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Draft report

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Addendum

Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions

1. At its 2nd meeting, on 22 April 2013, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice 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:

(a) Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2013/3–E/CN.15/2013/3);

(b) Report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the consolidated budget for the biennium 2012–2013 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2013/6–E/CN.15/2013/6);

(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.7/2013/7–E/CN.15/2013/7 and Add.1);



(d) Report of the Secretariat on documentation prepared for the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/CN.15/2013/13);

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (E/CN.15/2013/21).

3. At the 2nd meeting of the Commission, introductory statements were made by the Director of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Chief of the Financial Resources Management Service. The Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs also made a statement. 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 the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, made an introductory statement. The Special Representative on violence against children also made a statement.

4. Statements were made by the representative of Guatemala (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States) and the representatives of the Republic of Korea, Thailand, Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Japan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the United States of America, the Russian Federation and China. Statements were also made by the observers for Canada and Sweden.

A. Deliberations

5. Several speakers welcomed the work and recommendations 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 expressed their appreciation for the work of its co-chairs. Speakers also expressed their support for the extension of the mandate of the working group and highlighted that the group had a crucial role in improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC.

6. Speakers encouraged UNODC to continue the open dialogue with the working group in order to identify solutions for the governance and financial situation of the Office. One speaker recommended that the scope of the working group be broadened. It was also noted that the working group should continue advising the governing bodies on the governance and financial situation of UNODC.

7. Several speakers expressed concerns that, while the special-purpose contributions for UNODC were increasing, the Office's regular budget funding remained low, its general-purpose funding was declining, and the funding for oversight and programme support functions remained stagnant. Speakers highlighted the importance of continuing to mitigate the projected deficit in the general-purpose fund and to implement the new policies of full direct cost recovery promulgated by the United Nations Controller.

8. Several speakers recognized the need for stable and predictable funding for UNODC. Several speakers reiterated their view that the core functions of UNODC should be funded from the regular budget of the United Nations and that increased regular budget resources were required to cover the wide-ranging core functions of

UNODC. Reference was made by one speaker to General Assembly resolution 46/152, by which the Assembly recommended the establishment of a commission on crime prevention and criminal justice, and approved the statement that “the programme shall be funded from the regular budget of the United Nations” (see Assembly resolution 46/152, annex).

9. The positive trend of increasing earmarked contributions, as well as cost-sharing by Member States, was noted. Some speakers expressed their readiness to contribute unearmarked funding as well as providing earmarked voluntary contribution funding, and encouraged other Member States to show their commitment to UNODC by also providing general-purpose funding. One speaker expressed disagreement with the proposed options in the funding strategy of assigning a mandatory fixed percentage of voluntary contributions to the general-purpose funds, making a mandatory percentage of voluntary contributions available for soft-earmarking, or establishing a voluntary indicative scale of contributions for UNODC. It was also noted that UNODC should expand its donor base to include more emerging donors, the private sector and multilateral organizations outside the United Nations system.

10. Speakers suggested that donors move from hard-earmarking to soft-earmarking and stressed the importance of UNODC providing regular results-based reporting at the programme level, suggesting that such reporting should be the default reporting method of UNODC, while tailor-made reports requested by donor States should be fully costed. Speakers welcomed the development and implementation of the integrated programming approach of UNODC, through regional and thematic programmes, as an effective strategic tool for the delivery of technical cooperation and capacity-building. One speaker also emphasized the principle of States’ ownership of the programmes. Speakers also noted the importance of the work of the Independent Evaluation Unit and its efforts to foster a culture of evaluation in UNODC.

11. Speakers welcomed the proposed creation of an annual programme report, and some speakers also supported the idea of a regular donor appeal process. While mentioning that increased soft-earmarked and general-purpose funding was linked to programme effectiveness and strategic planning and management, speakers noted that the working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime should discuss in greater depth the linking of the proposed annual programme report to the implementation of the fundraising strategy, and the issue of full cost recovery.

12. Some speakers welcomed the efforts of UNODC to mainstream human rights and a gender perspective into every aspect of its work, including through the implementation of the UNODC internal guidance note on mainstreaming human rights into the work of the Office. The importance of ensuring that the rule of law, security and justice were taken into account in the post-2015 development agenda was also stressed.

13. Some speakers welcomed the increased attention given by UNODC to emerging forms of crime. Some speakers mentioned that they welcomed the development of the new maritime crime programme and looked forward to receiving more information on that programme.

14. One speaker welcomed the report of the Secretariat on documentation prepared for the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/CN.15/2013/13) and made a number of proposals, including regarding documentation prepared on the basis of replies submitted by Member States in response to notes verbales sent by the Secretary-General. It was suggested that, if a minimum number of replies from States were not received, oral reports could be made to the Commission instead of written reports. The importance of ensuring the availability of official documentation in the official languages of the United Nations was noted, as was the need to consider further consolidation of reporting obligations.

15. Speakers discussed the organization of intergovernmental expert groups that report to the Commission and the related documentation. Some speakers requested further information and clarification with respect to the preparation of reports of the Secretariat on cybercrime and cultural property. Other speakers expressed satisfaction with the reporting by the Secretariat. A representative of the Secretariat made a statement of clarification.

B. Action taken by the Commission

16. At its 2nd meeting, on 22 April, the Commission adopted the draft resolution entitled “Implementation of the budget for the biennium 2012–2013 for the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund”. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. C, draft resolution [...].)

17. At the same meeting, the Commission decided to transmit the report of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute for 2012 (see E/CN.15/2013/21) to the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with article IV, paragraph 3(e), of the Statute of the Institute, annexed to Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/56.