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Addendum

Strengthening the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as its governing body

A. Structure of the debate

1. At its 1280th meeting, on 15 March, the Commission considered agenda item 9, entitled “Strengthening the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as its governing body”. For its consideration of the item, the Commission had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretariat on the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2007/14-E/CN.15/2007/5);

(b) Note by the Secretariat transmitting the report of the High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance and the Environment (E/CN.7/2007/15-E/CN.15/2007/10);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance and the Environment (A/61/583).

2. The Chairman of the Commission made an introductory statement. A statement was also made by the Director of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs of UNODC. A statement was made by the representatives of Germany (on behalf of the European Union), the United States and Canada.



B. Deliberations

3. In his statement, the representative of the Secretariat pointed out that the strategy for UNODC for the period 2008-2011 should be viewed in the context of the larger United Nations reform process, in particular the drive to enhance accountability by implementing result-based management. He thanked the Chairman of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Chairman of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for setting up an informal group called the Group of Friends of the Chairmen of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which had conducted extensive consultations to reach a consensus on the strategy for the period 2008-2011. With regard to the report of the High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance and the Environment, entitled "Delivering as one" (A/61/583), the representative informed the Commission of the Secretary-General's intention to present the report to the General Assembly accompanied by a note.

4. Speakers welcomed the strategy for the period 2008-2011 as a tool to be used to encourage further confidence among donors, enhance transparency and inculcate in UNODC an orientation towards results. They stressed the importance of aligning with the strategy all the planning documents, especially the strategic framework and the biennial consolidated budget of UNODC.

5. One speaker maintained that adoption of the strategy by both the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice would be an important step to shaping more effective responses to combat drugs, crime and terrorism.

6. It was noted that the strategy provided a comprehensive and integrated overview of UNODC activities and linked them to specific objectives and results; thus, it would contribute to the implementation of result-based management. It was stated that UNODC should do more prioritizing on the basis of its comparative advantages and its mandates, bearing also in mind those areas where it could add value, finding an appropriate mix of normative, analytical and operational functions. It was also stated that, as UNODC was the custodian of the international conventions against crime, drugs and terrorism, its mandates also covered areas such as standards and norms and crime prevention.

7. One representative expressed appreciation for the work done by the Independent Evaluation Unit in helping UNODC to identify its strengths, as well as areas for improvement. It was suggested that an effective knowledge management system could be put in place to enhance coordination and cooperation within UNODC. The need for direct reporting to the Executive Director was recommended.

8. Support was expressed for the ongoing work on project cycle management, which would contribute greatly to the improvement of project design, monitoring, implementation and evaluation.

9. With regard to the report of the High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence, entitled "Delivering as one" (A/61/583), it was noted that ongoing coordination in the framework of co-sponsoring of UNAIDS by UNODC and WHO could contribute to the enhancement of system-wide coherence.

10. It was noted that the commitment of the Executive Director to management and operational reform would be complemented by continuous coordination between the drug and crime programmes of UNODC, as well as by adequate guidance by Member States.
