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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**Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice****Thirty-first session**

Vienna, 16–20 May 2022

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda**

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**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***Summary*

The present note has been prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2021/218, in which the Council decided to renew 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 end of 2021, as well as Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 52/13, 54/10, 54/17, 56/11, 58/1, 60/3, 62/9 and 63/6 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions 18/3, 20/1, 20/9, 22/2, 24/1, 26/1, 28/4 and 29/1. It covers the work of the working group from 18 October to 26 November 2021. Information on the work of the working group during the preceding period can be found in document [E/CN.7/2021/3/Add.1-E/CN.15/2021/3/Add.1](#).

* [E/CN.7/2022/1](#).** [E/CN.15/2022/1](#).

I. Deliberations

1. In the period from 18 October to 26 November 2021, the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) held two informal meetings.
2. The working group continued to consider issues under the items on the agenda approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2017/236 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, 56/11, 58/1, 60/3, 62/9 and 63/6 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions 20/1, 20/9, 22/2, 24/1, 26/1, 28/4 and 29/1.
3. At its meeting held on 18 October, the working group received an update on the implementation of the long-term strategy of the Office, including the financial implications thereof and potential reallocations to address those implications. A representative of the Secretariat also gave a briefing to Member States on the reporting structure with regard to the implementation of the strategy, which comprised the annual report of the Executive Director on the activities of UNODC and the annual results-based report, the first of which was to be issued in 2022. An update was also provided on the roll-out of the UNODC Strategic Vision for Africa 2030 and on the development of the Strategic Vision for Latin America and the Caribbean 2021–2025.
4. At the same meeting, the representative of the Secretariat provided an update on the response of the Office to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) crisis, focusing in particular on the activities undertaken to mitigate its impact, the initiatives to adjust the Office's work to the new reality and the role of UNODC in implementing the United Nations-wide response to the pandemic. Member States were also informed about the actual and projected expenditure under the special-purpose fund between 2018 and 2023. Furthermore, information was shared on the enhanced Laboratory and Scientific Services Programme of the Office and on the launch of phase II of the Global Programme on the Implementation of the Organized Crime Convention: from Theory to Practice.
5. At the meeting held on 8 November, an update was provided on the United Nations management and development system reform and implications for the Office. Information was also shared on the regional programme development efforts in Europe, West and Central Asia, including an update on the work of the UNODC country office in Afghanistan, South Asia, East Asia and the Pacific. Meeting participants were given a briefing on the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Our Common Agenda" and its implications for the Office, including information on the structure and content of the report and next steps to be taken in its follow-up. The working group continued to discuss the consolidated budget of UNODC for the biennium 2022–2023.
6. At the same meeting, a representative of the Secretariat introduced the draft proposed programme budget for UNODC for 2023. The working group was presented with background information on the revisions made in the past three years to the structure of the document, with a view to making it more comprehensible, accessible and user-friendly. A presentation was then made on the activities implemented by the UNODC Liaison and Partnership Office in Mexico to prevent and address violence against women and to integrate a gender perspective into efforts to strengthen criminal justice systems. Member States also discussed human resources management at UNODC, matters related to evaluation, and research activities and publications of the Office.
7. At the meeting held on 26 November, a representative of the Secretariat provided an update on the status of implementation by UNODC of the different mandates stemming from Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

resolutions 28/4 and 29/1 and Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 62/9 and 63/6. The working group also received information on the work of the Office to promote youth participation for drug prevention.

II. Organizational and administrative matters

8. Under the guidance of the Co-Chairs, the working group held three meetings during the period under review: (a) the resumed twenty-fifth informal meeting, on 18 October; (b) the twenty-sixth informal meeting, on 8 November; and (c) the resumed twenty-sixth informal meeting, on 26 November.

9. Informal consultations were conducted on 4 November, 16 November and 24 November 2021 on the draft resolutions contained in the report of the Executive Director on the consolidated budget for the biennium 2022–2023 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2021/11-E/CN.15/2021/18](#)).

10. Four rounds of informal consultations to review the functioning of the working group in the period beyond 2021 were conducted in the period under consideration: on 8 November, immediately after the suspension of the twenty-sixth informal meeting, and during stand-alone meetings held on 29 October, 4 November and 15 November.

11. As a result of those consultations, two documents were negotiated by the working group and subsequently submitted to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its reconvened sixty-fourth session and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its reconvened thirtieth session: (a) a draft decision on extending the mandate of the working group for an unlimited period of time and establishing its new working methods; and (b) a draft resolution outlining the substantive focus of future work of the group.

12. The Secretariat continued to provide documents and information to the working group, including through a web page accessible to the public (www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/FINGOV/FINGOV-index.html) and a secure web page for Member States (www.unodc.org/missions/en/wggf/index.html), which had been set up and was maintained by the Secretariat for the use of the working group.
