



United Nations

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

**Report on the reconvened
sixty-fourth session
(9 and 10 December 2021)**

Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2021
Supplement No. 8A

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Note

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Executive summary

The present summary has been prepared pursuant to the annex to General Assembly resolution 68/1, entitled “Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council”, and the annex to resolution 72/305, entitled “Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/1 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council”, in which it is stated that the subsidiary bodies of the Council should, inter alia, include in their reports an executive summary.

The present document contains the report on the reconvened sixty-fourth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which was held on 9 and 10 December 2021. Chapter I contains the text of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission, including the decisions recommended by the Commission for adoption by the Economic and Social Council. During the session, the Commission considered strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions; implementation of the international drug control treaties; contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, including follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and matters relating to the organization of the sixty-fifth session of the Commission.

During its reconvened sixty-fourth session, the Commission recommended the following decisions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council: (a) “Improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: extension of 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”; and (b) “Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened sixty-fourth session”.

In addition, the Commission adopted the following resolutions: (a) “Budget for the biennium 2022–2023 for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme” (resolution 64/6); and (b) “Improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: extension of 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” (resolution 64/7).

Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decisions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council

1. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I

Improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: extension of 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

The Economic and Social Council, recalling its decision 2021/218 of 24 February 2021, entitled “Improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: extension of 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”, in which it 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 reconvened sessions of the Commissions to be held in December 2021, at which time the Commissions should carry out a thorough review of the functioning of the working group and consider the extension of its mandate beyond 2021:

(a) Reaffirms the efficiency of the working group as the forum for dialogue among Member States and between Member States and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on improving the governance and financial situation of the Office;

(b) Also reaffirms the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the principal policymaking organ of the United Nations on matters of international drug control and as the governing body of the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as the principal policymaking organ of the United Nations on matters of crime prevention and criminal justice and as the governing body of the crime programme of the Office;

(c) Expresses once again its continued concern about the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and also expresses its awareness of the urgent need to continue to address that situation in a pragmatic, results-oriented, efficient and cooperative manner;

(d) Reaffirms Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 52/13 of 20 March 2009 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 18/3 of 24 April 2009, as well as Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 54/10 of 25 March 2011, 54/17 of 13 December 2011, 56/11 of 15 March 2013, 58/1 of 17 March 2015 and 60/3 of 17 March 2017, and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions 20/1 of 13 April 2011, 20/9 of 13 December 2011, 22/2 of 26 April 2013, 24/1 of 22 May 2015 and 26/1 of 26 May 2017, and decides to renew the mandate of the working group for an unlimited period of time, with a possibility of reviewing its mandate and working methods upon the request of Member States;

(e) Decides that the working group will be led by a Bureau comprising one Chair, one First Vice-Chair and three Vice-Chairs, representing the five regional

groups, that the offices will rotate annually on the basis of regional distribution, and that members of the Bureau will be jointly nominated by the Bureaux of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and endorsed at the plenary sessions of the two Commissions;¹

(f) Also decides that the dates of meetings² should be determined by the Bureau of the working group, in consultation with the Secretariat, and that the working group will continue to hold a formal meeting at least once a year that will include a dialogue with the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

(g) Further decides that the items under consideration by the working group will be grouped into two parts, namely, an operational part, covering governance and financial matters, and a programmatic part, under which updates will be provided on programme and project implementation stemming from the mandates of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

(h) Decides that the operational part will include:

(i) Matters related to the budget and financial situation, human resources and evaluation and oversight;

(ii) Discussions on the implementation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Strategy 2021–2025, other strategies of the Office and other possible subsequent strategic documents, on the contributions of the Office to supporting Member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development³ and its contributions to United Nations reforms, on the implementation of mandates contained in the budget-related resolutions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and on the organizational arrangements for the intergovernmental meetings;

(i) Also decides that the programmatic part will cover the mandated areas of work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including:

(i) Work related to the five thematic areas, namely, addressing and countering the world drug problem, preventing and countering organized crime, preventing and countering corruption and economic crime, preventing and countering terrorism, and crime prevention and criminal justice, including the implementation of relevant thematic resolutions;

(ii) The regional strategic visions of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as field-based programmes;

(iii) Cross-cutting and other issues, such as, among others, research, gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of youth;

(j) Reiterates the request that the relevant documentation be provided to the working group not later than 10 working days before a meeting;

(k) Also reiterates the importance of the development by Member States of an indicative annual workplan, taking into account inputs from the Secretariat, in order to guide the work of the working group;

(l) Calls upon Member States to provide extrabudgetary resources to support the organization and conduct of, and follow-up to, the meetings of the working group, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

¹ The chairing arrangements will provide that the First Vice-Chair of the working group will be expected at the end of the calendar year to assume the office of Chair of the working group for the forthcoming year, to foster continuity.

² Meetings will be organized in a format that facilitates participation by field offices of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

³ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

Draft decision II

Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened sixty-fourth session

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened sixty-fourth session.

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

2. The attention of the Economic and Social Council is drawn to the following resolutions, adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its reconvened sixty-fourth session, and to the action taken pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/185 C, in section XVI of which the Assembly authorized the Commission to approve the programme budget for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme:

Resolution 64/6

Budget for the biennium 2022–2023 for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Exercising the administrative and financial functions entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/185 C, section XVI, paragraph 2, of 20 December 1991,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on the proposed budget for the biennium 2022–2023 for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme⁴ and the related recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,⁵

Noting with concern the financial challenges facing the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime due to the shortfall in general-purpose funding and underlying funding trends affecting the Office's ability to effectively uphold core programmatic functions, such as normative work and research,

Noting with concern also the financial challenges faced by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with regard to the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building to interested Member States,

1. *Notes* the alignment of the proposed budget with the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the contribution made by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁶ by assisting Member States, upon request, in their efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda and contributing to the reform of the United Nations development system and to other relevant transformation agendas agreed by Member States;

2. *Also notes* that the budget is based on, inter alia, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Strategy 2021–2025 and the strategy detailed under the annual programme plan for 2022;⁷

⁴ See E/CN.7/2021/11-E/CN.15/2021/18.

⁵ See E/CN.7/2021/13-E/CN.15/2021/20.

⁶ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

⁷ See A/76/6 (Sect. 16).

3. *Further notes* that the budget is harmonized with sections 16 and 29F of the proposed programme budget of the United Nations for 2022;⁸

4. *Notes* that the budget focuses on general-purpose funds and also includes special-purpose funds and programme support cost income earned on special-purpose contributions, as well as regular budget resources;

5. *Also notes* that the general-purpose resources of the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund are presented as a single budget and that general-purpose expenditure will be apportioned between the two funds in accordance with the income that each generates;

6. *Further notes* that the budget clearly distinguishes between general-purpose funds and programme support cost funds and that it harmonizes the use and management of those two fund categories across the two funds of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

7. *Notes* that the programme support cost resources of the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund are presented as a single budget and that programme support cost expenditure will be apportioned between the two funds in accordance with the income that each generates;

8. *Approves* the projected use of general-purpose funds in the biennium 2022–2023, and invites Member States to provide contributions totalling at least 5,386,300 United States dollars;

9. *Endorses* the programme support cost funds and special-purpose estimates as indicated in the table below;

Resource projections for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme

<i>Fund category</i>	<i>Resources (thousands of United States dollars)</i>		<i>Posts</i>	
	<i>2020–2021 (revised)</i>	<i>2022–2023</i>	<i>2020–2021</i>	<i>2022–2023</i>
General-purpose				
Post	3 178.1	3 485.5	11	11
Non-post	1 804.5	1 900.8		
Subtotal	4 982.6	5 386.3	11	11
Special-purpose	243 101.8	181 098.3	103	135
Subtotal	243 101.8	181 098.3	103	135
Programme support cost				
Post	20 747.2	18 112.1	69	67
Non-post	5 381.7	5 604.3		
Subtotal	26 128.9	23 716.4	69	67
Total	274 213.3	210 201.0	183	213

10. *Notes* that the resource projections estimated above are subject to the availability of funding;

11. *Welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to eliminate disparities in the funding model of the Office, and in this regard requests the Office to continue its fundraising activities with regard to general-purpose funding in order to improve the ability of the Office to effectively uphold core programmatic functions, such as normative work and research;

⁸ A/76/6 (Sect. 16) and A/76/6 (Sect. 29F).

12. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to report on the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) crisis on the financial situation, governance and programmatic activities of the Office, including on the lessons learned from the response of the Office to the pandemic at headquarters and in the field;

13. *Reiterates* its request to the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to ensure that estimated costs of projected activities of the Secretariat to the Governing Bodies, as well as those of the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board, are duly and distinctly reflected in future consolidated budget documents;

14. *Urges* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within existing resources and on an equitable basis, to continue to ensure effective respect for multilingualism in the meetings and activities of the intergovernmental bodies for which the Office serves as the secretariat, and requests the Executive Director, within existing resources, to make all decisions and resolutions adopted by those intergovernmental bodies directly available on the website of the Office in all six official languages of the United Nations, on an equitable basis in relation to their English versions.

Resolution 64/7

Improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: extension of 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

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling its resolution 52/13 of 20 March 2009 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 18/3 of 24 April 2009, entitled “Improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime”, in which the Commissions decided to establish a standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on governance and finance, in order to achieve the common objective of strengthening the performance and effectiveness of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council decision 2009/251 of 30 July 2009, entitled “Frequency and duration of the reconvened sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”, in which the Council decided that, starting in 2010, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice would hold reconvened sessions on an annual basis in the second half of the year, in order to be able, pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 52/13 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 18/3, to consider the reports of and the recommendations proposed by the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

Considering that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs recommends for adoption by the Economic and Social Council the draft decision entitled “Improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: extension of 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”,

Reaffirming the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the principal policymaking organ of the United Nations on matters of international drug control and as the governing body of the drug programme of the United Nations Office on

Drugs and Crime, and the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as the principal policymaking organ of the United Nations on matters of crime prevention and criminal justice and as the governing body of the crime programme of the Office,

Reaffirming also its resolutions 54/10 of 25 March 2011, 56/11 of 15 March 2013, 58/1 of 17 March 2015 and 60/3 of 17 March 2017, and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions 20/1 of 13 April 2011, 22/2 of 26 April 2013, 24/1 of 22 May 2015 and 26/1 of 26 May 2017, entitled “Improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: recommendations of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime”,

Concerned about the financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and aware of the need to continue addressing that situation in a pragmatic, results-oriented, efficient and cooperative manner,

1. *Takes note* of the 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 prepared in accordance with Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions 18/3, 20/1, 22/2, 24/1 and 26/1 and Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 52/13, 54/10, 56/11, 58/1 and 60/3;⁹

2. *Expresses appreciation* to the Co-Chairs of the working group for their work and to the Secretariat for its assistance in facilitating the work of the working group, and requests the Secretariat to continue providing such necessary assistance, bearing in mind the limited resources available to it;

3. *Welcomes* the established practice of having a clear schedule of meetings and programme of work for the working group, and encourages the working group to hold at least four meetings a year, with each meeting lasting two days;

4. *Requests* that relevant documentation for each meeting of the working group continue to be distributed by the Secretariat no later than 10 working days before the meeting;¹⁰

5. *Welcomes* the grouping of the items under consideration by the working group into two parts, namely an operational part and a programmatic part;

Operational part

Strengthening the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

6. *Recalls* that the working group has, on several occasions, discussed fundraising issues, so as to ensure adequate, predictable and stable funding, and has also discussed ways to achieve a sustainable balance between core and non-core funding for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, so as to ensure delivery capacity and the sustainability of its global and regional programmes;

7. *Also recalls* that the working group has discussed the development and roll-out of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Strategy 2021–2025 and of the regional strategic visions of the Office and has also discussed the involvement of the Office in the implementation of United Nations reforms;

8. *Further recalls* that the working group has been considering the implementation of Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 60/10 of 8 December 2017, 61/12 of 7 December 2018, 62/9 of 13 December 2019 and 63/6 of 4 December 2020 and of Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions 26/5

⁹ E/CN.7/2021/3-E/CN.15/2021/3 and E/CN.7/2021/3/Add.1-E/CN.15/2021/3/Add.1.

¹⁰ The Commission requests that the draft consolidated budget for the Office be provided no later than 15 working days before the meeting.

of 8 December 2017, 27/7 of 7 December 2018, 28/4 of 13 December 2019 and 29/1 of 4 December 2020;

9. *Requests* the working group to continue examining and discussing the financial and governance situation of the Office, inter alia, by:

(a) Receiving reports on and facilitating the resource mobilization process to promote programmes of the Office, stressing their resource requirements and enhancing funding predictability in line with its strategic frameworks;

(b) Continuing to discuss with the Office efforts to further encourage donors to provide general-purpose funding, including by further increasing communication and the transparency and quality of reporting, and continuing to discuss the reasons for the low level of general-purpose funding, with a view to restoring an adequate balance between general-purpose and special-purpose funds;

(c) Continuing to study the progress and impact of the implementation of full cost recovery and the flexible application and allocation of programme support costs, with a view to increasing the effectiveness and results of the technical assistance programmes of the Office;

(d) Continuing to discuss with the Office the concerns related to regular budget shortfalls and possible solutions to address them;

10. *Also requests* the working group to consider the implementation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Strategy 2021–2025, other strategies of the Office and other possible subsequent strategic documents, inter alia, by:

(a) Continuing to receive updates on the milestones and deliverables achieved in the implementation of the Strategy for 2021–2025 and other possible subsequent strategic documents;

(b) Continuing to be presented with information on the financial implications of the Strategy for 2021–2025 and other possible subsequent strategic documents, and on potential reallocations to address those implications;

11. *Further requests* the working group to continue considering the involvement of the Office in the implementation of United Nations reforms, including in terms of enhanced synergies and effectiveness, achievements, challenges, cost savings and benefits, as well as the contributions of the Office to supporting Member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;¹¹

12. *Requests* the working group to continue reviewing the implementation by the Office of the mandates contained in the resolutions adopted by the Commissions on the consolidated budget for the Office and its implementation;

13. *Also requests* the working group to continue considering the efforts of the Office to enhance the organizational arrangements for the meetings of intergovernmental bodies for which the Office serves as the secretariat, including with regard to promoting multilingualism, subject to the availability of adequate resources, in meetings and activities of such bodies;

Improving gender balance and geographical representation

14. *Recalls* that the working group has been discussing the question of geographical representation and gender balance in the composition of the staff of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as part of its efforts to improve the governance of the Office;

15. *Requests* the working group to:

(a) Continue addressing the issue of gender balance and, in line with Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, equitable geographical representation and

¹¹ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

diversity and its evolution in order to discuss possible measures for further improvement in this area by, inter alia, intensifying outreach efforts;

(b) Continue receiving comprehensive updates, including in a disaggregated form, on the composition of the staff and the recruitment policies of the Office and on steps taken to achieve further improvements in this area;

Promoting a culture of evaluation within the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime at all stages of programme planning, development and implementation

16. *Recalls* that the working group has been shown numerous presentations on evaluation findings, on which occasions participants have reiterated the importance of ensuring accountability, evaluation, transparency and learning in the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

17. *Requests* the working group to invite the Independent Evaluation Section to:

(a) Continue providing the working group with information on conducted strategic evaluations and on the integration of the results of those evaluations;

(b) Continue promoting a culture of evaluation throughout the Office at all stages of programme planning, development and implementation;

(c) Continue working with the Office to monitor the implementation of recommendations made by relevant oversight bodies;

(d) Continue working with the Office to increase coordination between evaluation, audit and other oversight bodies, with the aim of building a continuum of oversight of projects and programmes of the Office;

Programmatic part

Promoting an integrated programme approach

18. *Recalls* that the working group has been following the progress made by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in implementing an integrated programme approach aimed at strengthening the links between normative mandates and operational technical assistance and improving linkages between policy, strategic planning, evaluation, programmatic work, the mobilization of resources and partnerships with all relevant stakeholders;

19. *Requests* the working group to:

(a) Continue promoting regular dialogue among all Member States, as well as with the Office, on the planning and formulation of the operational activities of the Office, especially with regard to its global and regional programmes, in line with its strategic frameworks, and on the implementation by the Office of relevant thematic resolutions;

(b) Continue receiving updates from the Office on progress made in the implementation of country, regional and global programmes, with those updates to:

(i) Be clustered according to the five thematic areas of the mandated work of the Office;

(ii) Inform Member States about key milestones and deliverables achieved under the programmes, as well as about the envisaged follow-up activities;

(iii) Include overviews of the findings of evaluations of those programmes, as well as information on the management response to evaluation results;

(iv) Also include information on existing funding gaps hampering implementation, as well as on suggestions to address those gaps;

- (v) Cover the efforts of the Office to integrate cross-cutting and other relevant issues into the development and implementation of country, regional and global programmes;

Ensuring a comprehensive and coordinated approach to the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the field

20. *Recalls* that the working group has been discussing the programme development efforts implemented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime at the regional and country levels;

21. *Requests* the working group to continue considering the development and implementation of the regional strategic visions of the Office and the implementation of field-based programmes;

Enhancing the strategic response of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including in relation to, among others, research, scientific evidence-based policies and gender mainstreaming

22. *Recalls* that the working group has been discussing research activities and publications of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the related timelines, including the criteria and methodology underlying those research activities;

23. *Also recalls* that the working group has been discussing the question of gender mainstreaming in the policies and programmes of the Office, including the development and implementation of the strategy for gender equality and the empowerment of women of the United Nations Office at Vienna and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as part of its efforts to align its work with the guidance note on gender mainstreaming in the work of the Office;

24. *Requests* the working group to:

(a) Continue discussing issues related to advancing the research and analysis capacity of the Office, so as to ensure the formulation and implementation of scientific evidence-based responses and services, and to continue receiving updates, on a regular basis, on ongoing and future research activities and publications of the Office;

(b) Continue addressing the question of gender mainstreaming in the policies and programmes of the Office at the strategic level in order to discuss possible measures for further improvement in this area.

Chapter II

Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions

3. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, held jointly with the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on 9 December 2021, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs considered agenda item 4, which read as follows:

“4. 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.”

4. For its consideration of item 4, 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.7/2021/3/Add.1-E/CN.15/2021/3/Add.1](#));

(b) Report of the Executive Director on the consolidated budget for the biennium 2022–2023 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2021/11-E/CN.15/2021/18](#));

(c) Report of the Executive Director on gender balance and geographical representation within the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2021/12-E/CN.15/2021/19](#));

(d) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the consolidated budget for the biennium 2022–2023 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2021/13-E/CN.15/2021/20](#));

(e) Conference room paper prepared by the Secretariat on the draft proposed programme plan for 2023 and programme performance for 2021 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2021/CRP.10-E/CN.15/2021/CRP.5](#));

(f) Conference room paper prepared by the Secretariat on enhanced support to Member States through the implementation of the United Nations Office at Vienna/United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (2018–2021) ([E/CN.7/2021/CRP.11-E/CN.15/2021/CRP.6](#));

(g) Conference room paper prepared by the Secretariat on the new working methods of the governing bodies of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: from business continuity to preparations for the post-COVID era ([E/CN.7/2021/CRP.13-E/CN.15/2021/CRP.7](#));

(h) Conference room paper prepared by the Secretariat on the implementation of General Assembly resolution [75/290 A](#), on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council ([E/CN.7/2021/CRP.14-E/CN.15/2021/CRP.8](#));

(i) Conference room paper on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: extension of 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 ([E/CN.7/2021/CRP.15-E/CN.15/2021/CRP.9](#)).

5. The Director of the Division for Management, the Director of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs and the Chief of the Secretariat to the Governing Bodies of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) made introductory statements. The representatives of Colombia and Spain, in their capacity as Co-Chairs of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC, also made introductory statements. Two representatives of the Secretariat made presentations.

6. Statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Burkina Faso, the United States of America, Switzerland, Colombia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, the Russian Federation, Sweden, Kenya, Canada, China, Algeria, Jamaica and Kyrgyzstan. Statements were also made by the observers for the Islamic Republic of Iran, Argentina, Armenia, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Bangladesh.

7. Joint statements were made by the observers for Costa Rica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and by the observer for the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs.

A. Deliberations

8. Speakers recognized the challenges associated with the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic for programme planning and delivery, and commended the efforts undertaken by the Office. The importance of further supporting Member States with efficient programme delivery despite the challenges posed by the pandemic was underscored.

9. Many speakers welcomed the efforts made by the Secretariat to ensure business continuity and facilitate the participation of all States in the meetings of the Commissions under measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and requested UNODC to continue such efforts. In that context, the representative of Kenya announced his country's continued availability to host the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, in 2022. Some speakers expressed concern about the reduction of meeting times with interpretation by one third and called upon the Office to explore solutions to address the situation. The importance of multilingualism was underlined, and UNODC was called upon to continue its efforts in that regard.

10. Many speakers welcomed the extension of the mandate of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC for an unlimited period and expressed appreciation for the new working methods. The structural changes, the dividing of the work into programmatic and operational segments and the introduction of a Bureau were welcomed. Many speakers thanked the Co-Chairs for their contribution to the future of the working group. Some speakers emphasized the role of the working group in enhancing the transparency and accountability of the Office and strengthening cooperation and trust between Member States and UNODC. The importance of continued dialogue with the Executive Director of the Office was emphasized.

11. The report of the Executive Director of UNODC on the consolidated budget of the Office for the biennium 2022–2023 was welcomed, as were the efforts to explore a creative programming and funding model.

12. Several speakers reiterated the importance of adequate, predictable and stable funding for UNODC to ensure the implementation of its mandates and the continuity of its high-quality operational and technical assistance, in particular to developing countries. Several speakers expressed concern about the challenges that the Office faced regarding the limited general-purpose funding, which could affect the Office's ability to efficiently maintain core programmatic functions. It was noted that the COVID-19 pandemic had further exacerbated the financial situation of the Office. Some speakers called upon Member States to consider making non-earmarked contributions and emphasized the need for sufficient regular budget funding. UNODC was also encouraged to increase transparency regarding the use of programme support

cost funds, to broaden their distribution, including to UNODC field operations, and to increase the flexibility of their use.

13. Several speakers commended UNODC for its Strategy 2021–2025, as well as the Strategic Vision for Africa 2030. The efforts made by UNODC with regard to the implementation of the United Nations development system reform and the United Nations management system reform were welcomed by several speakers. Furthermore, several speakers underscored the importance of keeping Member States regularly informed about the Office’s progress in implementing the reforms.

14. Several speakers commended the UNODC regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, and one speaker reported on the launch of the UNODC programme for Central Asia for the period 2022–2025.

15. The need to strengthen results-based management, with a view to enhancing transparency and accountability, and the integration of monitoring and evaluation was underscored by some speakers.

16. The progress made by UNODC in achieving gender equality in its staff composition was welcomed by several delegations, and further efforts to achieve equal representation, in particular at the senior and policymaking levels, were called for. Speakers requested UNODC to continue reporting on such efforts to the Commissions.

17. The importance of ensuring the integration of gender perspectives into all aspects of the programming and work of the Office was highlighted. Appreciation was expressed for the efforts to implement the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV)/UNODC Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, as well as the work of the Gender Team in the Office of the Director-General/Executive Director. Some speakers made reference to the Group of Friends for Gender Equality at UNOV/UNODC and invited Member States that had not yet done so to join the Group. One speaker stated that his country opposed the inclusion of references to LGBTQI+ persons in any UNODC document, also referring to other countries that opposed such inclusion, while a few speakers encouraged UNODC to broaden its work on the rights of LGBTQI+ persons and allocate the necessary resources.

18. While welcoming the efforts made by UNODC in that regard, several speakers expressed the view that greater efforts were needed to increase geographical diversity and equitable geographical representation in the staff composition of the Office, in particular efforts to enhance the representation of developing, unrepresented and underrepresented countries. Reference was made to the Secretariat’s Geographical Diversity Strategy, and the Office was requested to provide detailed information on the implementation and impact of the strategy. Some speakers emphasized that the selection of candidates should continue to be focused on merit and competence, as enshrined in Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations.

B. Action taken by the Commission

19. At its 3rd meeting, on 10 December 2021, the Commission adopted resolution 64/6, entitled “Budget for the biennium 2022–2023 for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme ([E/CN.7/2021/L.10](#)) (for the text, see chap. I, sect. B).

20. At the same meeting, the Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of a draft decision entitled “Improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: extension of 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” ([E/CN.7/2021/L.8](#)) (for the text, see chap. I, sect. A, draft decision I).

21. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted resolution 64/7, entitled “Improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on

Drugs and Crime: extension of 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 ([E/CN.7/2021/L.9](#)) (for the text, see chap. I, sect. B).

22. After the adoption of the draft resolutions and decisions, the delegate of Mexico stated that having a situation in which some Member States were approaching the Secretariat to amend pre-session documentation prepared by UNODC constituted a violation of Article 100, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations. Furthermore, he pointed out that Mexico would reconsider interacting on future developments in his country with those who had prevented the Chair of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention of the Human Rights Council from addressing the meeting and who were reinterpreting the mandate and functions of the Commission, which was a forum for cooperation to address all matters related to drugs.

Chapter III

Implementation of the international drug control treaties

23. At its 3rd meeting, on 10 December 2021, the Commission considered agenda item 5, which read as follows:

“Implementation of the international drug control treaties:

- (a) Changes in the scope of control of substances;
- (b) Challenges and future work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the World Health Organization and the International Narcotics Control Board in the review of substances for possible scheduling recommendations;
- (c) International Narcotics Control Board;
- (d) International cooperation to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion;
- (e) Other matters arising from the international drug control treaties.”

24. For its consideration of item 5, the Commission had before it a conference room paper containing a summary of assessments, findings and recommendations of the forty-fourth meeting of the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence of the World Health Organization (WHO) (E/CN.7/2021/CRP.12).

25. The Chief of the Laboratory and Scientific Section of UNODC and the observer for WHO made introductory statements.

26. Statements were made by the representatives of Turkey, China, the United States, Colombia, Brazil, Kyrgyzstan, Thailand, the Russian Federation, Algeria, Peru, Morocco, Ecuador and Canada, as well as by the observers for Singapore, Malta, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam. The observers for the Turkish Green Crescent Society and the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care also made statements.

Deliberations

27. Pursuant to Commission resolution 58/11, in preparation for the scheduling decisions to be taken by the Commission at its sixty-fifth session, the observer for WHO presented to the Commission information on the outcome of the forty-fourth meeting of the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence, held online from 11 to 15 October 2021.

28. Many speakers reiterated their full commitment to the international drug control treaties as the cornerstone of the international drug control system and recalled that the Commission was the main policymaking body within the United Nations for drug-related matters and that UNODC was the leading entity in the United Nations system for addressing and countering the world drug problem. They also highlighted the role of the International Narcotics Control Board. A number of speakers expressed appreciation for the technical support provided by UNODC and the Board.

29. A number of speakers shared information on national efforts to address the world drug problem, including with regard to the links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime, and the criminal misuse of information and communications technologies for illicit drug-related activities. Some speakers addressed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on drug use, access to health care, the situation of people with drug use disorders and the access to and availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes.

30. The challenges posed by synthetic drugs, new psychoactive substances and the non-medical use of pharmaceutical drugs were also underlined. Some speakers called for a human rights-based approach to addressing the world drug problem. The importance of international cooperation and the principle of common and shared responsibility were also stressed.

Chapter IV

Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in line with General Assembly resolution 72/305, including follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

31. At its 2nd meeting, held jointly with the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on 9 December 2021, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs considered agenda item 9, entitled “Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in line with General Assembly resolution 72/305, including follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

32. The Chief of the Secretariat to the Governing Bodies of UNODC made an introductory statement.

33. Statements were made by the representatives of the Russian Federation, Mexico and China.

Deliberations

34. Speakers emphasized the substantive contributions of the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, within their respective mandates, to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It was mentioned that the review of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council was to take into account the 2030 Agenda, while at the same time considering the specific mandates of the Vienna-based commissions. The importance of cooperation among States and within the United Nations system was highlighted.

35. The work of UNODC in collecting statistical information on the world drug problem, crime prevention and criminal justice, which also contributed to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, was welcomed. The unique mandate of the Office as the main entity in the United Nations system for addressing drugs and crime was also underlined.

Chapter V

Provisional agenda for the sixty-fifth session of the Commission

36. At its 3rd meeting, on 10 December 2021, the Commission considered agenda item 10, entitled “Provisional agenda for the sixty-fifth session of the Commission”. The Chair introduced the item and brought to the attention of the Commission matters relating to the organization of work for its sixty-fifth session.

37. No statements were made under agenda item 10.

A. Deliberations

1. Duration of the sixty-fifth session and other arrangements

38. The Commission decided that its regular sixty-fifth session would be held from Monday, 14 March 2022 to Friday, 18 March 2022, with pre-session consultations to be held on 11 March 2022. The Commission also decided that its reconvened sixty-fifth session would be held on 8 and 9 December 2022.

39. The Commission further decided that, in accordance with its decision 55/1, the firm deadline for the submission of draft resolutions would be one month prior to the commencement of the session, namely, by noon on Monday, 14 February 2022.

40. Owing to the difficulty of predicting the developments of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission decided that the extended Bureau would continue to discuss the logistical arrangements for the sixty-fifth session.

2. Provisional agenda for the sixty-fifth session of the Commission

41. The Chair recalled that, in its decision 2021/251, the Economic and Social Council had approved the provisional agenda for the sixty-fifth session of the Commission.

42. The Chair further recalled that, in its resolution 75/290 A, the General Assembly had encouraged the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council to align their discussions with the main theme of the Council. The Chair therefore encouraged delegations to link their statements at the sixty-fifth session to the main theme for 2022, which would be “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

B. Action taken by the Commission

43. At its 3rd meeting, on 10 December 2021, the Commission decided on the dates, deadlines and arrangements for its sixty-fifth session as set out in paragraphs 38–42 above.

Chapter VI

Other business

44. At its 3rd meeting, on 10 December 2021, the Commission considered agenda item 11, entitled “Other business”.

45. Statements were made by the representatives of Belgium (on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States), the European Union,¹² the Russian Federation (on behalf of a group of countries),¹³ Egypt, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, France, Cuba and Nigeria. Statements were also made by the observers for Singapore, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Slovenia, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal, Greece and Indonesia, as well as the observer for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Deliberations

46. The Chair made reference to a video message received by the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention of the Human Rights Council, presenting the study on arbitrary detention relating to drug policies prepared pursuant to the mandate contained in Human Rights Council resolution 42/22. The Chair informed the Commission that the video message had been posted on the website of the Commission, together with the study itself.¹⁴

47. A number of speakers expressed concerns about the content of the study, stating that it exceeded the mandate given by the Human Rights Council and addressed topics that were prerogatives of the Commission. They stated that some of the recommendations of the study were not in line with the international drug control treaties and related policy commitments. Some speakers also voiced concerns about the process of developing the study, stating that the Commission had not been consulted, and that the sources used to describe country situations had been selective, which had led to unreliable and, in some instances, incorrect information. Some speakers stated that, by posting the report on the website of the Commission, it had been brought to the attention of the Commission as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control matters, as mandated in Human Rights Council resolution 42/22, and that a presentation of the study by the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group was unnecessary and had not been requested.

48. Other speakers regretted that the video message had not been displayed at the session. They stated that the statement by the Chair-Rapporteur had been mandated by Human Rights Council resolution 42/22 and that it was common practice to allow statements from non-member States to be made under the agenda item “Other business”. They considered that practice to be in line with the commitment made in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem to foster broad, transparent and inclusive discussions involving all relevant stakeholders, and expressed the hope that the refusal to display the video message remained an isolated incident and did not set a precedent. Some speakers stated that the study had been developed with a broad range of inputs and its content was highly relevant to the Commission’s mandate, in particular in view of the commitment made in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, held in 2016,

¹² The following countries aligned themselves with the statement: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine.

¹³ Bangladesh, Belarus, China, Cuba, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Malaysia, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine and Syrian Arab Republic.

¹⁴ [A/HRC/47/40](#).

entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem” to respect, protect and promote all human rights in the development and implementation of drug policies, and they encouraged the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention to continue its work.

Chapter VII

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its reconvened sixty-fourth session

49. At its 3rd meeting, on 10 December 2021, the Commission adopted the parts of its report on the organization of the reconvened session and administrative matters ([E/CN.7/2021/L.1/Add.7](#)); on agenda item 4, on strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions ([E/CN.7/2021/L.1/Add.8](#)); and on agenda item 9, on contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in line with General Assembly resolution 72/305, including follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ([E/CN.7/2021/L.1/Add.9](#)). The Commission decided that, in line with past practice, the present report would be brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council and that a draft decision on the report of the Commission on its reconvened sixty-fourth session, to be recommended to the Economic and Social Council for adoption, would be included in the report on the reconvened session (see chap. I, sect. A, draft decision II). The Commission also decided to entrust the finalization of the report to the Chair of the Commission, with the assistance of the Rapporteur.

Chapter VIII

Organization of the reconvened session and administrative matters

A. Opening and duration of the session

50. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs held its reconvened sixty-fourth session in Vienna on 9 and 10 December 2021.

51. The Economic and Social Council, in its decision 2011/259, entitled “Joint meetings of the reconvened sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”, decided that, starting in 2011, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice would hold joint meetings during their reconvened sessions for the sole purpose of considering agenda items included in the operational segment of the agendas of both Commissions, with a view to providing integrated policy directives to UNODC on administrative, budgetary and strategic management issues. The Council also decided that the practice of holding back-to-back reconvened sessions of the Commissions would be continued to enable each Commission to consider, in separate meetings, agenda items included in the normative segment of its agenda.

52. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs held three meetings during its reconvened sixty-fourth session. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2011/259, two meetings of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs were held jointly with the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in order to consider items 4 and 9 of the agenda of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and items 4 and 10 of the agenda of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

53. At the joint plenary meeting, the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice made statements. The Executive Director of UNODC addressed the Commissions in a video message.

B. Attendance

54. The revised arrangements for the organization of the reconvened sixty-fourth session had been endorsed by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs by means of a silence procedure on 29 November 2021. In accordance with those arrangements, the session was conducted in a hybrid format. Commission members were allowed to be physically present in the conference room, while other Member States and stakeholders joined online.

55. The reconvened sixty-fourth session was attended by representatives of 50 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations, representatives of entities of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations also participated. A list of participants is contained in document E/CN.7/2021/INF/3.

C. Election of officers

56. On 16 September 2021, the African States nominated Suleiman Dauda Umar (Nigeria) as Third Vice-Chair to replace Bukar Hamman (Nigeria).

57. At its 1st meeting, on 9 December, the Commission elected Mr. Umar as Third Vice-Chair.

D. Documentation

58. The documents before the Commission at its reconvened sixty-fourth session are listed in conference room paper E/CN.7/2021/CRP.9/Add.1.

E. Closure of the session

59. At the 3rd meeting, on 10 December 2021, a closing statement was made by the Chair of the Commission. Statements were also made by the representatives of Belgium, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, the Russian Federation, Nigeria, Egypt and Thailand.