

Improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: extension of the mandate of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

19 (c) and (d)

16 Feb 2022

Plenary meeting

9th plenary meeting

Comm on Crime Prev and Crim Justice and Comm on Narcotic Drugs

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 16 February 2022, the Economic and Social Council, recalling its decision 2021/218 of 24 February 2021, entitled “Improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: extension of the mandate of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime”, in which it decided to renew the mandate of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime until the reconvened sessions of the Commissions to be held in December 2021, at which time the Commissions should carry out a thorough review of the functioning of the working group and consider the extension of its mandate beyond 2021:

(a) Reaffirmed the efficiency of the working group as the forum for dialogue among Member States and between Member States and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on improving the governance and financial situation of the Office;

(b) Also reaffirmed the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the principal policymaking organ of the United Nations on matters of international drug control and as the governing body of the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as the principal policymaking organ of the United Nations on matters of crime prevention and criminal justice and as the governing body of the crime programme of the Office;

(c) Expressed once again its continued concern about the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and also expresses its awareness of the urgent need to continue to address that situation in a pragmatic, results-oriented, efficient and cooperative manner;

(d) Reaffirmed Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 52/13 of 20 March 2009 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 18/3 of 24 April 2009, as well as Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 54/10 of 25 March 2011, 54/17 of 13 December 2011, 56/11 of 15 March 2013, 58/1 of 17 March 2015 and 60/3 of 17 March 2017, and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions 20/1 of 13 April 2011, 20/9 of 13 December 2011, 22/2 of 26 April 2013, 24/1 of 22 May 2015 and 26/1 of 26 May 2017, and decides to renew the mandate of the working group for an unlimited period of time, with a possibility of reviewing its mandate and working methods upon the request of Member States;

(e) Decided that the working group will be led by a Bureau comprising one Chair, one First Vice-Chair and three Vice-Chairs, representing the five regional groups, that the offices will rotate annually on the basis of regional distribution, and that members of the Bureau will be jointly nominated by the Bureaux of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and endorsed at the plenary sessions of the two Commissions;

(f) Also decided that the dates of meetings should be determined by the Bureau of the working group, in consultation with the Secretariat, and that the working group will continue to hold a formal meeting at least once a year that will include a dialogue with the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

(g) Further decided that the items under consideration by the working group will be grouped into two parts, namely, an operational part, covering governance and financial matters, and a programmatic part, under which updates will be provided on programme and project implementation stemming from the mandates of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

(h) Decided that the operational part will include:

(i) Matters related to the budget and financial situation, human resources and evaluation and oversight;

(ii) Discussions on the implementation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Strategy 2021–2025, other strategies of the Office and other possible subsequent strategic documents, on the contributions of the Office to supporting Member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its contributions to United Nations reforms, on the implementation of mandates contained in the budget-related resolutions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and on the organizational arrangements for the intergovernmental meetings;

(i) Also decided that the programmatic part will cover the mandated areas of work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including:

(i) Work related to the five thematic areas, namely, addressing and countering the world drug problem, preventing and countering organized crime, preventing and countering corruption and economic crime, preventing and countering terrorism, and crime prevention and criminal justice, including the implementation of relevant thematic resolutions;

(ii) The regional strategic visions of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as field-based programmes;

(iii) Cross-cutting and other issues, such as, among others, research, gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of youth;

(j) Reiterated the request that the relevant documentation be provided to the working group not later than 10 working days before a meeting;

(k) Also reiterated the importance of the development by Member States of an indicative annual workplan, taking into account inputs from the Secretariat, in order to guide the work of the working group;

(l) Called upon Member States to provide extrabudgetary resources to support the organization and conduct of, and follow-up to, the meetings of the working group, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.