

**Economic and Social Council**

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**Commission on Narcotic Drugs**

Reconvened fifty-sixth session

Vienna, 12-13 December 2013

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-second session

Vienna, 12-13 December 2013

Agenda item 3

**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**

**Note by the Secretariat**

**Addendum**

*Summary*

The present note has been prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2013/246, 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 until the first half of 2015, as well as Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 52/13, 54/10, 54/17 and 56/11 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions 18/3, 20/1, 20/9 and 22/2. The present note covers the work of the working group between 1 February and 30 September 2013. While the co-chairs presented an oral report on the work of the working group up to 11 February 2013 to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-sixth session, that information is also included in the present report for the sake of completeness.



## **I. Deliberations**

1. From 1 February to 30 September 2013, the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime held three informal meetings and one formal meeting. It continued to consider issues under the items of the agenda as approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2013/246 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 and 56/11 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions 20/1, 20/9 and 22/2.

2. At its formal meeting held on 1 February 2013, the working group agreed on recommendations for consideration by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-sixth session and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-second session covering aspects such as the extension of its mandate, promoting a culture of evaluation and an integrated programme approach within the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), strengthening the financial structure of UNODC and reviewing the format and organization of the work of the working group. The meeting had been preceded by three rounds of “informal informal” consultations on 18, 24 and 30 January to discuss the recommendations.

3. At the meeting held on 11 February, the preliminary findings of the independent evaluation of the UNODC regional programme framework for East Asia and the Pacific for the period 2009-2012 were presented for further discussion and feedback from Member States. Overall, the evaluation had found that the document was aligned with other UNODC policy frameworks and offered a coherent framework for the activities of UNODC within the region, allowing the Office to better respond to national priorities. Participants noted that while the good work carried out in the region was to be praised, the initial expectations from the programme may not have been achieved as a result of lack of funding. A representative of the Secretariat made a presentation on the current situation concerning reporting on country and regional programmes at UNODC and informed the working group that the first complete set of results-based programme reports for all country and regional programmes was expected to be available by 2014. It was noted that the group could embark on the consideration of an annual cycle of systematic reporting on implementation of programmes and related fundraising issues. Participants further underlined the need for the reports to be easy to read and to include information on the concrete outcomes and results achieved under each specific programme, which would attract funding from Member States. The Secretariat provided an update on the United Nations system task force on transnational organized crime and drug trafficking as threats to security and stability established in 2011 by the Secretary-General. The task force, co-chaired by UNODC and the Department for Political Affairs of the Secretariat, was aimed at developing a system-wide response to transnational organized crime and drug trafficking. It had also provided a forum for consultation on documents such as the UNODC transnational organized crime threat assessments. While the task force had not yet started operational activities, joint assistance delivery or programming at the

country-level in a systematic manner, it was well placed to discuss policy issues and share experiences across regions. Participants noted that the task force was central to the mandate of UNODC and that they hoped to continue receiving information on its activities on a regular basis.

4. At the meeting held on 20 June, the working group approved its calendar of meetings and provisional programme of work for the period 2013-2014, aimed at covering a yearly review cycle of UNODC programmes and considering the funding situation and financial management of the Office, evaluation findings and recommendations made by oversight bodies. The group also reviewed the format and organization of its work, with a view to improving its effectiveness. In that connection, it was noted that the group played a key role in the fundraising efforts of the Office, as it could provide to Member States an overall understanding of the work of UNODC and of its funding needs. It was hoped that concrete recommendations could continue to be submitted to the Commissions. The Secretariat presented the regional programme for South Asia for the period 2013-2015, which covered countering transnational organized crime and trafficking, including drug trafficking; countering corruption; terrorism prevention; promoting efficient, fair and humane criminal justice systems; drug use prevention and treatment; and HIV/AIDS. The priorities defined in the programme had resulted from a substantive, thorough dialogue with the Governments concerned, civil society and international partners. The focus was on the cross-border dimension of the crime challenges in the region and the adoption of the instruments necessary for effective implementation at the national level, aimed at strengthening regional cooperation. The co-chairs reported on the meeting they had had with the Executive Director of UNODC on 19 June, on the occasion of which they had discussed how UNODC could further enhance its cooperation and interaction with the working group in order to facilitate its work under its renewed mandate for the period 2013-2015, particularly towards ensuring more predictable and sustainable funding for the Office.

5. At the meeting held on 30 September, the Secretariat presented the current key results of the regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries. Regarding the various strategic and political challenges in the context of the Afghan transition that was under way, it was explained that UNODC would be working strategically within the regional programme so as to emphasize key areas of cooperation, such as control of precursors, exchange of intelligence material and information, and money flows, as well as regional cooperation in criminal matters. It was furthermore noted that the regional programme was closely synchronized with other key mechanisms operating in the region and that cooperation was ongoing with relevant regional organizations and initiatives and with other United Nations entities and partner countries. Delegations were informed about the funding situation of the Office, including on the increase of special-purpose funds and the decrease of general-purpose funds and the downwards trend in funding under the regular budget. The Secretariat informed the meeting about the proposed transition to a new funding model envisaged for the period 2014-2015. Explanations were given about the allowable uses of programme support cost funds and about full cost recovery in projects and programmes and examples were provided illustrating how the new funding model would be applied in practice. The Secretariat was ready to discuss the issue further at future meetings of the working group, before the Commissions would take action on the proposed consolidated budget for the

biennium 2014-2015 during their reconvened sessions in December. Several speakers stressed the importance of the integrated programme approach and of having reporting and fundraising done at the programme level. The link between the quality of reporting and fundraising and the need to find incentives for earmarking by region or by theme (“soft” earmarking) were also referred to by speakers. The proposed funding model was perceived by some participants as a potential tool to increase accountability and transparency on the actual use of donor funds. Questions were asked as to how the UNODC funding model would address the projected decline of general-purpose resources and what measures UNODC was putting in place to motivate continued contributions to general-purpose funds. A presentation was also provided by the Secretariat at the meeting on progress to date on the implementation of the thematic programme on organized crime and illicit trafficking for the period 2011-2013, covering the achievements, priorities and the funding situation of the various subprogrammes.

## **II. Organizational and administrative matters**

6. The working group held one formal and three informal meetings in the reporting period, on 1 February, 11 February, 20 June and 30 September 2013. Further meetings are scheduled for 31 October, 20 November and 10 December 2013.

7. At a joint meeting held on 6 June 2013, the extended bureaux of the Commissions agreed to recommend the nomination of Ali Asghar Soltanieh (Islamic Republic of Iran) and Ignacio Baylina Ruíz (Spain) as co-chairs of the working group under its renewed mandate at future intersessional meetings or reconvened sessions of the Commissions. At the joint meeting, the extended bureaux also agreed to empower the nominated co-chairs to commence organizing the work of the working group, including the holding of meetings, prior to the formal endorsement by the Commissions of the nominations for co-chairs and prior to the adoption by the Economic and Social Council of the decision on the extension of the mandate of the working group. Upon the departure of Mr. Soltanieh at the completion of his tenure on 1 September 2013, the Group of 77 and China nominated Reza Najafi as the new co-chair for subsequent endorsement by the two Commissions.

8. The Secretariat continued to provide documents and information to the working group by electronic means and in hard copy, including through a public web page set up and maintained by the Secretariat for the use of the working group on the website of UNODC. During the period under review, the Secretariat also established a secure web page for Member States to provide them with access to information of interest.

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