



Economic and Social Council

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Commission on Narcotic Drugs
Reconvened fifty-second session
Vienna, 1 and 2 December 2009
Agenda item 10
Administrative and budgetary questions

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
Reconvened eighteenth session
Vienna, 3 and 4 December 2009
Agenda item 7
Policy directives for the crime programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as its governing body, including administrative, strategic management and budgetary questions and follow-up on resolutions

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

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. The Economic and Social Council, in its decision 2009/251, entitled “Frequency and duration of the reconvened sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”, established a standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).¹

2. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in its resolution 52/13, and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in its resolution 18/3, decided that the working group should hold at least two formal meetings, one in the third quarter of 2009 and one in the first quarter of 2010, and that the dates of those

¹ The recommendations of the open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC established pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs decision 51/1 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice decision 17/2 are contained in the relevant report of the Secretariat (E/CN.7/2009/10–E/CN.15/2009/10).



and possible additional informal meetings should be determined by the co-chairpersons of the working group in consultation with the Secretariat.

3. In their respective resolutions, the commissions requested that the relevant documentation be provided to the working group in a timely manner and approved the provisional agenda of the working group as follows:

1. Consolidated budget for the biennium 2010-2011 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.
2. Governance and financial situation of the Office.
3. Evaluation and oversight.
4. Other matters.

4. Pursuant to the recommendations annexed to the aforementioned resolutions, the working group should operate and prepare its recommendations by consensus, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council. The reports of and recommendations proposed by the working group should be considered by the two commissions.

II. Deliberations

5. The working group considered a variety of issues under the agreed agenda items. There was active participation by several delegations, discussions were fruitful and focused, and there was an open exchange of views among participants. A number of presentations were made by the Secretariat on such topics as planning and evaluation functions at UNODC, the consolidated budget for the biennium 2010-2011 for UNODC, ways and means of improving the financial situation of UNODC and thematic and regional programmes. A presentation was made on the thematic programme "Addressing health and human development vulnerabilities in the context of drugs and crime". Although all the agenda items were discussed, several issues remained to be resolved. The working group focused on agenda item 1 and on the draft resolutions contained in annexes III and IV to the report of the Executive Director on the consolidated budget for the biennium 2010-2011 for UNODC (E/CN.7/2009/13–E/CN.15/2009/23). Some amendments were proposed to those resolutions and would be submitted for consideration by the commissions at their reconvened sessions. The creation of an independent evaluation unit was discussed, as was the development by UNODC of thematic and regional programmes. The working group was agreed that consultations on the various issues should continue in the same open-minded spirit and that no recommendations would be formulated for consideration by the commissions at their reconvened sessions in December 2009. On 23 November 2009, one of the co-chairpersons informed the extended bureaux and the commissions, at an intersessional meeting, of the progress made by the working group.

6. The working group was to continue its work by focusing on the issues of governance, management and the financial situation of UNODC with a view to submitting its report and any recommendations to the Commission on Narcotic

Drugs at its fifty-third session, in March 2010, and to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its nineteenth session, in May 2010.

III. Organizational and administrative matters

7. The working group held one formal and five informal meetings during the period from 19 October to 24 November 2009. The formal meeting was held on 19 October; the informal meetings were held on 23 October, 29 October, 16 November, 20 November and 24 November.

8. At a joint meeting held on 2 July 2009, the extended bureaux of the commissions noted the nomination of Norma M. Goicochea Estenoz (Cuba) and Ignacio Baylina Ruíz (Spain) as co-chairpersons of the working group. The commissions elected the nominated co-chairpersons at an intersessional meeting. At its first meeting, on 19 October, the working group confirmed the election.

9. In addition to the documentation made available between October 2008 and March 2009 to the open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC established pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs decision 51/1 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice decision 17/2, and pursuant to paragraph 7 of Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 52/13 and of Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 18/3, the Secretariat provided to the working group numerous documents that were also posted on the UNODC website (www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/wg-governance-finance-2.html).