Resolution 26/5


The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

Exercising the administrative and financial functions entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/252 of 22 December 2006,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime containing the proposed budget for the biennium 2018–2019 for the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund¹ and the related recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,²

Noting with concern the financial challenges facing the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime due to the shortfall in general-purpose funding and underlying funding trends affecting the Office’s ability to effectively uphold core programmatic functions, such as normative work and research,

Noting with regret the non-compliance by the Secretariat with the requests made in its resolutions 24/3 of 11 December 2015 and 25/4 of 2 December 2016 to provide budgets for future bienniums to Member States no later than one month prior to the submission to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Recalling that Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations emphasizes the paramount consideration of efficiency, competence and integrity with regard to the recruitment of staff and that due regard shall be paid to the importance of recruiting staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible,

Noting with concern the lack of diversity, in particular equitable geographical representation, within the staff of the Office, and emphasizing that the Office, both at headquarters and in the field, should take more effective measures to ensure the recruitment of a diverse pool of candidates,

Recognizing that the principle of equitable geographical distribution and the goal of equal representation of women in the composition of the Secretariat do not conflict with the paramount consideration in the employment of staff, namely the necessity of securing the highest standard of efficiency, competence and integrity as set out in Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 69/251 of 29 December 2014, in which the Assembly, inter alia, noted with disappointment the insufficient progress made with regard to achieving the goal of a 50/50 gender balance in the United Nations common system, especially in the Professional and higher categories, and requested the International Civil Service Commission to encourage the organizations of the common system to fully implement existing gender balance policies and measures,

1. Notes the progress made in the development of the thematic and regional programme approach to the programme of work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and in ensuring the full complementarity of the thematic and regional programmes;

2. Also notes that the budget is based, inter alia, on the strategy detailed under programme 13 of the biennial programme plan for the period 2018–2019;\(^3\)

3. Further notes that the budget is harmonized with sections 16 and 29G of the proposed programme budget of the United Nations for the biennium 2018–2019;\(^4\)

4. Notes that the 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. Also 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 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 budget clearly distinguishes between general-purpose funds and programme support cost funds and that it harmonizes the use and management of these two fund categories across the two funds of the Office;

7. 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 and that programme support expenditures will be apportioned between the two funds in accordance with the income that each generates;

8. Approves, provisionally, the projected use of general-purpose funds in the biennium 2018–2019, and invites Member States to provide contributions totalling at least 2,904,100 United States dollars, with the following conditions:

   (a) Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to revise the funding arrangement proposed in paragraph 184 of the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on the consolidated budget for the biennium 2018–2019 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime\(^5\) for the Research and Trend Analysis Branch, as well as the Justice Section, to ensure the continuity of their work and staffing, and to present to the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, at its formal meeting in early 2018, a revised version of the draft consolidated budget that addresses this funding arrangement by redistributing resources throughout the Organization, for approval by the Commissions at their regular sessions;

9. Endorses the programme support cost and special-purpose estimates as indicated below, with the following conditions:

   (a) Requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to further explore best appropriation of programme support cost funds to support indirect functions of field offices, as appropriate, in conjunction with the requests made in paragraph 8 (a) of the present resolution;

   (b) Also requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to more broadly use programme support cost funds at headquarters and in field offices, as appropriate;

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\(^3\) A/71/6/Rev.1.

\(^4\) A/72/6 (Sect. 16) and A/72/6 (Sect. 29G).


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

11. Requests the Secretariat to provide preliminary summary briefings on the budget and consult with all Member States in the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime prior to the publication of the draft consolidated budget, and to provide draft consolidated budgets for future bienniums to all Member States no later than one month prior to the date established for submission to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for further consultations, within the working group, with the involvement of the Executive Director before the submission of the reviewed proposal to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

12. Urges the Secretariat to distribute the draft agenda and all relevant documents at least 10 days prior to each meeting of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as requested in the Commission’s resolution 26/1 of 26 May 2017;

13. Requests the Office to strengthen its efforts to encourage donors to provide general-purpose funding, including by means of further increasing transparency and the quality of reporting, and encourages Member States and other donors to consider providing support to the general-purpose funds of the Office;

14. Recalls General Assembly resolution 65/247 of 24 December 2010, in which the Assembly reiterated its requests to the Secretary-General to present proposals to effectively increase the representation of developing countries in the Secretariat, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, while upholding Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, to intensify its efforts to ensure the recruitment of staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible, in particular in the Professional and higher categories, by, inter alia, intensifying outreach efforts, and to report on the progress thereon to the Commission at its next reconvened session;
15. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to intensify the efforts of the Office to achieve the goal of a 50/50 gender balance within the Professional and higher categories, including for field representatives, while upholding Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, by, inter alia, intensifying outreach efforts, and to report on the progress thereon to the Commission at its next reconvened session;

16. Requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to include in such reporting, as well as in the dialogue within the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, disaggregated data on the composition of staff by geographical area and gender, as well as measures taken to improve the geographical distribution and gender parity of its staff, including a description of its internal and external recruitment processes.