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# **Commission on Narcotic Drugs**

# **Report on the reconvened fifty-second session** (1-2 December 2009)

**Economic and Social Council** Official Records, 2009 Supplement No. 8A

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#### Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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## **Chapter I**

#### Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

1. The attention of the Economic and Social Council is drawn to the following resolution adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its reconvened fifty-second session and to the action taken pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/185 C, in section XVI of which the Assembly authorized the Commission to approve the programme budget for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme:

#### **Resolution 52/14**

# Budget for the biennium 2010-2011 for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme

#### The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

*Exercising* the administrative and financial functions entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/185 C, section XVI, paragraph 2, of 20 December 1991,

*Having considered* the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on the proposed budget for the biennium 2010-2011 for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme<sup>1</sup> and the related recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,<sup>2</sup>

*Recalling* that there are no priorities within major programmes as decided by the General Assembly,

1. Welcomes the measures taken to develop a thematic and regional programme approach to the programme of work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and requests the Executive Director of the Office to present to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-third session, in 2010, the changes that would need to be made to the strategic framework and a report on the implications of such an approach for the Office and for the allocation of resources to the subprogrammes of the programme of work, taking into account the views expressed by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in the relevant parts of its report;<sup>3</sup>

2. *Notes* that the proposed budget for the biennium 2010-2011 for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme<sup>4</sup> is based, inter alia, on the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as approved by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2007/12 of 25 July 2007;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See E/CN.7/2009/13-E/CN.15/2009/23.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> E/CN.7/2009/14-E/CN.15/2009/24.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> See E/CN.7/2009/13-E/CN.15/2009/23.

3. *Also notes* that the proposed budget is harmonized with sections 16 and 28F of the proposed programme budget of the United Nations for the biennium 2010-2011;<sup>5</sup>

4. *Further notes* that the proposed budget focuses on general-purpose funds and that it also includes special-purpose funds and programme support cost income earned on special-purpose contributions, as well as regular budget resources;

5. *Further notes* that the general-purpose resources of the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund are presented as a single budget, with accounts to be kept separate, and that general-purpose expenditure will be apportioned between the two funds in accordance with the income that each generates;

6. *Further notes* that the proposed budget clearly distinguishes between general-purpose funds and programme support cost funds and that it harmonizes the use and management of these fund categories across the two funds of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

7. *Further notes* that the programme support cost resources of the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund are presented as a single budget, with accounts to be kept separate, and that programme support cost expenditure will be apportioned between the two funds in accordance with the income that each generates;

8. *Notes with concern* the sharp decline in general-purpose income in the biennium 2008-2009 and the corresponding measures taken to reduce general-purpose expenditure;

9. *Considers* that strengthening the dialogue between the Executive Director and the Member States on the development, implementation and funding of the thematic and regional programmes may help, in particular, to address this sharp decline;

10. *Approves* the projected use of general-purpose funds in the biennium 2010-2011, and invites Member States to provide contributions totalling at least 17,241,800 United States dollars;

11. *Expresses concern* about the financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

12. *Invites* Member States to provide additional general-purpose contributions to the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund totalling 9,570,800 dollars to enable the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to restore and strengthen the functions and activities discontinued in the biennium 2008-2009 as a result of the precipitous decline in general-purpose income to the Office;

13. *Endorses* the programme support cost fund and special-purpose fund estimates as indicated below;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> A/64/6 (Sect. 16) and (Sect. 28F).

	Resources (thousands of United States dollars)			Posts	
Category	2008-2009	2010-2011	2008-2009	2010-2011	
General-purpose funds					
Post	19 775.6	15 103.7	73	52	
Non-post	3 257.7	2 138.1	-	-	
Special-purpose funds	268 793.9	234 207.4	-	-	
Programme support cost funds					
Post	14 611.9	15 531.3	123	118	
Non-post	4 931.3	5 156.6	-	-	
External executing agencies	1 053.4	1 053.4	-	-	
Total	312 423.9	273 190.5	196	170	

#### Resource projections for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme

14. *Notes* that the above estimated resource projections are subject to the availability of funding;

15. *Reaffirms* the role of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/218 B of 29 July 1994 and other relevant resolutions of the Assembly and to the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, for oversight, monitoring and control by the Assembly of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations, takes note of the findings and recommendations in the report of the Office on inspection of programme-level monitoring and evaluation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, dated 5 October 2009, and requests the Secretariat to act upon and implement those recommendations and to report to Member States on follow-up in that regard;

16. *Decides* that the proposed consolidated budget for the biennium 2010-2011 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime should contain adequate provisions for the establishment of a sustainable, effective and operationally independent evaluation unit, including the following aspects:

(a) The necessary resources should be made available to fund the position of the head of the unit through reallocation of resources from the regular budget of the United Nations available to the Office;

(b) The Executive Director should ensure independent, timely and effective evaluations, in line with the standards and norms of the United Nations Evaluation Group and following the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services;

(c) The unit should be functionally and operationally independent and should be part of the Office of the Executive Director;

(d) The Executive Director should delegate authority to make all personnel and operational decisions concerning staff and consultants to the head of the unit in line with the relevant General Assembly resolutions and in conformity with the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations; (e) The unit should circulate its reports simultaneously to the Executive Director and to Member States, with management responses being provided subsequently, and the reports should be submitted to the Commission for its consideration;

(f) The unit should establish an appropriate cycle for its reports, including the annual evaluation report, with a view to ensuring that its reports are available to all Member States well in advance of the session of the Commission held in the first part of each year;

(g) The reports of the unit should be made public and accessible;

17. *Requests* the Executive Director to ensure the sustainability of the Strategic Planning Unit, consistent with the importance of the functions performed by the Unit;

18. *Requests* the head of the independent evaluation unit to brief the Member States periodically, preferably through the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as appropriate, on the findings and the implementation of recommendations contained in evaluation reports;

19. *Invites* Member States to take an active role in the development and application of the evaluation policy;

20. *Takes note* of the draft workplan of the independent evaluation unit for the biennium 2010-2011 as a transitional step towards the re-establishment of the unit, decides that the workplan should be implemented without delay, and requests the unit to report to Member States on follow-up in that regard;

21. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Commission, at its fifty-third session, on the implementation of paragraphs 16, 17 and 18 of the present resolution, including on the sustainable and predictable financing of the position of head of the Strategic Planning Unit in the future, and to provide advance information in that regard to the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

# **Chapter II**

#### Administrative and budgetary questions

2. The Commission considered item 10 of the agenda, entitled "Administrative and budgetary questions", at its 15th, 16th and 17th meetings, on 1 and 2 December 2009. 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 2010-2011 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2009/13–E/CN.15/2009/23);

(b) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the consolidated budget for the biennium 2010-2011 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2009/14–E/CN.15/2009/24);

(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.7/2009/15-E/CN.15/2009/25).

3. A representative of the Secretariat made an audio-visual presentation. A statement was made by one of the co-chairpersons of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC. The President of the United Nations Office at Vienna/UNODC Staff Council made a statement. Statements were made by the observer for Sweden (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union) and by the representatives of Argentina, Cuba, Mexico, the Russian Federation, the Sudan, Namibia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Statements were also made by the observers for France, Ecuador and Ghana.

#### A. Deliberations

4. In her introductory statement, the representative of the Secretariat noted that the budget was financially austere, as a result of the sharp decline in generalpurpose funding. She made reference to the cost-saving measures that had been implemented in 2009 and would continue in the biennium 2010-2011.

5. The representative of Spain, speaking as co-chairperson of the standing openended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC, gave a summary of the activities of the working group, indicating that participation had been active and there had been many fruitful and focused discussions. The co-chairpersons would transmit any recommendations, on behalf of the working group, to the Commission at its fifty-third session.

6. Several speakers commented on the importance of the work of UNODC and mentioned that many new challenges facing the international community were related to the Office's area of work. Appreciation was expressed for the efforts made to move towards a thematic and regional approach and for efforts to pursue the

integrated strategy of UNODC. The thematic and regional approach was seen by some speakers as a positive step towards the consolidation and rationalization of the delivery of the work of UNODC.

7. Several speakers welcomed the Secretariat's proposal to submit to the Commission, at its fifty-third session, a report on the measures taken to develop a thematic and regional approach to the programme of work of UNODC and the implications of such an approach for the Office and for the allocation of resources to the subprogrammes of UNODC. The report should also include information on the changes that would need to be made to the strategic framework and to section 16 of the programme budget of the United Nations.

8. Several speakers expressed the view that strengthening the dialogue between the Executive Director and the Member States on the development and funding of the thematic and regional programmes might assist in addressing the sharp decline in general-purpose funding. One speaker emphasized the importance of strengthened communication between donors and recipient countries.

9. A number of speakers emphasized the importance of maintaining separate accounts for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund. A representative of the Secretariat confirmed that although the consolidated budget presented the general-purpose resources and programme support cost resources of the two funds as a single budget, two separate accounts would be maintained for the funds, as it was understood that some Member States would have difficulties contributing to a merged fund that combined the drug programme and the crime programme funds.

Speakers expressed concern about the decrease in general-purpose funds. A 10. number of speakers noted that the proportion of the regular budget of the United Nations allocated to UNODC should be commensurate with the Office's mandates. One speaker stated that the level of resources contained in the consolidated budget for the biennium 2010-2011 for UNODC was not in line with the priority that Member States had given to the activities of the Office. The negative impact of the shortfall in general-purpose funds on the work of the Office and on staff morale, mentioned by the President of the Staff Council, was noted with concern. Several speakers noted that excessive reliance by UNODC on extrabudgetary resources had led to a highly fragmented, unpredictable and constrained funding structure. One speaker expressed the view that the Commission needed to work collectively to find solutions to the funding situation, including through the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC. One speaker stated that the long-term sustainability of UNODC required creative solutions to the funding situation. One speaker noted that at some stage Member States should look at additional information on the impact that the cost-saving measures had had on the delivery of the programme of work.

11. Speakers expressed the need for continued discussion on the application of programme support cost charges, with the view that it could lead to more flexible and sustainable funding. One speaker mentioned the need to ensure that special-purpose contributions were underpinned by appropriate overhead.

12. Several speakers expressed the view that the core activities of UNODC should be funded from the regular budget of the United Nations.

Many speakers emphasized the importance of having a strong independent 13. evaluation unit within UNODC. The observer for Sweden, speaking on behalf of the European Union, stated that the European Union would like the consolidated budget for the biennium 2010-2011 for UNODC to include provisions for the establishment of a sustainable, effective and operationally independent evaluation unit, with the position of the head of the unit to be financed with resources from the regular budget of the United Nations. It was also stated that the unit should be located close to or within the Office of the Executive Director and that its reports should be made available simultaneously to the Executive Director and Member States, including through the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC. It was further stated that the unit should establish an appropriate cycle for its reports, including the annual evaluation report, and that those reports should be made public and accessible. The Secretariat informed the Commission that a regular budget post at the P-5 level, currently the position of Chief of the Strategic Planning Unit, would be made available for redeployment to the reinstated independent evaluation unit, but noted that all other funding for the unit would be from extrabudgetary sources and that there were no other regular budget resources currently available for the unit. The Secretariat also indicated that there would be implications for the Strategic Planning Unit. In this context, one representative noted that the strategic planning function was a crucial one.

14. The representative of the United Kingdom announced that her Government would contribute 100,000 pounds sterling towards the work of the independent evaluation unit and the Strategic Planning Unit.

15. In response to a request for clarification on the thematic priorities of UNODC and on the Office's involvement in system-wide coherence, the Secretariat stated that UNODC was involved in two of the eight pilot projects for delivering as one United Nations and made reference to the report of the Co-Chairs of the consultative follow-up process by the General Assembly on system-wide coherence (A/63/362, annex).

16. Several speakers emphasized the importance of the UNODC programme of work in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries and underscored the importance of a fair thematic and geographical distribution of resources.

17. One speaker acknowledged the work of UNODC in Asia and the Pacific and noted that the regional programme framework for the region had been well developed, adding that he would like to see the programme further refined and evaluated.

18. One speaker, taking the floor on behalf of the European Union, stated that the European Union would welcome discussion on the political dimensions of the world drug problem.

19. Two speakers welcomed the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the consolidated budget for the biennium 2010-2011 for UNODC, stating that the report contained substantive recommendations on aspects of relevance to the work of UNODC, such as the development of regional and thematic programmes, the realignment of functions within the Office and the need to respond to the recommendations of oversight and audit bodies (E/CN.7/2009/14–E/CN.15/2009/24). The speakers regretted the

belated submission of the report by the Advisory Committee, which had prevented a detailed study of its content by the Member States.

#### **B.** Action taken by the Commission

20. At its 18th meeting, on 2 December 2009, the Commission adopted a draft resolution, as orally revised, entitled "Budget for the biennium 2010-2011 for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme" (E/CN.7/2009/13-E/CN.15/2009/23, annex III, para. 2). (For the text, see chapter I, resolution 52/14.) Prior to the adoption of the draft resolution, a representative of the Secretariat read out a financial statement, the text of which is contained in annex I of the present report.

# **Chapter III**

#### **Other business**

21. At its 15th meeting, on 1 December, the Commission considered agenda item 17, entitled "Other business". The Chairperson introduced the item and informed the Commission about the organization of work for its fifty-third session.

#### Deliberations

#### 1. Duration of the fifty-third session and other arrangements

22. The Chairperson recalled that, at the intersessional meeting held on 11 September 2009, there had been agreement that the fifty-third session of the Commission should have a duration of five days and should be held from Monday, 8 March, to Friday, 12 March 2010. The Chairperson also recalled that, at the same meeting, it had been agreed to recommend to the Commission that, in accordance with recent practice when the Commission had held five-day sessions, the provisional deadline for the submission of draft resolutions should be noon of the first day of the session, which for the fifty-third session would be 8 March 2010.

23. In considering the provisional deadline for the submission of draft resolutions, the Commission called on Member States planning to submit draft resolutions for consideration at the fifty-third session to do so as early as possible, ideally at least one month before the beginning of the session. The Chairperson urged Member States to submit draft proposals at least one month before the beginning of the session.

24. At the same intersessional meeting, the Commission determined that its fifty-third session would be preceded by informal consultations, with interpretation, on Friday, 5 March 2010, at which Member States would have an opportunity to engage in informal consultations on draft resolutions.

#### 2. Thematic debate

25. The Chairperson recalled that, at the intersessional meeting of the Commission held on 23 November 2009, the following theme and subthemes for the thematic debate to be held at the fifty-third session had been endorsed:

In the context of a balanced approach to reducing drug demand and supply, measures to enhance awareness of the different aspects of the world drug problem, including by improving understanding of how to tackle the problem:

(a) Effective means of raising awareness about the risks of abusing drugs, including cannabis, giving special attention to addressing in a comprehensive manner the specific needs of women, men, youth and children;

(b) Measures to improve the understanding of drug addiction as a chronic but treatable multifactorial health disorder;

(c) Regional and interregional cooperation;

(d) Importance of research and the collection, reporting and analysis of data to raising awareness about the world drug problem.

26. The Chairperson thanked the Rapporteur for conducting open-ended informal consultations that had led to agreement on the theme and subthemes for the thematic debate to be held at the fifty-third session of the Commission.

27. At the same intersessional meeting, it had been agreed that during the one-day thematic debate to be held on 9 March 2010, the second day of the fifty-third session, the Commission would consider subthemes (a) and (b) in a morning meeting and subthemes (c) and (d) in the afternoon.

#### 3. Nomination of panellists

28. The Chairperson informed the Commission that, at the intersessional meeting held on 23 November 2009, it had been agreed that there would be 10 panellists for the thematic debate, to be nominated through the regional groups; that there would be two panellists per regional group, one for the morning meeting and one for the afternoon meeting; that the names of the panellists would be communicated by the Chairpersons of the regional groups to the Chairperson of the Commission, through the secretariat, by the end of December; and that the arrangements for the thematic debate would be those that the Commission had utilized in thematic debates during the three previous years.

# **Chapter IV**

# Adoption of the report of the Commission on its reconvened fifty-second session

29. At its 18th meeting, on 2 December 2009, the Commission adopted the report on its reconvened fifty-second session, as orally amended (E/CN.7/2009/L.1/Add.9-11).

# Chapter V

### Organization of the session and administrative matters

#### A. Opening and duration of the session

30. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs held its reconvened fifty-second session in Vienna on 1 and 2 December 2009.

31. At the 15th meeting, on 1 December, the Executive Director of UNODC made an opening statement. Statements were also made by the representative of Japan and the observer for Sweden.

#### **B.** Attendance

32. The session was attended by representatives of 38 States members of the Commission (Botswana, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, the Niger, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Tajikistan, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Ukraine and the United Arab Emirates were not represented). Observers for other States Members of the United Nations, organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations also attended. A list of participants is contained in document E/CN.7/2009/INF.1/Add.1.

#### C. Documentation

33. The documents before the Commission at its reconvened fifty-second session are listed in annex II of the present report.

#### D. Closure of the reconvened fifty-second session

34. At the 18th meeting, on 2 December, a closing statement was made by the Chairperson of the Commission.

### Annex I

### Financial statement on the draft resolution entitled "Budget for the biennium 2010-2011 for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme"\*

1. The present statement was made in accordance with rule 28 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

2. At the request of the Commission, as indicated in operative paragraph 16 of the draft resolution, an independent evaluation unit would be established under the Office of the Executive Director. This unit would be funded partly through redeployment of resources from the regular budget of the United Nations and partly through voluntary contributions. The proposal to fund the post of the head of the unit from the regular budget of the United National requirement to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011, as it is proposed to redeploy a regular budget post at the P-5 level, corresponding to the Chief, Strategic Planning Unit, which is currently vacant and allocated under subprogramme 2, Policy and trend analysis, to executive direction and management.

3. In addition to the regular budget post at the P-5 level, voluntary contributions would be required to ensure the effective and operational functioning of the independent evaluation unit. To be fully operational, the unit would need (a) to be staffed as follows: one P-5, head of unit, funded from the regular budget of the United Nations, and five positions funded from voluntary contributions (one P-4, one P-3, one P-2 and two GS (Other level)); and (b) to have an operational budget for evaluation work. In addition to the regular budget post, this would represent a requirement of \$1,560,000 per biennium to be funded from voluntary contributions. The current level of voluntary contributions available for evaluation being \$800,000, an additional \$760,000 would be required to ensure the effective functioning of the independent evaluation unit in 2010-2011.

4. As a consequence of the redeployment of the regular budget post at the P-5 level (Chief, Strategic Planning Unit) to the independent evaluation unit, the Strategic Planning Unit would be fully funded from voluntary contributions. To ensure the proper undertaking of strategic planning functions, resources would be required to provide for six positions (one P-5, one P-4, one P-3, one P-2 and two GS (Other level)) and an operational budget. This would represent a requirement of \$1,680,000 per biennium to be funded from voluntary contributions. The current level of voluntary contributions available for strategic planning being \$739,200, an additional \$940,800 would be required to ensure the effective functioning of the Strategic Planning Unit in 2010-2011.

5. While administrative support to the independent evaluation unit could be easily provided if it were located in a larger division, its location in a small office such as the Office of the Executive Director means that administrative functions

<sup>\*</sup> The text of the draft resolution originally appeared in document E/CN.7/2009/13– E/CN.15/2009/23, annex III, para. 2; for the text of the resolution as orally revised, see chapter I, resolution 52/14. For the discussion, see chapter II, section A.

would have to be carried out within the independent evaluation unit itself. The unit would remain independent to the extent that the performance appraisal of the Chief of the unit would be conducted by the Executive Director. All other administrative functions, including operational decision-making and certification, would be done within the unit itself and would be shared between the Chief and the deputy. Those arrangements would be workable if the extrabudgetary funding specified in paragraph 3 above was made available.

6. The attention of the Commission was drawn to the provisions of section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, and reaffirmed also the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

# Annex II

# List of documents before the Commission at its reconvened fifty-second session

Document symbol	Agenda item	Title or description
E/CN.7/2009/1	2	Provisional agenda and annotations
E/CN.7/2009/1/Add.1	2	Annotations to the provisional agenda
E/CN.7/2009/13– E/CN.15/2009/23	10	Report of the Executive Director on the consolidated budget for the biennium 2010-2011 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
E/CN.7/2009/14– E/CN.15/2009/24	10	Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the consolidated budget for the biennium 2010-2011 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
E/CN.7/2009/15– E/CN.15/2009/25	10	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.7/2009/L.1/Add.9-11	18	Draft report of the Commission on its reconvened fifty-second session