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Draft report

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Addendum

Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions

1. At its 1st meeting, held jointly with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on 8 December 2022, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice 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 United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme;

(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 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.7/2022/3/Add.1-E/CN.15/2022/3/Add.1](#));

(b) Report of the Executive Director on gender balance and geographical representation within the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2022/15-E/CN.15/2022/15](#));

(c) Report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the consolidated budget for the biennium 2022–2023 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2022/16-E/CN.15/2022/16](#));



(d) Conference room paper prepared by the Secretariat on the draft proposed programme plan for 2024 and programme performance for 2022 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2022/CRP.16-E/CN.15/2022/CRP.9).

3. The Director of the Division for Management and the Director of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs of UNODC made introductory statements. The observer for Costa Rica, in his capacity as Vice-Chair of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC, also made an introductory statement.

4. Joint statements were made by the observer for the European Union on behalf of the European Union and its member States¹ and by the representative of Morocco on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

5. Statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Kenya, Japan, Italy, Paraguay, Pakistan, Colombia, Peru, China and the Russian Federation.

6. Statements were also made by the observers for Honduras, Bangladesh, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Sweden, Jamaica, the United Arab Emirates, Burkina Faso, Ecuador, Afghanistan, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Uzbekistan. The observer for the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice made a statement, also on behalf of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs.

7. The observer for Ukraine made a statement in exercise of the right of reply.

A. Deliberations

8. Many speakers commended the work carried out by the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC, which continued to serve as a forum for dialogue between Member States and UNODC on strategic and programmatic matters with a view to increasing accountability with regard to programme development and implementation. Appreciation was expressed to the Chair and the Bureau of the working group for having guided the deliberations of the working group in a skilful manner. The importance of continued dialogue with the Executive Director and senior management of UNODC was underscored.

9. Several speakers welcomed the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the consolidated budget of UNODC for the biennium 2022–2023.

10. Several speakers recognized that UNODC had continued to deliver assistance in a period of multiple crises, and that the Office had been experiencing financial challenges. They expressed concern about the low level of general-purpose and soft-earmarked funding. Many speakers reiterated that adequate, predictable and flexible funding was key for UNODC to ensure the implementation of its mandates. Some speakers called upon Member States to consider making non-earmarked contributions and emphasized the need for sufficient regular budget funding. The Office was invited to consider avenues to reduce its dependence on extrabudgetary resources. The importance of strengthening efforts to ensure an innovative and transparent funding model for UNODC was stressed. The Office was commended for placing greater focus on its field work and was encouraged to continue its efforts in that regard.

11. UNODC was commended for the implementation of its Strategy 2021–2025 and for the roll-out and implementation of its Strategic Vision for Africa 2030 and its Strategic Vision for Latin America and the Caribbean 2022–2025. It was noted that the approaches contained in the regional visions should be implemented in line with the national priorities of relevant Member States. Some speakers reiterated the

¹ Also on behalf of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and San Marino.

importance of improving and expanding UNODC regional and country programmes and projects in developing countries, with a particular emphasis on technical assistance activities.

12. Several speakers commended UNODC for its continuous involvement in the implementation of the United Nations management and development system reform and stressed the importance of providing further updates to Member States in that regard. Some speakers also called upon UNODC to continue to engage in full coordination with other United Nations entities at the country level and with the resident coordinators. The need for strengthened partnerships with United Nations entities, civil society and other relevant stakeholders in addressing and countering the world drug problem and preventing and countering crime was stressed.

13. The importance of building a culture of evaluation, results-based management and risk management, with a view to strengthening the overall performance of the Office and increasing accountability, was underscored. Some speakers welcomed the conference paper on the draft proposed programme plan for 2024 and programme performance for 2022, and the inclusion of a reference to strengthening the Independent Evaluation Section.

14. While appreciation was expressed for the contributions of the Office to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the need for adherence to the international drug control conventions and for a balanced approach to addressing the world drug problem – thereby focusing on the core mandates of UNODC – was also mentioned.

15. It was noted that the Office's research work should be based on mandates and policy guidance provided by its governing bodies, as well as on impartial and transparent data sources. The need for regular dialogue and close consultations between Member States and UNODC regarding ongoing and planned publications and research activities was emphasized.

16. UNODC was commended for the smooth organization and conduct of intergovernmental meetings since the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

17. A number of speakers reiterated the importance of continued efforts to ensure respect for multilingualism in the meetings of intergovernmental bodies.

18. Appreciation was expressed for the efforts of UNODC to promote equitable geographical representation in its staff composition, bearing in mind the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity. At the same time, many speakers stressed the need for strengthened efforts and initiatives aimed at further improving the situation in that regard.

19. The progress made by the Office in achieving gender parity in its staff composition was welcomed by a number of delegations, and the importance of the work in that area was highlighted.

20. Several speakers recognized the noticeable efforts of UNODC to mainstream a gender perspective into its programmes and activities, including in the framework of the United Nations Office at Vienna/UNODC Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (2022–2026). The work of the Office aimed at enhancing its strategic approach to youth empowerment was also commended.

B. Action taken

21. At its 1st meeting, held on 8 December 2022, the Commission elected by acclamation Philbert Abaka Johnson (Ghana) as First Vice-Chair of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC for the remaining part of 2022.