

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Report on the reconvened fifty-fifth session (6-7 December 2012)

Economic and Social Council Official Records, 2012 Supplement No. 8A

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Note

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[20 December 2012]

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Chapter I

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

A. Draft decision 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 decision:

Draft decision

Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened fifty-fifth session

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened fifty-fifth 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 decision 55/1, adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its reconvened fifty-fifth session.

Decision 55/1

Organization of work for the future sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

On 7 December 2012, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, bearing in mind its discussions on how to improve its methods of work, decided that:

- (a) For future sessions of the Commission, the firm deadline for the submission of draft resolutions to be considered at the part of the session held in the first half of the year will be, in principle, one month prior to the commencement of that part of the session;
- (b) The firm deadline for the submission of draft resolutions to be considered at the part of the fifty-sixth session to be held in the first half of 2013 will be three weeks prior to the commencement of that part of the session;
- (c) For future sessions of the Commission, the part of the session held in the first half of the year will be preceded by informal pre-session consultations, with interpretation, to be held on the working day preceding the first day of that part of the session, as the informal pre-session consultations provide an opportunity for Member States to engage in informal consultations on draft resolutions and, inter alia, the provisional agenda for the next session of the Commission;

- (d) The Secretariat will make the arrangements necessary for the adequate implementation of paragraphs (a) to (c) above, in particular by ensuring that draft resolutions are made available in all six official languages of the United Nations at least one week prior to the start of the informal pre-session consultations held in the first half of the year;
- (e) In order to further the objectives of General Assembly resolution 52/214 of 22 December 1997, section B, in which the Assembly invited all intergovernmental bodies to consider, where appropriate, the possibility of reducing the length of their reports from the desired limit of 32 pages to 20 pages over a period of time without adversely affecting either the quality of presentation or the content of the reports, the Commission will make efforts to reduce the length of its annual reports, bearing in mind the need for such reports to include resolutions and decisions adopted or transmitted by the Commission, as well as a brief summary of its deliberations under each agenda item, focusing in particular on policy findings and conclusions reached;
- (f) Bearing in mind the need to maintain budget discipline, to use conference services in a cost-effective manner and to conduct its work more efficiently, the Secretariat will submit a report to the Commission at its fifty-seventh session related to documentation prepared for the Commission, including the costs and the number and frequency of issuance of those documents, the efforts made by the Secretariat to find internal efficiencies in the manner in which it produces such documents and the savings linked to those efficiencies, as well as recommendations on these issues, including exploring possibilities to further improve and reduce the yearly reporting requirements through a thorough examination of its current mandates, with a view to identifying outdated or duplicative mandates.

Chapter II

Policy directives to the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and strengthening the drug programme and the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as its governing body, including administrative, budgetary and strategic management questions

3. At the 1st meeting of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held jointly with the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on 6 December 2012, the Commission considered agenda item 3, which read as follows:

"Policy directives to the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and strengthening the drug programme and the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as its governing body, including administrative, budgetary and strategic management questions:

- "(a) Work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and policy directives;
- "(b) Role of the Commission as the governing body of the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;
 - "(i) Strengthening the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;
 - "(ii) Administrative, budgetary and strategic management questions."
- 4. For its consideration of item 3, 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.7/2012/12/Add.1-E/CN.15/2012/12/Add.1);
- (b) 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 (E/CN.7/2012/CRP.9-E/CN.15/2012/CRP.7).
- 5. The Director of the Division for Management of UNODC, the Chief of the Financial Resources Management Service and 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, made introductory statements.
- 6. Statements were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Netherlands, Japan, the Russian Federation, Mexico, Pakistan and the United States of America.

A. Deliberations

- 7. Speakers welcomed the joint meetings of the Commissions at their reconvened sessions as an opportunity to increase synergies with regard to the relevant items of their respective agendas.
- 8. 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. He also read out a statement by the co-chairs of the working group and invited the Commission to take note of that statement and to reflect the statement in the report on its reconvened fifty-fifth session.
- 9. Speakers acknowledged the achievements of the working group and the work of the co-chairs. The working group had proved to be a useful forum for exchanging information and enhancing dialogue on issues such as the progress made by UNODC in its integrated programme approach, as well as ways of improving the governance and financial situation of the Office. Broad support was expressed for a renewal of the mandate of the working group at the next session of the Commission. In that regard, it was mentioned that an annual structured workplan, duly approved by Member States, would be welcomed. Some delegates proposed the transformation of the working group into a permanent body, in line with one of the recommendations contained in the opening statement delivered by the representative of Peru on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. Some delegates proposed that the working group should remain in its present format.
- 10. Many speakers addressed the financial situation of UNODC. Concern was expressed regarding the sustainability and predictability of funding and the ability of UNODC to carry out its work, especially in the light of the downward trend in general-purpose contributions. The importance of transparency, oversight and evaluation was stressed. Ownership of technical assistance programmes by recipient countries was considered crucial.
- 11. Several speakers welcomed the UNODC fundraising strategy as a basis for further discussions, as well as the concrete proposals aimed at improving the financial situation of the Office. The importance of efforts to increase regular budget allocations was stressed. Donors were encouraged to refrain from reducing contributions to the general-purpose fund. While some delegates supported the concept of core functions and acknowledged its importance for increasing efficiencies in funding the mandated work of UNODC, one delegation discouraged reference to that concept, in line with the guidance provided by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in that regard.
- 12. Many speakers stressed the need for further discussions within the working group on issues relating to fundraising matters. More specifically, the Secretariat was requested to provide Member States with further information on practical examples of the impact of full cost recovery on projects and programmes, as well as the expenditure and allocation of funds by UNODC. It was added that matters of concern included the hard earmarking of contributions. The importance of coordination between representatives of Member States in Vienna and representatives in New York concerning priorities to be reflected in decisions on the regular budget of the United Nations was also emphasized.

13. The Chief of the Financial Resources Management Service provided information on the UNODC financial statements for the biennium ended 31 December 2011, and on the unqualified audit opinion received from the Board of Auditors thereon.

B. Action taken by the Commission

14. At its 2nd meeting, on 7 December 2012, the Commission took note of the statement of 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).

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Chapter III

Provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission

- 15. At its 2nd meeting, on 7 December 2012, the Commission considered agenda item 8, entitled "Provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission".
- 16. For its consideration, the Commission had before it a note on organization of the round-table discussions at its fifty-sixth session (E/CN.7/2012/CRP.10).
- 17. The Chairperson introduced the item and brought to the attention of the Commission matters relating to the organization of its fifty-sixth session. The representative of Mexico made a statement.

A. Deliberations

1. Duration of the fifty-sixth session and other arrangements

18. The Chairperson recalled that, at the intersessional meeting held on 2 October 2012, there had been agreement that the fifty-sixth session of the Commission should have a duration of five days and should be held from Monday, 11 March, to Friday, 15 March 2013, with pre-session consultations on 8 March 2013. The Chairperson also recalled that, at the same meeting, it had been agreed to recommend to the Commission that the provisional deadline for the submission of draft resolutions should be three weeks before the start of the session, which for the fifty-sixth session would be 18 February 2013, at noon. The Chairperson further recalled that, at the joint meeting of the extended bureaux of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on 22 May 2012, 12 and 13 December 2013 had been recommended as the dates for the reconvened fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

2. Round-table discussions

- 19. The Commission was informed that the extended bureau, at its meeting on 4 December 2012, had recommended the following sub-themes for the round-table discussions to be held by the Commission at its fifty-sixth session:
- (a) Sub-theme for the round table on demand reduction and related measures: "Drug prevention as a means to curb the world drug problem within the framework of a scientific evidence approach";
- (b) Sub-theme for the round table on supply reduction and related measures: "The importance of international cooperation, coordination and funding to promote relevant activities and programmes on all aspects of alternative development in support of the drug control regime established by the three international drug control conventions, within a broader international framework";
- (c) Sub-theme for the round table on countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation: "The importance of further strengthening the operational implementation of treaty-based provisions on international cooperation, including for countering money-laundering

and preventing the illicit cross-border movement of cash and monetary instruments".

3. Arrangements for round-table discussions

- 20. The Commission was informed that the extended bureau, at its meeting on 4 December 2012, had recommended the following organizational arrangements for the round-table discussions to be held by the Commission at its fifty-sixth session:
 - (a) The plenary will be suspended on Tuesday, 12 March 2013, to enable:
 - (i) The round table on demand reduction and related matters to be held from 9 to 11 a.m.;
 - (ii) The round table on supply reduction and related measures to be held from 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.;
 - (iii) The round table on countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance judicial cooperation to be held from 3.30 to 5.30 p.m.;
- (b) Owing to the fact that the round tables will take place on the second day of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission and the Committee of the Whole will be led by the First Vice-Chairperson, the round tables will be chaired by the Chairperson, the Second Vice-Chairperson and the Third Vice-Chairperson of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission. Who will chair which round table will be decided by drawing lots;
- (c) The lots will be drawn by the First Vice-Chairperson of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission.

4. Preparations for the high-level review of progress made in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem

- 21. The Commission was also informed that in its resolution 67/193, entitled "International cooperation against the world drug problem", the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to convene a special session of the Assembly on the world drug problem, following the high-level review of the progress made in the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, to be conducted by the Commission at its fifty-seventh session, in March 2014.
- 22. The Commission was informed that the preparations for the high-level review, would be discussed in connection with the provisional agenda for the fifty-seventh session by the extended bureau of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission. Among the issues to be discussed with regard to the high-level review were the time and duration of the high-level segment, the format of the high-level segment, the envisaged outcome and the preparatory process leading towards the outcome.

B. Action taken by the Commission

- 23. At its 2nd meeting, on 7 December 2012, the Commission adopted a draft decision submitted by the Chairperson of the Commission, entitled "Organization of work for the future sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs" (E/CN.7/2012/L.17). (For the text, see chap. I, sect B, decision 55/1.)
- 24. At the same meeting, the Commission took note of the dates, deadlines and arrangements for the fifty-sixth session referred to in paragraph 18 above.
- 25. At the same meeting, the Commission further approved the sub-themes and organizational arrangements for the thematic round-table discussions at its fifty-sixth session, as reflected in paragraphs 19 and 20 above.

Chapter IV

Other business

- 26. At its 2nd meeting, on 7 December 2012, the Commission considered agenda item 9, entitled "Other business", under which it discussed the invitation from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chairs of the functional commissions soliciting written inputs by their membership on the key issues that should find their place in the post-2015 development agenda.
- 27. For its consideration of item 9, the Commission had before it conference room paper E/CN.7/2012/CRP.11-E/CN.15/2012/CRP.9 and Corr.1.
- 28. The Chairperson introduced the item, noting that the contributions by Member States regarding the post-2015 development agenda, along with a summary of the deliberations on the item during the reconvened fifty-fifth session, would be reflected in her response as Chairperson of the Commission at its fifty-fifth session to the President of the Economic and Social Council. The Deputy Executive Director of UNODC made an introductory statement. Statements were made by the representatives of the Russian Federation, Mexico, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United States, Canada and Pakistan, as well as by the observers for Switzerland, Jordan and Ecuador.

Deliberations

Post-2015 development agenda: Economic and Social Council

- 29. Speakers expressed their views on a number of issues for inclusion in the reply by the Chairperson of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission to the President of the Council, which would reflect the individual views expressed by members of the Commission regarding the Commission-related issues that should be considered in the post-2015 development agenda. It was stressed that the post-2015 development agenda was intrinsically linked to sustainable development. The need to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion and abuse was stressed. Prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of drug abuse and addiction were considered essential components of a comprehensive approach, in which other agencies such as the World Health Organization had an important role to play. The importance of focusing on youth in the fight against the world drug problem was also stressed. Speakers also pointed to the importance of alternative development and of gender mainstreaming in efforts to reduce poverty. The effects of "narco-corruption" on good governance were also mentioned.
- 30. Speakers expressed support for efforts to strengthen the connection of the work of the Commission in Vienna with relevant discussions in New York. It was stressed that discussions on relevant issues that should be included in the post-2015 development agenda took place within the framework of the international drug control conventions, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

31. Responding to questions from delegations, the Deputy Executive Director of UNODC emphasized that the work of the Office was part of the wider work of the United Nations and closely coordinated with specific bodies that had been set up for the preparation of the post-2015 development agenda.

Chapter V

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its reconvened fifty-fifth session

- 32. At its 2nd meeting, on 7 December 2012, the Commission adopted the parts of its draft report entitled "Organization of the session and administrative matters" and on item 3, entitled "Policy directives to the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and strengthening the drug programme and the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as its governing body, including administrative, budgetary and strategic management questions" (E/CN.7/2012/L.1/Add.6 and 7), as orally amended.
- 33. At the same meeting, the Chairperson orally introduced a draft decision on the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened fifty-fifth session. The Commission approved the draft decision for adoption by the Economic and Social Council. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. A.)
- 34. The Commission also decided to entrust the finalization of that report to the Rapporteur of the Commission, together with the Chairperson.

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Chapter VI

Organization of the session and administrative matters

A. Opening and duration of the session

- 35. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs held its reconvened fifty-fifth session in Vienna on 6 and 7 December 2012.
- 36. 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 should be continued to enable each Commission to consider, in separate meetings, agenda items included in the normative segment of its agenda.
- 37. In accordance with that decision, one meeting of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs was held jointly with the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on the first day of the reconvened sessions, on 6 December, in order to consider item 3 of the agendas of both Commissions.
- 38. The remaining items on the agenda were considered thereafter at a separate meeting, held on 7 December, as reflected in the proposed organization of work (E/CN.7/2012/1/Add.1, annex).
- 39. Opening statements were made by the chairpersons of the Commissions and the Deputy Executive Director on behalf of the Executive Director of UNODC. Statements were also made by the representative of Peru (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), the observer for Cyprus (on behalf of the European Union) and the representatives of the Russian Federation, Mexico and the United States.

B. Attendance

40. The session was attended by representatives of 40 States members of the Commission (Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Suriname, Swaziland, Turkmenistan and the United Republic of Tanzania were not represented). Observers for other States Members of the United Nations, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations also attended. A list of participants is contained in document E/CN.7/2012/INF/3.

C. Documentation

41. The documents before the Commission at its reconvened fifty-fifth session are listed in conference room paper E/CN.7/2012/CRP.8/Add.1.

D. Closure of the reconvened fifty-fifth session

42. At the 2nd meeting of the Commission, on 7 December, a closing statement was made by the Chairperson of the Commission.

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Annex

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 meetings 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), the co-chairs submitted the statement below for the consideration of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its reconvened fifty-fifth session and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its reconvened twenty-first 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, as well as Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 54/10 and 54/17 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions 20/1 and 20/9, the working group addressed a large number of issues during its recent informal meetings, including (a) supporting the development and implementation of an integrated approach to programme development at UNODC; (b) ensuring adequate follow-up to the development of thematic and regional programmes; (c) promoting measures to improve the funding situation of UNODC; and (d) supporting measures to promote a culture of evaluation throughout UNODC at all stages of programme planning, development and implementation.
- 3. The mandate of the working group will end in the first half of 2013, pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2011/258. In 2013, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-sixth session and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-second session are expected to carry out a thorough review of the functioning of the working group and consider the extension of its mandate. With a view to facilitating consultations during the reconvened fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the reconvened twenty-first session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the working group wishes to bring the following salient issues to the attention of the Commissions for their further consideration, so as to continue building upon Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 54/10 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 20/1.

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

4. The working group has been provided with numerous presentations on evaluation findings, on which occasions participants have reiterated the importance of having a sustainable, effective and operationally independent corporate evaluation function at UNODC, particularly one that was focused on the implementation, performance and impact of thematic and regional programmes.

- 5. Should the Commissions decide to extend the mandate of the Working Group, they might wish to request the Working Group to invite the Independent Evaluation Unit to continue:
- (a) Providing the Working Group with evaluation findings of the thematic and regional programmes of UNODC;
 - (b) Consulting with the working group on the Unit's activities and results;
- (c) Promoting a culture of evaluation throughout UNODC at all stages of programme planning, development and implementation;
- (d) Working with UNODC in monitoring the implementation of recommendations made by relevant oversight bodies.

Continuous support for promoting an integrated programme approach

- 6. The working group has been provided with the initial evaluation findings of the integrated programme approach (IPA), which show that such an approach can help UNODC to acquire an integrated regional and thematic perspective and to achieve benefits in terms of improved linkages between policy, strategic planning, programmatic work, mobilization of resources and partnerships with all relevant stakeholders.
- 7. Should the Commissions decide to extend the mandate of the working group, they might wish to request the working group:
- (a) To continue advocating the move by UNODC from a project-based approach to an integrated programme approach;
- (b) To continue discussing the integrated programme approach and promoting its organization-wide implementation by UNODC and its governing bodies at all stages of the programme cycles;
- (c) To draw on the evaluation findings and lessons learned from the experiences made with the integrated programme approach, when discussing fundraising matters.

Continuous support for strengthening the financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

- 8. The working group has on several occasions discussed fundraising issues and ways to achieve a sustainable balance between core and non-core funding for UNODC to ensure delivery capacity and the sustainability of thematic and regional programmes.
- 9. Should the Commissions decide to extend the mandate of the working group, they might wish to request the working group to give priority attention to the issue of supporting the funding situation and financial management of the Office and assist the Commissions in becoming more actively engaged with further transparency in the biennial consolidated budget process, including its special-purpose funding part, inter alia by:
- (a) Being apprised of, and facilitating, the resource mobilization process. This would help to transparently and holistically promote integrated regional and

global programmes along with their resource requirements and to enhance funding predictability;

- (b) Examining ways to promote the financial sustainability of UNODC, including through the elaboration on the basis of a suggestion from UNODC of a system that encourages the sustainability of contributions, including increased core contributions, as well as increased incentives for soft earmarking at the programme level and multi-year funding;
- (c) Providing continued advisory guidance on mechanisms to sustain the core infrastructure and delivery capacity of UNODC;
- (d) Providing continued support for streamlined and results-based programmatic and financial reporting at the outcome level, including by adopting a cycle of reporting to the working group on the results and priorities of regional and thematic programmes.

Continuous support for improving the governing role and functioning of the Commissions

- 10. The working groups have been provided with an opportunity to discuss progress made with the implementation of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on the basis of documentation provided by the Secretariat.
- 11. Should the Commissions decide to extend the mandate of the working group, they might wish to request the working group to continue discussing progress made with regard to the implementation of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commissions, after having specified in further detail the frequency, format and content of the reports on the implementation of resolutions to be provided by the Secretariat.

Extending the mandate and reviewing the format and organization of work of the working group

- 12. Since its inception, the working group has made many achievements, and it has further potential to support the improvement of the governance and financial situation of UNODC, by continuing to be the forum for dialogue among Member States and between Member States and the Secretariat on the development and implementation of the thematic and regional programmes of UNODC and by continuing to discuss on a regular basis financial matters relating to UNODC.
- 13. Should the Commissions decide to extend the mandate of the working group, they might wish to review the current format and organization of work of the working group at their regular sessions in 2013, thereby considering the concrete proposals submitted by delegations in that regard.