

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.: General
21 December 2016

Original: English

Commission on Narcotic Drugs**Sixtieth session**

Vienna, 13-17 March 2017

Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

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****Twenty-sixth session**

Vienna, 22-26 May 2017

Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda**

Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions: work of the working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**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***Summary*

The present note has been prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2015/234, in which the Council renewed 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 until the first half of 2017, as well as Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 52/13, 54/10, 54/17, 56/11 and 58/1 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions 18/3, 20/1, 20/9, 22/2 and 24/1. The present note covers the work of the working group between 25 October 2016 and 28 November 2016. Information on the work of the working group during the period 9 June to 23 September 2016 can be found in document [E/CN.7/2016/3/Add.1-E/CN.15/2016/3/Add.1](#).

* [E/CN.7/2017/1](#).** [E/CN.15/2017/1](#).

I. Deliberations

1. From 25 October to 28 November 2016, the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) held three informal meetings. It continued to consider issues under the items of the agenda approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2015/234 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 provisions contained in Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 54/10, 54/17, 56/11 and 58/1 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions 20/1, 20/9, 22/2 and 24/1.

2. At the meeting of the working group held on 25 October, the Secretariat briefed delegations on the final closing of the accounts and the issuing of financial statements for 2015. The report of the United Nations Board of Auditors and the audit opinion of that Board were made available. They indicated an overall improvement in the areas of financial accounting, Umoja implementation, financial and programme management, risk management and donor reporting. Delegations were also briefed on the financial situation of UNODC, including on the evolution in 2010-2017 of special purpose funds, programme support cost and general-purpose funds. Overall, UNODC reported increased contributions from major donors and lower contributions from national donors. UNODC continued reporting on mainstreaming a gender perspective into its practices, policies and programmes, indicating that, in the biennium 2015-2016, three out of five regular field representative positions had been filled by female candidates. A presentation was made on work undertaken by the Office on gender in the criminal justice system. That work included developing and updating international standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice to include specific provisions on women. Many delegations welcomed the commitment of UNODC to gender mainstreaming and appreciated the initiatives undertaken in that field. The meeting was given updates on the work of the Terrorism Prevention Branch, the Global Programme for Strengthening the Capacities of Member States to Prevent and Combat Organized and Serious Crime, the regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, the work of the Independent Evaluation Unit and the work of the Laboratory and Scientific Section.

3. At the meeting of the working group held on 11 November 2016, UNODC gave highlights from the forthcoming report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the consolidated budget of the Office for the biennium 2016-2017. Information was provided on savings measures for the biennium 2016-2017, and on the breakdown of programme support cost funds for the bienniums 2014-2015 and 2016-2017. Presentations were made on gender mainstreaming in the HIV/AIDS programme of UNODC and in the context of treatment for drug use. The presentation highlighted, topics such as conducting a review of drug and criminal justice law, policies and practices, ensuring a gender-responsive HIV policy, promoting alternatives to imprisonment and preventing violence against women and girls. In addition, the meeting was informed of specific UNODC tools and guidelines on gender mainstreaming and of specific examples of gender-responsive programming and capacity-building initiatives. Mainstreaming gender in UNODC research work included collecting gender-sensitive data, conducting research on gender issues, developing research methodologies to reflect gender issues, and encouraging gender parity in accessibility to training. The meeting was given presentations on the regional programme for South-Eastern Europe, the work of the Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section, the Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime and the work of the Independent Evaluation Unit. A draft statement by the co-chairs of

the working group was endorsed (see [E/CN.7/2016/CRP.11-E/CN.15/2016/CRP.6](#)). It was meant to serve as a basis for the review of the functioning of the body at the reconvened sessions held in December 2016 and the forthcoming regular sessions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The working group agreed that the statement should be included in the reports of the reconvened sessions of the Commissions to serve as a basis for the review of the functioning of the working group by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its sixtieth session and by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-sixth session.

4. At the meeting of the working group held on 28 November, the Director of the Division for Management highlighted the key trends in the financial situation of UNODC contained in the 2016-2017 budget implementation report. The Director indicated that UNODC continued to see strong donor confidence for its substantive programmes, but also continued to face an unsustainable level of general-purpose contributions that affected its capacity to manage its strategy, oversight and programmatic shortfalls. UNODC had made adjustments to its implementation report mid-biennium to provide realistic indicators on programme delivery, budgets and resource utilization, and had adjusted its special-purpose income and programme support costs for the biennium accordingly. Furthermore, UNODC was making available mid-biennium savings, mainly to support the field offices challenged by the transition to full cost recovery. Challenges resulting from the implementation of Umoja were being overcome. Employing the full cost recovery model, UNODC was committed to using its funding sources prudently and avoiding cross-subsidization of its activities. The meeting endorsed the draft resolutions contained in the 2016-2017 budget implementation report, to be considered for adoption by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice during their fifty-ninth and twenty-fifth reconvened sessions, respectively. UNODC presented its initiatives to promote in-house learning on gender mainstreaming and informed participants on plans to improve geographical representation of UNODC staff. An update was provided on the UNODC programme on preventing drug use and other risky behaviours through family-based and other evidence-based programmes and on the UNODC Global Programme on Cybercrime. Several delegations commended the work conducted in those areas. An update was provided on the evaluation of the UNODC programme on the prevention of transmission of HIV among drug users in the countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

5. At a formal meeting to be held on 26 January 2017, the working group would envisage agreeing on recommendations to be presented for consideration to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its sixtieth session and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-sixth session. The recommendations would cover topics such as the extension of the mandate of the working group, continuous support for strengthening the financial situation of UNODC, promoting a culture of evaluation and an integrated programme approach within the Office and continuous support for gender mainstreaming in UNODC practices, policies and programmes (see [E/CN.7/2017/3/Add.1-E/CN.15/2017/3/Add.1](#)).

II. Organizational and administrative matters

6. Under the guidance of the co-chairs, Hernán Estrada Román (Nicaragua) and Ignacio Baylina Ruíz (Spain), the working group held three informal meetings, on 25 October, 11 November and 28 November 2016. On 23 November 2016, the Division of Management of UNODC briefed the working group on the report of

the Executive Director on the implementation of the consolidated budget for the biennium 2016-2017.

7. The statement by the co-chairs of the working group referred to in paragraph 3 above was finalized at the meeting held on 11 November and was made available at the joint meeting of the reconvened fifty-ninth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the reconvened twenty-fifth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held on 1 December 2016. Pursuant to the recommendation made by the respective extended bureaux, both the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice decided to include the statement in the report on their reconvened session.

8. The Secretariat continued to provide documents and information to the working group by electronic means and in hard copy, including through a web page accessible to the public (www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/FINGOV/FINGOV-index.html) and a secure web page for Member States (www.unodc.org/missions/en/wggf/index.html), set up and maintained by the Secretariat for the use of the working group.
