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Draft report

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Addendum

Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions

1. At the 1st meeting of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, jointly held with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on 12 December 2011, and at its 2nd meeting, on 13 December 2011, the Commission considered agenda item 3, which read as follows:

“Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions:

“(a) Work of the 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 United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme.”

2. For its consideration of agenda item 3, the Commission had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Executive Director on the consolidated budget for the biennium 2012-2013 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2011/16-E/CN.15/2011/22);

(b) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the consolidated budget for the biennium 2012-2013 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2011/17-E/CN.15/2011/23);



(c) 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.7/2011/9/Add.1-E/CN.15/2011/9/Add.1);

(d) 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: draft strategy for the period 2012-2015 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2011/9/Add.2-E/CN.15/2011/9/Add.2).

3. At the 1st meeting, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Director of the Division for Management of UNODC and the observer for Spain, in his capacity of co-chairperson of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC, made introductory statements.

4. Statements were also made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Belarus, Nigeria and Mexico. Statements were also made by the observers for Ecuador and Spain. The Chairman of the Commission made a statement.

A. Deliberations

5. The observer for Spain, speaking as co-chairperson of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC, reported on the salient results of the working group, including its initiative that brought about the joint reconvened sessions of the Commissions so that they could serve as an integrated governing body to oversee strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions of the Office; the review of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in its report on the review of management and administration in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (JIU/REP/2010/10); the consensus reached by the working group on the draft strategy for the period 2012-2015 for UNODC; and the continued dialogue with the Office on the development and implementation of thematic and regional programmes.

6. Speakers welcomed the first joint meeting of the Commissions held pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2011/259 as an opportunity to increase synergies. Delegations welcomed 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, and the Commission expressed its appreciation for the work of the co-chairs of the working group.

7. A number of speakers enquired about the level of projected reserves in the consolidated budget for the biennium 2012-2013 for UNODC. A representative of the Secretariat advised that the projected level of reserves reflected the difference between the anticipated level of contributions from Member States and the implementation of UNODC activities as presented in the consolidated budget. An increase in the level of reserves would not represent a reduction in activities but would allow for protection against any shortage in income, unforeseen shortfalls in

programme delivery, liabilities, inflation and currency adjustments and legal obligations in case of unforeseen shortfalls in the delivery of special-purpose contributions. That representative also explained that the current level of reserves was conservative and prudent and that the Secretariat would continue to monitor and update Member States on the level of reserves, so that additional activities could be authorized if a sufficient level was reached. The Secretariat underscored that the accumulated reserves as projected would cover only approximately 18 months of expenditure.

8. It was recalled that, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 46/185 C and 61/252, section XI, the Commissions were entrusted with the responsibility to approve the consolidated budget of UNODC, bearing in mind the comments and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

9. One speaker expressed concern about the absence of programme support cost funds programmed under subprogramme 5, Health and livelihoods (combating drugs and HIV), in the biennium 2012-2013 and emphasized that the Secretariat should provide the subprogramme with financial and human resources commensurate with its scope and purpose. The representative of the Secretariat advised that the priorities attached to subprogramme 5 were high and that the reduction in programme support cost funds under the subprogramme reflected a realignment of resources to regular budget and the general-purpose funds, and that resources for that subprogramme were also provided for under subprogramme 4, Justice, together with the resources for the field office network.

10. With reference to subprogramme 1, Countering transnational organized crime, illicit trafficking and illicit drug trafficking, of the draft strategy of the Office, the Commission noted that the reference to "illicit trafficking" was understood to include all forms of illicit trafficking, including trafficking in persons. The Commission also noted that the work of UNODC within the United Nations system task force on transnational organized crime and drug trafficking as threats to security and stability, jointly co-chaired by UNODC and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, was guided by the mandates of the Office and policy directives provided by the Commissions.

B. Action taken

11. At its 1st meeting, on 12 December 2011, the Commission took note of the election of Taous Feroukhi (Algeria) and Ignacio Baylina-Ruiz (Spain) as co-chairpersons of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime at the intersessional meeting of the Commission held on 8 November 2011, as recommended by the joint meeting of the extended Bureaux of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on 24 May 2011 pursuant to Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 18/3 and Economic and Social Council decision 2011/258.

12. At its 2nd meeting, on 13 December 2011, the Commission [...].