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Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

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

Twenty-sixth session

Vienna, 22-26 May 2017

Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda**

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

1. A formal 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 (UNODC) was held on 26 January 2017. The meeting was addressed by the Executive Director, who focused on the priorities for the Office in 2017 and on topics such as improving geographical representation and gender equality among the staff, the implementation of administrative reforms such as full cost recovery and Umoja, and the financial situation of the Office. Other presentations were made by representatives of the Secretariat on mainstreaming a gender perspective into the practices, policies and programmes of UNODC, the work of the UNODC Research and Trend Analysis Branch and the work of the Independent Evaluation Unit. Also at the meeting, the working group agreed on recommendations for consideration by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its sixtieth session and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-sixth session. The recommendations are contained in the annex to the present document.

* E/CN.7/2017/1.

** E/CN.15/2017/1.



Annex

Recommendations of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

A. Introduction

1. The fourth 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 (UNODC) will end in the first half of 2017. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2015/234, at their sixtieth and twenty-sixth sessions, in the first half of 2017, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice will be expected to carry out a thorough review of the functioning of the working group and consider the extension of its mandate. In line with past practice, and to facilitate consultations by the Commissions, the Co-Chairs of the working group prepared a statement that was endorsed by the working group at its informal meeting held on 11 November 2016 and made available to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at the joint meeting held during their reconvened fifty-ninth and reconvened twenty-fifth sessions, and included in their reports. The below proposals on the future work of the working group incorporate the statement by the Co-Chairs.

B. Recommendations of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

2. At its formal meeting held on 26 January 2017, the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC made the following recommendations for consideration by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its sixtieth session and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-sixth session:

1. Extension of the mandate of the working group

(a) To reiterate the efficiency of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC in supporting the improvement of the governance and financial situation of the Office by continuing to be the forum for dialogue among Member States and between Member States and the Secretariat on UNODC programme development and implementation and by continuing to discuss on a regular basis financial and governance matters relating to UNODC, thereby providing support to the oversight role played by the two Commissions as governing bodies;

(b) To reaffirm the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the principal policymaking organ of the United Nations on matters of international drug control and as the governing body of the drug programme of UNODC and the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as the governing body of the United Nations on matters of crime prevention and criminal justice and as the governing body of the crime programme of UNODC;

(c) To reiterate their continued concern about the governance and financial situation of UNODC, and to express their awareness of the continued need to address that situation in a pragmatic, results-oriented, efficient and cooperative manner;

(d) To reaffirm 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, 54/17, 56/11 and 58/1 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions 20/1, 20/9, 22/2 and 24/1;

(e) To decide to renew the mandate of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC until the part of the sessions of the Commissions to be held in the first half of 2019, at which time the Commissions should carry out a thorough review of the functioning of the working group and consider the extension of its mandate;

2. Future work of the working group

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

(f) To recall that the working group has on several occasions discussed fundraising issues, to ensure adequate, predictable and stable funding, and ways to achieve a sustainable balance between core and non-core funding for UNODC to ensure delivery capacity and the sustainability of its programmes;

(g) To recall also that the working group has been considering the implementation of Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 58/12 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 24/3 and has been briefed on the transition to the full cost recovery funding model and on the implementation of Umoja;

(h) To request the working group to continue examining and discussing the funding situation and financial management of UNODC, inter alia, by:

(i) Receiving reports on and facilitating the resource mobilization process to promote the global and regional programmes of UNODC, along with their resource requirements, and to enhance funding predictability in line with the strategic frameworks for the periods 2016-2017 and 2018-2019;

(ii) Continuing to discuss with UNODC efforts to further encourage donors to provide general-purpose funding, including by means of further increasing the transparency and quality of reporting, and also continuing to discuss the reasons for the low level of general-purpose funding, with a view to restoring an adequate balance between general-purpose and special-purpose funds;

(iii) Continuing to consider the progress and impact of the implementation of full cost recovery and the application and allocation of programme support costs, with a view to increasing the effectiveness and results of the technical assistance programmes of the Office;

(iv) Receiving reports on the impact of the implementation of Umoja on the delivery of the Office's programmes;

Continuous support for promoting an integrated programme approach

(i) To recall that the working group has been following progress by UNODC to implement an integrated programming approach that seeks to strengthen the links between normative mandates and operational technical assistance, and to improve

linkages between policy, strategic planning, evaluation, programmatic work, mobilization of resources and partnerships with all relevant stakeholders;

- (j) To request the working group:
 - (i) To continue promoting regular dialogue among all Member States, as well as with UNODC, on the planning and formulation of the operational activities of the Office, especially with regard to its global and regional programmes, in line with the strategic frameworks for the periods 2016-2017 and 2018-2019;
 - (ii) To continue receiving information from UNODC on progress made in the implementation of regional and global programmes carried out within the framework of the related thematic programmes, as well as on progress made with regard to integrating lessons learned and recommendations from evaluations within and across regions, ensuring complementarities among programmes and their alignment with the strategic frameworks for the periods 2016-2017 and 2018-2019;
 - (iii) To continue discussing with UNODC the implementation of results-based management and budgeting;

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

(k) To recall that the working group has been shown 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 that is focused on the implementation, performance and impact of integrated programmes and consistency with the mandates of the Office;

- (l) To request the working group to invite the Independent Evaluation Unit:
 - (i) To continue providing the working group with the findings of the evaluations of UNODC programmes;
 - (ii) To continue promoting a culture of evaluation throughout UNODC at all stages of programme planning, development and implementation;
 - (iii) To continue to work with UNODC in monitoring the implementation of recommendations made by relevant oversight bodies;
 - (iv) To continue to work with UNODC on increasing coordination between evaluation, audit and other oversight bodies with the aim of building a continuum of oversight of UNODC projects and programmes;

Continuous support for improved gender balance and geographical representation

(m) To recall that the working group has been discussing the question of geographical representation and gender balance in the staff composition of UNODC as part of its efforts to improve the governance of the Office;

- (n) To request the working group:
 - (i) To continue addressing the issue of gender balance and geographical representation and its evolution in order to discuss possible measures for further improvement in this area by, inter alia, intensifying outreach efforts;
 - (ii) To continue receiving updated and comprehensive information, including in a disaggregated way, on the composition of the staff and recruitment policies of UNODC;

Continuous support for gender mainstreaming in the policies and programmes of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

(o) To recall that the working group has been discussing the question of gender mainstreaming in UNODC policies and programmes as part of its efforts to align its work with the UNODC guidance note on gender mainstreaming;

(p) To request the working group:

(i) To continue addressing the issue of gender mainstreaming in UNODC policies and programmes in order to discuss possible measures for further improvement in this area;

(ii) To continue receiving updated and comprehensive information on the ways in which gender is mainstreamed in UNODC policies and programmes;

Reviewing the format and organization of work of the working group

(q) To decide that the working group shall hold formal and informal meetings, in line with current practice, and that the dates of those meetings shall be determined by the Co-Chairs of the working group in consultation with the Secretariat;

(r) To reiterate the importance of developing an indicative annual working plan by Member States, taking into account inputs from the Secretariat, in order to guide the work of the working group;

(s) To request that the relevant documentation be provided to the working group not later than 10 working days before a meeting;

(t) To approve the provisional agenda of the working group as follows:

1. Biennial consolidated budget for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.
 2. Governance and financial situation of the Office.
 3. Mainstreaming a gender perspective into the practices, policies and programmes of the Office.
 4. Evaluation and oversight.
 5. Other matters.
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