



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
13 June 2024

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination

Sixty-fourth session

13 May–14 June 2024

Draft report

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for 2025

(Item 3 (a))

Programme 13

International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice

1. At its 5th meeting, on 15 May 2024, the Committee considered programme 13, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice, of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance information for 2023 (A/79/6 (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.51/2024/6).

Discussion

2. Delegations expressed support for the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). A delegation commended the Office for its ongoing work and efforts to assist Member States in addressing and countering the world drug problem, transnational organized crime and corruption, and in the prevention of terrorism. Another delegation expressed its strong support to the Office's work on the issues of cybercrime and anti-corruption. Another delegation expressed its appreciation for the Office's work in supporting Member States' efforts on crime prevention and criminal justice. Delegations also expressed their appreciation for the presentation of the programme plan for 2025. A delegation emphasized the great importance it gave to the work of UNODC and assured the Office of its continuous support to the Office's core activities. Another delegation welcomed the continued focus on delivering the UNODC strategy and the ability of the Office to pivot within this framework to focus on emerging issues.



3. Several delegations stressed the importance of field offices and the coordination between them in delivering the Office's mandate. A delegation commended UNODC on ensuring coordination on the ground and on making information available in Vienna. Another delegation welcomed the recognition of the importance of national ownership when dealing with country-specific issues in the Office's programme plan. The same delegation found large field presence and cooperation, such as South-South, relevant for the said context.
4. A delegation stressed the importance of tackling the persisting global threats, including the world drug problem, transnational organized crime and corruption, and of preventing terrorism and related threats more effectively through enhanced global cooperation, coordination and partnerships. The same delegation stressed the importance of promoting synergies across global, regional and national programmes. Another delegation expressed the view that UNODC programmes and subprogrammes dealt with issues of great importance that endanger humanity and could trap people in a vicious cycle of crime, poverty and exploitation.
5. A delegation welcomed the Office's plans to enhance its work across three streams, covering normative work, research and analytical work, and technical assistance. The same delegation stressed the importance of giving balanced attention to different subprogrammes, in accordance with the agreed mandates, thereby expressing the view that primary focus of the Office's work should remain on the core areas of its responsibility.
6. A delegation commended UNODC for its efforts in improving its organizational structure and management in line with United Nations reform process, welcoming a stronger focus on results-based management, risk management, monitoring and evaluation to achieve effective and sustainable outcomes.
7. A delegation welcomed the Office's continuing focus on delivering its strategy and inquired as to whether the latter would be updated as we move closer towards 2025 and what that process would look like.
8. A delegation stressed that the International Narcotics Control Board must be treated as an extremely important forum in the context of international drug control. The same delegation noted that, while its country was not represented on the Board, it valued the work of the Board as a forum that not only annually analyzed the global drug situation, warned Governments and gave recommendations, but also controlled States' adherence to the international drug control conventions concerning the cultivation, production and use of drugs.
9. A delegation expressed the view that UNODC programming, technical assistance, research, policy and normative work was indispensable to global efforts in engaging these threats, and thus the Office's work should focus on its core mandate of assisting Member States in those areas.
10. A delegation recognized the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a global framework for sustainable development that could help countries work towards global peace and prosperity. The same delegation expressed the view that the Office's mandate-focused work could at times complement broader efforts aimed at implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and that such implementation should not be a driving factor in determining its programme of work, which was focused primarily on helping Member States implement their commitments under the three United Nations drug conventions, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and other non-binding policy commitments on drug control, crime and corruption. Another delegation expressed its positive view of the interaction between the Office's programme of work and the 2030 Agenda.

11. A delegation stressed the importance of multidimensionality for development projects in the context of the link between the Sustainable Development Goals and the work of UNODC. The same delegation noted that States' development should not be understood as being achieved contingent upon achieving a certain threshold of revenue, but rather should continue until sustainability is reached.
12. A delegation stressed the importance of engagement with young people. Another delegation stressed the importance of considering the opinions of the scientific community and the representatives of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, when planning and implementing strategies to counter the world drug problem. The same delegation maintained that, as there was no single cause of drug abuse, there was also no single solution to the problems related to it. Hence, the solutions adopted must be both evidence-based and adjusted to social needs. Another delegation stressed the importance of legislation being a solution that responds to new challenges of incorporating links between drugs and crime, as well as the importance of strengthening good governance and of building inclusive, equitable, resilient societies. The same delegation commended the Office for including gender perspectives in its subprogramme 5, Justice, as well as for robust language in paragraphs 16.5 and 16.7 of the programme plan.
13. A delegation expressed its appreciation for the work of UNODC, in particular on subprogramme 1, Countering transnational organized crime, including the review mechanism of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; subprogramme 2 on countering the world drug problem; subprogramme 4, Terrorism prevention; and subprogramme 5, Justice, all of which were key priorities for the delegation's country.
14. A delegation expressed the view that priority in providing technical assistance should be given to developing countries. Another delegation encouraged the Office to work in the area of capacity-building of developing countries and to strive to ensure equitable representation.
15. A delegation expressed the view that the lack of consensus the previous year on the Offices's programme plan had been disappointing.
16. Concern was expressed by a delegation on the use of terminology in the programme plan that had not been intergovernmentally agreed. The delegation noted it was appropriate to reflect in paragraph 16.62, as well as in the results of the activities of the subprogramme on justice (para. 16.76), certain "international standards in the field of human rights". The delegation suggested that, in the context of law enforcement, it would be more appropriate to use the following language: "relevant obligations of Member States in accordance with international legal instruments on human rights".
17. A delegation expressed its discontent with the softening of the language used in paragraph 16.134 of the programme plan, namely, the use of the term "misuse" in lieu of "illicit consumption".
18. A delegation commended UNODC for an impressive number of resolutions.
19. A delegation expressed concern that the Office's activities to assist in the combating of terrorism had been duplicated with the work of the Office of Counter-Terrorism, the primary United Nations agency with the relevant mandate to deal with counter-terrorism. The delegation maintained the view that it was important to leave the phrase "combating terrorism" in paragraph 16.55 (b) and (d) without the new addition of "prevention". The delegation maintained there was no reason to expand the mandate of UNODC in this area and inquired as to how the issue of duplication of work between both Offices was being dealt with.

20. A question was raised about the reasoning behind the decision not to include in the strategy and external factors of the 2025 programme plan any reference to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other documents, such as the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
21. With regard to subprogramme 1, figure 16.I, a delegation inquired about the reasons for lowering the 2024 planned target (150) compared with the 2023 actual result (162) and then increasing it considerably for 2025 (185). The same delegation noted the same trend in figure 16.II, also in subprogramme 1, figure 16.VII, in subprogramme 3, and figure 16.XX, in subprogramme 8. The delegation inquired about the reasons behind the pessimism in planning of 2024 targets in the above listed cases.
22. With regard to subprogramme 2, a delegation inquired how the 2024 midterm review would inform the work of UNODC going forward. Another delegation noted that the results of that subprogramme focused on the supply part of the world drug problem and inquired about possible measures to target the demand part. With regard to result 3 of that subprogramme, another delegation noted with interest the lessons learned and planned changes, as presented in paragraph 16.37, and expressed its wish to learn about the effects of such an approach in the subsequent programme plan.
23. With regard to paragraph 16.47, on subprogramme 3, result 2, a delegation inquired about the measures to reach the objective and why, in the light of having exceeding the planned target of 14 countries building their institutional capacities – the number actually reaching 30 – the target for 2024 had not been adjusted to a more ambitious one.
24. With regard to subprogramme 4, result 1, a delegation inquired about particular synergies deriving from the Office’s work with another entities, in particular with the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia.
25. With regard to subprogramme 6 and the mention of the national Centre of Excellence for Illicit Drug Supply Reduction in Brazil, a suggestion was made by a delegation also to mention in the text a reference to the defunding of organized crime, which the delegation considered to be an effective countermeasure.
26. With regard to subprogramme 8, a delegation noted with appreciation a critical role of coordination on the ground and among Member States. The same delegation expressed gratification to see that subprogramme 8 reflected the importance of coordination across the United Nations, in particular in the field; welcomed the increasing use of regional coordinators; and inquired about the way coordination helped UNODC to embed its work within the wider framework.
27. With regard to subprogramme 9, result 2, a delegation thanked the Office for the provision of secretariat services and substantive support to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The same delegation confirmed being among the 97 per cent of Member States participating in the meetings of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs that expressed full satisfaction with the quality and timeliness of technical and substantive services provided by the Secretariat to the Governing Bodies (figure 16.XXI).

Conclusions and recommendations

28. **The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution 78/244, consider the programme plan for programme 13, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice, of the proposed programme budget for 2025 under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning” at the seventy-ninth session of the Assembly.**