



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

25 September 2012


Dear Mr. Hanif,

I wish to thank you for your letter dated 3 August 2012, in which you invited the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to contribute to the report of the Secretary-General with proposals for strengthening the ECOSOC pursuant to resolution E/2012/L.32 entitled "Role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16".

In this regard, I have the pleasure to send you attached hereto the contributions from the *Commission on Narcotic Drugs* and the *Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*, respectively, which have been prepared by the Secretariat in close cooperation with the Chairpersons and the Members of the Extended Bureaux of the two Commissions.

I look forward to a continued collaboration in this important matter, and remain,

Yours sincerely,



Jo Dedejne-Amann
Chief
Secretariat to the Governing Bodies

Mr. Navid Hanif
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Making the world safer from drugs, crime and terrorism

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Contributions from the perspective of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) to the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the Economic and Social Council

1. The need for ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies to develop a shared development agenda

- The agenda of the CND includes a thematic debate in the form of round-table discussions, which takes place at the regular Commission session in March each year. The CND decides the themes and subthemes for the discussions during the intersessional period, through a process of consultation within and among Regional Groups. An alignment of the CND agenda with the multi-year programme of ECOSOC appears possible, were the Commission to take into consideration the corresponding theme of the AMR prior to the consultations on the themes and subthemes.

2. The need for the ECOSOC machinery to play its mandated role with regard to sustainable development

- The areas of work of the CND, whose agenda is determined by the mandates derived from relevant international conventions, cannot easily be clustered into only one of the three pillars of sustainable development, namely economic, social and environmental. Although drug control issues have been insofar considered as factors affecting the enabling environment for the realization of development goals because of their relation to social development in general, they also have important economic and even environmental dimensions. For instance, alternative development is one of the main issues dealt with by the CND which has important sustainable development implications, and the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs clearly recognizes that addiction to narcotic drugs constitutes a serious evil for the individual and is fraught with social and economic danger to mankind.
- The Council and other functional commissions should be made aware of the cross-cutting mandates of the CND. All options to ensure vertical and horizontal dialogue and engagement (outlined below) should be explored to ensure adequate interaction with ECOSOC and between its subsidiary bodies, in order to achieve a balanced integration of the three pillars of sustainable development and to take into account cross-cutting issues.

3. The need to ensure ongoing vertical dialogue and engagement between ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies

- The reporting by the CND to ECOSOC could be enhanced in the following ways:
 - The Chairperson's summary of the thematic round-table discussions, transmitted to ECOSOC as part of the report of the CND, could provide useful inputs into the Annual Ministerial Review of the Council, in accordance with ECOSOC resolution 2008/29.
 - Giving the chairperson the possibility to present the report of the CND to the Council would represent a way to enhance the visibility of the outcomes of the session and to draw the attention of the members of the Council to the salient points of the thematic round-table discussions and the draft resolutions before their adoption by the Council.
 - A thematic discussion/round table among the President of the Council and the chairpersons of the subsidiary bodies, open to interested Member States, during the annual substantive session of the Council, might be another idea worth pursuing.
- Further ways to strengthen vertical dialogue and engagement between ECOSOC and the CND could include the following:
 - The President of the Council could regularly attend the sessions of the CND. For instance, the participation of H.E. Milos Koterec in the opening of the 21st session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) in April 2012 was highly appreciated by Member States and represented an excellent opportunity to engage in exchanges of views and information with the Chairperson of the CCPCJ and the Executive Director of UNODC, while also enhancing the visibility of the Vienna-based commissions.
 - More regular meetings of the Extended Bureau of the Council with the chairpersons of one or more of its subsidiary bodies should be held, in order to increase the mutual awareness of ongoing work and to foster opportunities for streamlining and alignment. It would be important to distribute the agenda of those meetings well in advance and to keep it short and focussed, in order to enable productive and focussed discussions. Additional resources should be available under the Regular Budget to facilitate participation of the Chairperson in person (rather than via videoconference). Scheduling an annual meeting of the Extended Bureau of the Council with the chairpersons of the subsidiary bodies during the Council's substantive session might also facilitate participation in person.
 - ECOSOC may wish to consider holding special (high level) events on issues concerning the mandate of the CND.
 - ECOSOC may also wish to consider holding thematic meetings during its Annual Ministerial Reviews in the coming years, which could focus on drug issues.

- An additional option could be proposing drug issues as the subject of a future Annual Ministerial Review in the years ahead.
- An important example of vertical dialogue and engagement between ECOSOC and the CND is the holding of an **ECOSOC high-level segment on a theme related to the world drug problem**, as recommended by Member States in paragraph 40 of the Political Declaration on international cooperation towards and integrated and balanced strategy to counter the world drug problem, adopted by the General Assembly in 2009 (resolution 64/182). This ECOSOC high-level segment would ideally take place in 2014/15, after the high-level review in 2014 by the CND of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and its Plan of Action.¹

4. The need to ensure ongoing horizontal dialogue and engagement among subsidiary bodies

- In order to increase coordination with other functional commissions and to ensure cross-fertilization of ideas, the secretariats of the functional commissions should keep each other informed of the agenda and calendar of meetings of Members of their commission in the foreseeable future. It would also be useful if the Council could consider ways to enhance the use of its *calendar of meetings and events* posted online to facilitate information sharing among all its subsidiary bodies. .. Attendance and active participation of chairpersons in the sessions of other functional commissions should also be encouraged, especially when issues of common interest are discussed.

Joint sessions on issues common to several subsidiary bodies could also be organized. Since December 2011, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice hold joint meetings during their reconvened sessions, pursuant to ECOSOC decision 2011/259. At these meetings, the Commissions consider agenda items on administrative, budgetary and strategic management issues, with a view to provide integrated policy directives to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Further opportunities for holding joint sessions of the subsidiary bodies could be considered, especially in those cases when the subsidiary bodies meet in different venues. Whenever issues of common interest are discussed, the Council could also consider looking for additional ways to facilitate joint sessions of the subsidiary bodies.

¹ Political Declaration and Plan of Action

Contributions from the perspective of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) to the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the Economic and Social Council

1. The need for ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies to develop a shared development agenda

- The agenda of the CCPCJ includes a prominent theme, which is discussed by the Commission at its session in April each year. The prominent themes for the sessions from 2011-2014 were established by ECOSOC in its decision 2010/243. This multi-year programme was agreed at the 12th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 2010. The United Nations crime congresses are the oldest periodic United Nations conferences devoted to a specific subject area. They are of major political significance and importance in the area of international standard-setting and policy-making in crime prevention and criminal justice. It is expected that the prominent themes for the period 2016-2019 will be discussed and possibly agreed at the 13th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 2015.

An alignment of the CCPCJ agenda with the multi-year programme of ECOSOC appears possible, since multi-year programmes of work of both bodies expire in 2014. The (envisaged) new multi-year programme of work of ECOSOC would need to be communicated to the 13th Crime Congress, scheduled to take place in Qatar in 2015. Delegations would be expected to give due consideration to the issue of agenda alignment, taking into account the overall topic of the 13th Congress: “Integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider United Nations agenda to address social and economic challenges and to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and public participation”. Worth mentioning are the agenda items and workshop topics which have been identified by Member States for consideration during the 13th Congress: agenda items [(i) Prevention and criminal justice policies and strategies to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and to support sustainable development; (ii) International cooperation, including at the regional level, to combat transnational organized crime; (iii) Comprehensive and balanced approaches to prevent and adequately respond to new and emerging forms of transnational crime; (iv) National approaches to public participation in strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice] and workshop topics [(a) Role of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice in support of effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems: experiences and lessons learned in meeting the unique needs of women and children, in particular the treatment and social reintegration of offenders; (b) Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants: successes and challenges in criminalization, in mutual legal assistance and in effective protection of witnesses and trafficking victims; (c) Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice

responses to evolving forms of crime such as cybercrime and trafficking in cultural property, including lessons learned and international cooperation; (d) Public contribution to crime prevention and raising awareness of criminal justice: experiences and lessons learned] .

2. The need for the ECOSOC machinery to play its mandated role with regard to sustainable development

- The areas of work of the CCPCJ, whose agenda addresses some of the most important political priorities of the United Nations, namely the issues of crime prevention, transnational organized crime and the prevention of terrorism, cannot easily be clustered into only one of the three pillars of sustainable development, namely economic, social and environmental. While crime prevention and criminal justice issues relate to social development in general, they also have important economic and even environmental dimensions. For example, issues like transnational organized crime, corruption and money-laundering relate to illicit economic activities which can cause significant damage to national economies. Since the 1990s, the CCPCJ has dealt with the use of criminal law in the protection of the environment, illicit trafficking in timber, wildlife and other forest products, as well as endangered species. At its 22nd session in 2013, it will hold a thematic discussion on “The challenge posed by emerging forms of crime that have a significant impact on the environment and ways to deal with it effectively”.
- The Council and other functional commissions should be made aware of the cross-cutting mandates of the CCPCJ. All options to ensure vertical and horizontal dialogue and engagement (outlined below) should be explored to ensure adequate interaction with ECOSOC and between its subsidiary bodies, in order to achieve a balanced integration of the three pillars of sustainable development and to take into account cross-cutting issues.

3. The need to ensure ongoing vertical dialogue and engagement between ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies

- The reporting by the CCPCJ to ECOSOC could be enhanced in the following ways:
 - The Chairperson’s summary of the thematic discussion, transmitted to ECOSOC as part of the report of the CCPCJ, could provide useful inputs into the Annual Ministerial Review of the Council, in accordance with ECOSOC resolution 2008/29. This would be particularly effective if the multi-year programmes of work of both bodies could be aligned, as explained above.

- Giving the Chairperson the possibility to present the report of the CCPCJ to the Council, would represent a way to enhance the visibility of the outcomes of the session and to draw the attention of the members of the Council to the salient points of the thematic discussion and the draft resolutions before their adoption by the Council.
 - A thematic discussion/round table among the President of the Council and the chairpersons of the subsidiary bodies, open to interested Member States, during the annual substantive session of the Council, might be another idea worth pursuing.
- Further ways to strengthen vertical dialogue and engagement between ECOSOC and the CCPCJ could include the following:
- The President of the Council could continue to attend the sessions of the CCPCJ. The participation of H.E. Milos Koterec in the opening of the 21st session in April 2012 was highly appreciated by Member States and represented an excellent opportunity to engage in exchanges of views and information with the Chairperson of the CCPCJ and the Executive Director of UNODC.
 - More regular meetings of the Extended Bureau of the Council with the chairpersons of one or more of its subsidiary bodies should be held (in person and/or via video link), in order to increase the mutual awareness of ongoing work and to foster opportunities for streamlining and alignment. It would be important to distribute the agenda of those meetings well in advance and to keep it short and focussed, in order to enable productive and focussed discussions. Resources should be available under the Regular Budget of ECOSOC to facilitate participation of the Chairperson in person (rather than via videoconference). Scheduling an annual meeting of the Extended Bureau of the Council with the chairpersons of the subsidiary bodies during the Council's substantive session might also facilitate participation in person.
 - ECOSOC may wish to consider holding special (high level) events on issues concerning the mandate of the CCPCJ. For example, a High Level Event on Corruption was held during the high level segment of the substantive session of ECOSOC on 9 July 2012. Reference is here to be made to the example of the thematic debate conducted in the General Assembly on 26 June 2012 on "Drugs and Crime as a Threat to Development", the outcome of which, including a President's Summary, will be transmitted to the 13th Crime Congress, to be held in Doha in 2015. The Council could, similarly, also decide to give focused consideration to the theme of the 13th Crime Congress as well as to the specific agenda items and workshop topics identified (*see above*) and, hence, make specific substantive contributions to the 13th Crime Congress.

- ECOSOC may also wish to consider holding thematic meetings during its Annual Ministerial Reviews in the coming years, which could focus on crime prevention and criminal justice issues.
- An additional option could be proposing crime prevention and criminal justice as the subject of a future Annual Ministerial Review in the years ahead.

4. The need to ensure ongoing horizontal dialogue and engagement among subsidiary bodies

- In order to increase coordination with other functional commissions and to ensure cross-fertilization of ideas, the secretariats of the functional commissions should keep each other informed of the agenda and calendar of meetings of their commission in the foreseeable future. It would also be useful if the Council could consider ways to enhance the use of its *calendar of meetings and events* posted online to facilitate information sharing among all its subsidiary bodies. Attendance and active participation of chairpersons in the sessions of other functional commissions should also be encouraged, especially when issues of common interest are discussed.
- An example of horizontal engagement is ECOSOC resolution E/RES/201218, entitled “Improving the quality and availability of statistics on crime and criminal justice for policy development”, which emphasizes that both the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the United Nations Statistical Commission can complement and support each other’s efforts in the field of statistics on crime and criminal justice.
- Joint sessions on issues common to several subsidiary bodies could also be organized. Since December 2011, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice hold joint meetings during their reconvened sessions, pursuant to ECOSOC decision 2011/259. At these meetings, the Commissions consider agenda items on administrative, budgetary and strategic management issues, with a view to provide integrated policy directives to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Further opportunities for holding joint sessions of the subsidiary bodies could be considered, especially in those cases when the subsidiary bodies meet in different venues. Whenever issues of common interest are discussed, the Council could also consider looking for additional ways to facilitate joint sessions of the subsidiary bodies.
