



Statement by the Group of 77 and China at the joint meeting of the reconvened 63rd session of the CND and the reconvened 29th session of the CCPCJ on 3 December 2020, delivered by H.E. Ambassador Maria Cleofe Natividad, Permanent Representative of the Philippines

Agenda item 3

Distinguished Co-Chairs, Excellencies,

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 29th reconvened session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) and the 63rd reconvened session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND).
2. The Group appreciates Ambassador Khan from Pakistan and Ambassador Marcondes from Brazil for their co-chairpersonship of the joint meeting of the two Commissions.
3. 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 sincerely appreciates the efforts of the Co-Chairs Ms. Natasha Pinheiro Agostini (Brazil) and Mr. Ignacio Baylina Ruíz (Spain) in enhancing consultations with Member States to work on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC and its programmes.
4. Now that we are going to start consultations on the future of FINGOV, the Group wishes to underscore the importance of its consolidation as the principal forum for communication and dialogue between Member States and UNODC’s Secretariat, and where follow up to the Office’s mandates implementation can be made in an open, inclusive, transparent and regular manner. We all shall strive to take full advantage of these consultations for strengthening its methods of work, its agenda, and for making it even more dynamic. The Group welcomes the top management engagement with FINGOV, particularly the participation of the Executive Director, Madame Waly, in some of its meetings, and encourage the continuation and strengthening of this practice, since this allows timely and dynamic responsiveness to the needs and concerns of States, particularly in times of rapid change.
5. The Group considers of utmost importance the full and timely implementation of CND Resolution 62/9 and CCPCJ Resolution 28/4, as well as the Resolution on Budget Implementation approved today by the two Commissions. The Group is cognizant of the progress made towards their implementation and the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, but at the same time underlines that mandates given to the Office in those resolutions are yet to be fully fulfilled. In this regard, the Group attaches great importance for having a meaningful, well planned and structured FINGOV’s 2021 work plan, , in order to receive timely information that enables Member States guide the work of UNODC and take corrective measures on persistent concerns.
6. 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. The Group also notes

with concern the challenges facing UNODC due to the United Nations liquidity crises, 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.

7. The Group takes note of the draft report on the implementation of the consolidated budget for 2020-2021, 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 Plan and Budget Document for 2022. 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.

8. 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. So far, progress has been made, but more systematic, concrete and friendly readable information is needed, not only on UNODC's headquarters efforts and implications, but specially on how these reforms have affected and improve its work on the field.

9. 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.

10. The Group would also like to emphasize the need for regular dialogue and close consultations between Member States and UNODC regarding the latter's ongoing and planned research activities at all its stages. The UNODC's research work should be based on clear and prior mandates and policy guidance provided by the Governing Bodies,

11. The Group welcomes the presentations made by the Executive Director of UNODC's draft Strategy for 2021-2025, and underscores the need to follow its further drafting and future implementation and action plan by rooting all endeavors on the needs, priorities and guidance given by Member States. The Strategy's relevance and future will greatly depend on its responsiveness, adaptability and capacity to add value, particularly on UNODC's work on the field. The Group recognizes the need to decisively move forward towards its final version, but at the same time underscores the need for Member States to properly analyze and provide feedback to the Secretariat with sufficient time and after more in-depth presentations.

Distinguished Co-chairs,

12. The Group requests the Executive Director of UNODC to achieve equal representation of women from developing countries, particularly at senior and policymaking levels, and to report on the progress of such measures to the Commission.

13. The Group reaffirms that the principle of equitable geographical representation, which has been enshrined in the UN Charter, should apply to posts within the UN Secretariat regardless of the source of funding, and underline the importance of respecting and implementing this principle in the composition of UNODC staff.

14. The Group particularly reiterates its concern that concrete and sustainable efforts are still lacking to enhance representation of developing countries in the staff composition of the Office, noting that developing Member States are unrepresented and underrepresented in the Secretariat of UNODC, particularly at the professional, senior and policy-making levels. The Group urges UNODC to take serious and concrete measures to improve the representation of developing countries in line with General Assembly resolutions.

15. The Group, therefore, calls on the Executive Director to redouble efforts to meaningfully enhance equitable geographical representation and increase the representation of developing countries in UNODC's Secretariat, particularly at the professional, senior and policy-making levels, including through, the establishment of a balanced geographical representation team at the Executive Director's office, and to report on the progress of such measures to the Commissions.

16. 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 addressing these issues of gaps in equitable and balanced representation.

17. Finally, this session of the Commissions comes at a time when our world faces the pandemic of COVID-19. While the Group welcomes the efforts made by all parties to make the most of the current situation, we also recognize that these challenging times are a call for an early preparation of the Commissions for the next regular meetings in 2021. The Group is of the firm belief that we cannot further delay substantive discussions and taking action on all agenda items related to the world drug problem and crime prevention and criminal justice, in a format agreeable to all. The Group, therefore, calls on the Commissions to take the lead in the international responses to the multiple changing and evolving manifestations of crime, moreover in times of crisis.

Thank you, Co-Chairs.