



**Statement by the Group of 77 and China at the Joint Meeting of the Reconvened Sessions of the 62nd CND and the 28th CCPCJ, delivered by H.E. Omar Amer Youssef, Permanent Representative of Egypt**

Vienna, 12 December 2019 - Agenda item 4

H.E. Ambassador Alena Kupchyna, Chair of the CCPCJ, H.E. Ambassador Mirghani Abbaker Altayeb Bakhet, Chair of the CND,

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

1. It is my pleasure to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on the occasion of the joint meeting of the 28th reconvened session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) and the 62nd reconvened session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)
2. The Group appreciates Ambassador Kupchyna and Ambassador Bakhet for their co-chairpersonship of the joint meeting of the two Commissions.
3. The Group notes with appreciation of the preparations made by the Secretariat for this joint meeting.
4. The Group of 77 and China wishes to take this opportunity to welcome the appointment of Ms. Ghada Waly as Executive Director of UNODC from Egypt, a member country from our Group, and looks forward to working closely with her in order to advance the work of the Office and its contributions. The Group is pleased to see that this position has been entrusted to a female candidate, and a candidate from a G77 member, for the first time since the establishment of UNODC. The Group also wishes to express its gratitude to the outgoing Executive Director, Mr. Yury Fedotov, for his exemplary leadership of the Office throughout his term.

Your Excellencies,

5. The Group reiterates the significance of the ‘open-ended intergovernmental working group to improve the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime’ or FINGOV. The Group wishes to welcome the appointment of Ms. Natasha Agostini of Brazil as Co-Chair of FINGOV, and also express its appreciation to the second co-chair, Mr. Ignacio Baylina of Spain. The Group wishes to see FINGOV play an increasingly active role in enhancing communication between Member States and the Secretariat in matters related to governance and financial situation of the Office as well as effectiveness of its programmes, and addressing the concerns of Member States in this regard.

6. The Group stresses the need for UNODC to provide the relevant and requested documents, agendas and materials at least 10 days prior to each meeting in order to enable FINGOV to comply with its mandate.
7. The Group deeply regrets that UNODC has failed to fully comply with the mandate established in CND resolutions 60/10 and 61/12 and CCPCJ resolutions 26/5 and 27/7 on budget and programme issues.

Distinguished co-chairs,

8. The Group reiterates the importance of adequate, predictable and stable funding for UNODC in order for the Office to enhance provision of technical assistance, in particular to developing countries, upon request. In the same vein, the Group emphasizes the need for efficient utilization of such resources to ensure long-term sustainability.
9. The Group notes with concern the challenges facing UNODC due to the shortfall in general purpose funding and underlining funding trends affecting the office ability to efficiently and independently uphold core programmatic functions, in particular normative work and research.
10. The Group takes note of the draft consolidated budget for 2020-2021, regrets its late submission to FINGOV and affirms the need for Member States to be fully involved in the elaboration of such documents throughout the process leading towards their approval and adoption, in particular prior to the publication of the draft consolidated budget. The Group also takes note of the programme budget document 2021. The Group stresses that the consolidated budget as well as the programme budget must be fully in line with the guidance provided by the Commissions, and must be prepared and presented with full transparency and in a timely manner.
11. The Group requests the Secretariat to keep Member States regularly informed and engaged regarding the implementation, effects and implications of the UN reform process on the Office's work, including the UN Development System Reform, and the UN Management System Reform and requests the Executive Director to report to the upcoming sessions of the Commissions on this issue
12. The Group reiterates that the funding model of UNODC should, inter alia, not hinder the field activities of the Office or affect the scope of delivery of technical assistance. The Group requests the Office to engage with and provide timely information to Member States on the implementation of the funding model and its impact on the work of the Office, including, but not limited to, its ability to deliver technical assistance to Member States upon their request.
13. The Group would also like to emphasize the need for regular dialogue and consultations between Member States and UNODC regarding the latter's ongoing and planned research activities. The UNODC's research work should be based on clear and prior mandates and policy guidance provided by the Governing Bodies.

Distinguished co-chairs,

14. The Group requests the Executive Director of UNODC to achieve equal representation of women at senior and policy-making levels, and to report on the progress of such measures to the Commissions. The Group also underlines the importance of respecting and implementing the principle of equitable geographical representation in the composition of UNODC staff, in line with the UN Charter. We reaffirm that the principle of equitable geographical representation should apply to posts within the UN Secretariat regardless of the source of funding.
15. The Group particularly reiterates its growing concern that concrete and sustainable efforts are still lacking to enhance representation of developing countries in the staff composition of the Office, particularly developing Member States that are unrepresented and underrepresented in the Secretariat of UNODC. The situation at the professional, senior and policy-making levels is of notable concern given the lack of representation of developing countries. We call on UNODC to take serious and concrete measures to improve the representation of developing countries in line with General Assembly resolutions.
16. The Group takes note of the information provided by the UNODC regarding their efforts to achieve geographical diversity. The Group renews its call for UNODC to provide a comprehensive Action Plan for equitable geographical representation in the composition of UNODC staff, and calls on the UNODC to make this document available to Member States as a matter of priority.
17. The Group calls on the Executive Director to improve meaningful efforts to enhance equitable geographical representation and to increase the representation of developing countries in the Secretariat, including inter alia through the establishment of a balanced geographical representation team at the Executive Director's office, and in particular at the professional, senior and policy-making levels, and report on the progress thereon to the Commissions. The Group reiterates its call for FINGOV to continue on a regular basis and under a standing agenda item to review the progress made by the Office in improving representation from developing countries.

Thank you Co-Chairs.