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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

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Reconvened twenty-seventh session

Vienna, 6 and 7 December 2018

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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

The present note has been prepared pursuant to 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 the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime until the first half of 2021, as well as Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 52/13, 54/10, 54/17, 56/11, 58/1 and 60/3 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions 18/3, 20/1, 20/9, 22/2, 24/1 and 26/1. The present note covers the work of the working group between 11 June and 14 September 2018. Information on the work of the working group during the preceding period can be found in document [E/CN.7/2018/3-E/CN.15/2018/3](#).



I. Deliberations

1. In the period from 11 June to 14 September 2018, 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 two informal meetings. It continued to consider issues under the items on the agenda approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2017/236 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, 58/1 and 60/3 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions 20/1, 20/9, 22/2, 24/1 and 26/1.

2. At its meeting held on 11 June 2018, the working group approved its calendar of meetings and the provisional programme of work for the remainder of 2018. At the same meeting, the Secretariat briefed delegations on the financial situation of UNODC, including the evolution in the period 2012–2018 of special-purpose funds, programme support cost funds and general-purpose funds. Other information provided by the Secretariat included data on implementation in 2017 (as set out in draft financial statements), UNODC income in 2017, general-purpose funding shortfalls, financial prospects for 2018, special-purpose fund delivery rates and results for 2017 and 2018. The calculation and implementation of special-purpose funding was also explained in detail. Additional information was provided on the 2017 audit and recommendations of the Board of Auditors, on the planned changes in the budget as part of the United Nations Secretariat management reform and on the roll-out of Umoja Extension 2. Delegations requested to be briefed on the proposal for the UNODC-related programme section of the United Nations regular budget before it is submitted to United Nations Headquarters in January 2019. The Secretariat also briefed the meeting on the contribution of the UNODC Independent Evaluation Unit to national evaluation capacity-building to monitor progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, on the development of evaluation knowledge products, and on the conduct of evaluations of global and regional projects of UNODC. Information was also provided on the improved UNODC evaluation performance indicator rating of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the development of a web-based evaluation application, and participation in the United Nations Evaluation Group.

3. At the meeting of the working group held on 14 September 2018, the Secretariat provided an update to delegations on the United Nations management reform based on General Assembly resolution [72/266 B](#) and [72/303](#), aimed at creating a paradigm shift in management through decentralization, delegation and simplification. At the meeting, information was also provided on the impact of the budget reform on the UNODC regular and consolidated budgets, on the preparation by UNODC of the results framework for the 2020 programme budget and the timeline of submission of the budget-related documents to United Nations Headquarters for review and approval. The Secretariat also provided further information on the global service delivery model, aimed at providing non-location-specific shared services to all United Nations Secretariat entities, and on the roll-out of Umoja Extension 2. UNODC was also preparing for the United Nations development system reform. In financial terms, UNODC would be contributing to the funding of the United Nations resident coordinator system through the 1 per cent coordination levy on tightly earmarked non-core contributions, as well as through the United Nations Development Group cost-sharing arrangement among United Nations development system entities, for which it is proposed that the portion of shared costs corresponding to Secretariat entities be funded from the regular budget.

4. Delegations were also briefed on General Assembly resolution [72/279](#) on the reform of the United Nations development system and its impact on UNODC. UNODC welcomed a reform aimed at creating more synergies between United

Nations agencies involved in development, to increase efficiency in assisting Member States in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the country level. The reform would have an impact on the way UNODC worked, particularly as regards the new resident coordinator system and its funding and the new generation of United Nations country teams, and the revised United Nations Development Assistance Framework. The Office was in the process of defining priority countries for its future engagement, in order to ensure its mandate areas were considered and integrated. The adaptation of the UNODC field office network to the new realities introduced by the reform would require a temporary surge capacity in some key locations. Some delegations saw the reform of the United Nations development system as an opportunity for increased efficiency and coordination and indicated that UNODC needed a business model to stay competitive and maintain its field-focused orientation.

5. Information was provided on the measures taken by UNODC to prevent and address sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse, in line with a zero tolerance approach. UNODC also provided statistics on the gender balance and geographical distribution of the composition of staff, as well as on external outreach activities in relation to the recruitment of candidates. Other activities in staff administration and development included flexible working arrangements, the inclusion of a gender perspective in the training of staff and support for leadership initiatives for women. Some delegations observed that while progress had been made on gender balance, the same could not be said for geographical representation, and that the base of applicants needed to be diversified. It was also noted that geographical representation and gender balance should not conflict with the necessity of securing candidates meeting the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, as set out in the Charter of the United Nations.

6. At the same meeting, the Secretariat provided delegations with an update on the work of the UNODC Independent Evaluation Unit, including on the status and coverage of completed, ongoing and planned UNODC evaluations, as well as on key evaluation findings. Participants underlined the importance of the evaluation function to ensure accountability, efficiency and transparency in the work of the Office. Information was also provided on the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration in the areas of integrity and accountability in the criminal justice system; rehabilitation and social reintegration of prisoners; the promotion of a culture of lawfulness among children and youth; and the integration of crime prevention, criminal justice and rule of law-related aspects into educational systems. Participants noted the considerable progress made by the Global Programme and the need to ensure its long-term sustainability.

II. Organizational and administrative matters

7. Under the guidance of the Co-Chairs, the working group held two informal meetings, on 11 June and 14 September 2018.

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), established and maintained by the Secretariat for the use of the working group.