



United Nations

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

**Report on the reconvened
nineteenth session
(3 December 2010)**

**Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2010
Supplement No. 10A**

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

[7 December 2010]

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Chapter I

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

Draft decision for adoption by the Economic and Social Council

1. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Draft decision

Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its reconvened nineteenth session

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its reconvened nineteenth session.

Chapter II

Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions

2. At its 11th meeting, on 3 December 2010, the Commission continued its consideration of agenda item 8, which read as follows:

“Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions:

“(a) Work of the working group on governance and finance;

“(b) Directives on policy and budgetary issues for the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme.”

3. For its consideration of agenda item 8, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Financial report and audited financial statements for the biennium ended 31 December 2009 and report of the Board of Auditors (A/65/5/Add.9);

(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.7/2010/23-E/CN.15/2010/21);

(c) Note by the co-chairs 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.7/2010/CRP.9-E/CN.15/2010/CRP.7).

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 the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), made a statement. The representatives of Belgium (on behalf of the European Union), the United States of America, Argentina, China, Mexico and the Islamic Republic of Iran made statements. Statements were also made by the observers for Sweden, Ecuador, Guatemala and Zimbabwe. The Chair of the Commission made a statement.

A. Deliberations

5. The representative of Spain, speaking in his capacity as co-chair of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC, presented a summary of the work of the working group, indicating that participation had been active and there had been many fruitful and focused discussions. He also read out a statement on the outcome of the most recent discussions, which could not be included in the note by the Secretariat on the work of the working group, and invited the Commission to take note of that statement, which would be reflected in the report on the reconvened nineteenth session.

6. Several speakers considered that the financial status quo was not satisfactory, specifically in view of the disappointing financial situation of the Office reported by the Executive Director.
7. Several speakers reiterated that it was necessary for the working group to continue its work, taking into account the concerns and expectations expressed during the reconvened nineteenth session of the Commission, aimed at the preparation of tangible and practical recommendations for the consideration of the Commission at its twentieth session, to enhance the governance and financial situation of the Office in all their aspects.
8. A number of speakers noted that, while the working group had started to deal with the issues the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice had entrusted to it, much remained to be done, and noted that no recommendations had yet been put forward by the working group for consideration by the Commissions.
9. One speaker noted that the working group had a role to play in the review of the medium-term strategy for the Office and the forthcoming programme budget proposal of the Office, adding that the working group was the only body where the cross-cutting issues of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice could be examined.
10. Some speakers raised the possibility of holding joint reconvened sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in order to enable the consideration of related agenda items and enhance the utilization of resources. It was noted that such an arrangement would require action by the Economic and Social Council.
11. Several speakers stressed that the working group had been an important forum for dialogue among Member States, and between them and the Secretariat, particularly as regards the development of thematic and regional programmes and the re-establishment of an independent evaluation function within the Office.
12. Some speakers underlined the importance of political ownership and the need to join forces to increase the share of general-purpose and regular budget funds available to the Office in order to resolve its financial situation. Several speakers noted that all Member States should share equally the burden of providing funding to cover programme support costs.
13. One speaker underlined that the question of resources for the crime programme of the Office was particularly relevant in view of the mandates arising from the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.
14. Several speakers indicated their wish that the working group become a permanent body of the Commission. In this regard, a number of speakers expressed the view that it was important to maintain the informal nature of the working group, while other speakers noted that the working group had been formally established by a decision of the Economic and Social Council pursuant to the relevant resolutions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

15. One speaker referred to the financial report and audited financial statements for the biennium ended 31 December 2009 and report of the Board of Auditors (A/65/5/Add.9), noting that the recommendations contained therein were relevant to the activities of UNODC.

16. Several speakers referred to the opening remarks of the Executive Director at the reconvened fifty-third session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on 2 December 2010, on the critical financial situation of UNODC and on the need for a sustainable, predictable and stable funding model for the Office. They also echoed the Executive Director's call on the governing bodies to take urgent steps to enhance the governance and financing of UNODC.

17. The Chair, concluding the deliberations, called for greater engagement by Member States within the working group to agree on recommendations for concrete action by the Commission at its next session. On behalf of the Commission, he expressed appreciation to the co-chairs and commended the working group for its work.

B. Action taken by the Commission

18. At its 11th meeting, on 3 December 2010, the Commission took note of the statement made by the co-chairs of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (see annex I).

Chapter III

Other business

19. At its 11th meeting, on 3 December, the Commission considered agenda item 10, entitled “Other business”. The Chair of the Commission made a statement.

Deliberations

1. Duration of the twentieth session and other arrangements

20. The Chair recalled that, as discussed at the meeting of the extended Bureau held on 7 October 2010, the twentieth session of the Commission would be held from 11 to 15 April 2011, with informal consultations to be held on 8 April 2011. The Commission was also informed that the reconvened twentieth session of the Commission would be held on 13 December 2011.

2. Preparation of the twentieth session

21. The Chair recalled that the Economic and Social Council, in its decision 2010/243, had approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the twentieth session of the Commission and decided that the prominent theme for the twentieth session would be “Protecting children in a digital age: the misuse of technology in the abuse and exploitation of children”.

22. The Chair noted that, while a number of proposals on sub-themes submitted by the regional groups had been discussed at the meeting of the extended Bureau of the Commission on 25 November 2010, the matter needed further consideration during the intersessional period leading up to the twentieth session. The Chair underlined that an agreement was required by mid-January 2011, in order to enable the Secretariat to finalize an annotated agenda for the twentieth session.

23. The Chair informed the Commission that no communications had been received from the Chairs of the regional groups as to other operational issues arising from Council decision 2010/243, namely, ways of improving the working methods of the Commission and any information from Member States wishing to identify new or emerging crime issues, and urged the Chairs of the regional groups to transmit any proposals to the Chair of the Commission at its twentieth session.

Chapter IV

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its reconvened nineteenth session

24. At its 11th meeting, on 3 December 2010, the Commission adopted the report on its reconvened nineteenth session, on the understanding that it would be finalized by the Rapporteur and the Chair of the Commission at its nineteenth session, in consultation with the Chair and the Rapporteur of the Commission at its twentieth session, as required.

Chapter V

Organization of the session and administrative matters

A. Opening and duration of the session

25. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held its reconvened nineteenth session in Vienna on 3 December 2010.

26. At the 11th meeting, on 3 December, statements were made by the observers for Guatemala (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China) and Burkina Faso (on behalf of the Group of African States) and the representative of Chile (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States).

B. Attendance

27. The session was attended by representatives of 29 States members of the Commission (11 were not represented). Observers for other States Members of the United Nations, organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations also attended. A list of participants is contained in document E/CN.15/2010/INF.1/Add.1.

C. Documentation

28. The documents before the Commission at its reconvened nineteenth session are listed in annex II to the present report.

D. Closure of the reconvened nineteenth session

29. At the 11th meeting, on 3 December, a closing statement was made by the Chair.

Annex I

Statement by the co-chairs of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

1. Following the informal meeting of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on 29 October 2010,^a the co-chairs convened an informal meeting of the working group on 25 November and two rounds of “informal informals”, on 26 and 30 November 2010. At those meetings, participants considered a working paper that had been introduced at the meeting held on 25 November 2010. After deliberations, the co-chairs submitted the following statement for the consideration of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its reconvened fifty-third session and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its reconvened nineteenth session.
2. In accordance with the mandate set out in Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 52/13 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 18/3, the working group examined ways and means of ensuring support for and adequate follow-up of the development of the programmes of the Office, including thematic and regional programmes, and improving the governing role and functioning of the Commissions.
3. Several points were discussed at the above-mentioned meetings, including:
 - (a) The importance for thematic and regional programmes to include, inter alia, main objectives and features; their relation to the strategy for the period 2008-2011^b and the Strategic Framework of the Office; and an estimate of the costs of their implementation and possible sources of financing, as appropriate;
 - (b) The important role of the Independent Evaluation Unit in contributing to the evaluation and the development of thematic and regional programmes;
 - (c) The relevance for the development of thematic and regional programmes of an equitable and consistent application of the standard programme support charge corresponding to extrabudgetary contributions;
 - (d) Enhanced document preparation, briefings and increased dialogue continuing to have a significant positive effect on the governance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.
4. The working group recommends the continuation of its work in accordance with its mandate for the further consideration of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

^a See E/CN.7/2010/23-E/CN.15/2010/21.

^b Economic and Social Council resolutions 2007/12 and 2007/19.

Annex II

List of documents before the Commission at its reconvened nineteenth session

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
E/CN.7/2010/1/Add.1	2	Annotations to the provisional agenda
E/CN.7/2010/23- E/CN.15/2010/21	8	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.7/2010/CRP.9- E/CN.15/2010/CRP.7	8	Note by the co-chairs of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
A/65/5/Add.9	8	Financial report and audited financial statements for the biennium ended 31 December 2009 and report of the Board of Auditors
