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Draft report

Rapporteur: Teoman **Uykur** (Turkey)

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 6 December 2012, 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) 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.7/2012/12/Add.1-E/CN.15/2012/12/Add.1);

(b) Statement by the co-chairs 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.7/2012/CRP.9-E/CN.15/2012/CRP.7).



3. The Director of the Division for Management of UNODC, the Chief of the Financial Resources Management Service and the representative of Spain, in his capacity as co-chair of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC, made introductory statements.

4. Statements were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, the Russian Federation, Mexico, Pakistan and the United States of America. A statement was also made by the observer for the Netherlands.

Deliberations

5. Speakers welcomed the joint meetings of the Commissions at their reconvened sessions as an opportunity to increase synergies.

6. The representative of Spain, speaking in his capacity as co-chair of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC, presented a summary of the work of the working group. He also read out a statement by the co-chairs of the working group and invited the Commission to take note of that statement and to reflect the statement in the report on the reconvened twenty-first session.

7. Speakers acknowledged the achievements of the working group and the work of the co-chairs. The working group had proven a useful forum for exchanging information and enhancing dialogue on issues such as the progress made by UNODC in its integrated programme approach, as well as ways of improving the governance and financial situation of the Office. Support was expressed for a renewal of the mandate of the working group at the next session of the Commission. In that regard, it was mentioned that an annual structured workplan, duly approved by Member States, would be welcomed. Some delegations proposed the transformation of the working group into a permanent body, in line with one of the recommendations contained in the opening statement delivered by the observer of Peru on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. Some delegations emphasized that the working group should remain informal in nature.

8. Many speakers addressed the financial situation of UNODC. Concern was expressed regarding the sustainability and predictability of funding and the ability of the Office to implement its mandated work, especially in the light of the downward trend in general-purpose contributions. The importance of transparency, oversight and evaluation was stressed. Ownership of technical assistance programmes by recipient countries was considered crucial.

9. Several speakers welcomed the UNODC fundraising strategy, as a basis for further discussions, and concrete proposals put forward aimed at improving the financial situation of the Office. The importance of efforts to increase regular budget allocations was stressed. Donors were encouraged to refrain from reducing contributions to the general-purpose fund. While some delegations supported the concept of core functions and acknowledged its importance for increasing efficiencies in funding the mandated work of UNODC, one delegation discouraged reference to that concept, in line with the guidance provided by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in that regard.

10. Many speakers stressed the need for further discussions within the working group on issues relating to fundraising matters. More specifically, the Secretariat was requested to provide Member States with further information on practical examples of the impact of full cost recovery on projects and programmes, as well as the expenditure and allocation of funds by UNODC. It was added that matters of concern included the hard earmarking of contributions. The importance of coordination between Member States' representatives in Vienna and New York concerning priorities to be reflected in decisions on the United Nations regular budget was also emphasized.

11. The Chief of the Financial Resources Management Service provided information on the UNODC financial statements on the biennium ended 31 December 2011, and to the unqualified audit opinion received from the Board of Auditors thereon.
