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## Commission on Narcotic Drugs

### Reconvened sixty-third session

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## Draft report

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### Addendum

## Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions

1. At the 3rd meeting of the reconvened sixty-third session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held jointly with the reconvened twenty-ninth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on 3 December 2020, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs considered agenda item 4, which read as follows:

“4. 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.”

2. For its consideration of item 4, 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.7/2020/3/Add.1-E/CN.15/2020/3/Add.1);

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

(c) Report of the Executive Director on gender balance and geographical representation within the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2020/17-E/CN.15/2020/17);

(d) Draft proposed programme plan for 2022 and performance information for 2020 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2020/CRP.20-E/CN.15/2020/CRP.1);



(e) UNODC Strategy 2021–2025 (E/CN.7/2020/CRP.22-E/CN.15/2020/CRP.3);

(f) Note by the Secretariat on the working methods of the UNODC Governing Bodies during the COVID-19 pandemic (E/CN.7/2020/CRP.21-E/CN.15/2020/CRP.2).

3. The Director of the Division for Management of UNODC, the Director of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs of UNODC and the Chief of the Secretariat to the Governing Bodies of UNODC also made introductory statements. The representative of Brazil, in her 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.

4. Statements were made by the representatives of Colombia, China, the United States, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Canada, Japan, Jamaica, the Russian Federation, Pakistan, Brazil and Cuba. Statements were also made by the observers for the Islamic Republic of Iran and Bangladesh.

5. Joint statements were made by the observer for the Philippines on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, by the observer for the European Union on behalf of the European Union and its member States, and by the observer for Singapore on behalf of the Group of Friends for UNODC Research.<sup>1</sup>

## **A. Deliberations**

6. Speakers recognized the challenges associated with the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic for programme planning and delivery, and commended the efforts undertaken by the Office, including with regard to ensuring the business continuity of the governing bodies of the Office. UNODC was also commended for its continued programme delivery, and the importance of further supporting Member States, including in the light of the current pandemic, was underscored. The Office's delivery of high-quality operational and technical assistance, which complemented its practical and policy-relevant research and normative work, was appreciated.

7. Several speakers underscored the crucial role 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. Appreciation was expressed for the work of the Co-Chairs of the working group. Several speakers underlined that the working group served as a useful forum for regular consultations and review, including on matters related to the Office's programme plans, programme implementation and financial, administrative and other issues. The importance of providing information in a transparent and timely manner in order to support decision-making by the commissions was highlighted, and the extension of the mandate of the working group until December 2021 was welcomed. The importance of developing a clear schedule of meetings for 2021 was emphasized by a number of speakers.

8. Several speakers commended the Executive Director of UNODC for the UNODC Strategy 2021–2025, which she had presented to the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC and referred to at the present session, noting the relevance of the Strategy and expressing appreciation for her leadership in the process of developing the Strategy. They welcomed the open and inclusive dialogue on the Strategy that had been held pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 62/9 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 28/4. A number of speakers acknowledged that the Strategy provided a clear vision, as well as guidance on the mandates and thematic areas of work of the Office. They underscored the

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<sup>1</sup> Chile, Colombia, European Union, France, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Paraguay, Russian Federation, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand and United States.

importance of involving Member States in planning the implementation of the Strategy and providing regular updates to Member States on progress made. Some speakers underscored the importance of coordination among United Nations entities and with other regional and international organizations working in related fields, and of multi-stakeholder partnerships, including with civil society.

9. Several speakers reiterated the importance of adequate, predictable and stable funding for UNODC to ensure the implementation of its mandates and the continuity of high-quality operational and technical assistance, in particular to developing countries. Several speakers expressed concern regarding the challenges the Office faced in the light of the current regular budget liquidity crisis, as well as the shortfall in general-purpose funding, which could affect the Office's ability to efficiently maintain core programmatic functions. It was noted that the COVID-19 pandemic had further exacerbated the financial situation of the Office. Several speakers called upon donors to consider making non-earmarked contributions. Several speakers welcomed efforts undertaken to implement fully and in a timely manner Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 62/9 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 28/4. UNODC was also encouraged to increase transparency regarding the use of programme support cost funds and to broaden their distribution, and to report thereon.

10. The efforts made by UNODC with regard to the implementation of the United Nations development system reform and the United Nations management system reform were welcomed by several speakers. Several speakers underscored the importance of keeping Member States regularly informed about the Office's progress in implementing the reforms.

11. The need to strengthen results-based management, with a view to enhancing transparency and accountability, and the integration of monitoring and evaluation, was underscored by a number of speakers. The importance of implementing the recommendations by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and reporting on progress made in that regard was underscored.

12. The progress made by UNODC in achieving gender equality in its staff composition was welcomed by several delegations, and the importance of achieving equal representation, particularly at the senior levels, was underscored. The importance of ensuring the integration of gender perspectives in all aspects of the programming and work of the Office was highlighted. Appreciation was expressed for the efforts of the Executive Director in that regard, including in her capacity as an International Gender Champion.

13. Several speakers expressed the view that greater efforts were needed to increase geographical diversity and equitable geographical representation in the staff composition of the Office, in particular at the senior levels. UNODC was commended for its outreach, recruitment and retention efforts and related activities, including the "diversity corner" launched in 2020. Several speakers expressed concern 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 was requested to intensify efforts to increase geographical diversity, and the positive effect that would have on the work of UNODC was highlighted.

14. 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.

15. Reference was made to the note by the Secretariat on the working methods of the UNODC Governing Bodies during the COVID-19 pandemic (E/CN.7/2020/CRP.21-E/CN.15/2020/CRP.2), and appreciation was expressed for the efforts in facilitating the participation of all members of the Commission.

16. Several speakers underscored the significance of research for the work of UNODC, emphasizing the importance of impartiality, transparency and the use of

verified and reliable data. The need to explore funding arrangements for research while safeguarding its integrity and independence was highlighted. In that regard, the importance of UNODC providing technical assistance to Member States to strengthen their data collection and information analysis capacities was underscored.

17. One speaker requested that a stand-alone agenda item, on the implementation of the United Nations system common position on drug-related matters and the work of the related United Nations system coordination task team, be added to the provisional agenda of the Commission.

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