



UNITED NATIONS
Office on Drugs and Crime

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Executive Director

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Dear Reader,

Attached you will find the OIOS Report MECD-2006-003 of 19 March 2007 entitled “Inspection of programme management and administrative practices in the Office for Drugs and Crime”, preceded by the UNODC management response.

Management is both an art and a science. Because there is no definitive prototype, practical suggestions and constructive criticism to improve management are most welcome. UNODC therefore looked forward to the OIOS inspection to assess management reforms introduced at UNODC over the past five years. I appreciate the point made in the Executive Summary that recognizes “progress in the integration of drug and crime issues [sic] ...[and] reform efforts that have resulted in management improvements, restructuring and a more efficient support and delivery of services through innovative IT tools and solutions”.

Such progress is essential to meet the rising expectations of Member States which have identified drugs, crime and terrorism as priorities for the biennium 2008-2009, and recently agreed on a medium term strategy for UNODC for the period 2008-2011.

However, it would have been more helpful if OIOS had stuck more closely to its terms of reference, as described in the OIOS Inspection Manual, namely to facilitate the identification of practicable, quick solutions to induce positive change, and to propose innovative ideas and constructive solutions and identify and benchmark best practices. Greater care could have been taken in preparing some aspects of the report. Symptomatic of certain factual errors is the repeated mislabelling of UNODC as the Office *for* rather than *on* Drugs and Crime.

Nevertheless, UNODC has provided responses to each of the 34 OIOS recommendations. As indicated, six recommendations have already been implemented and seven cannot be implemented because they are outside UNODC’s authority. Implementation of the 21 remaining recommendations has already begun, some already before and independent of the OIOS report.

UNODC has decided to share the entire report (not only the findings and conclusions as recommended by OIOS) as well as the management response with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ). For the sake of transparency, the report has also been posted on the UNODC public website.

Yours sincerely,