



United Nations

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

**Report on the reconvened
sixty-second session
(12 and 13 December 2019)**

**Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2019
Supplement No. 8A**

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Note

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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 sixty-second session

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened sixty-second 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 the following resolution, adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its reconvened sixty-second session, and to the action taken pursuant to General Assembly resolution [46/185](#) C, in section XVI of which the Assembly authorized the Commission to approve the programme budget for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme:

Resolution 62/9

Budget for the biennium 2020–2021 for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Exercising the administrative and financial functions entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution [46/185](#) C, section XVI, paragraph 2, of 20 December 1991, and fulfilling its mandate set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/30 of 28 July 1999,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on the proposed budget for the biennium 2020–2021 for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme¹ and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the consolidated budget for the biennium 2020–2021 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,² as well as the additional information provided to the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the Office for its deliberations,

Expressing concern about the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,²

Noting with concern the financial challenges facing the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime due to the shortfall in general-purpose funding and underlying

¹ [E/CN.7/2019/14-E/CN.15/2019/16](#).

² [E/CN.7/2019/16-E/CN.15/2019/18](#).

funding trends affecting the ability of the Office to effectively uphold core programmatic functions, such as normative work and research,

Noting with concern also that regular budget shortfalls, including those stemming from current cash liquidity problems, affect the treaty-mandated functions of the drug control treaty bodies, including the International Narcotics Control Board, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in its functions as the secretariat to the Commission, which may undermine the effectiveness and independence of those bodies,

Recalling General Assembly resolution [72/266](#) B of 5 July 2018, on shifting the management paradigm of the United Nations, and other relevant General Assembly resolutions,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution [72/279](#) of 31 May 2018, on repositioning of the United Nations development system,

Recognizing and reaffirming the important role played by the oversight bodies in the development of an accountability system that is relevant to the United Nations,

Bearing in mind the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives,³ which includes an assessment of the state of evaluation across 31 United Nations entities during the biennium 2016–2017 in terms of evaluation functions, resources and practice,

Welcoming the initiative to create a surge capacity and taking note of its initial results, including those relating to its thematic components and to measures to strengthen the field-based presence,

Recalling that Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations emphasizes the paramount consideration of efficiency, competence and integrity with regard to the recruitment of staff and that due regard must be paid to the importance of recruiting staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible,

Recognizing that the principle of equitable geographical distribution and the goal of equal representation of women and men in the staff composition of the Secretariat should not be in conflict with the paramount consideration in the employment of staff, namely, the necessity of securing the highest standard of efficiency, competence and integrity, as set out in Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Noting with concern the continuing lack of diversity, in particular with regard to equitable geographical representation, among the staff of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and emphasizing that the Office, both at headquarters and in the field, should take more effective measures to ensure the recruitment of a diverse pool of candidates, particularly within the Professional and higher categories,⁴

Recalling General Assembly resolution [69/251](#) of 29 December 2014, in which the Assembly noted with disappointment the insufficient progress made with regard to achieving the goal of a 50/50 gender balance in the United Nations common system, especially in the Professional and higher categories, and requested the International Civil Service Commission to encourage the organizations of the common system to fully implement existing gender-balance policies and measures,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2018/7 of 12 June 2018, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 26/3 of 26 May 2017 and Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 59/5 of 22 March 2016, on mainstreaming a gender perspective into the policies and programmes of the United Nations system, including those of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

³ [A/74/67](#) and [A/74/67/Corr.1](#).

⁴ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 30 (A/73/30)*, annex V.

Welcoming the development and implementation of the Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (2018–2021) of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including through the establishment of a gender team in the Office of the Executive Director,

Noting the importance of ensuring that gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women are integral parts of all aspects of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 73/346, in which the Assembly, inter alia, underlined the responsibility of the Secretariat in integrating multilingualism into its activities, from within existing resources, on an equitable basis, reaffirmed the need to achieve full parity among the six official languages on all United Nations websites, urged the Secretary-General to strengthen his efforts to develop, maintain and update multilingual United Nations websites in all the official languages of the United Nations, from within existing resources and on an equitable basis, and reiterated its requests that the Secretary-General complete the task of uploading all important older United Nations documents to the United Nations websites in all six official languages on a priority basis so that those archives are also made available to Member States through that medium,

Noting with regret that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime did not present to Member States in the second quarter of 2019 the results of the review of its funding model and the way it implements and appropriates funding sources, as urged by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in paragraph 12 of its resolution 61/12, and that the Office did not fully comply with the request to more broadly use programme support costs at headquarters and in the field offices, as appropriate,

Noting the assistance provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to Member States, upon request, in their efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the involvement of the Office in the reform of the United Nations development system,

1. *Underlines* that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is mandated by, inter alia, the relevant United Nations conventions, General Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 45/179, 46/152 and 46/185 C, Economic and Social Council resolutions, and declarations, resolutions and decisions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to carry out normative work, research and policy support activities, as well as to provide technical assistance to Member States, upon request;

2. *Notes* the contribution made by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by assisting Member States, upon request, in their efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda and contributing to the reform of the United Nations development system;

3. *Requests* the secretariat of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide regular updates in writing to the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the Office, with the first update to be provided no later than June 2020, and requests the Executive Director to report, within existing reporting entitlements, to the next reconvened sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on the involvement of the Office in the implementation of United Nations development system reform, including in terms of enhanced synergies and effectiveness, achievements, challenges, cost savings and benefits;

4. *Notes* that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has expanded and consolidated its integrated programming approach, through which it aims to provide better and more consistent support to Member States in their responses to drugs and crime;

5. *Also notes* that the budget is based on, inter alia, the strategy detailed under the proposed programme budget for 2020;⁵

6. *Further notes* that the budget is harmonized with sections 16 and 29F of the proposed programme budget of the United Nations for 2020;⁶

7. *Notes* that the budget is focused on general-purpose funds and also includes special-purpose funds and programme support cost income earned from special-purpose contributions, as well as regular budget resources;

8. *Also notes* that the general-purpose resources of the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund are presented as a single budget and that general-purpose expenditures are to be apportioned between the two funds in accordance with the income that each generates;

9. *Further notes* that the budget clearly distinguishes between general-purpose funds and programme support cost funds and that it harmonizes the use and management of those two fund categories across the two funds of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

10. *Notes* that the programme support cost resources of the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund are presented as a single budget and that programme support cost expenditure will be apportioned between the two funds in accordance with the income that each generates;

11. *Approves* the projected use of general-purpose funds in the biennium 2020–2021, and invites Member States to provide contributions totalling at least 4,819,200 United States dollars;

12. *Endorses* the estimates of special purpose funds for the biennium 2020–2021 and programme support cost funds for 2020, as indicated in the table below, and decides that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs are to review the allocation of programme support costs for 2021 during their reconvened sessions in 2020, on the basis of the information provided by the secretariat pursuant to paragraphs 3 and 26 of the present resolution, taking into account the implementation of the mandates contained in the present resolution;

13. *Requests* 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 to establish, in consultation with Member States and with the support of the Secretariat, a workplan with clear time frames to follow up on and review the full implementation by the Office of the mandates contained in the present resolution, taking into account the new cycle structure for programming and budgeting derived from the management reform process, in order to enable the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to effectively discharge their oversight functions, as mandated by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council;

⁵ See A/74/6 (Sect. 16).

⁶ A/74/6 (Sect. 16) and A/74/6 (Sect. 29F).

Resource projections for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme

Fund category	Resources (thousands of United States dollars)		Posts	
	2018–2019 (revised)	2020–2021	2018–2019	2020–2021
General-purpose funds				
Post	4 359.3	3 425.6	16	11
Non-post	1 043.9	1 393.6		
Subtotal	5 403.2	4 819.2	16	11
Special-purpose funds	316 348.8	338 331.5	135	103
Subtotal	316 348.8	338 331.5	135	103
Programme support costs^a				
Post	19 572.7	11 301.6	67	69
Non-post	5 853.6	3 050.6		
Subtotal	25 426.3	14 352.1	67	69
Total	347 178.3	357 502.8	218	183

^a Allocation for 2020.

14. *Notes* that the estimated resource projections presented in the table above are subject to the availability of funding;

15. *Reaffirms* Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 62/8, entitled “Supporting the International Narcotics Control Board in fulfilling its treaty-mandated functions in cooperation with Member States and in collaboration with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the World Health Organization”;

16. *Invites* the International Narcotics Control Board to engage in a dialogue with Member States on its current financial situation and challenges;

17. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to engage in a dialogue with the International Narcotics Control Board and Member States on how to ensure that adequate financial, staff and other resources are made available to the Board in a timely manner to enable it to fulfil its treaty-mandated functions effectively, and to consider how current funding and administrative arrangements contribute to the Board’s treaty-mandated operational autonomy and independence, and to collaborate effectively with the secretariat of the Board in the design and delivery of initiatives, including joint projects, in order to enhance synergies and avoid duplication of effort;

18. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in line with Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, to enhance its efforts, with a sense of urgency, to ensure the recruitment of staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible across the different divisions of the Office, in particular within the Professional and higher categories, including for field representatives, by, inter alia, intensifying its outreach efforts, and to report on the progress thereon to the Commission at its reconvened sixty-third session;

19. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to include in such reporting, as well as in the dialogue within the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the Office, disaggregated data on the composition of staff by geographical area and gender, including the staff of the Division for Management and locally recruited staff, as well as updates on measures taken to improve the geographical distribution of, and ensure gender parity among, its staff, including a description of

its internal and external recruitment processes, such as measures in place to ensure transparency;

20. *Takes note* of the Geography Action Plan of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and requests the Office to continue to develop the Action Plan, with the aim of effectively increasing equitable geographical representation among its staff across the Office, in line with Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, including by defining goals and timelines, and to present the Action Plan to Member States at the first meeting of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the Office to be held in the second half of 2020;

21. *Encourages* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to ensure accountability, evaluation, transparency and learning;

22. *Urges* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to enhance its strategic planning, with a view to improving results-based management in the Office, including by conducting strategic evaluations and fully integrating their results, ensuring coherent programming, promoting synergies and avoiding duplication of effort, and to inform Member States on a regular basis about its management responses to evaluation results;

23. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to ensure the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the development, implementation and evaluation of its programmes, policies, practices and strategies, and to report on the progress thereon to the Commission at its reconvened sixty-third session, in 2020;

24. *Urges* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within existing resources and on an equitable basis, to continue to ensure effective respect for multilingualism in the meetings and activities of intergovernmental governing bodies for which the Office serves as the secretariat, and requests the Executive Director of the Office, within existing resources, to make all decisions and resolutions adopted by those intergovernmental bodies directly available on the website of the Office in all six official languages of the United Nations, on an equitable basis in relation to their English versions;

25. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to dedicate specific attention to the assessment of language skills in staff recruitment processes, to ensure compliance with the requirement for United Nations staff to have the ability to use the working languages of the Secretariat, to continue the efforts to ensure that training opportunities in the six official languages are equally available to all staff, and to further encourage all staff members, both in meetings involving interpretation services and in their interactions with representatives of Member States, other staff members and local populations in the field, to use any of the six official languages of which they have a command and to provide information in their electronic signature on all the languages in which they have mastery, within existing resources;

26. *Requests* United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to present in writing to the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the Office, before June 2020, and, through the working group, to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at their reconvened sessions in 2020, the following:

(a) A comprehensive overview of the current use and allocation of programme support costs, and proposals to more flexibly and effectively use programme support costs at headquarters, in particular for normative and substantive functions in support of programmatic work, and in the field, as appropriate;

(b) Information on its efforts to implement the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution [72/266 B](#), on shifting the management paradigm, and an action plan, including timelines for their continued implementation in 2020;

(c) Proposals on how to address the relevant recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,² as applicable and subject to the provisions of the present resolution and other relevant General Assembly resolutions;

27. *Requests* the Secretariat to provide preliminary summary briefings on the budget and consult with all Member States represented in the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime prior to the publication of a draft consolidated budget, no later than in June, and to provide future draft consolidated budgets to all Member States no later than one month prior to the date established for submission to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for further consultations within the working group, with the involvement of the Executive Director, before the submission of the reviewed proposal to the Advisory Committee;

28. *Also requests* the Secretariat to distribute the draft agenda and all relevant documents at least 10 days prior to each 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, as requested by the Commission in its resolution 60/3 of 17 March 2017;

29. *Reaffirms* the importance of ensuring that adequate resources are allocated to promoting the capacity of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to advance research and analysis in its mandate areas, noting that such research and analysis is a core programmatic function and should be funded accordingly;

30. *Requests* the Executive Director the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to engage in a dialogue with Member States, including on the occasion of the annual meeting of field representatives, to assess and discuss the involvement of the Office in the implementation of United Nations development system reform, including achievements, challenges, costs and benefits, with the involvement of field representatives of the Office, and, as feasible, resident coordinators, within existing budget and meeting entitlements;

31. *Also requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to make provisions for allocations of staff and funding to ensure the sustainable delivery of independent evaluation;

32. *Further requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to engage in a dialogue with Member States as of July 2020, in order to present, before the reconvened session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in 2020, a revised longer-term vision or strategy for the Office, including its headquarters and a strengthened and sustainable field network, as well as information on the financial implications of that vision or strategy and on potential reallocations to address those implications, taking into account the relevant recommendations emanating from the strategic evaluations carried out by the Independent Evaluation Unit of the Office and from management responses;

33. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to strengthen its efforts to encourage donors to provide general-purpose funding, including by further increasing the transparency and quality of reporting, and encourages Member States and other donors to consider providing support to the general-purpose funds of the Office.

Chapter II

Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions

3. At the 1st meeting of the reconvened sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held jointly with the reconvened twenty-eighth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on 12 December 2019, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs considered agenda item 8, which read as follows:

“8. 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.”

4. For its consideration of item 8, 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.7/2019/3/Add.1-E/CN.15/2019/3/Add.1](#));

(b) Report of the Executive Director on the consolidated budget for the biennium 2020–2021 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2019/14-E/CN.15/2019/16](#));

(c) Report of the Executive Director on gender balance and geographical representation within the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2019/15-E/CN.15/2019/17](#));

(d) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the consolidated budget for the biennium 2020–2021 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2019/16-E/CN.15/2019/18](#));

(e) Conference room paper containing the draft proposed programme plan for 2021 and performance information for 2019 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2019/CRP.13-E/CN.15/2019/CRP.9](#)).

5. The Director of the Division for Management of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Director of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs of UNODC made introductory statements. 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, also made an introductory statement.

6. Statements were made by the observers for Egypt (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China) and Namibia (on behalf of the Group of African States). Statements were also made by the representatives of the United States of America, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Afghanistan, Colombia, China, the Netherlands, Brazil, the Russian Federation, Japan and Switzerland. The observer for Nigeria also made a statement.

A. Deliberations

7. Many speakers thanked the Executive Director of UNODC, Yury Fedotov, for his work in leading the Office over the past decade and welcomed the incoming Executive Director, Ghada Fathi Waly, to the position.

8. Several speakers expressed appreciation for the crucial role and work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC in enhancing the transparency and accountability of the Office and strengthening cooperation and trust between Member States and UNODC. It was noted that the working group served as a useful forum for regular consultations and review, including on matters related to the Office's programme plans, the implementation of global thematic, regional and country programmes, and financial, administrative and other issues. In that connection, the importance of providing information in a transparent and timely manner in order to support decision-making was highlighted and UNODC was urged to increase its efforts to that end.

9. During the discussions on the consolidated budget for the biennium 2020–2021, the importance of sustainable funding for the implementation of the mandates of the Office in the areas of international drug control and crime prevention and criminal justice was highlighted. Several speakers noted with concern the challenges UNODC was facing owing to the shortfall in general purpose funding and underlined that that continuing funding trend could affect the Office's ability to efficiently maintain core programmatic functions, in particular normative work, strategic thematic guidance and research. UNODC was requested to ensure that the budgets for future budget cycles would be submitted in full compliance with the relevant resolutions, well in advance of their submission to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in order to ensure advance consultations and discussions. UNODC was also requested to increase transparency regarding resource expenditure and allocation and broaden the use of programme support costs.

10. Several speakers reiterated the importance of adequate, predictable and stable funding for UNODC to ensure the continuity of the provision of technical assistance, in particular to developing countries. The need for UNODC to enhance the effectiveness of its technical assistance programmes and activities, in close consultation with and under the guidance of Member States, was underscored.

11. The efforts made by UNODC with regard to the implementation of United Nations development system reform, including in relation to the surge capacity, were welcomed by several speakers. Some speakers called for a balanced approach and highlighted that the Office's sustained involvement, both at headquarters and in field offices, and its integrated approach to developing global thematic, regional and country programmes contributed to the impact of its technical assistance. Some speakers called for enhanced efforts towards achieving coherence in the United Nations system and further promoting coordination with the resident coordinators and other agencies.

12. Some speakers noted with concern the financial challenges faced by the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) as a result of the system-wide shortfall in regular budget funding, which affected the ability of the Board to execute fully its treaty-mandated functions. The view was expressed that the Board's global programme on opioids should become a joint programme with UNODC to ensure the availability of relevant expertise required for technical assistance.

13. Some speakers highlighted the need to strengthen the results-based approach to technical cooperation, in line with United Nations development system reform, which emphasized accountability and transparency. Some speakers emphasized that the Office's work made important contributions to the efforts of Member States to achieve the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Some speakers underlined that the Office's mandates were specialized and should not be exhausted by efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

14. Some Speakers highlighted the need for UNODC to continue to implement United Nations management reform and, in that regard, to enhance efforts to promote transparency and accountability in the work of the Office.

15. The need to strengthen the culture of evaluation within UNODC at all stages of programme planning, development and implementation in the context of results-based management was highlighted.

16. The progress made by UNODC in achieving gender equality in its staff composition was welcomed by several delegations. The Executive Director of the Office was requested to increase efforts to achieve equal representation of women at the Professional, senior and policymaking levels, and to report on the progress of such efforts to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

17. Many speakers expressed the view that greater efforts were needed to increase geographical diversity and equitable geographical representation in the staff composition of UNODC. Concern was expressed about the insufficient progress made in the efforts to enhance the representation of developing countries, in particular those that were unrepresented or underrepresented. The Executive Director of UNODC was requested to intensify efforts to ensure equitable geographical representation, in particular at the Professional, senior and policymaking levels, including through the establishment of a balanced geographical representation team within the Office of the Executive Director.

18. A number of speakers stressed the importance of Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations for recruitment policies and highlighted the need for competence and merit to serve as the basis for staff recruitment, including when considering ways to enhance gender balance and geographical representation.

19. Reference was made by delegations to the zero-tolerance policy of the United Nations regarding sexual exploitation and harassment, and in that regard the Office was called upon to continue its efforts to implement the relevant recommendations.

B. Action taken by the Commission

20. At the joint meeting, the Commission took note of Economic and Social Council decision 2017/236, in which the Council decided to renew the mandate of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC until the sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to be held in the first half of 2021, and elected Natasha Pinheiro Agostini (Brazil) 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.

21. At its 2nd meeting, on 13 December 2019, the Commission adopted resolution 62/9, entitled “Budget for the biennium 2020–2021 for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme” (see chap. I, sect. B).

Chapter III

Implementation of the international drug control treaties

22. At the 2nd meeting of its reconvened sixty-second session, the Commission considered agenda item 9, entitled “Implementation of the international drug control treaties: changes in the scope of control of substances”.

23. Statements were made by the observer for the World Health Organization (WHO), the President of INCB, and the Chief of the Laboratory and Scientific Section of UNODC.

24. Statements were also made by the representatives of China, the Russian Federation, the Sudan, Canada and Croatia. The observers for Nigeria, the Gambia and Indonesia also made statements.

Deliberations

25. Pursuant to Commission resolution 58/11, in preparation for the scheduling decisions to be taken by the Commission at its sixty-third session, the observer for WHO presented to the Commission information on the outcome of the forty-second meeting of the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence, held from 21 to 25 October 2019, and the scheduling recommendations made during that meeting.

26. Appreciation was expressed by several speakers for the information provided to the Commission by UNODC, WHO and INCB. Appreciation was also expressed for the work of the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence. Several speakers expressed their support for the work of UNODC, INCB and WHO and highlighted that the scheduling procedures under the three international drug control conventions constituted an important tool in addressing the world drug problem.

27. Regarding the critical review and recommendations by WHO on cannabis and cannabis-related substances, several speakers recalled that cannabis remained the most widely abused drug. A number of speakers called for strict control measures and cautioned against the re-scheduling of cannabis and cannabis-related substances. Some speakers expressed the view that re-scheduling could only take place on the basis of solid scientific evidence and that the evidence currently available was inconclusive.

28. Some speakers emphasized that Tramadol continued to pose a great risk to public health and called for a recommendation to place Tramadol under international control.

29. Several speakers highlighted the importance of early warning systems, to address challenges related to new psychoactive substances. In that regard, appreciation was expressed for the work of UNODC, INCB and WHO.

30. The financial challenges faced by INCB and its secretariat as a result of the system-wide shortfall in regular budget funding were noted.

31. Reference was made to the imposition of the death penalty for drug-related offences, and the importance of respecting the principle of State sovereignty was underscored in that regard.

Chapter IV

Provisional agenda for the sixty-third session of the Commission

32. At its 2nd meeting, on 13 December 2019, the Commission considered agenda item 15, entitled “Provisional agenda for the sixty-third session of the Commission”. The Chair introduced the item and brought to the attention of the Commission matters relating to the organization of work for its sixty-third session.

A. Deliberations

1. Duration of the sixty-third session and other arrangements

33. The Commission decided that the regular part of its sixty-third session would be held from Monday, 2 March, to Friday, 6 March 2020, with pre-session consultations to be held on 28 February 2020. The Commission also decided that the reconvened part of its sixty-third session would be held on 3 and 4 December 2020.

34. The Commission further decided that, in accordance with its decision 55/1, the firm deadline for the submission of draft resolutions would be one month prior to the commencement of the session, namely, by noon on Monday, 3 February 2020.

2. Provisional agenda for the sixty-third session of the Commission

35. The Chair of the Commission recalled that, in its decision 2019/225, the Economic and Social Council had approved the provisional agenda for the sixty-third session of the Commission.

B. Action taken by the Commission

36. At its 2nd meeting, on 13 December 2019, the Commission decided on the dates, deadlines and arrangements for its sixty-third session referred to in paragraphs 33 and 34 above.

Chapter V

Other business

37. At its 2nd meeting, on 13 December 2019, the Commission considered agenda item 16, entitled “Other business”. The UNODC Research and Trend Analysis Branch provided a briefing on the expert-level consultations on and progress made in strengthening and streamlining the existing annual report questionnaire, with a view to reflecting and assessing progress made in the implementation of all international drug policy commitments.

38. Statements were made by the representatives of the Russian Federation, Mexico, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Argentina and Canada. The observer for the European Union, speaking on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, also made a statement.

Deliberations

39. Several speakers recalled that, in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem, UNODC had been requested to continue, in close cooperation with Member States and in an inclusive manner, expert-level consultations on strengthening and streamlining the existing annual report questionnaire and to submit an improved and streamlined questionnaire for the consideration of the Commission at its sixty-third session. Appreciation was expressed for the work of the UNODC Research and Trend Analysis Branch.

40. It was highlighted that the revised and updated annual report questionnaire needed to reflect, in line with the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, all international drug policy commitments made in the past decade. One speaker underscored that a new version would require further attention at the national level, with Member States reserving the right to make further proposals and comments on the new pilot version. In that regard, the importance of receiving the revised and updated annual report questionnaire in all six official languages of the United Nations, in advance of the sixty-third regular session of the Commission, was underscored.

41. The importance of UNODC providing technical assistance to requesting Member States was highlighted as instrumental to enhancing the collection, analysis and sharing of high-quality, comparable data.

Chapter VI

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its reconvened sixty-second session

42. At its 2nd meeting, on 13 December 2019, the Commission adopted the parts of its report on the organization of the session and administrative matters and on item 8 of the agenda ([E/CN.7/2019/L.1/Add.9](#) and [E/CN.7/2019/L.1/Add.10](#)). The Commission decided that, in line with past practice, the present report would be brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council and that a draft decision transmitting the report of the Commission on its reconvened sixty-second session to the Economic and Social Council for adoption would be included in the report on the reconvened session (see chap. I, sect. A). The Commission also decided to entrust the finalization of the report to the Chair of the Commission, with the assistance of the Rapporteur.

Chapter VII

Organization of the session and administrative matters

A. Opening and duration of the session

43. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs held its reconvened sixty-second session in Vienna on 12 and 13 December 2019.

44. 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 both Commissions would be continued to enable each Commission to consider, in separate meetings, agenda items included in the normative segment of its agenda.

45. The Commission held a total of two meetings during its reconvened sixty-second session. Pursuant to Council decision 2011/259, one meeting of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs was held jointly with the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in order to consider item 8 of the agenda of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and item 4 of the agenda of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

46. At the 1st meeting, on 12 December 2019, the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs opened the reconvened sixty-second session and made a statement.

47. At the joint plenary meeting, the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice made statements.

48. At the 2nd meeting, on 13 December 2019, the Chair of the Commission made a statement. A statement was also made by the President of INCB. Speakers thanked the Executive Director of UNODC, Yury Fedotov, for his work in leading the Office over the past decade and welcomed the incoming Executive Director, Ghada Fathi Waly, to the position.

B. Attendance

49. The reconvened sixty-second session was attended by representatives of 43 States members of the Commission (10 were not represented). Observers for other States Members of the United Nations, representatives of entities 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.7/2019/INF/3](#).

C. Election of officers

50. On 13 September 2019, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States nominated Adela Cano Del Castillo (Peru) for the office of Rapporteur during the remainder of the sixty-second session, as the position had become vacant after the regular part of the sixty-second session. At its 1st meeting, on 12 December, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs elected the Rapporteur.

D. Documentation

51. The documents before the Commission at its reconvened sixty-second session are listed in a conference room paper (E/CN.7/2019/CRP.12/Add.1).

E. Closure of the reconvened sixty-second session

52. At the 2nd meeting, on 13 December 2019, a closing statement was made by the Chair of the Commission. A statement was also made by the observer for Nigeria.
