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Committee for Programme and Coordination

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Agenda item 7

**Adoption of the report of the Committee on its
fifty-ninth session**

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Jun Yamada (Japan)

Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the year 2020

(Item 3 (a))

Programme 13

International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice

1. At its 8th meeting, on 7 June 2019, the Committee considered programme 13, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice, of the proposed programme plan for 2020 and programme performance information for 2018 (A/74/6 (Sect.16)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies (E/AC.51/2019/CRP.1/Rev.2).

2. The Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) introduced the programme and, together with other representatives of UNODC and the Secretariat, responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed appreciation and support for UNODC and commended the Office on its work, particularly in respect of its ability to effectively cover a variety of fields, including drugs and terrorism, and its important role as the primary international body for drug control and crime prevention. In that regard, a delegation suggested that greater clarity of the linkage between drugs and terrorism could be



introduced by renaming the Office the “United Nations Office on Drugs, Crime and Terrorism”. Clarification was sought regarding the potential vulnerability of the work of the Office in view of its reliance primarily on extrabudgetary funding. On the issue of extrabudgetary funding, a delegation sought further information on the figure of approximately \$300 million cited on the UNODC website.

4. Several delegations welcomed the approach of aligning the programme plan with the Sustainable Development Goals. While the work of UNODC had a value per se, and not solely as an instrument for achieving the Goals, it was recalled that combating the conditions that produced terrorism was the foundation of the Organization’s counter-terrorism strategy and that it was helpful to highlight alignment with the Goals. A delegation also expressed appreciation for the Secretariat’s approach in framing the presentation of the programme budget in that way and suggested that further efforts be made to ensure that all programmes of the programme budget be framed in terms of objectives and activities in support of the Goals.

5. A delegation found that the programme remained unbalanced. It expressed the view that, by aligning the activities of the Office with the Sustainable Development Goals, the proposal became unbalanced and risked creating a false impression of the programme’s mandate. Although the work of UNODC could contribute to the achievement of the Goals, it was stressed that it was important to ensure that the unique mandate of UNODC relating to the fight against drugs, crime and terrorism would not be obscured through alignment with the Goals. In that context, the delegation requested that the Secretariat revert to the previous format and methodology used for the strategic framework. Further, it indicated that the new methodology of the programme was said to be based on the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations: improving and streamlining the programme planning and budgeting process” and associated discussions. The new methodology created a wrong impression about the operational tasks of UNODC and the needs and expectations of Member States. The present programme should serve as a comprehensive road map of the Office’s activities across all the subprogrammes, as was the case with the strategic framework. Another delegation highlighted the semantic difference between the terms “alignment” and “link”, noting that “link” would be more appropriate than “alignment”, which implied that the Sustainable Development Goals were the main mandate of the Office. The same delegation further remarked on the difficulty of referring to paragraphs that were not numbered in the report and stressed the need for them to be numbered.

6. Under subprogramme 2, A comprehensive and balanced approach to counter the world drug problem, a delegation expressed the view that the reference to a reduced flow of illegal drugs from Afghanistan in the highlighted result in 2018 was questionable in the light of the increasing volumes of poppy seed production in Afghanistan.

7. Under subprogramme 3, Countering corruption, a delegation suggested that broader information should be included on efforts to support Member States on ratifications of or accessions to the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

8. Regarding subprogramme 4, Terrorism prevention, a delegation sought clarification in connection with the deliverable on “expediting the judicial process”, under “Result and evidence” of the highlighted result in 2018, notably whether UNODC was functioning as a legal entity. In that regard, it queried whether any duplication existed between the work of UNODC and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, which had provided assistance to Chad in drafting legislation that recognized terrorism as a crime.

9. UNODC was commended on its work under subprogramme 6, Research, trend analysis and forensics, notably, on preventing new forms of drug addiction among young people and on the Early Warning Advisory on New Psychoactive Substances. A delegation noted that opiate abuse was a problem for both developed and developing countries and requested clarification on the best approaches to addressing that issue. A delegation voiced its support for the highlighted planned result for 2020, namely, estimating the number of hidden victims of trafficking in persons, and encouraged the Office to work closely with other organizations in that area and to measure the implementation of the related Sustainable Development Goals.

10. Under subprogramme 7, Policy support, a delegation expressed the view that references to “violent extremism” under the highlighted planned result for 2020 provided a misleading view of the mandate of the Office and requested that the term be replaced with “terrorism prevention”. It also observed that the key mandate of UNODC in the field of prevention of terrorism had not been mentioned in the text.

11. A delegation commended the Office on its work under subprogramme 8, Technical cooperation and field support, noting with satisfaction the Group of Five for the Sahel initiative, and requested clarification on whether UNODC was acting as a separate entity in that regard or in tandem with the Sahel Alliance.

12. Under subprogramme 9, Provision of secretariat services and substantive support to the United Nations intergovernmental bodies, the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, a delegation proposed that in paragraph 16.77, the phrase “monitoring and promoting implementation of and full compliance with international drug control treaties” be replaced by “monitoring substances under international control” to better reflect recently agreed language. A delegation noted that the International Narcotics Control Board should be reflected separately and that the presentation of a consolidated proposal for the subprogramme did not reflect discussions of Member States in Vienna and expressed its support for the reinstatement of the proposed establishment of the post of Legal Adviser under the International Narcotics Control Board in the Secretariat. Further, a delegation noted that the Control Board had confirmed the classification of Botswana as a transit country, but that the only assistance offered in that regard was capacity-building for reporting on drug control conventions. Clarification was sought on the assistance that could be provided by UNODC to more effectively help transit countries to close loopholes in drug control legislation.
