

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

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AGENDA ITEM 4

DRAFT SPEAKING NOTES FOR FINGOV VICE-CHAIRPERSON H.E. Ambassador Eglantina Gjermeni

AGENDA ITEM 4 OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions

Introduction

Thank you for giving me the floor. I have the pleasure to inform you, on behalf of the Chair of FINGOV, Ambassador Philbert Johnson, about the work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC.

Information on the work of the working group is included in document E/CN.7/2023/3–E/CN.15/2023/3.

During the period covered by the report, the working group held one regular meeting, on 28 and 29 November 2022. The working group also held informal consultations on 2 and 14 November 2022 on the draft resolutions contained in the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the consolidated budget of UNODC for the biennium 2022–2023 (E/CN.15/2022/16-E/CN.7/2022/16).

I would now like to brief you on the outcome of the two meetings held by the working group earlier this year.

In line with ECOSOC decision 2022/316, the working group held a **dialogue with the Executive Director** on 2 February. The innovative format of the last year's dialogue was followed, thereby facilitating an interactive exchange between the Executive Director and Member States on strategic matters related to the governance and financial situation of the Office. I would like to thank, on behalf of the FINGOV Bureau, all Member States for their contribution to and active participation in the dialogue. I would also like to express appreciation for the Executive Director for her enthusiastic approach and active engagement in the meeting.

FINGOV dialogues remain a crucial platform for Member States to engage in an open discussion with the Executive Director on key aspects of the work of the Office, which has been reiterated by many delegations during the meeting on 2 February. It is therefore essential that we continue conducting these dialogues in the future.

On 13 and 15 February, the working group held its **first regular meeting**, which resulted in two days of very interesting and lively discussions, as demonstrated by active engagement of Member States and rich "Q&A" sessions.

In line with ECOSOC decision 2022/316 and following last year's practice, all items under consideration during the two days were grouped into two parts: an operational part and a programmatic part.

Under the **programmatic part**, the working group received comprehensive updates on the work undertaken by the Office in two thematic

areas: *Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice* and *Preventing and Countering Terrorism*.

During these thematic updates, we heard from UNODC staff working both at Headquarters and in the field. I found it useful to hear UNODC staff reporting on their achievements as well as on the challenges faced in the implementation of their work on the ground.

Under the **operational part**, the working group adopted the provisional programme of work for the period from February to December 2023. Discussions revolved around the involvement of the Office in the implementation of the UN Management and Development System reform and of Our Common Agenda. The discussions also included updates on the UNODC budget implementation in 2022 as well as matters related to human resources management and evaluation.

A large number of delegations attended the meetings and I thank the Member States for their regular and active participation. I would also like to thank the Secretariat for its support for the work of the working group.

The next regular meeting of FINGOV is scheduled to take place in June. The Bureau of the working group will be convening a meeting in the coming weeks, with a view to reflecting on the outcome of the first regular meeting of the group as well as, on that basis, initiating early preparations for the June meeting.

I am confident that FINGOV will continue serving as an essential mechanism to enhance the transparency and accountability of the Office. With

the innovative approaches to the conduct of its meetings, FINGOV is also meant to contribute to further strengthening the constructive and interactive dialogue between Member States and UNODC. I hope that Member States will remain actively engaged within this framework in the period ahead.

Thank you, Chair.
