions, such as normative work and research,

Taking note with appreciation of the contribution of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to the efforts of the Secretary-General to implement General

¹ E/CN.7/2018/14-E/CN.15/2018/16.

Assembly resolution 72/266 B of 5 July 2018 on shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations,

Welcoming the engagement of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with the Secretary-General and relevant programmes, funds, specialized agencies and other United Nations entities to implement General Assembly resolution 72/279 of 31 May 2018 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and underscoring the importance of full implementation of Assembly resolution 71/243 of 21 December 2016 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

Taking note of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime initiative to create a one-off surge capacity, funded by programme support cost funds, including to strengthen field-based presence in the context of United Nations system reform processes,

Taking note also of General Assembly resolution 72/279, in which the Assembly requested the United Nations development system to further harmonize cost recovery by individual system entities through differentiated approaches,

Recalling its resolution 60/10 of 8 December 2017, in which it requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to further explore the best appropriation of programme support cost funds to support indirect functions of field offices and to more broadly use programme support cost funds at headquarters and in field offices, as appropriate,

Recalling also that Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations emphasizes the paramount consideration of efficiency, competence and integrity with regard to the recruitment of staff and that due regard is to be paid to the importance of recruiting staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 69/251 of 29 December 2014, in which the Assembly noted with disappointment the insufficient progress made with regard to achieving the goal of a 50/50 gender balance in the United Nations common system, especially in the Professional and higher categories, and requested the International Civil Service Commission to encourage the organizations of the common system to fully implement existing gender-balance policies and measures,

Recognizing that the principle of equitable geographical distribution and the goal of equal representation of women in the composition of the Secretariat should not conflict with the paramount consideration in the employment of staff, namely the necessity of securing the highest standard of efficiency, competence and integrity as set out in Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Noting with concern the continuing lack of diversity, in particular with regard to equitable geographical representation, within the staff of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,² and emphasizing that the Office, both at headquarters and in the field, should take more effective measures to ensure the recruitment of a diverse pool of candidates, particularly within the Professional and higher categories,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2018/7 of 12 June 2018, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 26/3 of 26 May 2017 and Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 59/5 of 22 March 2016 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into the policies and programmes of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

Welcoming the development and implementation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

² See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 30 (A/73/30)*, annex V.

(2018–2021), including through the establishment of a gender team in the Office of the Executive Director,

Noting the importance of having a sustainable gender function at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, ensuring that gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women are integral parts of all aspects of the work of the Office,

Recalling its resolution 61/1 of 14 March 2018,

1. *Notes* that the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the consolidated budget for the biennium 2018–2019 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime¹ provides information on the adjustments to the consolidated budget;

2. *Also notes* the continued full confidence of Member States in programme delivery by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

3. *Further notes* the involvement of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the United Nations reform processes;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to examine options to review its programme planning, financing and results reporting processes to ensure effective collaboration in the context of a revitalized strategic, flexible and results- and action-oriented United Nations Development Assistance Framework, without prejudice to the mandates of the Office, and to provide a written update at the next quarterly meeting of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the Office, on potential implications and adjustments required, for further consideration by Member States;

5. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to update Member States on its efforts towards implementation of resolution 72/266 B on shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations and to report to the Commission at its next reconvened session;

6. *Requests* the secretariat to update Member States in writing at regular intervals, including at the sixty-second reconvened session, on its progress towards the implementation of resolution 72/279 and relevant United Nations development system reform measures, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime initiative to create a one-off surge capacity, with a view to identifying sustainable and financially viable options and benefits for the field network of the Office, including in the light of the reformed United Nations resident coordinator system, to strengthen the Office's delivery of its mandates to Member States;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in the light of the formulation of the budget for the biennium 2020–2021, to present to Member States its longer-term vision or strategy for the Office, including its headquarters and a strengthened and sustainable field network, and the financial implications as well as potential reallocations necessary to address those implications;

8. *Urges* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to engage with the Secretary-General and relevant programmes, funds, specialized agencies, other United Nations entities and Member States, with a view to supporting the full implementation of General Assembly resolutions 71/243 and 72/279, and to consider the development of an appropriate approach to the funding modalities to finance the new resident coordinator system, based on the three funding sources set out in paragraph 10 of resolution 72/279, and to report to Member States before June 2019;

9. *Strongly encourages* the Deputy Secretary-General, as Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, to consider the inclusion of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the core group of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group during the review of its composition after its first year of operation, taking into account the unique mandates and field presence of the Office;

10. *Notes* the cost-saving measures taken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to maintain general-purpose expenditure at 5,403,200 United States dollars and programme support cost expenditure at 25,426,300 dollars for the biennium 2018–2019;

11. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue its efforts to ensure the effective use of resources and to also continue to improve efficiency measures and cost savings, bearing in mind the efficiency gains envisioned in the report of the Secretary-General on repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,³ to be redeployed for development activities;

12. *Urges* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue reviewing its funding model and the way it implements and appropriates funding sources, including programme support cost funds, and to present to Member States the result of that review in the second quarter of 2019;

13. *Endorses* the revised estimates for special-purpose funds for the biennium 2018–2019 as indicated below:

Resource projections for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme

	<i>Resources (thousands of United States dollars)</i>		<i>Posts</i>	
	<i>Approved budget, 2018–2019</i>	<i>Revised budget, 2018–2019</i>	<i>Approved budget, 2018–2019</i>	<i>Revised budget, 2018–2019</i>
General-purpose funds				
Post	5 565.6	4 359.3	16	16
Non-post	885.6	1 043.9		
Subtotal	6 451.2	5 403.2	16	16
Special-purpose funds				
	367 777.4	316 320.6	135	135
Subtotal	367 777.4	316 320.6	135	135
Programme support cost funds				
Post	20 437.3	19 572.7	67	67
Non-post	4 470.0	5 853.6		
Subtotal	24 907.3	25 426.3	67	67
Total	399 135.9	347 150.1	218	218

14. *Notes* that the estimated resource projections above are subject to the availability of funding;

15. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to strengthen its efforts to encourage donors to provide general-purpose funding, including by means of further increasing transparency and quality of reporting, and encourages Member States and other donors to consider providing support to the general-purpose funds of the Office;

16. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue promoting a culture of results-based management, including evaluation, at all stages of its programme planning, development and implementation, as well as strategy and policy development and review, bearing in mind the United Nations system reform processes;

17. *Reiterates* the importance of having a sustainable, effective and operationally independent corporate evaluation function at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime that is focused on the implementation, performance and impact

³ A/72/684-E/2018/7.

of the Office's programmes, strategies and policies, including ensuring their consistency with the mandates of the Office;

18. *Requests* the Independent Evaluation Unit to continue:

(a) Providing the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with findings of and lessons learned from the evaluations of the programmes, strategies and policies of the Office;

(b) Working with the Office to increase coordination between evaluation, audit and other oversight bodies, with the aim of building a continuum of oversight of its projects, programmes and strategies;

19. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in line with Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, to continue to intensify its efforts with a sense of urgency, to ensure the recruitment of staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible, in particular within the Professional and higher categories, including for field representatives, by, inter alia, intensifying its outreach efforts, and to report on the progress thereon to the Commission at its next reconvened session;

20. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to include in such reporting, as well as in the dialogue within the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the Office, disaggregated data on the composition of staff by geographical area and gender, including on the Division for Management and on locally recruited staff, as well as measures taken to improve the geographical distribution and gender parity of its staff, including a description of its internal and external recruitment processes, such as measures in place to ensure transparency;

21. *Further requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to conduct an assessment of its implementation of the Secretariat recruitment policies and practices, with a view to presenting the results of its assessment, including a comprehensive action plan to effectively increase equitable geographical representation within its staff, in line with Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, including, inter alia, consideration of the identification of a focal point on this issue within the Office of the Executive Director, to Member States at the first meeting of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the Office in the second half of 2019;

22. *Acknowledges* the efforts made by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to ensure gender balance among its staff, and requests the Executive Director of the Office to continue to intensify the efforts of the Office to achieve the goal of a 50/50 gender balance within the Professional and higher categories, including for field representatives, while upholding Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, by, inter alia, intensifying outreach efforts, and to report on the progress thereon to the Commission at its next reconvened session;

23. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to mainstream a gender perspective into the development, implementation and evaluation of its programmes, policies, practices and strategies, and to report on the progress thereon to the Commission at its next reconvened session;

24. *Strongly supports* the contribution of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to the implementation of the Secretariat policy of zero tolerance and the efforts and actions taken thus far to effectively prevent and address prohibited conduct, including discrimination, harassment, especially sexual harassment, and abuse of authority, by implementing further institutional and cultural changes, including by supporting robust implementation mechanisms in conjunction with system-wide and coherent regulatory and policy frameworks and through its continued active participation in the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination task force for addressing sexual harassment in the United Nations system and in other, related Secretariat-wide activities;

25. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to undertake, within existing resources, a review of current practices and its implementation of existing policies, including those in accordance with initiatives put forth by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to address and tackle prohibited conduct, including abuse, exploitation, abuse of authority, discrimination, sexual exploitation and abuse, and harassment, especially sexual harassment, and requests the Office to present the outcomes, recommendations and associated management responses to the Commission at its next reconvened session;

26. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes of the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

Decision 61/13

Provisional agenda for the ministerial segment to be held during the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in 2019

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs approves the provisional agenda for the ministerial segment to be held during its sixty-second session, in 2019, as set out below.

Provisional agenda for the ministerial segment to be held during the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in 2019

1. Opening of the ministerial segment.
2. General debate of the ministerial segment.
3. Interactive, multi-stakeholder round tables of the ministerial segment:
 - (a) Taking stock of the implementation of all commitments⁴ made to jointly address and counter the world drug problem, in particular in the light of the 2019 target date for the goals set in paragraph 36 of the Political Declaration, analysing existing and emerging trends, gaps and challenges;
 - (b) Safeguarding the future: enhancing our efforts to respond to the world drug problem through strengthening international cooperation, including means of implementation, capacity-building and technical assistance, on the basis of common and shared responsibility.
4. Outcome of the ministerial segment.
5. Closure of the ministerial segment.

⁴ Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem; Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem; and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”.

Chapter II

Special segment on the preparations for the ministerial segment to be held during the sixty-second session of the Commission, in 2019

A. Opening of the special segment

3. At the 1st and 2nd meetings of its reconvened sixty-first session, on 5 December 2018, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs held, under agenda item 11, entitled “Preparations for the ministerial segment to be held during the sixty-second session of the Commission, in 2019”, a special segment on the preparations for the ministerial segment to be held during the sixty-second session of the Commission, in 2019.
4. At its 1st meeting, the Commission adopted the proposed programme of work for the special segment, as contained in document [E/CN.7/2018/1/Add.1](#).
5. At the opening of the special segment, a statement was made by the Deputy Minister of Criminal Policy and Restorative Justice of the Ministry of Justice and Law of Colombia.
6. For its consideration, the Commission had before it a conference room paper by the Chair of the sixty-first session, entitled “Outline for the way beyond 2019” (E/CN.7/2018/CRP.14), and a note by the Secretariat on the organization of the ministerial segment (E/CN.7/2018/CRP.12).

B. General debate on the preparations for the ministerial segment to be held during the sixty-second session of the Commission, in 2019

7. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, under item 3 of the programme of work for the special segment, the Commission held a general debate on the preparations for the ministerial segment to be held during the sixty-second session of the Commission, in 2019.
8. The Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) delivered introductory remarks.
9. During the general debate, a statement was made by the representative of Austria (on behalf of the European Union). Statements were also made by the representatives of the United States of America, Turkey, Japan, Pakistan, Indonesia, Bulgaria, Italy, the Netherlands, Cuba, Brazil, Mexico, Switzerland, Romania, Peru, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Morocco, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Argentina, China, Canada, Jamaica, Portugal, Angola, Nigeria, Algeria, Malaysia, Tunisia and the Plurinational State of Bolivia.
10. Statements were also made by the observers for the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care, IOGT International and the International Drug Policy Consortium.
11. Many speakers expressed appreciation for the work and tireless efforts of the Chair of the sixty-first session and took note of the Chair’s conference room paper, entitled “Outline for the way beyond 2019”, prepared in accordance with Commission resolution 61/10. A number of speakers underscored that the paper was an important background document, an input by the Chair that would further the preparations for the ministerial segment to be held during the sixty-second session. In that regard, speakers welcomed the agreement reached on the topics of the two multi-stakeholder, round-table discussions to be held in parallel with the general debate at the ministerial segment.
12. It was recalled that, in its resolution 60/1, the Commission had decided to convene a ministerial segment to take stock of the implementation of the

commitments made to jointly address and counter the world drug problem, in particular in the light of the 2019 target date established in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem.

13. Many speakers highlighted the leading role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug-related matters, reaffirmed the role of UNODC as the leading entity within the United Nations system for addressing and countering the world drug problem and underlined the treaty-mandated roles of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

14. It was highlighted that the world drug problem was most effectively addressed in a multilateral setting, with many speakers reiterating their strong commitment to the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments, which constituted the cornerstone of the international drug control system.

15. Many speakers underscored their countries' strong determination to implement, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, the joint commitments made in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem", recognizing that those commitments were complementary and mutually reinforcing. A number of speakers underlined that the ministerial segment in 2019 would be an opportunity to take stock of and further accelerate the implementation of the commitments made to jointly address and counter the world drug problem.

16. Furthermore, many speakers noted that the efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to effectively address the world drug problem were complementary and mutually reinforcing.

17. A number of speakers reiterated their determination to achieve the goals set in paragraph 36 of the 2009 Political Declaration, with some speakers highlighting the importance of promoting a society free of drug abuse, to help ensure that all people could live in health, dignity and peace, with security and prosperity.

18. A number of speakers underscored that the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, representing the most recent international consensus on the world drug problem, was a milestone and important step forward in international drug policy and was key for the preparations for 2019 and beyond.

19. It was acknowledged that, while considerable progress had been made over the previous decade, the world drug problem continued to pose a serious threat to the health, security, safety and well-being of humanity. The importance of implementing integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing, balanced, scientific evidence-based and comprehensive approaches was also highlighted. Some speakers reiterated the importance of addressing links with other forms of organized crime, including money-laundering, corruption and, in some cases, terrorism.

20. A number of speakers underscored that persistent, new and evolving challenges should be addressed in conformity with the three international drug control conventions, which allowed for sufficient flexibility for Member States to design and implement national drug policies according to their priorities and needs, consistent with the principle of common and shared responsibility and applicable international law. Some speakers highlighted the importance of protecting children and young people from the illicit use of drugs, in particular in educational settings.

21. As for the outcome of the ministerial segment, it was underscored that there was no need to negotiate a new policy document, with a number of speakers calling for a short, concise and action-oriented ministerial outcome document that would send a

strong political message. It was highlighted that there were substantial points of convergence among Member States, as well as some issues that would require further discussion in the lead-up to March 2019. Many speakers underlined the importance of focusing on the commonalities, with a view to moving forward together, on the basis of the principle of common and shared responsibility.

22. With a view to taking stock of the implementation of the commitments made to jointly address and counter the world drug problem, the relevance of the reports of the Executive Director of UNODC on the world drug problem, the annual *World Drug Report* and the annual report of INCB, as well as other relevant reports, were highlighted by a number of speakers.

23. Building upon points of convergence, speakers proposed elements to be included in the outcome document of the ministerial segment. Many speakers underlined that those participating in the ministerial segment should reaffirm the commitment of Member States to the three international drug control conventions and other relevant instruments as the cornerstone of international drug policy, the leading role of the Commission and UNODC, as well as the treaty-mandated roles of INCB and WHO, and the importance of recognizing that the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the 2014 Joint Ministerial Statement and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly were complementary and mutually reinforcing. Several speakers expressed support for further strengthening international cooperation and establishing a 10-year timeline to 2029, with a midterm review to be held in 2024.

24. With a focus on the implementation of joint commitments, many speakers underscored the importance of promoting and improving the collection, gathering and sharing of reliable and comparable data, as well as strengthening and streamlining existing data-collection and analysis tools, including through increasing the response rate to the annual report questionnaire. Such efforts would help reflect and measure progress made in the implementation of the joint commitments made over the past decade, in a so-called “one-track approach” to be followed beyond 2019. Some delegations proposed continuing discussions on balanced and measurable goals and targets following the ministerial segment in March. Some speakers referred to the need to set up comprehensive monitoring and evaluation systems and tools, such as those that already existed at the regional level.

25. With the Commission as the forum to discuss all aspects of the world drug problem, many speakers commended the organization of the thematic discussions at the intersessional meetings, underscoring that those meetings had represented invaluable opportunities for stakeholders to exchange experiences, good practices and lessons learned in translating joint commitments into practice. Some speakers underscored the importance of agreeing on an immediate follow-up process to the 2019 ministerial segment, furthering the implementation of joint commitments, including through the adoption of resolutions on technical matters by the Commission.

26. A number of speakers underscored the importance of further enhancing coherence within the United Nations system and cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, the scientific community and academia, in the process leading up to 2019 and beyond.

C. Closure of the special segment

27. At its 2nd meeting, on 5 December 2018, the Commission adopted a draft decision entitled “Provisional agenda for the ministerial segment to be held during the sixty-second session of the Commission, in 2019” (E/CN.7/2018/L.13). (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. B, decision 61/13.) Closing remarks were made by the Chair of the Commission.

Chapter III

Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions

28. At the 3rd meeting of the reconvened sixty-first session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held jointly with the reconvened twenty-seventh session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on 6 December 2018, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs considered agenda item 4, which read as follows:

“Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions:

(a) Work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

(b) Directives on policy and budgetary issues for the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

(c) Working methods of the Commission;

(d) Staff composition of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other related matters.”

29. For its consideration of item 4, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Note by the Secretariat on the work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2018/3/Add.1-E/CN.15/2018/3/Add.1](#));

(b) Report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the consolidated budget for the biennium 2018–2019 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2018/14-E/CN.15/2018/16](#));

(c) Report of the Executive Director on gender balance and geographical representation within the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2018/15-E/CN.15/2018/17](#));

(d) Conference room paper containing the draft annual programme implementation plan for 2020 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2018/CRP.11-E/CN.15/2018/CRP.8](#)).

30. The Director of the Division for Management and the Officer-in-Charge of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs of UNODC made an introductory statement. The representative of Spain, in his capacity as Co-Chair of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC, also made an introductory statement.

31. Statements were made by the representative of Ecuador (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), the observer for Nigeria (on behalf of the Group of African States), the representative of Chile (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States) and the representatives of Germany, Chile, Brazil, Peru, Japan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Switzerland, the United States, the Russian Federation, Algeria, Pakistan, China and the Netherlands.

32. The observer for the United Kingdom also made a statement.

A. Deliberations

33. Several speakers expressed appreciation for the crucial role and work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC in enhancing the transparency and accountability

of the Office and strengthening cooperation and trust between Member States and UNODC.

34. Several speakers reiterated the importance of adequate, predictable and stable funding for UNODC in order to ensure the continuity of the provision of technical assistance, in particular to developing countries, upon request, and the sustainability of the Office's thematic, global and regional programmes. Several speakers expressed concern about the continued downward trend in general-purpose funds and its impact on the Office's ability to uphold core programmatic functions, including normative work and research. Many speakers commented upon the importance and relevance of UNODC technical assistance to Member States. UNODC was encouraged to further expand its technical assistance programmes and activities and undertake programme development on the ground in close consultation with Member States. On the subject of the UNODC field office network and the sustainability thereof, some speakers mentioned the need to ensure transparent decision-making and consultations on the allocation of programme support cost funds within UNODC, including to field offices, and to ensure a sustainable future for UNODC field offices. Several speakers noted the decrease in funding for the Latin American region and requested that resources for technical assistance be distributed more equitably.

35. Several speakers called for more information on the use of programme support cost funds and encouraged a broader distribution of programme support cost funds between divisions at headquarters and in the field. Several speakers requested UNODC to undertake a critical review of the appropriate use of its funding sources, including programme support cost funds, with a view to strengthening the field-based presence. UNODC was encouraged to develop a longer-term vision for its headquarters and a strengthened and sustainable field network, including financial implications and potential reallocations.

36. Several speakers expressed support for the Secretary-General's reform efforts and encouraged UNODC to remain committed to the implementation of General Assembly resolution [72/279](#) and other resolutions on the reform of the United Nations system that were aimed at allowing for a more coordinated Organization that was focused on delivering results on the ground and at creating a modern management culture at all levels. In terms of the financial implications of the United Nations development system reform, some speakers were in favour of UNODC making the necessary provisions in the budget to support a sustainably funded Resident Coordinator system. The hope was expressed that UNODC would continue to work with the Secretary-General's transition team and to identify efficiency gains in line with the reform requirements. As part of the reform, UNODC should strengthen inter-agency cooperation and joint programmes within expanded partnerships, as one important element for further improvement of the impact and results of technical assistance to Member States.

37. The creation of the so-called "one-off surge capacity", funded by programme support cost funds and intended to strengthen the field-based presence and focus on specific thematic areas, was referred to by several speakers, who indicated that UNODC was to consult with Member States on the implementation of that initiative. Delegations were looking forward to receiving regular reports on the implementation of the United Nations management reform and the United Nations development system reform, including the progress and outcome of the surge capacity and its budget implications. UNODC was requested to have consultations with the host countries of field offices well in advance of any longer-term changes to the field office network.

38. Some speakers noted that the ongoing and planned research activities of UNODC should be based on clear mandates and policy guidance provided by the governing bodies. In that connection, the Office was requested to submit a consolidated list of all the research activities that had taken place in the previous three years, as well as those that were planned for the future. It was suggested that such a list indicate the titles of the publications and the corresponding donors.

39. Several speakers expressed their appreciation for the progress made by UNODC in achieving gender parity, including at the senior level. Several speakers welcomed the promulgation of the Office's recently published Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (2018–2021).

40. Several speakers noted with concern that more progress was required with regard to achieving balanced geographical representation within UNODC and that concrete and sustainable efforts were needed to increase the representation of developing countries, in particular unrepresented and underrepresented countries, in the staff composition of the Office. A number of speakers highlighted the lack of equitable representation at the Professional, senior and policymaking levels. It was emphasized by a number of speakers that developing countries had qualified professionals with the required technical capacity and practical experience, and UNODC was requested to take specific measures to correct the imbalance in geographical representation. Several speakers called upon the Executive Director to develop and implement a strategy to address the lack of progress made in achieving geographical diversity. Some speakers stated that, in line with Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, the paramount consideration in the employment of staff should be securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, while paying due regard to recruiting staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible.

41. Several speakers welcomed the efforts made by the Executive Director to uphold a zero-tolerance approach to sexual abuse and exploitation and sexual harassment and encouraged UNODC to support and implement relevant system-wide initiatives. A number of speakers encouraged UNODC to further strengthen its collective commitment to zero-tolerance of harassment cases and to maintain a victim-centred approach and victim-centred response efforts, and requested regular updates on the issue.

42. On the subject of the annual programme implementation plan for 2020, several speakers noted that, while the mandates of UNODC might align with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals and targets had been created to support and complement existing drug control and criminal justice frameworks, not to supersede them. UNODC had a unique role to play in drug control and in combating crime and terrorism. The importance of cooperation between UNODC and other United Nations agencies working in the area of drugs was highlighted by one speaker.

43. One speaker noted that the current UNODC draft annual programme implementation plan for 2020 was too general in nature, and that the document should be more comprehensive, balanced and functional, covering all necessary areas based on the Office's mandates, and provide for a better geographical and regional balance. Another speaker noted that the draft plan should be adapted to reflect the diverse mandates of UNODC and that the achieved and expected results contained in the draft document did not reflect the comprehensive and balanced statement of objectives of each subprogramme.

44. One speaker, while acknowledging that her delegation's written comments on the substantive content had been taken into account by the Secretariat in revising the draft document, noted that her delegation was not able to agree with the realignment of the programme plan with the Sustainable Development Goals. She noted that her delegation would reiterate its disapproval at the next session of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, to be held at United Nations Headquarters.

45. In replying to the observations made, the Officer-in-Charge of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs indicated that the draft annual programme implementation plan for 2020 would be submitted to the Programme Planning and Budget Division of the Department of Management, which would present it to the Committee for Programme and Coordination. At the same time, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions would meet to consider the budget, based upon the draft plan. Both Committees would then provide their

recommendations to the Fifth Committee, which would recommend the programme plan and the budget for adoption by the General Assembly at the end of 2019.

B. Action taken by the Commission

46. At its 4th meeting, on 7 December, the Commission adopted resolution 61/12, as orally amended, entitled “Implementation of the budget for the biennium 2018–2019 for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme” (see chap. I, sect. B).

Chapter IV

Implementation of the international drug control treaties

47. At the 4th meeting of its reconvened sixty-first session, the Commission considered agenda item 5, which read as follows:

“Implementation of the international drug control treaties:

- (a) Changes in the scope of control of substances;
- (b) Challenges and future work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the World Health Organization in the review of substances for possible scheduling recommendations;
- (c) International Narcotics Control Board;
- (d) International cooperation to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion;
- (e) Other matters arising from the international drug control treaties.”

48. Presentations were made by the observer for WHO and the Chief of the Laboratory and Scientific Section of UNODC.

49. Statements were made by the representatives of Afghanistan, Mexico, China, Canada, the Russian Federation, Pakistan, Algeria, Austria and France. Statements were also made by the observers for Nigeria and Egypt.

Deliberations

50. Pursuant to Commission resolution 58/11, the observer for WHO presented to the Commission, in preparation for the scheduling decisions to be taken by the Commission at its sixty-second regular session, information on the review processes undertaken by the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence at its forty-first meeting, held in November 2018, and on the scheduling recommendations made during that meeting. This information related to the critical reviews of five fentanyl analogues (*para*-fluoro-butyrylfentanyl, ortho-fluorofentanyl, methoxyacetyl fentanyl, cyclopropylfentanyl and *para*-methoxy-butyrylfentanyl), four synthetic cannabinoids (ADB-FUBINACA, FUB-AMB, CUMYL-4CN-BINACA and ADB-CHMINACA), two medicines (pregabalin and tramadol) and a cathinone (*N*-ethylnorpentylone (ephylone)). The speaker informed the Commission that the internal clearance process by WHO on the results of the critical review of cannabis plant and resin, extracts and tinctures of cannabis, *delta*-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and isomers of THC was ongoing, and that the information on the results of that critical review would be provided to the Commission without undue delay.

51. Speakers recalled the role of the three international drug control conventions as the cornerstone of international drug control. The work of the Committee in that regard was recognized, in particular efforts to accelerate the scheduling process for new psychoactive substances. The Committee was encouraged to meet even more frequently.

52. A number of speakers expressed concern about the non-medical use of synthetic opioids and reported on national control measures regarding those substances. They also expressed support for the scheduling recommendations regarding fentanyl analogues. A number of speakers regretted that the Committee had not issued a scheduling recommendation on tramadol. One speaker called on WHO to undertake an in-depth study of tramadol, while another speaker urged WHO to provide more information on measures to be taken with respect to falsified tramadol.

53. In reference to cannabis and cannabis-related substances, a number of speakers called upon WHO to undertake an in-depth assessment, maintaining strict scientific standards, and to engage in close communication with UNODC, INCB and Member States.

54. Some speakers called for enhanced international and regional cooperation in the control of new psychoactive substances and precursors. The efforts made by UNODC and INCB were welcomed. Some speakers also asked for the discussions undertaken in the Commission on scheduling recommendations to be shared with the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence.

Chapter V

Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in line with General Assembly resolution 68/1, including follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

55. At its 4th meeting, on 7 December, the Commission considered agenda item 10, entitled “Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in line with General Assembly resolution 68/1, including follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

56. The Chair of the Commission made an introductory statement. A representative of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women made a statement.

Deliberations

57. Under the item, the Chair informed the Commission that she had been invited to report to the Economic and Social Council at its coordination and management meeting held in July 2018 about the outcome of the sixty-first session of the Commission. In its decision 2018/246, the Council had taken note of the report on that session and had approved the provisional agenda for the sixty-second session of the Commission. Furthermore, the Chair noted that on that occasion, a panel discussion was held with other Chairs of functional commissions, including the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Commission on the Status of Women and the United Nations Statistical Commission, during which each of the Chairs had the opportunity to explain how the respective Commission contributed to the thematic review of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, including cross-cutting issues.

58. At the same meeting, the Chair drew the attention of the Commission to the annex to General Assembly resolution 72/305, in which the Assembly noted that the Economic and Social Council should ensure an adequate division of labour among its subsidiary bodies and harmonization and coordination of their agendas and work programmes, while also ensuring that the principles, critical aspects and implementation gaps of the 2030 Agenda were addressed. The Secretary of the Commission made a statement on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/305 and on the information contained in conference room paper E/CN.7/2018/CRP.15-E/CN.15/2018/CRP.9.

Chapter VI

Provisional agenda for the sixty-second session of the Commission

59. At its 4th meeting, on 7 December 2018, the Commission considered agenda item 12, entitled “Provisional agenda for the sixty-second session of the Commission”. The Chair introduced the item and brought to the attention of the Commission matters relating to the organization of work for its sixty-second session.

A. Deliberations

1. Duration of the sixty-second session and other arrangements

60. The Chair of the Commission recalled that, pursuant to Commission resolution 60/1, the ministerial segment, open to all States Members of the United Nations and interested stakeholders, would be held on two days, in addition to the five days scheduled for the regular session of the Commission, in March 2019.

61. The Commission decided that the regular sixty-second session of the Commission would be held from Monday, 18 March to Friday, 22 March 2019, with the ministerial segment to be held on Thursday, 14 March and Friday, 15 March 2019. The Commission also decided that it would hold its reconvened sixty-second session on 12 and 13 December 2019.

62. The Commission further decided that, in accordance with its decision 55/1, the firm deadline for the submission of draft resolutions would be one month prior to the commencement of the session, namely by noon on Thursday, 14 February 2019.

2. Provisional agenda for the sixty-second session of the Commission

63. The Chair of the Commission recalled that, in its decision 2018/246, the Economic and Social Council had approved the provisional agenda for the sixty-second session of the Commission, with the part on the ministerial segment to be defined subject to the outcome of negotiations on the organizational arrangements. At its 2nd meeting, on 5 December 2018, the Commission decided on the provisional agenda for the ministerial segment, as well as on the organizational arrangements.

B. Action taken by the Commission

64. At its 4th meeting, on 7 December 2018, the Commission decided on the dates, deadlines and arrangements for its sixty-second session (see paras. 60–62 above).

Chapter VII

Other business

65. At its 4th meeting, on 7 December 2018, the Commission considered agenda item 13, entitled “Other business”. No issues were raised under the agenda item.

Chapter VIII

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its reconvened sixty-first session

66. At its 4th meeting, on 7 December 2018, the Commission adopted the parts of its report on the organization of the session and administrative matters, on the preparations for the ministerial segment to be held during the sixty-second session of the Commission, in March 2019, and on item 4 of the agenda (E/CN.7/2018/L.1/Add.5, E/CN.7/2018/L.1/Add.6 and E/CN.7/2018/L.1/Add.7). The Commission decided that, in line with past practice, the present report would be brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council and that a draft decision transmitting the report of the Commission on its reconvened sixty-first session to the Economic and Social Council for adoption would be included in the report on the reconvened session (see chap. I, sect. A). The Commission also decided to entrust the finalization of the report to the Chair of the Commission, with the assistance of the Rapporteur.

Chapter IX

Organization of the session and administrative matters

A. Opening and duration of the session

67. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs held its reconvened sixty-first session in Vienna from 5 to 7 December 2018. The reconvened session included a special segment on the preparations for the ministerial segment to be held during the sixty-second session of the Commission, in 2019.

68. At its second intersessional meeting, on 25 June 2018, under silence procedure until 26 June 2018, the Commission endorsed a workplan for the intersessional period in the third quarter of 2018, in continuation of preparations for the ministerial segment to be held during the sixty-second session of the Commission, in 2019. During the third quarter of 2018, the Commission held its third (25–28 September), fourth (22–25 October) and fifth (7–9 November) intersessional meetings. The intersessional meetings comprised thematic and organizational segments as well as a normative segment. At its second intersessional meeting, the Commission also decided to convene for an additional day during the reconvened sixty-first session and to devote that day to preparations for the ministerial segment to be held during the sixty-second session of the Commission. The meetings of the additional day were conducted in an open-ended format, in which seating arrangements were made according to those normally chosen for the General Assembly.

69. The Economic and Social Council, in its decision 2011/259, entitled “Joint meetings of the reconvened sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”, decided that, starting in 2011, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice would hold joint meetings during their reconvened sessions for the sole purpose of considering agenda items included in the operational segment of the agendas of both Commissions, with a view to providing integrated policy directives to UNODC on administrative, budgetary and strategic management issues. The Council also decided that the practice of holding back-to-back reconvened sessions of the Commissions would be continued to enable each Commission to consider, in separate meetings, agenda items included in the normative segment of its agenda.

70. The Commission held a total of four meetings, including two meetings devoted to the special segment on the preparations for the ministerial segment to be held during the sixty-second session of the Commission, in 2019. Pursuant to Council decision 2011/259, one meeting was held jointly with the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in order to consider item 4 of the agenda of both Commissions.

71. At the 1st meeting, on 5 December 2018, the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs opened the reconvened sixty-first session and made a statement.

72. At the joint plenary meeting, the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice made statements.

B. Attendance

73. The reconvened sixty-first session was attended by representatives of 47 States members of the Commission (6 were not represented). Observers for other States Members of the United Nations, representatives of entities of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations also attended. A list of participants is contained in document E/CN.7/2018/INF/3/Rev.1.

C. Election of officers

74. On 6 August 2018, the Group of Asia and Pacific States nominated Mansoor Ahmad Khan (Pakistan) for the office of the Second Vice-Chair during the remainder of the reconvened sixty-first session, as the position had become vacant after the regular part of the sixty-first session. At its 1st meeting, on 5 December 2018, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs elected the Second Vice-Chair.

D. Documentation

75. The documents before the Commission at its reconvened session are listed in E/CN.7/2018/CRP.10/Add.1.

E. Closure of the reconvened sixty-first session

76. At the 4th meeting, on 7 December, a closing statement was made by the Chair of the Commission. Statements were also made by the representative of Brazil (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States), the representative of Japan, the representative of Austria (on behalf of the European Union), the observer for Nigeria (on behalf of the Group of African States) and the representative of China (on behalf of the Group of Asia and Pacific States).