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Agenda item 3

Policy directives to the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and strengthening the drug programme and the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as its governing body, including administrative, budgetary and strategic management questions

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Reconvened twentieth session

Vienna, 12-13 December 2011

Agenda item 3

Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions

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

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

Summary

The present note has been prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2011/258, in which the Council extended the mandate of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 54/10 and 52/13 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions 20/1 and 18/3, in which the working group was called on to submit its report and recommendations for the consideration of the Commissions at their reconvened fifty-fourth and twentieth sessions. The present report covers the work of the working group between 17 June and 6 October 2011.



I. Deliberations

1. From 17 June to 6 October 2011, the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime held five informal meetings and one formal meeting. It continued to consider issues under the items of the agenda as approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2011/258 and by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its resolution 52/13 and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in its resolution 18/3 and in accordance with the terms of reference annexed to those resolutions, as well as with the provisions contained in Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 54/10 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 20/1.
2. At those meetings, discussions focused on the development of an updated strategy for the period 2012-2015 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), progress reports on the implementation of thematic and regional programmes, consideration of the recommendations made in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Review of management and administration in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime" (JIU/REP/2010/10), and measures to improve the funding of UNODC.
3. At the meeting of the working group held on 17 June 2011, the secretariat made presentations and reported on the thematic programme on action against transnational organized crime (2011-2013), on progress made in the implementation of the thematic programme on addressing health and human development vulnerabilities in the context of drugs and crime and on the evaluation report of the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT). The working group also discussed the substance of the recommendations made in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit and the mechanisms for implementing them.
4. At the meeting held on 8 July 2011, the secretariat reported on the situation in Afghanistan, focusing on counter-narcotics measures and progress on the implementation of the thematic programme on action against corruption and economic crime. The secretariat also provided an overview of the funding situation of UNODC and efforts made to develop a fund-raising strategy to broaden its donor base.
5. At the meeting on 18 August, a representative of the Government of Panama and the secretariat presented a progress report on the regional programme on promoting the rule of law and human security in Central America, covering the period 2009-2012, and the Santo Domingo Pact and Managua Mechanism (a partnership and monitoring mechanism for the Caribbean and Central America). In the context of the fund-raising strategy to broaden the donor base of UNODC, a presentation was made on a new approach followed by the Office and involving the private sector.
6. At the meeting held on 2 September, the secretariat made a presentation on the United Nations system task force on transnational organized crime and drug trafficking as threats to security and stability. The presentation included information on concrete initiatives taken by UNODC in collaboration with other United Nations agencies and departments. At the meeting held on 12 September, the secretariat

presented a progress report on the regional programme on promoting the rule of law and human security in Eastern Africa, covering the period 2009-2012.

7. The discussion on ways to encourage host countries to make voluntary contributions to the regular operating costs of country and programme offices, with a view to improving the financial sustainability of the UNODC field network, pursuant to paragraph 20 of Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 54/10 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 20/1, was postponed to future meetings of the working group.

Medium-term strategy for the period 2012-2015

8. At its meetings on 8 July, 18 August, 2 September, 12 September and 6 October 2011, the working group pursued the development of a strategy for the period 2012-2015 for UNODC, pursuant to paragraph 4 of Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 54/10 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 20/1.

9. At its meeting held on 6 October, the working group welcomed the attendance of the Executive Director of UNODC, who underlined the importance of the work and the achievements of the working group. The working group agreed to hold further consultations on the strategy for the period 2012-2015 for UNODC, with a view to agreeing on the document and recommending it for consideration by the Commissions at their reconvened sessions in December 2011.

Consideration of the observations and recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit

10. The working group considered the observations and recommendations made in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Review of management and administration in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime", pursuant to paragraph 9 of Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 54/10 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 20/1. The working group considered recommendation 1 at its meeting held on 17 June; recommendations 2 and 3 at its meeting on 8 July; recommendations 4 and 5 on 18 August; recommendations 7 and 8 on 2 September; and recommendations 9-14 on 12 September. At its meeting held on 6 October, the working group agreed to consider at subsequent meetings any proposals for recommendations on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit, with a view to presenting such recommendations for appropriate follow-up to the Commissions at their reconvened sessions in December 2011.

11. Regarding recommendation 1, a delegation presented a draft decision to the working group that was intended to provide the mandate for the holding of joint reconvened sessions of the Commissions that would serve as an integrated governing body, tasked to oversee the budgetary and programmatic activities of UNODC. The working group requested the Co-Chairs to consult with the Chairs of the Commissions concerning the procedure for forwarding the draft decision to the Economic and Social Council. The Chairs of the Commissions consulted on a draft decision with all Member States, which they transmitted to the President of the

Council. As a result, the Council adopted decision 2011/259, pursuant to which joint meetings of the Commissions will take place, starting in December 2011.

12. Recommendation 2 called on the Executive Director to conduct a consolidated review of all mandates entrusted to UNODC and to submit, at the earliest opportunity, a prioritization document to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Delegates expressed support for carrying out the review as part of the preparation of the strategic framework covering the biennium 2014-2015. The working group stressed that any decisions on proposals for prioritization would have to be taken by the relevant Commission.

13. With reference to recommendation 3, calling on the General Assembly to ensure that core functions of UNODC were funded by resources from the regular budget of the United Nations, starting with the biennium 2012-2013, several delegates considered that Member States should take action in the General Assembly and its competent committees. It was suggested that representations in this regard could be made in New York through the Chairs of the regional groups, to support the allocation of an appropriate share of regular budget resources to enable UNODC to implement its mandates.

14. With regard to recommendation 4, the working group was informed that the secretariat was conducting a study on the feasibility, benefits and drawbacks of a possible merger of the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, while keeping the accounting and earmarking structure of each fund intact. Member States would be provided with the study and other necessary information before a decision on a possible merger of the funds was taken by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

15. As for recommendation 5, on the establishment of a corporate mechanism to oversee the financial situation of UNODC and to determine overall resource allocation, the working group was informed that the Executive Committee of the Office was the body responsible for overseeing resource allocation and that financial monitoring was already being conducted as a routine process. In order to improve the business model of the Office and to better determine overall resource allocation, the secretariat would continue to seek increases in the regular budget allocation for the Office and continue consultations with Member States on mechanisms concerning the programme support charge.

16. Information related to recommendation 6, on the formulation of a fund-raising strategy to broaden the donor base of UNODC, was contained in the paper on fund-raising and the briefing on private sector policy and resource mobilization that were presented to the working group at its meetings on 8 July and 18 August 2011. The working group was also informed that the consideration of recommendation 6 should be postponed to later meetings of the working group because the secretariat was engaging in internal consultations on the fund-raising strategy and would keep the working group informed of relevant developments.

17. Regarding recommendation 7, requesting the Executive Director to conduct a functional review of all UNODC divisions, sections and units, in order to align them as part of a reconfirmed and prioritized framework for action of the Office, as proposed in recommendation 2, the working group was informed that a Joint

Inspection Unit implementation task force, composed of representatives of all divisions of UNODC under the coordination and leadership of the Office of the Executive Director, was considering the matter. Information on the implementation of the recommendation would be shared with the working group as soon as it was available.

18. The working group was informed that the Joint Inspection Unit implementation task force was also considering recommendation 8, which called on the Executive Director to undertake a comprehensive review and assessment of coordination mechanisms and procedures within the Office. Information on implementation of that recommendation would also be shared with the working group as soon as it was available.

19. In connection with recommendation 9, in which the Executive Director was asked to present an independent evaluation of thematic and regional programming to the Commissions by the end of 2013, the working group was informed that UNODC envisaged that an evaluation of its integrated programming would be included in the evaluation plan of the Independent Evaluation Unit and would be conducted in a manner that would complement the independent evaluations of different thematic and regional programmes that were scheduled in the course of the next few years. The results and any further information in this regard would be presented to the Commissions through the working group in due course.

20. With reference to recommendation 10, in which the Executive Director was asked to consult with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in order to review and update the existing Memorandum of Understanding, the working group was informed that progress on its implementation was being monitored by the Joint Inspection Unit implementation task force. The working group was also informed that a meeting between the Executive Director and the Administrator of UNDP had taken place in April 2011 and that lines of contact had been established between the responsible sections in the Division for Management of UNODC and the Bureau of Management of UNDP, in order to discuss the details on working arrangements and services. The Executive Director would address the issue in future meetings with UNDP with a view to finalizing the revised Memorandum of Understanding in due course. Member States would be kept informed of any developments on this matter.

21. The working group was informed that recommendations 11 and 12, on further measures to improve the gender balance at the senior level, including for field representatives, and on action to broaden the diversity of the Professional category workforce by considering more candidates from developing countries, were included in the Executive Director's commitments as part of the compact with the Secretary-General in relation to the human resources management scorecard. The Executive Director had reminded senior managers of these important goals and his office was following up on their implementation. It was noted that reports on the subject were submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on a regular basis.

22. In connection with recommendation 13, in which the Executive Director was requested to create, by the end of 2011, an internal system to monitor the implementation of recommendations made by relevant oversight bodies, the working group explored the possibility of creating such an internal monitoring

system, pursuant to paragraph 10 of Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 54/10 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 20/1. The working group was informed that its implementation was being considered by the Joint Inspection Unit implementation task force on a regular basis. The Office already had an established mechanism for the follow-up and monitoring of recommendations of oversight bodies, which was led by the Division for Management. In this regard, the Office would also consider any need to streamline or consolidate such arrangements in future.

23. The working group was reminded that recommendation 14, on modifying, in the organizational structure, the existing reporting lines of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) Secretary, had not been accepted by the Executive Director as it was considered that the existing organizational structure was effective and did not undermine the effective functioning or independence of INCB or its secretariat in any way. The INCB Secretary reported to the Executive Director through the Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs.

24. Member States were informed that a note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit to the General Assembly had been issued.¹

II. Organizational and administrative matters

25. The working group held five informal meetings in the reporting period, on 17 June, 8 July, 18 August, 2 September and 12 September 2011, and one formal meeting on 6 October 2011. Further meetings were scheduled for 2 and 16 November 2011.

26. At a joint meeting held on 24 May 2011, the extended bureaux of the Commissions agreed to recommend the nomination of Taous Feroukhi (Algeria) and Ignacio Baylina Ruiz (Spain) as Co-Chairs of the working group under its renewed mandate at future intersessional meetings of the Commissions. Intersessional meetings of the Commissions were scheduled to take place on 8 November 2011 to elect the Co-Chairs, pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 54/10 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 18/3. At the joint meeting, the extended bureaux also agreed to request and empower the nominated Co-Chairs to commence organizing the work of the working group prior to their formal election, including the holding of meetings.

27. The secretariat continued to provide documents and information to the working group by electronic means and in hard copy, including through a public web page set up and maintained by the secretariat for the use of the working group (see www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/wg-governance-finance-2.html). During the period under review, the secretariat also established a secure web page for Member States to provide them with access to information of interest (see www.unodc.org/missions/en/wggf/index.html).

¹ A/66/315/Add.1.