



## Economic and Social Council

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### Commission on Narcotic Drugs

#### Fifty-sixth session

Vienna, 11-15 March 2013

Item 5 of the provisional agenda\*

#### **Round-table discussions on progress made in the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem**

### **Organization of the round-table discussions at the fifty-sixth session**

#### **Note by the Secretariat**

#### **Establishment of the round-table discussions**

1. The provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs was approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2012/241, including the topic of the three round-table discussions.
2. Following the first part of the Commission's fifty-fifth session, in March 2012, consultations were conducted within regional groups regarding the organization of the round-table discussions, including possible sub-themes and organizational arrangements. At its meeting on 11 September 2012, the extended Bureau agreed that the organization of the round-table discussions should be decided upon no later than the reconvened fifty-fifth session, in December 2012. At the same meeting, the Chair of the Commission presented two proposals, one on possible sub-themes and another on organizational arrangements, in order to facilitate further discussions within regional groups. Those proposals were also considered during the intersessional meeting of the Commission, held on 2 October 2012. At its meeting on 5 November 2012, the extended Bureau agreed to convene an informal working group in order to finalize proposals by regional groups; the working group held one meeting on 23 November and another on 3 December 2012 and reached an agreement on the organization of the round-table

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\* E/CN.7/2013/1.



discussions. The extended Bureau, at its meeting on 4 December 2012, recommended the consensus proposals for sub-themes for the three round-table discussions to the Commission for endorsement at its reconvened fifty-fifth session.

3. In line with the proposals recommended by the extended Bureau, the Commission, at its meeting held on 7 December 2012, approved the following sub-themes for the three round-table discussions to be held at the fifty-sixth session of the Commission under agenda item 5:

(a) For the round table on demand reduction and related measures: “Drug prevention as a means to curb the world drug problem within the framework of a scientific evidence approach”;

(b) For the round table on supply reduction and related measures: “The importance of international cooperation, coordination and funding to promote relevant activities and programmes on all aspects of alternative development in support of the drug control regime established by the three international drug control conventions, within a broader international framework”;

(c) For the round table on countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation: “The importance of further strengthening the operational implementation of treaty-based provisions on international cooperation, including for countering money-laundering and preventing the illicit cross-border movement of cash and monetary instruments”.

4. At its reconvened fifty-fifth session, the Commission also approved the organizational arrangements for the thematic round-table discussions at its fifty-sixth session. The format and organization of the round-table discussions are presented in annex I.

5. At its reconvened fifty-fifth session, the Commission further approved the following arrangements for the chairing of the round-table discussions at its fifty-sixth session:

(a) The three round-table discussions would take place during the morning and afternoon of the second day of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission, in the time allotted to the plenary;

(b) Owing to the fact that the round-table discussions will take place on the second day of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission and the Committee of the Whole is led by the First Vice-Chair, the round-table discussions will be chaired by other officers, namely, the Chair and the Second and Third Vice-Chairs of the Commission. The pairing of those three officers with the three round-table discussions will be done by a drawing of lots conducted by the First Vice-Chair.

6. The programme of work for the round-table discussions is contained in annex II.

## Annex I

### **Format and organization of the round-table discussions during the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs**

#### **Participants**

1. Participation in the round-table discussions will be open to members and observers as follows:

- (a) Members: representatives of States Members of the United Nations;
- (b) Observers:
  - (i) Persons representing other delegations with permanent status at the United Nations;
  - (ii) Persons representing entities of the United Nations system;
  - (iii) Persons representing intergovernmental organizations;
  - (iv) Persons representing non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

2. The maximum number of participants will be 74, distributed as follows:

(a) Ten core participants, consisting of representatives of States Members of the United Nations. Those 10 core participants will be composed of 2 representatives per regional group, in order to ensure the representation of every regional group in each discussion and to facilitate a more focused discussion;

(b) A maximum of 59 additional seats allocated to representatives of States Members of the United Nations. Using as a basis United Nations membership, the number of participants from States of each regional group at each round table will, in principle, be as follows:

- (i) Group of African States: 17;
- (ii) Group of Asia-Pacific States: 16;
- (iii) Group of Eastern European States: 7;
- (iv) Group of Latin American and Caribbean States: 10;
- (v) Group of Western European and Other States: 9;

(c) Four seats for observers (as referred to in para. 1 (b) above). Each round table shall include four participants representing observers; at least one of the four seats shall be reserved for a person representing non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council;

(d) One seat for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime will have a seat allocated to it at each round table, in addition to one seat for the person who will serve as secretary of the round table.

3. The following nomination procedures and deadlines are to be followed:

(a) The Chair of each regional group will communicate to the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as well as to the secretariat, all relevant details of the core and additional participants from his or her region for each round-table discussion, at least three weeks before the opening of the session of the Commission. Relevant details should include the nationality, functional title and a direct e-mail address of the participant;

(b) All seats that have not been filled by regional groups by the deadline shall be allocated to other requesting regional groups, on a first come, first served basis;

(c) Delegations with permanent status at the United Nations, entities of the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations interested in obtaining one of the seats allocated to observers will inform the secretariat at least three weeks before the opening of the session of the Commission. Seats will be allocated on a first come, first served basis;

(d) The Chair of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs will inform the secretariat at least three weeks before the opening of the session of the Commission about the representation of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council;

(e) Should there still be seats unfilled by Member States two working days before the opening of the session of the Commission, the Bureau or extended Bureau can decide to increase the number of seats for observers (as referred to in para. 1 (b) above), to a maximum of eight.

#### **Attendance**

4. Representatives of any interested Member State and delegates to the Commission session not actively participating in the round-table discussions may follow the proceedings via video transmission in the plenary room.

#### **Chairing**

5. The Bureau or extended Bureau of the Commission will determine the mechanisms and criteria used to select the Chair of each round-table discussion. Other chairing arrangements, if required, would be at the discretion of the Chair of the Commission, in consultation with the Bureau or the extended Bureau, as required.

#### **Introductory statements**

6. The Chair of each round-table discussion will open the discussions and make a brief introductory statement. The secretariat may be invited to make brief introductory statements.

#### **List of speakers**

7. There will be no list of speakers. Delegations wishing to make interventions will do so by drawing the attention of the Chair.

**Core participants**

8. Each of the core participants nominated, two by each regional group, is expected to take the floor at the beginning of the discussion and provide brief remarks — limited to a maximum of three minutes — triggering the debate. Core participants will actively participate in the discussion and dialogue, expressing their points of view and particular experiences and answering questions posed by the Chair or other participants.

**Duration of interventions**

9. In view of the duration of each round-table discussion, it is envisaged that there will be no prepared or national statements, and it is recommended that interventions should be limited to three minutes and take the form of questions or comments on matters covered by the round-table topics, in order to encourage a debate and exchange of expertise and experience among participants.

**Statements by observers**

10. Statements by observers will be regulated by the Chair of each round-table discussion, in order to allow their participation in the discussions in accordance with the relevant regulations and established practice.

**Presentation of the outcome of the round-table discussions**

11. The Chair of each round-table discussion, with the assistance of the secretariat, will, in his or her individual capacity, summarize the salient points of the round-table discussion and present them to the plenary prior to the closure of the session of the Commission at which the round table was held.

## Annex II

### **Programme of work for the round-table discussions during the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs**

#### **Discussions under agenda item 5, on 12 March 2013**

<i>Time</i>	<i>Conference room M2 (plenary suspended)</i>
9-11 a.m.	Round table on item 5 (a)
11.30 a.m.-1.30 p.m.	Round table on item 5 (b)
3.30-5.30 p.m.	Round table on item 5 (c)

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