



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
19 March 2019

Original: English

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Sixty-second session

Vienna, 14–22 March 2019

Draft report

Rapporteur: Alvaro Salcedo Teullet (Peru)

Addendum

Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions

1. At its 7th meeting, on 18 March 2019, the Commission considered agenda item 8, 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.”

2. For its consideration of item 8, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) ([E/CN.7/2019/2-E/CN.15/2019/2](#));

(b) 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.7/2019/3-E/CN.15/2019/3](#));

(c) Note by the Secretariat on the draft proposed programme plan and performance information for 2020 ([E/CN.7/2019/11-E/CN.15/2019/13](#)).

3. An introductory statement was made by the Director of the Division for Management.

4. The observer for Egypt, in the capacity as Co-Chair of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC, reported on the deliberations of the working group.



5. Statements were made by the representatives of Chile, China, the Republic of Korea, the United States and Brazil. The observer for Jamaica also made a statement.

Deliberations

6. Several speakers expressed appreciation for the work of the open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC. They noted that the working group served as an essential mechanism to enhance the transparency and accountability of the Office and to allow a constructive dialogue between Member States and UNODC.

7. Some speakers expressed concern regarding the financial situation of UNODC in view of the increase in special-purpose funds at the same time as there had been a considerable decrease in general-purpose funds. Member States were invited to increase the level of unearmarked or soft-earmarked funds. One speaker mentioned the need for increased transparency in the decision-making process and for a broader distribution of programme support cost funds between various divisions at UNODC headquarters and between headquarters and the field.

8. Several speakers expressed their appreciation for the continued efforts by UNODC and the progress made towards achieving gender parity and the geographical diversity of its staff. They welcomed the implementation of the United Nations Office at Vienna/UNODC Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the sharing of the relevant statistical information on staffing during the meetings of the working group. Some speakers emphasized the urgent need, in the spirit of Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, for enhanced efforts, including the development of an action plan, to strengthen the representation of staff from unrepresented and underrepresented countries and pointed out that the geographical representation of developing countries and of several regional groups was not yet adequate. Speakers appreciated and encouraged the continued sharing of disaggregated data on staff composition and transparent information on the recruitment process.

9. Some speakers stated that it was important to further strengthen the delivery by UNODC of technical cooperation activities, as well as the provision of policy and strategic support to member States. Some speakers expressed support for the United Nations development system reform, including the reform of the resident coordinator system, and encouraged UNODC to remain fully engaged in those efforts and strengthen the UNODC field presence. In that context, reference was made to the one-off surge capacity.

10. The Office was requested to improve the timeliness of its research publications to inform evidence-based decision-making with regard to the world drug situation. Support was expressed for the continued efforts to streamline the annual report questionnaire.
