

**Economic and Social Council**

Distr.: General
17 October 2012

Original: English

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Reconvened fifty-fifth session

Vienna, 6 and 7 December 2012

Agenda item 3

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

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Reconvened twenty-first session

Vienna, 6 and 7 December 2012

Agenda item 3 (a)

Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions: work of the 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

Summary

The present note was prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2011/258, in which the Council extended 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, as well as Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 52/13, 54/10 and 54/17 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions 18/3, 20/1 and 20/9. The present note covers the work of the working group between 20 February and 10 October 2012.



I. Deliberations

1. From 20 February to 10 October 2012, the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime held six informal meetings. It continued to consider issues under the items of the agenda as approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2011/258 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 the provisions contained in Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 54/10 and 54/17 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions 20/1 and 20/9.

2. At the meeting of the working group held on 20 February 2012, a representative of the secretariat made a presentation on the ongoing implementation of the Regional Programme on Drug Control, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Reform in the Arab States 2011-2015 and briefed the working group on the measures taken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in the context of changes in the region. A presentation was also made on the proposed strategic framework for UNODC for the period 2014-2015. The working group was reminded that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at their sessions held in March and April 2012, respectively, were expected to review the proposed strategic framework and provide their comments to the Secretariat, for consideration by the Committee for Programme and Coordination. The recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination would then be considered by the General Assembly. A representative of the Conference Management Service of the United Nations Office at Vienna informed the working group about the implications of resource constraints for the reports of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. A representative of the Independent Evaluation Unit made a presentation on the advice provided by the Unit with regard to the regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries. Participants stressed that there was a need for close consultation with Member States before and during evaluations. Finally, an update was provided on the progress made by UNODC in implementing the recommendations made by the Joint Inspection Unit in its report on the review of management and administration in UNODC (JIU/REP/2010/10), including the recommendations towards further strengthening the internal system of the Office to monitor the implementation of recommendations made by relevant oversight bodies.

3. At its meeting held on 26 March 2012, the working group considered the report of the Secretariat on the implementation of resolutions and decisions relating to crime prevention and criminal justice, adopted during the period 2008-2011 in which action by UNODC was requested (E/CN.15/2012/2). The report had been prepared pursuant to Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 20/1. It was recalled that a report on the implementation of resolutions and decisions relating to the drug programme of UNODC (E/CN.7/2012/15) had been reviewed by the working group at its meeting held on 30 January 2012. Some delegates expressed the view that such reports should be submitted to the Commissions at future sessions, as it would also be a valuable contribution to the

implementation of recommendation 2 of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU/REP/2010/10) in which the Unit called for a consolidated review of all mandates entrusted to UNODC. In this connection, a representative of the secretariat pointed out that the preparation of such reports for consideration by the Commissions at future sessions would require specific mandates. A representative of the secretariat made a presentation on the thematic programme on crime prevention and criminal justice reform for the period 2012-2015, highlighting its relation to regional programmes and other thematic programmes. A representative of the Independent Evaluation Unit presented the draft evaluation findings of the first stage of the global evaluation on HIV, which had focused on HIV projects in Myanmar.

4. At the meeting of the working group held on 23 May 2012, a representative of the secretariat made a presentation on the UNODC fundraising strategy for the period 2012-2015, highlighting issues such as: the evolving business model of UNODC being, at the same time, that of an entity of the United Nations Secretariat and that of a provider of technical cooperation services; UNODC funding trends; and the main aspects of a fundraising strategy covering multi-year regional, country and thematic programmes and core infrastructure. Particular attention was devoted to proposed mechanisms for core funding of UNODC and direct cost recovery. Participants indicated that the document needed to be examined in further detail by Member States in the context of the working group. A representative of the secretariat also provided an update on UNODC partnering with the business community and provided an overview of private sector contributions to the Office and related funding trends.

5. At the meeting of the working group held on 11 June 2012, a representative of the secretariat gave a presentation on progress made in the preparation of the comprehensive study on the problem of cybercrime, to be submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-second session, in 2013, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/230. A representative of the secretariat provided information on responses received so far from Member States, the international community and the private sector. Information was also provided about the global programme on cybercrime currently being formulated by UNODC, in particular its components on technical assistance and capacity-building. The representative also provided an overview of the work undertaken by UNODC in assisting Member States in building capacity aimed at preventing and combating terrorism. Concerning the area of drug prevention, information was provided on progress made in the elaboration of international standards and the development of the UNODC Youth Initiative, aimed at empowering youth throughout the world with a view to preventing illicit drug use. An update was provided on the programme of UNODC and the World Health Organization for the treatment and care of drug-dependent persons, aimed at promoting worldwide evidence-based treatment interventions.

6. At its meeting held on 4 September 2012, the working group resumed its consideration of the UNODC fundraising strategy for the period 2012-2015. The Deputy Executive Director of UNODC recalled that the income from the regular budget of the United Nations and general-purpose income relative to the overall UNODC budget had declined and that the increase in earmarking had resulted in administrative inefficiency and a distortion of programme priorities and core

policies. Delegates were encouraged to work with their Governments and their permanent missions at United Nations Headquarters to increase UNODC resources from the regular budget. It was emphasized that more regular consultations should take place between Member States and the secretariat on how to raise the revenue needed to implement the approved consolidated budget. It was also mentioned that the working group was an appropriate forum for consultations on the implementation of the approved UNODC consolidated budget and for regular result-based reporting on the part of the secretariat. Participants agreed to keep the topic of fundraising on the agenda of the working group for its remaining meetings in 2012. A representative of the secretariat made a presentation on the UNODC thematic programme entitled “Action against Corruption, Economic Fraud and Identity-related Crime (2012-2015)” and its relation to the elements of the UNODC strategic frameworks for the periods 2012-2013 and 2014-2015, the strategy for the period 2012-2015 for UNODC, and to the mandates received from the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and its subsidiary bodies.

7. At the meeting of the working group held on 10 October 2012, independent evaluators presented the preliminary findings of two related evaluations of the integrated programming approach of UNODC, noting that the approach had been designed to enable the Office to acquire an integrated regional and thematic perspective and improve linkages between UNODC policy, strategic planning, programmatic work, mobilization of resources, and partnerships with all relevant stakeholders. It was noted that the evaluations provided the conceptual basis for subsequent evaluations of the various regional programmes of UNODC. The working group also resumed its consideration of the UNODC fundraising strategy for the period 2012-2015, focusing on the resource aspects of the document. Participants were provided by the secretariat with an overview of the policies on programme support costs and service costs set by the Controller of the Secretariat. It was noted that UNODC envisaged a gradual move towards ensuring that funds for programme support costs were used only to cover indirect support functions, while the cost of direct support functions for UNODC programmes would be covered by funds from the respective programme budgets. One participant proposed have a dialogue on the integrated programming approach of UNODC and its related fundraising implications in the programme of work of the working group, if its mandate was to be extended in 2013. A presentation was made by the secretariat on the regional programme for South-Eastern Europe, focusing on countering drug trafficking along the southern route, leading from Afghanistan to illicit markets in Western Europe through the Balkans. Participants welcomed the synergy of that regional programme with related initiatives of UNODC, such as the regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, the Paris Pact initiative and the Container Control Programme.

II. Organizational and administrative matters

8. The working group has held six informal meetings during the reporting period: on 20 February, 26 March, 23 May, 11 June, 4 September and 10 October 2012. Further meetings are to be held on 12 November and 3 December 2012.

9. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-fifth session and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-first session endorsed the nomination of Maria Oyeyinka Laose (Nigeria) to replace Taous Feroukhi (Algeria) as co-chair of the working group. The Commissions also extended the mandates of Ignacio Baylina Ruíz (Spain) and Maria Oyeyinka Laose (Nigeria) as co-chairs of the working group until the first half of 2013, when the next sessions of the Commissions are to be held.

10. The Secretariat continued to provide documents and information to the working group by electronic means and in hard copy, including through a web page accessible to the public (www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/wg-governance-finance-2.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.
