



United Nations

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

**Report on the regular and reconvened
twenty-ninth sessions
(3 and 4 December 2020)**

**Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2020
Supplement No. 10**

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Note

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[17 December 2020]

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Executive summary

The present summary has been prepared pursuant to the annex to General Assembly resolution 68/1, entitled “Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council”, and the annex to resolution 72/305, entitled “Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/1 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council”, in which it is stated that the subsidiary bodies of the Council should, inter alia, include in their reports an executive summary.

Owing to the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice had to postpone its regular twenty-ninth session, originally scheduled to be held from 18 to 22 May 2020. On 22 July 2020, the Economic and Social Council adopted decision 2020/230 on the revised provisional agenda for the twenty-ninth session of the Commission. In line with that decision, the Commission held its scaled-down regular and its reconvened twenty-ninth sessions from 3 to 4 December 2020, the report on which is contained in the present document. Chapter I contains the text of the decisions recommended by the Commission for adoption by the Economic and Social Council and the resolution adopted by the Commission.

During its regular twenty-ninth session, the Commission heard a statement by the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and considered organizational matters.

During its reconvened twenty-ninth session, the Commission considered strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions and the preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and for the Fifteenth Congress. The Commission also considered its contributions to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in line with General Assembly resolution 72/305, including follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Commission further considered the provisional agenda for its thirtieth session.

The Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of two decisions: (a) “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”; and (b) “Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its regular and reconvened twenty-ninth sessions and provisional agenda for its thirtieth session”. The Commission also adopted the following resolution: “Implementation of the budget for the biennium 2020–2021 for the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund.”

Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decisions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council

1. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I

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

The Economic and Social Council, recalling its decision 2017/236, 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, inter alia, 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 and decided to renew the mandate of the working group until the part of the sessions of the Commissions to be held in the first half of 2021, decides to extend the mandate of the working group, as set out in Council decision 2017/236, 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.

Draft decision II

Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its regular and reconvened twenty-ninth sessions and provisional agenda for its thirtieth session

The Economic and Social Council:

- (a) Takes note of the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its regular and reconvened twenty-ninth sessions;
- (b) Reaffirms Commission decision 21/1 of 27 April 2012;
- (c) Approves the provisional agenda for the thirtieth session set out below.

Provisional agenda for the thirtieth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. General debate.
4. Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions:
 - (a) Work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

- (b) Directives on policy and budgetary issues for the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme;
 - (c) Working methods of the Commission;
 - (d) Staff composition of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other related matters.
- 5. Thematic discussion on effective measures to prevent and counter the smuggling of migrants, while protecting the rights of smuggled migrants, particularly women and children, and those of unaccompanied migrant children.¹
- 6. Integration and coordination of efforts by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and by Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice:
 - (a) Ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto;
 - (b) Ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption;
 - (c) Ratification and implementation of the international instruments to prevent and combat terrorism;
 - (d) Other crime prevention and criminal justice matters;
 - (e) Other activities in support of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in particular activities of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, non-governmental organizations and other bodies.
- 7. Use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice.
- 8. World crime trends and emerging issues and responses in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.
- 9. Follow-up to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.
- 10. Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in line with General Assembly resolution 72/305, including follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- 11. Provisional agenda for the thirty-first session of the Commission.
- 12. Other business.
- 13. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirtieth session.

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

- 2. The attention of the Economic and Social Council is drawn to the following resolution, adopted by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its reconvened twenty-ninth session, and to the action taken pursuant to General Assembly resolution 61/252, in which the Assembly authorized the Commission to approve the programme budget for the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund:

¹ Pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2020/230.

Resolution 29/1**Implementation of the budget for the biennium 2020–2021 for the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund**

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

Exercising the administrative and financial functions entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/252 of 22 December 2006,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the consolidated budget for the biennium 2020–2021 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,² as well as the additional information provided to the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the Office for its deliberations,

Reaffirming its resolution 28/4 of 13 December 2019,

1. *Notes* that the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the consolidated budget for the biennium 2020–2021 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime provides information on the adjustments to the consolidated budget;

2. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to fully implement Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 28/4 and regularly report on the implementation thereof to the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the Office;

3. *Requests* the co-chairs of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the Office to establish, in consultation with Member States and with the support of the Secretariat, a workplan for 2021 with clear time frames to follow up on and review the full implementation by the Office of the mandates contained in resolution 28/4 and the present resolution;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to report on the financial and governance impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) crisis and on the response of the Office to the crisis, and to present recommendations that may improve its response to potential future crises;

5. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to present suggestions for possible solutions to the budget shortfalls, including those deriving from the liquidity crisis under the regular budget and the impact of the COVID-19 crisis, as well as information on any savings realized and any possible reallocation of resources;

6. *Approves* the revised budget for general-purpose funds for the biennium 2020–2021 in the amount of 3,428,900 United States dollars;

7. *Endorses* the revised budget for special-purpose funds and programme support costs for the biennium 2020–2021 as indicated below:

Resource projections for the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund

	<i>Resources (thousands of United States dollars)</i>		<i>Posts</i>	
	<i>Approved budget, 2020–2021</i>	<i>Revised budget, 2020–2021</i>	<i>Approved budget, 2020–2021</i>	<i>Revised budget, 2020–2021</i>
General-purpose funds				
Post	2 254.2	2 088.7	7	7
Non-post	1 349.8	1 340.2		
Subtotal	3 604.0	3 428.9	7	7

² E/CN.7/2020/16-E/CN.15/2020/16.

	Resources (thousands of United States dollars)		Posts	
	Approved budget, 2020–2021	Revised budget, 2020–2021	Approved budget, 2020–2021	Revised budget, 2020–2021
Special-purpose funds	359 555.4	331 999.2	264	264
Subtotal	359 555.4	331 999.2	264	264
Programme support cost funds				
Post	10 764.3	18 579.8	64	64
Non-post	3 353.7	7 159.7		
Subtotal	14 117.9^a	25 739.5^b	64	64
Total	377 277.3	361 167.6	335	335

^a Allocation for 2020.

^b Allocation for 2020–2021.

8. *Notes* that the estimated resource projections above are subject to the availability of funding;

9. *Welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to increase transparency in budget presentation, and in this regard requests the Executive Director of the Office to ensure that the estimated costs of projected activities of the Secretariat to the Governing Bodies, as well as the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board, are duly and distinctly reflected in future consolidated budget documents;

10. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to present information on the financial implications of the long-term strategy for the Office, as well as information on potential reallocations to address those implications.

Chapter II

Organization of the regular session and administrative matters

A. Opening and duration of the session

3. Owing to the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the Commission had to postpone its regular twenty-ninth session, originally scheduled to be held from 18 to 22 May 2020. On 22 July 2020, the Economic and Social Council adopted decision 2020/230, on the revised provisional agenda for the twenty-ninth session of the Commission. In line with that decision, a scaled-down regular session was held on 3 December 2020.

4. In accordance with Council decision 2020/230, the items that were contained in the provisional agenda for the twenty-ninth session, as set out in Council decision 2019/223, including the thematic discussion on effective measures to prevent and counter the smuggling of migrants, while protecting the rights of smuggled migrants, particularly women and children, and those of unaccompanied migrant children, were not addressed during the twenty-ninth session but were to be included in the provisional agenda for the thirtieth session.

5. The Commission held one meeting during its regular twenty-ninth session. The Chair of the Commission opened the session. The Executive Director made a statement.

B. Attendance

6. The arrangements for the organization of the regular twenty-ninth session had been endorsed by the Commission by means of a silence procedure on 13 November 2020. In accordance with those arrangements, representatives of members of the Commission were allowed to be physically present in the conference room, while representatives of other Member States and stakeholders joined online.

7. The regular part of the twenty-ninth session was attended by representatives of 29 States members of the Commission (10 were not represented). Observers for other States Members of the United Nations, representatives of entities of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations also attended.

C. Election of officers

8. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/31 and rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Commission, at the end of its reconvened twenty-eighth session, on 13 December 2019, opened its twenty-ninth session for the sole purpose of electing its Bureau for that session. In view of the rotation of offices based on regional distribution, the officers elected for the twenty-ninth session of the Commission and their respective regional groups are listed below.

9. On 13 December 2019, the Commission elected the Chair, the Second Vice-Chair and the Rapporteur. The nomination for the office of First Vice-Chair remained pending until 17 November 2020, when the Group of Western European and other States nominated Gabriela Sellner (Austria) for that office. The nomination for the Third Vice-Chair remained pending until 1 December 2020, when the Group of African States nominated Mohamed Hamdy Elmolla (Egypt) for that office. The Commission elected the First and Third Vice-Chairs during its consideration of item 1.

10. The officers of the Commission at its twenty-ninth session were as follows:

<i>Chair</i>	Latin American and Caribbean States	Jose Antonio Marcondes de Carvalho (Brazil)
<i>First Vice-Chair</i>	Western European and other States	Gabriela Sellner (Austria)
<i>Second Vice-Chair</i>	Asia-Pacific States	Khojesta Fana Ebrahimkhel (Afghanistan)
<i>Third Vice-Chair</i>	African States	Mohamed Hamdy Elmolla (Egypt)
<i>Rapporteur</i>	Eastern European States	Ivan Gospodinov (Bulgaria)

11. A group composed of the Chairs of the five regional groups, the Chair of the Group of 77 and China and the representative of or observer for the State holding the Presidency of the European Union was established to assist the Chair of the Commission in dealing with organizational matters. That group, together with the elected officers, constituted the extended Bureau foreseen in Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/31.

D. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

12. At the meeting held during its regular session, on 3 December 2020, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda and proposed organization of work (E/CN.15/2020/1/Add.1), which had been approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2020/230.

E. Closure of the session

13. The session was closed by the Chair.

Chapter III

Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions

14. At the 1st meeting of the reconvened twenty-ninth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held jointly with the reconvened sixty-third session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on 3 December 2020, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice considered agenda item 3, which read as follows:

“3. Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions:

(a) Work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

(b) Directives on policy and budgetary issues for the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme;

(c) Working methods of the Commission;

(d) Staff composition of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other related matters.”

15. For its consideration of item 3, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2020/2-E/CN.15/2020/2);

(b) Report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the consolidated budget for the biennium 2020–2021 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2020/16-E/CN.15/2020/16);

(c) Report of the Executive Director on gender balance and geographical representation within the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2020/17-E/CN.15/2020/17);

(d) Note by the Secretariat on the work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2020/3-E/CN.15/2020/3 and E/CN.7/2020/3/Add.1-E/CN.15/2020/3/Add.1);

(e) Note by the Secretariat on the draft proposed programme plan for 2021 and performance information for 2019 (E/CN.7/2020/13-E/CN.15/2020/15);

(f) Draft proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance for 2020 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2020/CRP.20-E/CN.15/2020/CRP.1);

(g) Note by the Secretariat on the working methods of the UNODC Governing Bodies during the COVID-19 pandemic (E/CN.7/2020/CRP.21-E/CN.15/2020/CRP.2);

(h) UNODC Strategy 2021–2025 (E/CN.7/2020/CRP.22-E/CN.15/2020/CRP.3).

16. The Director of the Division for Management of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Director of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs of UNODC and the Chief of the Secretariat to the Governing Bodies of UNODC also made introductory statements. The representative of Brazil, in her capacity as Co-Chair of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC, also made an introductory statement.

17. Statements were made by the representatives of Colombia, China, the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canada, Japan, the Russian Federation, Brazil and Cuba. Statements were also made by the observers for Switzerland, Jamaica, Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Bangladesh.

18. Joint statements were made by the observer for the Philippines on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, by the observer for the European Union on behalf of the European Union and its member States, and by the observer for Singapore on behalf of the Group of Friends for UNODC Research.³

19. At the 2nd meeting of the reconvened session, on 4 December, the representative of the United States and the observer for the Islamic Republic of Iran made statements in exercise of the right of reply.

A. Deliberations

20. Speakers recognized the challenges associated with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic for programme planning and delivery and commended the efforts undertaken by the Office, including with regard to ensuring the business continuity of the governing bodies of the Office. UNODC was also commended for its continued programme delivery. The importance of further supporting Member States, including in the light of the current pandemic, was underscored, and a reversal of the negative trend in the execution of programmes for 2021 was encouraged. The Office's delivery of high-quality operational and technical assistance, which complemented its practical and policy-relevant research and normative work, was appreciated.

21. Several speakers underscored the crucial role of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC in enhancing the transparency and accountability of the Office and strengthening cooperation and trust between Member States and UNODC. Appreciation was expressed for the work of the Co-Chairs of the working group. Several speakers underlined that the working group served as a useful forum for regular consultations and review, including on matters related to the Office's programme plans, programme implementation and financial, administrative and other issues. The importance of providing information in a transparent and timely manner in order to support decision-making by the Commissions was highlighted, and the extension of the mandate of the working group until December 2021 was welcomed. The importance of developing a clear schedule of meetings for 2021 was emphasized by a number of speakers.

22. Several speakers commended the Executive Director of UNODC for the UNODC Strategy 2021–2025, which she had presented to the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC and referred to at the present session, noting the relevance of the Strategy and expressing appreciation for her leadership in the process of developing the Strategy. They welcomed the open and inclusive dialogue on the Strategy that had been held pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 62/9 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 28/4. A number of speakers acknowledged that the Strategy provided a clear vision, as well as guidance on the mandates and thematic areas of work of the Office. They underscored the importance of involving Member States in planning the implementation of the Strategy and providing regular updates to Member States on progress made. Some speakers underscored the importance of coordination among United Nations entities and with other regional and international organizations working in related fields, and of multi-stakeholder partnerships, including with civil society.

23. Several speakers reiterated the importance of adequate, predictable and stable funding for UNODC to ensure the implementation of its mandates and the continuity of high-quality operational and technical assistance, in particular to developing countries. Several speakers expressed concern regarding the challenges the Office faced in the light of the current regular budget liquidity crisis, as well as the shortfall in general purpose funding, which could affect the Office's ability to efficiently maintain core programmatic functions. It was noted that the COVID-19 pandemic had further exacerbated the

³ Chile, Colombia, European Union, France, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Paraguay, Russian Federation, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand and United States.

financial situation of the Office. Several speakers called upon donors to consider making non-earmarked contributions. Several speakers welcomed efforts undertaken to implement fully and in a timely manner Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 62/9 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 28/4, and encouraged continued efforts to achieve their full implementation. UNODC was also encouraged to increase transparency regarding the use of programme support cost funds and to broaden their distribution, and to report thereon.

24. The efforts made by UNODC with regard to the implementation of the United Nations development system reform and the United Nations management system reform were welcomed by several speakers. Several speakers underscored the importance of keeping Member States regularly informed about the Office's progress in implementing the reforms.

25. The need to strengthen results-based management, with a view to enhancing transparency and accountability, and the integration of monitoring and evaluation, was underscored by a number of speakers. The importance of implementing the recommendations by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and reporting on progress made in that regard was underscored.

26. The progress made by UNODC in achieving gender equality in its staff composition was welcomed by several delegations, and the importance of achieving equal representation, particularly at the senior levels, was underscored. The importance of ensuring the integration of gender perspectives in all aspects of the programming and work of the Office was highlighted. Appreciation was expressed for the efforts of the Executive Director in that regard, including in her capacity as an International Gender Champion.

27. Several speakers expressed the view that greater efforts were needed to increase geographical diversity and equitable geographical representation in the staff composition of the Office, in particular at the senior levels. UNODC was commended for its outreach, recruitment and retention efforts and related activities, including the "diversity corner" launched in 2020. Several speakers expressed concern about the insufficient progress made in the efforts to enhance the representation of developing countries, in particular those that were unrepresented or underrepresented. The Executive Director was requested to intensify efforts to increase equitable geographical representation, and the positive effect that that would have on the work of UNODC was highlighted.

28. Reference was made by delegations to the zero-tolerance policy of the United Nations regarding sexual exploitation and harassment, and in that regard the Office was called upon to continue its efforts to implement the relevant recommendations.

29. Reference was made to the note by the Secretariat on the working methods of the UNODC Governing Bodies during the COVID-19 pandemic (E/CN.7/2020/CRP.21-E/CN.15/2020/CRP.2), and appreciation was expressed for the efforts in facilitating the participation of all members of the Commission.

30. Several speakers underscored the significance of research for the work of UNODC, emphasizing the importance of impartiality, transparency and the use of verified and reliable data, as well as of timely consultations with States. The need to explore funding arrangements for research while safeguarding its integrity and independence was highlighted. In that regard, the importance of UNODC providing technical assistance to Member States to strengthen their data collection and information analysis capacities was underscored.

B. Action taken by the Commission

31. At the 2nd meeting of the reconvened session, on 4 December 2020, the Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of a draft decision 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”, on the extension of the mandate of the working group until the reconvened sessions of the Commissions to be held in December 2021 (E/CN.15/2020/L.2). (For the text of the draft decision, see chap. I, sect. A, draft decision I.)

32. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted a draft resolution on the implementation of the budget for the biennium 2020–2021 for the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund (E/CN.15/2020/L.3). (For the text, see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 29/1.)

Chapter IV

Preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

33. At the 2nd meeting of the reconvened session, on 4 December 2020, the Commission considered agenda item 4, entitled “Preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”.

34. The Chair of the Commission made an introductory statement. The Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs of UNODC, in his capacity as Executive Secretary of the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, also made a statement. The Secretary of the Commission, in her capacity as Secretary of the Fourteenth Congress, gave a presentation.

35. The representative of Japan, the host country of the Fourteenth Congress, gave a presentation. Statements were made by the representatives of China, Afghanistan, the United States and Ecuador and the observer for Peru.

36. Statements were also made by observers for the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Penal Reform International and Criminologists Without Borders.

Deliberations

37. The Chair provided information about the status of organizational and substantive preparations for the Congress and in that regard referred to the postponement of the Fourteenth Congress by the General Assembly in its decision 74/550 B. He recalled that the Congress had accordingly been scheduled to be held from 7 to 12 March 2021, with pre-Congress consultations on 6 March. The Chair also reminded participants of the opportunity to express formal interest in hosting the Fifteenth Congress, to be held in 2025.

38. The representative of Japan presented information on the possibilities for participation in the Fourteenth Congress through an in-person component and an online component, based on the principles of safety, inclusiveness and effectiveness, bearing in mind the COVID-19 situation. He provided information on the participants whose entry into Japan would be facilitated. He explained that special measures would apply during the stay of those participants in Japan and provided further details on what such special measures would entail. He emphasized that the host country was working closely with UNODC to provide a unique Congress experience to all online participants. He underscored the commitment of the host country to successfully organizing the Fourteenth Congress under the current circumstances.

39. The Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs of UNODC informed the Commission about the efforts made together with the Government of Japan to organize the Fourteenth Congress in a format that secured inclusiveness and diversity of participation. He expressed the expectation that the hybrid format, consisting of an in-person component and an online component, would provide a large number of participants from all over the world with the opportunity to be actively engaged in the Congress. He mentioned that the Fourteenth Congress would be one of the first major United Nations conferences to be held outside United Nations Headquarters since the COVID-19 outbreak. The Secretary of the Commission provided information about the revised proposed organization of work, reflecting the shortened duration of the Congress, documentation, registration and a number of other organizational matters.

40. Speakers commended the efforts made by the Government of Japan and UNODC to organize the Congress in an open and inclusive manner, and recognized the opportunities presented by a hybrid format. Several speakers made reference to the ongoing consultations on the draft Kyoto declaration and called upon States to finalize the declaration in a constructive spirit, expressing the expectation that it would be an important document for years to come. One speaker made reference to new crime trends observed during the COVID-19 pandemic and called for an appropriate reflection in the draft Kyoto declaration of the need for enhanced international cooperation in criminal matters. Another speaker made reference to the negotiation of the declaration to be adopted by the General Assembly at its special session on corruption and the possible synergies with the negotiation of the draft Kyoto declaration. Speakers also shared information on their national efforts regarding crime prevention and criminal justice, including in relation to countering crimes such as terrorism, trafficking in persons, the smuggling of migrants and corruption, as well as the strengthening of judicial independence and integrity.

Chapter V

Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in line with General Assembly resolution 72/305, including follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

41. At the 2nd meeting of the reconvened session, on 4 December 2020, the Commission considered agenda item 5, entitled “Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in line with General Assembly resolution 72/305, including follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.
42. A statement was made by the representative of China.
43. A statement was also made by the observer for Zonta International on behalf of the members of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women Vienna.

Deliberations

44. The importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a document reflecting aspirations for a better life was highlighted. It was emphasized that its implementation was a long-term endeavour, and the role of UNODC technical assistance in support of national efforts was highlighted. One speaker highlighted the need for gender-responsive reforms on the way towards implementing the 2030 Agenda.

Chapter VI

Provisional agenda for the thirtieth session of the Commission

45. At the 2nd meeting of the reconvened session, on 4 December 2020, the Commission considered agenda item 6, entitled “Provisional agenda for the thirtieth session of the Commission”. The Chair introduced the item and brought to the attention of the Commission matters relating to the organization of work for its thirtieth session.

46. The representative of Colombia made a statement.

47. The observer for the Women’s Federation for World Peace International also made a statement.

A. Deliberations

1. Duration of the thirtieth session and other arrangements

48. The Chair of the Commission recalled that the extended Bureau, at its meeting on 11 November 2020, had recommended Monday, 17 May, to Friday, 21 May 2021, as the dates for the regular part of the thirtieth session of the Commission and Thursday, 9 December, and Friday, 10 December 2021, as the dates for the reconvened part. Also at its meeting, the extended Bureau had recommended that pre-session informal consultations be held on Friday, 14 May 2021. The Chair stated that the extended Bureau would continue to discuss the organizational arrangements in view of the evolving COVID-19 situation.

49. It was brought to the attention of the Commission that, in accordance with its decision 21/1, the firm deadline for the submission of draft resolutions would normally be one month prior to the commencement of the session. Draft resolutions for consideration at the thirtieth session would thus have to be submitted by noon on Monday, 19 April 2021.

2. Thematic discussion

50. The Chair of the Commission recalled that, in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2020/230, the prominent theme and the topic of the thematic discussion at the thirtieth session, “Effective measures to prevent and counter the smuggling of migrants, while protecting the rights of smuggled migrants, particularly women and children, and those of unaccompanied migrant children”, would be carried over from the twenty-ninth session. The extended Bureau, at its meeting on 11 November 2020, endorsed the Chair’s proposal to not have subthemes for the thematic discussion at the thirtieth session, in line with the approach taken by the Commission for its twenty-ninth session.

51. The Chair of the Commission recalled that, in its decision 18/1, on guidelines for thematic discussions of the Commission, the Commission had urged Member States and regional groups to put forward their nominations for panellists not later than two months in advance of the session. The Chair also encouraged delegations to give due consideration to gender parity in the nomination of the panellists.

3. Workshop of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network

52. The Commission decided to accept, as it had done in previous years, a proposal by the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network to organize a workshop prior to the consideration of draft resolutions in the Committee of the Whole. The Chair informed the Commission that the proposed topic for the workshop would be brought to the attention of the extended Bureau of the Commission at its thirtieth session for consideration and approval in due course.

4. Side events

53. The Chair noted that the registration for the side events would proceed in line with established practice, and that closer to the session, the feasibility of in-person and hybrid side events would be assessed in view of the COVID-19 situation.

5. Provisional agenda for the thirtieth session

54. The Chair recalled that the extended Bureau, at its meeting held on 30 November 2020, had endorsed the proposal for the provisional agenda for the thirtieth session that had been circulated previously. The Chair drew the attention of the Commission to the provisional agenda as contained in the draft decision on the report of the Commission on its regular and reconvened twenty-ninth sessions and provisional agenda for its thirtieth session. (For the text of the draft decision, see chap. I, sect. A, draft decision II.)

B. Action taken by the Commission

55. At the 2nd meeting of the reconvened session, on 4 December 2020, the Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the draft decision referred to in paragraph 54 above. (For the text of the draft decision, see chap. I, sect. A, draft decision II.)

56. The Commission also endorsed the dates, deadlines and arrangements for its thirtieth session as set out in paragraphs 48–54 above.

Chapter VII

Other business

57. At the 2nd meeting of the reconvened session, on 4 December 2020, the Commission considered agenda item 7, entitled “Other business”. The Chair brought to the attention of the Commission a letter from the Director of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) dated 27 November 2020 regarding the consideration by the Commission of the report of the Board of Trustees of UNICRI, which could be addressed appropriately during the thirtieth session of the Commission.

Chapter VIII

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its regular and reconvened twenty-ninth sessions

58. At the 2nd meeting of the reconvened session, on 4 December 2020, the Commission adopted the parts of its report on the organization of the regular twenty-ninth session (E/CN.15/2020/L.1), on the organization of the reconvened session (E/CN.15/2020/L.1/Add.1) and on agenda item 3 (E/CN.15/2020/L.1/Add.2), as orally amended. The Commission decided that, in line with past practice, the present report would be brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council and that a draft decision on the report of the Commission on its regular and reconvened twenty-ninth sessions and provisional agenda for its thirtieth session, to be recommended to the Economic and Social Council for adoption, would be included in the report on the reconvened session (see chap. I, sect. A, draft decision II). The Commission also decided to entrust the finalization of the report to the Chair of the Commission, with the assistance of the Rapporteur.

Chapter IX

Organization of the reconvened session and administrative matters

A. Opening and duration of the session

59. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held its reconvened twenty-ninth session in Vienna on 3 and 4 December 2020.

60. The Economic and Social Council, in its decision 2011/259, entitled “Joint meetings of the reconvened sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”, decided that, starting in 2011, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice would hold joint meetings during their reconvened sessions for the sole purpose of considering agenda items included in the operational segment of the agendas of both Commissions, with a view to providing integrated policy directives to UNODC on administrative, budgetary and strategic management issues. The Council also decided that the practice of holding back-to-back reconvened sessions of the Commissions would be continued to enable each Commission to consider, in separate meetings, agenda items included in the normative segment of its agenda.

61. The Commission held two meetings during its reconvened twenty-ninth session. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2011/259, one meeting of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was held jointly with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in order to consider item 4 of the agenda of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and item 3 of the agenda of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

62. At the joint plenary meeting, the Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs made statements.

B. Attendance

63. The reconvened twenty-ninth session was attended by representatives of 29 States members of the Commission (10 were not represented). Observers for other States Members of the United Nations, representatives of entities of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations also attended.

C. Documentation

64. The documents before the Commission at its reconvened twenty-ninth session are listed in conference room paper E/CN.15/2020/CRP.4.

D. Closure of the session

65. At the 2nd meeting of the reconvened session, on 4 December 2020, a closing statement was made by the Chair of the Commission.
