

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.: General
12 October 2021

Original: English

Commission on Narcotic Drugs
Reconvened sixty-fourth session
Vienna, 9 and 10 December 2021
Agenda item 4 (a)
Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions: 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

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
Reconvened thirtieth session
Vienna, 8–10 December 2021
Agenda item 4 (a)
Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions: 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**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****Note by the Secretariat****Addendum**

The present document has been prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2021/218, 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 the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime until the end of 2021, as well as Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 52/13, 54/10, 54/17, 56/11, 58/1, 60/3, 62/9 and 63/6 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions 18/3, 20/1, 20/9, 22/2, 24/1, 26/1, 28/4 and 29/1. It covers the work of the working group from 11 February to 12 October 2021. Information on the work of the working group during the preceding period can be found in document [E/CN.7/2021/3-E/CN.15/2021/3](#).



I. Deliberations

1. In the period from 11 February to 12 October 2021, the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) held four informal meetings. It continued to consider issues under the items on the agenda approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2017/236 and by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its resolution 52/13 and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in its resolution 18/3 and in accordance with the terms of reference annexed to those resolutions, as well as with provisions contained in Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 54/10, 54/17, 56/11, 58/1, 60/3, 62/9 and 63/6 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions 20/1, 20/9, 22/2, 24/1, 26/1, 28/4 and 29/1.

2. At its meeting held on 11 February, the working group adopted the provisional programme of work of the working group for 2021. At the same meeting, a representative of the Secretariat updated the group on the challenges posed by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic with regard to the different areas of the work of the Office, such as the cancellation of many intergovernmental meetings and delays to or the cancellation of planned activities at the national, regional and global levels. In addition, an overview of the activities undertaken by UNODC to mitigate the impact of the pandemic was shared. Meeting participants were given a briefing on the work undertaken by the Office's task team on the financial impact of COVID-19, which had closely monitored the situation in 2020 and made specific proposals in terms of responding to the pandemic. An update was provided on the preliminary status of implementation of the 2020 regular budget of the Office, as well as on the financial impact of COVID-19 on expenditure. Information on the associated efficiency and cost-saving measures that had been implemented in 2020 was also provided.

3. At its meeting held on 6 April, the working group received an update on the roll-out of the UNODC Strategy 2021–2025, in particular with regard to the key milestones and accomplished and upcoming deliverables. The group was also informed about the roll-out of the UNODC Strategic Vision for Africa 2030 and the process of developing the Strategic Vision 2021–2025 for Latin America and the Caribbean. Information on the timeline for the preparation of the biennial consolidated budget for UNODC for the period 2022–2023 was provided. Meeting participants then heard a briefing on the gender mainstreaming activities carried out by the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia. At the same meeting, a representative of the Secretariat provided an update on the following: (a) the human resources situation with regard to gender parity and equitable geographical representation; (b) the work of the Office in the field of disability inclusion; (c) progress made by the language programme of the United Nations Office at Vienna and UNODC; and (d) available training and coaching opportunities for staff members. Lastly, a presentation was given on the evaluation-based meta-synthesis for accountability and learning.

4. At its meeting held on 28 June, the working group received an update on the status of implementation of the long-term strategy for the Office for the period 2021–2025. The group also heard a briefing on the involvement of the Office in the implementation of the United Nations development system reform, including with regard to the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and the progress status of the business operations strategy 2.0. A representative of the Secretariat informed participants about the progress made by UNODC in the implementation of the United Nations management reform and outlined planned actions for the way forward. Furthermore, the financial impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the work of the Office was discussed, with a specific focus on the activities undertaken by UNODC in response to the crisis. Information on the review of the UNODC funding model was shared, which had been launched with a view to

supporting the UNODC Strategy 2021–2025 by making the Office sustainable and fit for growth.

5. At the same meeting, Member States were presented with the timeline of the formulation of the regular budget for 2022 and 2023. A presentation was then made on the work carried out by the UNODC Country Office in Nigeria to mainstream a gender perspective into its programmes and projects, in particular with regard to preventing terrorism and countering corruption. The working group discussed human resources management at UNODC. Results of the in-depth evaluation of the global programme to prevent and combat corruption through effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in support of Sustainable Development Goal 16 were presented. Finally, participants received an update on the work undertaken by the Office to address substance and drug use disorders in humanitarian settings.

6. At the meeting of the working group held on 28 September, the Secretariat shared an update on the involvement of the Office in the implementation of the United Nations development system reform, including on the activities carried out in that regard in West and Central Africa and South-East Asia and the Pacific. Further to a request made previously by Member States, a briefing was provided on the situation of UNODC in Afghanistan, with a focus on the status of and future projections for programme delivery and on the current staff situation. A briefing was then given on how the different mandates stemming from Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions 28/4 and 29/1 and Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 62/9 and 63/6 had been implemented by UNODC. The working group also discussed the Office's activities to ensure respect for multilingualism in the work of the intergovernmental bodies,¹ including with regard to the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the conduct of intergovernmental meetings.

7. At the same meeting, the Secretariat presented the structure and key highlights of the draft report of the Executive Director on the consolidated budget for the biennium 2022–2023 for UNODC. An overview of the Office's key achievements and areas for improvement stemming from the 2020 performance report of the United Nations system-wide action plan on gender equality and the empowerment of women was shared and the Office's priority areas with regard to gender mainstreaming for the period 2021–2023 were highlighted. During the discussion on human resources management at UNODC, a representative of the Secretariat provided information on the gender distribution and representation by regional group of staff and gave a briefing on the relevant awareness-raising activities and learning and staff development initiatives. The working group then discussed the results of the in-depth evaluation of the Global Programme on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism. Information was also shared on the contribution by UNODC to the development of the Global AIDS Strategy 2021–2026 and the current HIV-related work undertaken by the Office.

II. Organizational and administrative matters

8. Under the guidance of the Co-Chairs, the working group held four meetings during the period under review: the resumed twenty-second informal meeting, on 11 February; the twenty-third informal meeting, on 6 April; the twenty-fourth informal meeting, on 28 June; and the twenty-fifth informal meeting, on 28 September. Further meetings were scheduled for 18 October, 8 November and 26 November 2021.

¹ Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

9. The working group held an informal briefing on 12 October to discuss the draft report of the Executive Director on the consolidated budget for the biennium 2022–2023 for UNODC.

10. Five rounds of informal consultations to review the functioning of the working group in the period beyond 2021 were conducted in the period under consideration: on 11 February, 6 April and 28 June 2021, immediately after the closure of the informal meetings, and on 14 September and 5 October 2021, during stand-alone meetings.

11. The Secretariat continued to provide documents and information to the working group, including through a web page accessible to the public (www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/FINGOV/FINGOV-index.html) and a secure web page for Member States (www.unodc.org/missions/en/wggf/index.html), set up and maintained by the Secretariat for the use of the working group.
