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Draft report

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Addendum

Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions

1. At its 5th meeting, on 13 April 2021, the Commission considered agenda item 4, which read as follows:

“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 4, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2021/2-E/CN.15/2021/2](#));

(b) 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-E/CN.15/2021/3](#));

(c) Note by the Secretariat on the draft proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance for 2020 ([E/CN.7/2021/9-E/CN.15/2021/15](#)).

3. An introductory statement was made by the Director of the Division for Management of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (online).

4. 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, reported on the deliberations of the working group.



5. Statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Japan, China, Jamaica, Mexico (all online).
6. A statement was also made by the observer for the International Harm Reduction Association.

A. Deliberations

7. Several speakers welcomed the new UNODC Strategy 2021–2025 as an important instrument to reaffirm its mission, improve efficiency, enhance trust among stakeholders and equip the Office to meet its mandates. They also welcomed the UNODC Strategic Vision for Africa 2030 and the consultative process for its development, as well as ongoing complementary processes in other regions.

8. Several speakers recognized the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic and welcomed the efforts and flexibility of UNODC in upholding programme delivery. UNODC was commended for its success in navigating the challenges of organizing meetings in both virtual and hybrid formats during the COVID-19 pandemic.

9. The efforts of UNODC to increase funding and partnerships were welcomed, while the financial situation of the organization was noted with concern. It was highlighted that unearmarked contributions were of key importance to enabling the organization to strategically manage its operations, exercise effective corporate oversight, fund key activities and launch new initiatives and programmes.

10. Speakers made reference to the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC as an important mechanism for improved information-sharing, transparency and communication between the Secretariat and Member States on budgetary and management issues. One speaker underscored the importance of understanding the implications that draft resolutions of the Commission had for both regular budget and extrabudgetary funds and underlined the importance of further discussions in that regard.

11. Several speakers recognized the expertise of UNODC and its strong network of field offices and welcomed the collaboration of UNODC with other United Nations entities and its engagement with civil society. The importance of research and reliable data on the world drug problem was underscored, and the UNODC research briefs on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic were noted with appreciation.

12. Several speakers expressed their support for the continued efforts by UNODC to improve staff diversity, including geographical representation, as outlined in the report of the Executive Director on gender balance and geographical representation within the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2020/17-E/CN.15/2020/17](#)). UNODC was urged to improve geographical representation in the recruitment of international staff. It was at the same time emphasized that the paramount basis for candidate selection should be merit and competence, as enshrined in Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations.

B. Action taken by the Commission

13. At the 5th meeting, on 13 April 2021, the Commission took note of Economic and Social Council decision 2021/218, in which the Council decided to extend the mandate of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC 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. At the same meeting, the Commission elected Germán Andrés Calderón Velásquez (Colombia) 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.