



## Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited  
29 November 2007

Original: English

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### Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Reconvened sixteenth session

Vienna, 29 and 30 November 2007

#### Draft report

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#### Addendum

### **Strengthening the crime programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as its governing body, including administrative, strategic management and budgetary questions**

#### **A. Structure of the debate**

1. The Commission considered agenda item 7, entitled “Strengthening the crime programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as its governing body, including administrative, strategic management and budgetary questions”, at its 11th meeting, on 29 November 2007. For its consideration of the item, the Commission had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Executive Director on the consolidated budget for the biennium 2008-2009 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2007/17-E/CN.15/2007/18);

(b) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the consolidated budget for the biennium 2008-2009 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2007/18-E/CN.15/2007/19).

2. A representative of the Secretariat made an introductory statement on the agenda item. Opening statements were made by the observer for Egypt (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), the observer for the Dominican Republic (on behalf of



the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States) and the observer for Portugal (on behalf of the European Union). Statements were also made by the observer for Cuba and the representatives of Japan, Italy, Nigeria and the United States of America.

## **B. Deliberations**

3. Several speakers commended the quality of the budget documentation and expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Secretariat to brief delegations on those documents and for the additional information provided by the Secretariat prior to the reconvened sixteenth session of the Commission. Representatives welcomed the consolidated budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (E/CN.7/2007/17-E/CN.15/2007/18), which integrated the drug programme and the crime programmes at the operational level while maintaining their identities as regards the management of their respective funds. Appreciation was also expressed for the efforts made to improve the format of the budget, which, for the first time, was also submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. It was requested that future budget documents include a glossary of budget-related terminology.

4. The decision by the General Assembly to give the Commission budgetary authority over the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund was welcomed. In accordance with section XI, paragraph 1, of Assembly resolution 61/252 of 22 December 2006, the consolidated budget for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for the biennium 2008-2009 was considered by the Commission. It was noted that the decision placed the Commission on equal footing with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and strengthened its function as the principal policymaking organ of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. Several speakers noted that this decision would facilitate the policy integration of the drug and crime programmes, which was already reflected in the presentation of the consolidated budget.

5. Several speakers noted with appreciation the result-based budgeting approach and the fact that UNODC had made strong progress in that regard, thus facilitating the assessment of the effectiveness of programme delivery and the impact of the activities of UNODC. Speakers called on UNODC to further develop objective, concrete and measurable performance indicators. The observer for Egypt, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, with support from other speakers, welcomed the harmonization of the consolidated budget with sections 16 and 28F of the proposed programme budget of the United Nations for the biennium 2008-2009 and the incorporation of the medium-term strategy of UNODC into the consolidated budget for the biennium 2008-2009, and stressed the importance of incorporating that strategy into the strategic framework for the biennium 2010-2011.

6. One speaker welcomed the recording and reporting of programme support cost income as a separate category of funds, as a means of enhancing transparency and accountability.

7. The observer for Egypt, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China noted with approval the work of the Independent Evaluation Unit of UNODC. One speaker welcomed the regard shown by UNODC for the role of the Unit and urged

UNODC to continue enhancing its collaboration with the Evaluation Unit and with the Strategic Planning Unit.

8. Several speakers welcomed the improvement in the ratio of funds assigned to field offices and, in that connection, noted the findings of the Independent Evaluation Unit and the Office of Internal Oversight Services with regard to the field offices. The observer for Egypt, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, noted from the report of the Independent Evaluation Unit that UNODC did not truly accommodate the evolution, operations and growth of the field offices. UNODC was urged to be more responsive and proactive in addressing the needs of innovative field offices that were doing commendable jobs despite constraints. The speaker agreed with the recommendations of the Independent Evaluation Unit on the UNODC field offices, particularly in relation to human resources management.

9. Speakers welcomed the efforts made by UNODC to ensure adequate, predictable and stable funding. Concern was expressed at the overreliance of UNODC on voluntary contributions and the increasing share of earmarked funds, as well as at the decrease in general-purpose funds. It was emphasized that although that trend reflected the growing confidence in the programmes of UNODC, it left UNODC with insufficient general-purpose funds. Several speakers noted with concern the decline of the balance of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund by \$2.8 million and emphasized that the current level of resources was not sustainable.

10. A number of speakers noted that the proportion of the regular budget of the United Nations allocated to UNODC should be proportionate to its mandates; general-purpose contributions also had to be increased so that the Office could better plan and implement its technical assistance activities. A number of speakers noted the low number of donors contributing to the general-purpose funds of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund and that some 60 per cent of those funds came from a single donor. Speakers called upon donors and Member States to increase their general-purpose contribution to the Fund. The negative impact of the shortfall in general-purpose funds on forward planning of the work programme and on staffing was noted with concern. Speakers also expressed concern at the fact that overreliance on extrabudgetary resources and, in particular, earmarked funding had led to highly fragmented, unpredictable and constrained funding patterns that limited the ability of UNODC to make strategic decisions. The observer for the Dominican Republic, speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, noted that the decline in general-purpose funds had had consequences for the region, citing the closure of the regional office in Barbados.

11. Speakers on behalf of several groups noted that the regular budget resources allocated to UNODC continued to amount to less than 1 per cent of the total regular budget of the United Nations and that the core activities of UNODC should be funded from the regular budget of the United Nations.

12. One speaker noted that, although progress had been made in line with the internal organizational reforms and the One United Nations initiative, the current budget did not fully reflect those changes and field offices should receive greater support for operational functions. The speaker added that UNODC should provide Member States with the details of costs to be incurred in the next biennium as a

result of those reforms. Furthermore, while coordination between the drug and crime programmes was encouraged, a separate account for each fund should be maintained.

13. Several speakers noted the expansion of the crime prevention and criminal justice programmes of UNODC and commended the efforts of UNODC to ensure the ratification and implementation of the ground-breaking United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto (General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex I, of 15 November 2000) and the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (General Assembly resolution 58/4, annex, of 31 October 2003). The Executive Director was requested to continue his efforts to secure adequate funding to address the priorities agreed by Member States, in particular in the field of technical assistance for the implementation of relevant conventions and protocols. Speakers also noted, in line with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, that the Executive Director of UNODC should pursue his fund-raising efforts with a view to broadening the donor base.

14. The observer for Portugal, speaking on behalf of the European Union, with the support of the other Groups, welcomed the introduction by UNODC of a cost-sharing ratio, which would ensure that the UNDCP Fund and the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund would each bear an appropriate and proportionate share of common general-purpose costs. As speakers had already commented in detail on the consolidated budget for the biennium 2008-2009 during the reconvened fiftieth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, it was decided that during the present session only the most relevant points would be touched upon.

15. The observer for the Dominican Republic, speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, and the observer for Egypt, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, requested that any structural reorganization of UNODC, and in particular of its operational sector, should be carried out in consultation with, and upon the approval of, Member States. The Groups called upon the Executive Director to ensure that any such structural reorganization took into account the needs and priorities of each region.

16. The observer for the Dominican Republic, speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, also stated that transnational organized crime, terrorism and corruption disrupted the economic and social welfare of all nations; he emphasized the need for joint cooperation to combat those problems. The speaker noted that, notwithstanding the economic constraints faced by the countries of the region, they had made a major effort to support UNODC. In that context, while noting the projected increase in allocations for the region in the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, from \$1.8 million in 2006-2007 to \$4.4 million in the biennium 2008-2009, he stated that that increase was insufficient to meet the needs of the region.

17. One speaker commended UNODC on its programmes in East Asia and the Pacific, but noted that a number of areas in South-East Asia and the Pacific remained vulnerable to the threats of organized crime, corruption and terrorism and were in need of immediate support. He called upon donors to consider supporting

technical assistance activities and to increase the budget for programmes in that region.

18. The observer for Egypt, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, suggested that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice should refocus its attention on its role as the main governing body of UNODC dealing with crime-related matters and requested that the Executive Director submit annual reports on ways and means of improving the financial situation of UNODC, including its field offices, reports on the programmes and initiatives to be implemented by UNODC in the bienniums 2008-2009 and 2010-2011 and reports on the compliance of those programmes and initiatives with the medium-term strategy of UNODC, as reflected in the strategic framework.

19. The Executive Director was also requested to submit to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at its seventeenth session, a report on the financial difficulties faced by UNODC in the implementation of resolutions and to provide a list of all the resolutions that had not been implemented during the previous five years owing to lack of resources, as well as a detailed account of the exemptions and reductions provided to donors from the 13 per cent programme support costs during the previous three years. The Executive Director was also requested to submit annual reports to the Commission on the financial situation of UNODC, including its field offices, on the programmes and initiatives to be implemented by UNODC in the bienniums 2008-2009 and 2010-2011 and on the compliance of those programmes and initiatives with the medium-term strategy of UNODC.

20. The observer for Egypt, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, reiterated the objection of the Group to the inclusion of phrases such as “subject to extrabudgetary resources” and “within existing resources” in decisions and resolutions, as that practice violated the provisions of section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990, in which the General Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters. The Group requested that the Commission refrain from the inclusion of such phrases in its decisions and resolutions, given that drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice concerns had been within the eight priority areas of the work of the United Nations since 1998. One speaker stated that her Government did not see the use of those phrases as eroding the authority of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly.

21. Several speakers appealed for increased contributions to the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund and for Member States to increase the proportion of general-purpose funds.

### **C. Action taken**

22. At its 11th meeting, on 29 November 2007, the Commission adopted the draft resolution entitled “Budget for the biennium 2008-2009 for the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund” (E/CN.15/2007/L.19).