



# Economic and Social Council

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## Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Sixty-sixth session

Vienna, 13–17 March 2023

### Draft report

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#### Addendum

### Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions

1. At its 4th meeting, on 14 March 2023, 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.7/2023/2-E/CN.15/2023/2](#));

(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.7/2023/3-E/CN.15/2023/3](#));

(c) Note by the Secretariat on the draft proposed programme plan for 2024 and programme performance for 2022 ([E/CN.7/2023/10-E/CN.15/2023/12](#)).

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

4. The observer for Albania, in her capacity as Vice-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, Pakistan, China, Japan, Jamaica, South Africa and the Republic of Korea.
6. The observers for Burkina Faso and India also made statements.

### **Deliberations**

7. Several speakers commended UNODC on its recent work, including in a situation of compounding crises related to the consequences of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic as well as new and protracted conflicts. Several speakers mentioned the UNODC Strategy 2021–2025 and noted progress in its implementation. The Strategic Vision for Africa 2030 and the Strategic Vision for Latin America and the Caribbean 2022–2025 were also welcomed, as was the new Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Terrorism (2022–2027) and the Office’s programming on synthetic drugs and on alternative development. Several speakers commended the work of the UNODC research programme. The importance of ensuring the objectivity of data and closely consulting with Member States in that regard was also mentioned. A number of speakers highlighted the role of global programming. Several speakers also welcomed the presence of the Office through its field office network, highlighted the importance of regional approaches and called upon the Office to maintain or increase its activities in their respective regions. UNODC was encouraged to deepen its partnerships with other intergovernmental organizations and to increase its internal coordination.
8. The efforts of UNODC to increase funding and partnerships were recognized, while the aggravated financial situation of the Office, in particular the decrease in the general purpose fund, was noted with concern. A number of speakers underlined the need for sufficient, adequate and predictable funding for UNODC. The Office’s efforts to build a transparent funding model were noted. Some speakers highlighted the importance of ensuring efficiency, transparency and accountability, and the need for constant cooperation and consultations between the Secretariat and Member States was highlighted.
9. Many speakers commended the work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC as an invaluable opportunity for fostering cooperation with the Office. Particular reference was made to the dialogue with the Executive Director as an opportunity to exchange views and strengthen collaboration.
10. Several speakers noted with appreciation the improved situation with regard to gender parity among UNODC staff. Several speakers also welcomed the efforts undertaken by the Office to improve staff diversity, including geographical representation, and urged the Office to make further efforts in that regard. At the same time, it was emphasized that the basis for candidate selection should be merit and competence, as enshrined in Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations.
11. The importance of ensuring multilingualism in intergovernmental meetings was highlighted.
12. Some speakers also welcomed the efforts of UNODC in mainstreaming gender, age and human rights perspectives into drug-related policies and programmes.