



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
12 December 2019

Original: English

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Reconvened sixty-second session

Vienna, 12 and 13 December 2019

Draft report

Rapporteur: Adela Cano Del Castillo (Peru)

Addendum

Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions

1. At the 1st meeting of the reconvened sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held jointly with the reconvened twenty-eighth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on 12 December 2019, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs considered agenda item 8, which read as follows:

“8. 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) 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/Add.1-E/CN.15/2019/3/Add.1](#));

(b) Report of the Executive Director on the consolidated budget for the biennium 2020–2021 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2019/14-E/CN.15/2019/16](#));

(c) Report of the Executive Director on gender balance and geographical representation within the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2019/15-E/CN.15/2019/17](#));

(d) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the consolidated budget for the biennium 2020–2021 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2019/16-E/CN.15/2019/18](#)).



3. The Director of the Division for Management of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Director of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs of UNODC made introductory statements. 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.

4. Statements were made by the observers for Egypt (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China) and Namibia (on behalf of the Group of African States). Statements were also made by the representatives of the United States of America, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Afghanistan, Colombia, China, the Netherlands, Brazil, the Russian Federation, Japan and Switzerland. The observer for Nigeria also made a statement.

A. Deliberations

5. Many speakers thanked the Executive Director of UNODC, Yury Fedotov, for his work in leading the Office over the past decade and welcomed the incoming Executive Director, Ghada Fathi Waly, to the position.

6. 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. It was noted that the working group served as a useful forum for regular consultations and review, including on matters related to the Office's programme plans, the implementation of global thematic, regional and country programmes, and financial, administrative and other issues. In that connection, the importance of providing information in a transparent and timely manner in order to support decision-making was highlighted and UNODC was urged to increase its efforts to that end.

7. During the discussions on the consolidated budget for the biennium 2020–2021, the importance of sustainable funding for the implementation of the mandates of the Office in the areas of international drug control and crime prevention and criminal justice was highlighted. Several speakers noted with concern the challenges UNODC was facing owing to the shortfall in general purpose funding and underlined that that continuing funding trend could affect the Office's ability to efficiently maintain core programmatic functions, in particular normative work, strategic thematic guidance and research. UNODC was requested to ensure that the budgets for future budget cycles would be submitted in full compliance with the relevant resolutions, well in advance of their submission to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in order to ensure advance consultations and discussions. UNODC was also requested to increase transparency regarding resource expenditure and allocation and broaden the use of programme support costs.

8. Several speakers reiterated the importance of adequate, predictable and stable funding for UNODC to ensure the continuity of the provision of technical assistance, in particular to developing countries. The need for UNODC to enhance the effectiveness of its technical assistance programmes and activities, in close consultation with and under the guidance of Member States, was underscored.

9. The efforts made by UNODC with regard to the implementation of United Nations development system reform, including in relation to the surge capacity, were welcomed by several speakers. Some speakers called for a balanced approach and highlighted that the Office's sustained involvement, both at headquarters and in field offices, and its integrated approach to developing global thematic, regional and country programmes contributed to the impact of its technical assistance. Some speakers called for enhanced efforts towards achieving coherence in the United Nations system and further promoting coordination with the resident coordinators and other agencies.

10. Some speakers noted with concern the financial challenges faced by the International Narcotics Control Board as a result of the system-wide shortfall in regular budget funding, which affected the ability of the Board to execute fully its treaty-mandated functions. The view was expressed that the INCB global programme on opioids should become a joint programme with UNODC to ensure the availability of relevant expertise required for technical assistance.

11. Some speakers highlighted the need to strengthen the results-based approach to technical cooperation, in line with United Nations development system reform, which emphasized accountability and transparency. Some speakers emphasized that the Office's work made important contributions to the efforts of Member States to achieve the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Some speakers underlined that the Office's mandates were specialized and could not be exhausted by the Sustainable Development Goals.

12. Some Speakers highlighted the need for UNODC to continue to implement United Nations management reform and, in that regard, to enhance efforts to promote transparency and accountability in the work of the Office.

13. The need to strengthen the culture of evaluation within UNODC at all stages of programme planning, development and implementation in the context of results-based management was highlighted.

14. The progress made by UNODC in achieving gender equality in its staff composition was welcomed by several delegations. The Executive Director of the Office was requested to increase efforts to achieve equal representation of women at the Professional, senior and policymaking levels, and to report on the progress of such efforts to the Commissions.

15. Many speakers expressed the view that greater efforts were needed to increase geographical diversity and equitable geographical representation in the staff composition of the Office. Concern was expressed about the insufficient progress made in the efforts to enhance the representation of developing countries, in particular those that were unrepresented or underrepresented. The Executive Director was requested to intensify efforts to ensure equitable geographical representation, in particular at the Professional, senior and policymaking levels, including through the establishment of a balanced geographical representation team within the Office of the Executive Director.

16. A number of speakers stressed the importance of Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations for recruitment policies and highlighted the need for competence and merit to serve as the basis for staff recruitment, including when considering ways to enhance gender balance and geographical representation.

17. Reference was made by delegations to the zero-tolerance policy of the United Nations regarding sexual exploitation and harassment, and in that regard the Office was called upon to continue its efforts to implement the relevant recommendations.

B. Action taken by the Commission

18. At the joint meeting, the Commission took note of Economic and Social Council decision 2017/236, in which the Council decided to renew the mandate of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC until the sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to be held in the first half of 2021, and elected Natasha Pinheiro Agostini (Brazil) as Co-Chair of the working group, in accordance with the procedure set out in Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 52/13 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 18/3.