

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

**Additional information on the impact of general
purpose cuts presented in the consolidated budget) for
the biennium 2010-2011 for the United Nations Office on
Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and measures taken to
mitigate these cuts**

**Non-paper prepared for the standing open-ended
intergovernmental working group on improving the governance
and financial situation of UNODC**

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Executive direction and management

The general-purpose savings cuts effected in 2009 and rolled forward into 2010-2011, specifically the abolition of **the Public Information Officer (P-3)**, and **the Staff Assistant (GS (OL))** in the Office of the Executive Director, will result in a slow down in response time to public information requests and a less proactive public relations policy. This will be detrimental to UNODC's efforts to strengthen its public profile for the benefit of the programme. As a consequence of the reduction in funds available for travel, the Executive Director will be more constrained in his ability to respond to evolving situations warranting his attention. The presence of UNODC representatives at meetings will also be cut back

Subprogramme 2. Policy and trend analysis

The general-purpose savings proposed for 2010-2011 will impact negatively on the delivery of the programme of work of the various sections of the Division as described below:

(a) The positions of the **Chief, Policy Analysis and Research Branch (D-1)**, the **Information Systems Officer (P-4)** and of the **Statistics Assistant (GS)** in the Statistics and Surveys Section were abolished. The management structure of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs has been further weakened. The overall management capability and presence of both the Policy and Research Branch (PARB) and the Partnerships and Public Affairs Sections are significantly reduced. In PARB, less inputs will be available to increase the knowledge of trends, including emerging trends in drug and specific crime issues, available to Member States and the international community. Knowledge of these trends is essential for the development of evidence-based policies/interventions against drugs and crime. In addition, the development and implementation of interactive electronic dissemination of statistics will not progress as expected and the amount of data processed, checked, recorded and verified will be constrained. On the Public Affairs side, the ability to conduct a global integrated fundraising and advocacy strategy as well as to implement institutional learning (RBM/PCM, Knowledge management) will be affected.

(b) The abolition of the **Programme Management Officer, P-4**, **two Team assistants (GS (OL))** and a **Programme Assistant (GS (OL))** GTA position in the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit will impact negatively on the capacity building of staff on results-based management, on the work of monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the UNODC Strategy and on the ability to monitor the implementation of evaluation recommendations. The abolition of the **Chief of Unit, P-5**, the **Evaluation Officer, P-3** and the **Team assistant (GS(OL))** posts of the previous Independent Evaluation Unit, resulted in the rationalization of this Unit with the previous Strategic Planning Unit into the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit. As a consequence of the abolition of the two professional posts responsible for evaluation, in-depth thematic evaluations will be restricted until the capacity of the newly established Planning,

Monitoring and Evaluation Unit is expanded to at least that of the Independence Evaluation Unit. The annual evaluation report will not be produced and the depth and scope of support provided to project evaluations will decrease.

Current scenario IEU

After further informal consultations with key donors, UNODC has agreed in principle to re-instate the IEU subject to sufficient extra-budgetary resources being available for the biennium 2010-2011. In order to safeguard the independence of IEU, UNODC will ensure that the **Chief of IEU (P-5)** will be funded from the regular budget. Details about the IEU budget, staffing, funding and work-plan will be distributed separately to the Member States with the view to reach a consensus for the next biennium.

(c) With regard to the cost sharing with a project of the **Civil Affairs Officer, P-4** in the Advocacy Section, the level of special purpose contributions to the project GLOJ37 (and GLOU68 which replaces it) “Looking Beyond: Towards a stronger partnership with civil society on Drugs and Crime Prevention” will have to be increased to try to absorb part of the cost of the P-4 post though this assumption is now under threat since one the single largest donor has withdrawn from directly funding advocacy/policy support work . Additional funding will be needed to cover the cost of the following “communications-related” posts: the **Public Information Assistant (GS (OL))**, the **Graphic and Publication Assistant (GS (OL))** and of the **Team assistant (GS(OL))** posts from special purpose contributions to the project GLOU42 “Enhancing Communication and Public Information”; If funding is not identified for these posts, both the Civil Society function may be at risk and the Communications capacity of UNODC will be severely undermined and activities such as World Drug Day campaign (mandated by the GA) may have to be reduced or discontinued.

(d) The decrease in general-purpose resources available to the Laboratory and Scientific Section (LSS) will have an effect on the professional development of staff. It will also have a direct impact on the availability of printed copies of recurrent and new LSS publications. It would also impact staff travel and use of consultants in developmental work in LSS.

Subprogramme 3. Prevention, treatment and reintegration, and alternative development

Operations at headquarters

The general-purpose savings proposed for 2010-2011 will have the following impact:

(a) **The Head, Health and Human Development Section (P-5)** that was abolished is an essential policy setting positions. From 2010, the post is expected to be partially funded from the special contribution from one single donor. Current uncertainties of the continued funding of the core posts have led the Chief of Section to dedicate efforts to raise funds to ensure funding. This will have a significant impact on the related programme expansions, including through the developing partnership with WHO and other international institutions. This arrangement is clearly not sustainable in the medium term, may impact the perceived neutrality of this posts and jeopardize the objectivity and independence of his work if the funding cannot be sourced from a pool of donors.

(b) The posts: **Chief, Sustainable Livelihood Unit (P-4)** and **Programme Management Officer (P-4)** in the South East Asia and the Pacific Unit that were abolished are now charged to Regular Budget and Programme Support Cost accounts. One **Team Assistant post (GS (OL))** in the Monitoring and Support Unit was also abolished and is not replaced.

Operations in the field

The general-purpose savings proposed for 2010-2011 will have the following impact:

(a) East Asia and Pacific: abolition of the P-5 Representative post in the Country Office in Myanmar (COMYA) and of the P-5 Representative in the Country Office in Viet Nam (COVIE)

Since the Representative post (P5) in the Country Office in Myanmar was abolished, the office is now in the process of recruiting a “Programme Coordinator“ (P4) to be funded from the Myanmar programme portfolio to mitigate the negative impacts from this abolition. The same measure to create a P4 project post was also taken in Country Office in Viet Nam to help balance the loss of the Representative post (P5).

In addition to the creation of project posts, both country offices have been restructured and are now placed under the management responsibilities of the Regional Center for East Asia and Pacific. The field repositioning in South East Asia was aimed at optimizing the programme expansion and delivery in the overall East Asia region and to ensure effective coordination of UNODC programmes with the Governments and with other UN Agencies in the region.

Myanmar remains the second world opium producing country. The abolished Representative post in Vietnam will also impact negatively on the large scale expansion

of the UNODC programme, particularly with donors that are not part of the One UN Fund. In this respect and also considering the envisaged large programmatic expansion in the Southeast Asia region in the biennium 2010-2011, core positions would be at most importance to support the Regional Center in providing oversight, preparation of project documents, programme evaluations, donor reporting, etc.

(b) Latin America and the Caribbean: abolition of the P-5 Representative post in the Country Office in Bolivia and abolition of the Drug Control and Crime Prevention Officer P-3 post in the Regional Office for Mexico and Central America (ROMEX)

The continued decrease in funding of UNODC programmes in Bolivia necessitated the office to abolish the Representative post (P5) in the Country Office in Bolivia (**COBOL**) as well as the position of all five core local staff (two have a few months of contract left). In order to ensure a coherence of UNODC response in the region, UNODC office in Peru is now in charge of providing programme and managerial support. In addition, the Latin America and the Caribbean Unit, Division of Operations, is actively liaising with both Government counterparts and with funding partners in order to develop a new country programme for Bolivia. Should the donor countries support this new programme, UNODC intends to re-establish a Representative position in Bolivia.

The abolished post of Drug Control and Crime Prevention Officer (P-3) in the Regional Office for Mexico Central America and the Caribbean is not replaced. This will hamper programme management and impede the expansion of the technical cooperation programme. This situation comes at a point when the drug and crime situation has reached unprecedented levels in Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean. The office is engaging project staff for additional support functions as required.

(c) Africa and Middle East: abolition of the Programme Management Officer P-4 post in the Regional Office for Middle East and North Africa (ROMENA) and abolition of the Programme Officer P-3 post in the Country Office in Nigeria (CONIG)

In Regional Office for Middle East and North Africa, the post Programme Management Officer / Deputy Regional Representative (P-4) post was abolished. The office had allocated certain tasks to the Regional Programme Coordinator as he is fully involved in programme development and implementation. However, we have to note that ROMENA's programme portfolio has been on upward trend during the past biennium and programme expansion is further contemplated in the Gulf countries as well as in North Africa. At present a Sub-Regional Programme Office in Abu-Dhabi and a Programme Office in Tripoli are being opened. The needed programme oversight and necessary support to programme expansion in the region would require re-establishment of this post to avoid losing programmatic momentum and political credibility.

In order to overcome the abolishment of a Programme Officer (P3) post in the Country Office in Nigeria, the office has built international expert posts into new or about to start projects, and is in consultation with several partners and donors on the increased provision of Associate Experts to the Country Office in Nigeria. UNODC Vienna will continue to provide short-term expertise and resources for programming and priority tasks in Nigeria from available programme development and other project funds.

Current programming consultations for Nigeria focus on mutually agreeable mechanisms for the inclusion of urgently required programme management capacities into new programmes in 2010-2012. Consultations are being held on any remaining options for increased synergies between the Country Office in Nigeria, the Regional Office for West and Central Africa in Senegal and the Abuja based ECOWAS Commission and EC Delegation, but any such measures will require additional funding, given the already scarce resource situation of both UNODC offices in the region. The current core critical mass would not be sufficient to bring oversight and further support the programme expansion.

(d) Europe and West/Central Asia: abolition of the P-5 Representative post in the Regional Office for the Russian Federation and Belarus (RORUS) and abolition of the Management Operations Officer P-4 post in the Regional Office for Central Asia (ROCA) and abolition of P-4 post in the Country Office in Afghanistan (COAFG) and downward reclassification from D-1 to P-4 of the UNODC Representative post in the Country Office in Pakistan

Since the abolishment of the P-5 Representative post in the Regional Office for the Russian Federation and Belarus, the office is being downsized into a Project Office and will be fully financed from projects with the support from Regional Desk based in UNODC HQ.

For reasons of risk mitigation, a programme of the Regional Office for Central Asia size would need two international staff in addition to the Resident Representative, i.e. a Programme Management Officer (P-4) and an Admin and Finance Operations Manager (P-3). Due to the General Purpose Fund short-fall, the Programme Management Officer post was abolished as of 14 August 2009. Since the office's procurement function and heavy financial mitigating responsibilities are quite significant, an Admin and Finance Operations Manager post was requested in the consolidated budget to be financed from PSC. The office has also made arrangements to cover programme support and management through the recruitment of a UNV funded by the Italian Government. In the future, ROCA will cover the function of the P-4 PMO through a NPO post that will be funded from its PSC income/project cost-sharing at a much less expense.

In order to overcome the consequences of the abolition of the P4 position in Country Office in Afghanistan, UNODC has revised project AFG/I87 and included a deputy representative position which will ensure the necessary functions pertaining to the

programme development and management as well as the support to the office in policy, management and substantive evaluation related matters.

The GP short-fall also resulted to the downward reclassification from D-1 to P-4 of the UNODC Representative post in the Country Office in Pakistan. Due to the current challenges that affect Pakistan, the office is currently revamping its programme portfolio, and trying to ensure that issues are addressed in a strategic manner. The recruitment of the current Representative at a P-4 level has been highly beneficial as he brings along a wide range of experience in strategic programme management and is able to address the needs of Pakistan with a comprehensive technical support programme.

Programme support

The general-purpose savings proposed for 2010-2011 with the abolition of one **IT Training Coordinator (P-3)** and one **ProFi People Soft Coordinator (GS (Other level))** posts will impact negatively the implementation of the UNODC Knowledge Management Strategy and the organization of training, which would include the introduction of e-learning and a web conference approach. The ProFi team will have to absorb some of the tasks of the IT training coordinator and therefore reduce its engagement in the technical design of relevant ProFi financial reports and substantive support to new project life-cycle components. The number of trainings for field office staff, headquarters staff and Member States may be reduced as well. ProFi Financials may not operate on a 24/7 base and its availability level of 99.9 per cent, excluding periods of scheduled maintenance, may be reduced. The implementation of technical enhancements will be impaired by lack of expertise and testing and ensuring acceptance by users will be more difficult and time consuming. As a result of the reduction in non-post requirements (travel of staff), no yearly visits will be conducted to selected field offices to share IT experiences, procedural and workflow arrangements. The reduction in contractual services may lead to possible disruption in the live operations of specific modules of ProFi and websites systems that were supported through external vendors' contracts