



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
4 March 2020

Original: English

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Sixty-third session

Vienna, 2–6 March 2020

Draft report

Rapporteur: Emmanuel Nweke (Nigeria)

Addendum

Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions

1. At its 5th meeting, on 3 March 2020, the Commission considered agenda item 4, which read as follows:

“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) Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2020/2-E/CN.15/2020/2](#));

(b) 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-E/CN.15/2020/3](#));

(c) Note by the Secretariat on the draft proposed programme plan for 2021 and performance information for 2019 ([E/CN.7/2020/13-E/CN.15/2020/15](#)).

3. An introductory statement was made by the Director of the Division for Management of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

4. The representative of Spain, in his capacity as Co-Chair of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC, reported on the deliberations of the working group.



5. Statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Jamaica, Japan, China, Switzerland, Brazil and Mexico.

Deliberations

6. Several speakers expressed appreciation for the work 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 in strengthening cooperation and trust between Member States and UNODC. It was noted that the working group served as a useful forum for regular consultations and review, including on matters related to the Office's programme plans, the implementation of global thematic, regional and country programmes, and financial, administrative and other issues.

7. A number of speakers expressed concern with regard to the decline in general-purpose funding and underlined that despite the efforts of UNODC in generating funding partnerships outside traditional sources, the decline in unearmarked funding remained an obstacle to UNODC discharging its mandates and to the continuity of the provision of technical assistance, in particular to developing countries.

8. UNODC was encouraged to maintain close dialogue with Member States and to be more transparent and realistic in developing its budget. Several speakers emphasized the need for open and transparent management of resources, encouraged UNODC to engage in a more transparent decision-making process in relation to the distribution of programme support costs and underlined the need for a more efficient, flexible, broader and more transparent use of programme support cost funds at headquarters and in the field, including to support the field presence of UNODC across the world.

9. Several speakers expressed their appreciation for the continued efforts of UNODC towards achieving gender parity and a geographically balanced workforce, bearing in mind Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, as outlined in the report of the Executive Director on gender balance and geographical representation within the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2019/15-E/CN.15/2019/17](#)). The importance of continuing and updating the Office's workforce planning strategy to reach 50/50 gender balance was emphasized. Many speakers shared their concern about the current geographical balance of the Office's staff composition and urged UNODC to continue to enhance the representation of underrepresented countries, subregions and regions, especially in the Professional and higher categories, and to report on progress made in that regard.

10. Several speakers expressed support for the strengthened involvement of UNODC in the United Nations development system at the field level and encouraged the Office to remain fully engaged in both the United Nations development system and management reform, in particular ensuring that UNODC field offices are well integrated in and can effectively contribute to the work of United Nations country teams.

11. Some speakers commended the ongoing efforts of UNODC to align itself to the United Nations reform processes and highlighted the successful implementation of the "capacity surge" in priority countries and thematic areas in 2019 as a good practice. Speakers further encouraged UNODC to ensure its integration in United Nations country teams under the leadership of resident coordinators, while maintaining guidance, oversight and accountability from headquarters.

12. With regard to coherence within the United Nations system, one speaker welcomed the adoption of the United Nations system common position on drug-related matters and called for regular briefings on the work of the UNODC-led task team. Another speaker welcomed the increased involvement of relevant United Nations entities and agencies in the work of the Commission.