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English only

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Reconvened fifty-fifth session

Vienna, 6-7 December 2012

Agenda item 3

Policy directives to the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and strengthening the drug programme and the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as its governing body, including administrative, budgetary and strategic management questions

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Reconvened twenty-first session

Vienna, 6-7 December 2012

Agenda item 3 (a)

Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions: work of the working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**Statement by the co-chairs**

1. Following the informal meetings of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime the co-chairs submitted the following statement for the consideration of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its reconvened fifty-fifth session and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its reconvened twenty-first session.
2. In accordance with the mandate set out in Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 52/13 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 18/3, as well as Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 52/13, 54/10 and 54/17 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions 18/3, 20/1 and 20/9, the working group addressed a large number of issues during its recent informal meetings, including: (i) supporting the development and implementation of an integrated approach to programme development at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; (ii) ensuring adequate follow-up to the development of thematic and regional programmes; (iii) promoting measures to improve the funding situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; and (iv) supporting measures to promote a culture of evaluation throughout the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime at all stages of programme planning, development and implementation.



3. The mandate of the working group will end in the first half of 2013, pursuant to ECOSOC decision 2011/258. At their respective 56th and 22nd sessions in spring 2013, the CND and CCPCJ are expected to carry out a thorough review of the functioning of the working group and consider the extension of its mandate. With a view to facilitate consultations during the reconvened sessions of the 55th session of the CND and the 21st session of the CCPCJ, the working group wishes to bring the following salient issues to the attention of the Commissions for their further consideration, so as to continue building upon resolutions 54/10 of CND and 20/1 of CCPCJ:

Continuous support for promoting a culture of evaluation within UNODC at all stages of programme planning, development and implementation

The Working Group has been provided with numerous presentations on evaluation findings, at which occasions participants have reiterated the importance of having a sustainable, effective and operationally independent corporate evaluation function at UNODC, particularly focused on the implementation, performance and impact of thematic and regional programmes;

Should the Commissions decide to extend the mandate of the Working Group, they might wish to request the Working Group to invite the Independent Evaluation Unit to:

- (i) Continue providing the Working Group with evaluation findings of UNODC's thematic and regional programmes;
- (ii) Continue consulting with the Working Group on the Unit's activities and results;
- (iii) Continue promoting a culture of evaluation throughout the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime at all stages of programme planning, development and implementation;
- (iv) Continue to work with UNODC in monitoring the implementation of recommendations made by relevant oversight bodies.

Continuous support for promoting an integrated programme approach

The Working Group has been provided with the initial evaluation findings of the integrated programme approach (IPA), which show that IPA can help the Office to acquire an integrated regional and thematic perspective, and achieve benefits in terms of improved linkages between policy, strategic planning, programmatic work, mobilization of resources and partnerships with all relevant stakeholders;

Should the Commissions decide to extend the mandate of the Working Group, they might wish to request the Working Group to:

- (i) Continue advocating the move by UNODC from a project-based to an integrated programme approach;
- (ii) Continue discussing the IPA and promoting its organization wide implementation by UNODC and its governing bodies at all stages of the programme cycles;

(iii) Draw on the evaluation findings/lessons learned from the experiences made with the IPA, when discussing fundraising matters.

Continuous support for strengthening the financial situation of UNODC

The Working Group has on several occasions discussed fundraising issues and ways to achieve a sustainable balance between core and non-core funding for UNODC to ensure delivery capacity and the sustainability of thematic and regional programmes.

Should the Commissions decide to extend the mandate of the Working Group, they might wish to request the Working Group to give priority attention to the issue of supporting the funding situation and financial management of the Office and assist the Commissions in becoming more actively engaged with further transparency in the biennial consolidated budget process, including its special purpose funding part, inter alia by:

(i) Being reported of, and facilitating, the resource mobilization process. This would help to transparently and holistically promote integrated regional and global programmes along with their resource requirements and to enhance funding predictability;

(ii) Examining ways to promote the financial sustainability of UNODC, including through the elaboration — on the basis of a suggestion from UNODC — of a system that encourages the sustainability of contributions, including increased core contributions, as well as increased incentives for soft-earmarking at the programme level and multi-year funding;

(iii) Providing continued advisory guidance on mechanisms to sustain the core infrastructure and delivery capacity of the Office;

(iv) Providing continued support for streamlined and results-based programmatic and financial reporting at the outcome level, including by adopting a cycle of reporting to the Working Group on the results and priorities of regional and thematic programmes.

Continuous support for improving the governing role and functioning of the Commissions

The Working Groups have been provided with an opportunity to discuss progress made with the implementation of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on the basis of documentation provided by the Secretariat;

Should the Commissions decide to extend the mandate of the Working Group, they might wish to request the Working Group to continue discussing progress made with the implementation of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commissions, after having specified in further detailed the frequency, format and content of the reports on the implementation of resolutions to be provided by the Secretariat.

Extending of the mandate and reviewing the format and organization of work of FINGOV

The Working Group has since its inception had many achievements and has further potential in supporting the improvement of the governance and financial situation of the Office, by continuing to be the forum for dialogue among Member States and between Member States and the Secretariat on the development and implementation of the thematic and regional programmes of UNODC and by continuing to discuss on a regular basis financial matters relating to UNODC;

Should the Commissions decide to extend the mandate of the Working Group, they might wish to review the current format and organization of work of the Working Group at their regular sessions in 2013, thereby considering the concrete proposals submitted by delegations in this regard.
