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English only

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Reconvened Fifty-seventh session

Vienna, 3-5 December 2014

Item 12 of the provisional agenda*

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-third session

Vienna, 4-5 December 2014

Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda**

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-seventh session and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its reconvened twenty-third 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 54/10, 54/17 and 56/11, and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions 20/1, 20/9 and 22/2, the working group addressed a large number of issues during its recent informal meetings, including: (i) ensuring adequate follow-up to the development of thematic, global and regional programmes; (ii) promoting measures to improve the funding situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (iii) the consolidated budget for the biennium 2014-2015 for UNODC and (iv) supporting measures to promote a culture

* E/CN.7/2014/1/Add.1.

** E/CN.15/2014/1/Add.1.



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 2015, pursuant to ECOSOC decision 2013/246. At their respective 58th and 24th sessions in the first half of 2015, 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 57th session of the CND and the 23rd 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 drawing on resolutions 56/11 of CND and 22/2 of CCPCJ:

Continuous support for strengthening the financial situation of UNODC

The Working Group has on several occasions discussed fund-raising 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, global and regional programmes. It has also been considering the implementation of CND resolution 56/17 and CCPCJ resolution 22/9 and has been briefed on the transition to the new full cost recovery funding model.

Should the Commissions decide to extend the mandate of the Working Group, they might wish to request the Working Group to continue examining and discussing the funding situation and financial management of UNODC, inter alia, by:

(i) Being reported to on, and facilitating, the resource mobilization process to promote UNODC integrated programmes¹ along with their resource requirements and to enhance funding predictability in line with the medium-term strategy;

(ii) Continuing to discuss with UNODC the efforts to further encourage donors to provide general-purpose funding, including by means of further increasing transparency and improving the application of Full Cost Recovery as well as quality of reporting and communication, as well as to continue to discuss the reasons for the low level of general-purpose funding with a view of restoration of an adequate balance between general purpose and special purpose funds;

(iii) Continuing to consider further feasibility, progress and impact of the implementation of Full Cost Recovery (FCR) and the flexible application of programme support costs, with a view to increase the effectiveness and results of the technical assistance programmes of the Office.

Continuous support for promoting an integrated programme approach

The Working Group has been following progress by UNODC in implementing an integrated programming approach that seeks to strengthen the links between normative mandates and operational technical assistance and improving linkages between policy, strategic planning, evaluation, programmatic work, mobilization of resources, and partnerships with all relevant stakeholders.

¹ The UNODC definition of the “Integrated Programming Approach” also includes PRC approved country programmes.

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

(i) Continue promoting regular dialogue among all Member States as well as with UNODC on the planning and formulation of the operational activities of UNODC, especially with regard to its thematic, global and regional programmes, in line with the medium term strategy/strategic framework;

(ii) Continue receiving information from UNODC on progress made in the implementation of regional, global and thematic programmes, as well as on progress made with regard to integrating lessons learnt and recommendations from evaluations within and across regions, ensuring complementarities among programmes and their alignment with the strategic framework for the period 2014-2015 and the strategy of UNODC for the period 2012-2015;

(iii) Continue discussing with UNODC implementation of results-based management and budgeting.

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, focused on the implementation, performance and impact of integrated programmes and the consistency with mandates of the Office.

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 programmes;

(ii) Continue promoting a culture of evaluation throughout UNODC at all stages of programme planning, development and implementation;

(iii) Continue to work with UNODC in monitoring the implementation of recommendations made by relevant oversight bodies;

(iv) Continue to work with UNODC on building increased coordination between evaluation, audit and other oversight bodies with the aim to build a coordinated continuum of oversight of UNODC projects and programmes.

Continuous support for strengthening human resources governance to improve gender balance and geographical representation

The Working Group has been discussing the question of geographical representation and gender balance in the composition of the UNODC staff, as part of its efforts to improve the governance of the Office.

Should the Commission decide to extend the mandate of the Working Group, they may wish to request the Working Group to:

(i) Continue addressing the issue of gender and geographical representation and its evolution under a specific agenda item, in order to discuss possible measures for improvement in this area;

(ii) Continue receiving updated and comprehensive information, including in a disaggregated way, on the composition of the staff and the recruitment policies of the UNODC.

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

The Working Group has proven its efficiency in supporting the improvement of the governance and financial situation of UNODC, 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 and governance 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 2015, thereby considering the concrete proposals in this regard.