



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
26 September 2022

Original: English

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Reconvened sixty-fifth session

Vienna, 8 and 9 December 2022

Agenda item 4 (a)

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

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Reconvened thirty-first session

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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

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

The present note has been prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2022/316, 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 the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for an unlimited period of time, as well as Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 52/13, 54/10, 54/17, 56/11, 58/1, 60/3, 62/9, 63/6 and 64/7 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions 18/3, 20/1, 20/9, 22/2, 24/1, 26/1, 28/4, 29/1 and 30/3. It covers the work of the working group from 4 February to 20 September 2022. Information on the work of the working group during the preceding period can be found in document [E/CN.7/2022/3-E/CN.15/2022/3](#).



I. Deliberations

1. In the period from 4 February to 20 September 2022, 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 regular meetings and an additional meeting to foster a dialogue with the Executive Director of UNODC. It considered issues under the items on the agenda approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2022/316 and by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its resolution 64/7 and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in its resolution 30/3, as well as in accordance with provisions contained in Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 54/10, 54/17, 56/11, 58/1, 60/3, 62/9 and 63/6 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions 20/1, 20/9, 22/2, 24/1, 26/1, 28/4 and 29/1.

2. At its meeting held on 4 February, the working group held an interactive dialogue with the Executive Director of UNODC, which covered a broad range of issues concerning the governance and financial situation of the Office, clustered under three thematic areas: the mandate and strategy of UNODC; its values and goals; and the interaction of UNODC with Member States.

3. At its first regular meeting, held on 7 and 8 February, the working group adopted the provisional programme of work of the working group for 2022. The group received an update on: (a) the status of implementation of the UNODC Strategy 2021–2025, including with regard to the milestones and deliverables achieved and potential financial implications; (b) the financial and governance impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) crisis on the work of the Office; and (c) the status of UNODC budget implementation in 2021. A representative of the Secretariat provided an update on the following: (a) the human resources situation with regard to gender parity and equitable geographical representation; (b) the work of the Office to promote anti-racism in the workplace, to prevent and respond to prohibited conduct, and to improve talent development; and (c) the key features of the new performance management paradigm, introduced in the 2021–2022 cycle. The working group was also provided with an overview of the evaluations of the Office’s programmes and projects completed in 2021.

4. Meeting participants received a comprehensive update on the work of the Office under its crime prevention and criminal justice pillar, with a particular focus on key results achieved under its five outcomes, including in the field: (a) access to justice; (b) crime prevention; (c) gender and violence against women; (d) violence against children; and (e) penal and prison reform. Information was also shared with regard to UNODC research work in the thematic area; the action taken in follow-up to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice; and the outcome of the independent evaluation of the joint UNODC and UN-Women project on improving access to legal aid for women in Western Africa.

5. Also at its first regular meeting, the working group was presented with achievements and best practices of UNODC, including with examples from the field, under thematic area 4, “Preventing and countering terrorism”, of the UNODC Strategy 2021–2025. A presentation was made on the outcome of the in-depth evaluation of the current global programme on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism, followed by an overview of the vision, objectives, proposed outcomes and key features of the new programme under the thematic area. Member States were also briefed on existing partnerships between UNODC and relevant stakeholders in the area of counter-terrorism.

6. At the second regular meeting, held on 4 and 5 July 2022, a representative of the UNODC secretariat presented the 2021 annual results-based report – the first progress report on the implementation of the UNODC Strategy 2021–2025. Member States were also briefed on: (a) the involvement of UNODC in the implementation of United Nations management and development system reform, including with regard to the Secretary-General’s report entitled “Our Common Agenda” and its implications

for UNODC; (b) the implementation of the consolidated budget of UNODC for the biennium 2022–2023; (c) the human resources management situation; (d) the revised UNODC evaluation policy and the results of the strategic evaluation of the United Nations Office at Vienna/UNODC work to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment; (e) the changes in the organizational structure of UNODC; and (f) the second iteration of the United Nations Office at Vienna /UNODC Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (2022–2026).

7. The working group received an overview of the Office’s work under thematic area 3, “Preventing and countering corruption and economic crime”, of the UNODC Strategy 2021–2025, including with regard to research, normative work, technical assistance and coordination activities. UNODC priorities in the thematic area and related good practices, including from the field, were presented. Information was shared on the results of the midterm in-depth evaluation of the Global Programme to prevent and combat corruption through effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in support of Sustainable Development Goal 16, as well as on the funding situation.

8. Discussions also revolved around UNODC work under thematic area 2, “Preventing and countering organized crime”, of the UNODC Strategy 2021–2025, including in relation to the Office’s mandates and priorities, normative work and good practices from relevant projects and programmes implemented at headquarters and in the field. Information was shared on the challenges in the implementation of UNODC activities with regard to the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants; firearms trafficking; and money-laundering and cybercrime.

9. At the third regular meeting, held on 19 and 20 September, the working group received an update on: (a) the status of implementation of the UNODC Strategy 2021–2025; (b) the status of implementation of Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 30/2 and Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 64/6; (c) UNODC efforts to enhance the organizational arrangements for intergovernmental meetings, including with regard to ensuring respect for multilingualism in the intergovernmental work; (d) the progress and impact of the implementation of full-cost recovery and the flexible application and allocation of programme support costs; (e) the implementation of the draft consolidated budget for 2022–2023; and (f) the human resources management situation. Independent evaluation results of the Office’s response to drugs and related organized crime in Nigeria were also presented.

10. Member States were provided with an update on the work undertaken by the Office under thematic area 1, “Addressing and countering the world drug problem”, of the UNODC Strategy 2021–2025, which included: (a) a brief overview of key issues and knowledge gaps under the thematic area; (b) highlights of UNODC work; (c) the outcome of the independent in-depth evaluation of UNODC work on drug disorder treatment; and (d) an overview of the funding situation.

11. At the same meeting, the working group received comprehensive updates on the work of the Office in Latin America and the Caribbean and on its activities in Africa and the Middle East. Each update contained information on the relevant regional context, priorities and good practices in the region, and the funding situation. Finally, meeting participants were presented with an update on the situation of UNODC in Afghanistan.

II. Organizational and administrative matters

12. Under the guidance of the Chair and other members of the Bureau, the working group held four meetings during the period under review: the dialogue with the Executive Director of UNODC, on 4 February; the first regular meeting, on 7 and 8 February; the second regular meeting, on 4 and 5 July; and the third regular meeting, on 19 and 20 September 2022.

13. The Secretariat continued to provide documents and information to the working group, 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.
