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Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Sixty-third session

Vienna, 2–6 March 2020

Annotated provisional agenda

Provisional agenda

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 - (b) Directives on policy and budgetary issues for the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;
 - (c) Working methods of the Commission;
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 8. Recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission.
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10. Provisional agenda for the sixty-fourth session of the Commission.
 11. Other business.
 12. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-third session.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

In section I of its resolution 1999/30, the Economic and Social Council decided that, with effect from the year 2000, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should, at the end of each session, elect its Bureau for the subsequent session and should encourage it to play an active role in the preparations for the regular as well as the intersessional meetings of the Commission, so as to enable the Commission to provide continuous and effective policy guidance to the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

In accordance with section I of Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/30 and rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Commission, at the end of its reconvened sixty-second session, on 13 December 2019, opened its sixty-third session for the sole purpose of electing its Bureau for that session. At that meeting, the Commission elected the Chair, the Second Vice-Chair, and the Third Vice-Chair. The Commission was informed that the group of Eastern European States had nominated Ms. Dominika Krois of Poland, who would take up her post as Permanent Representative in Vienna in January 2020. The office of the Rapporteur remained vacant. The Commission is expected to elect the remaining officers during its consideration of item 1 of the present provisional agenda.

In view of the rotation of offices based on regional distribution, the officers of the Commission at its sixty-third session and their respective regional groups are as follows:

| <i>Office</i> | <i>Regional group</i> | <i>Officer</i> |
|------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Chair | Asia-Pacific States | Mansoor Ahmad Khan (Pakistan) |
| First Vice-Chair | Eastern European States | Dominika Krois (Poland) (<i>designate</i>) |

¹ Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem, eleventh paragraph of the section entitled "Way forward".

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Second Vice-Chair | Western European and other States | Ghislain D'hoop (Belgium) |
| Third Vice-Chair | Latin American and Caribbean States | Gloria Navarrete (Chile) |
| Rapporteur | African States | (<i>vacant</i>) |

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/39 and established practice, 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 assists the Chair of the Commission in dealing with organizational matters. That group, together with the officers, constitutes the extended Bureau foreseen in Council resolution 1991/39.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

In section I of its resolution 1999/30, the Economic and Social Council decided that the normative functions of the Commission should be made distinct from its role as the governing body of the drug programme of UNODC and that, to that end, the agenda of the Commission should be structured in two distinct segments, as follows:

(a) A normative segment, during which the Commission would discharge its treaty-based and normative functions, including mandates received from the General Assembly and the Council, and deal with emerging drug control issues;

(b) An operational segment, during which the Commission would exercise its role as the governing body of the drug programme of UNODC and consider issues related to the provision of policy guidance to the Office.

The provisional agenda for the sixty-third session of the Commission has been structured to comply with Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/30.

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that the Commission shall, at the beginning of each session, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

In its decision 2019/225, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Commission on its sixty-second session and approved the provisional agenda for the sixty-third session of the Commission.

At its reconvened sixty-second session, held on 12 and 13 December 2019, the Commission decided that its sixty-third session would be held from 2 to 6 March 2020. The Commission also decided that it would hold its reconvened sixty-third session on 3 and 4 December 2020.

In accordance with Commission decision 55/1, the firm deadline for the submission of draft resolutions is one month prior to the commencement of the session. The Commission decided that the deadline would be set for Monday, 3 February 2020, at noon.

Following the adoption of the agenda, the Commission may wish to establish a timetable and agree on the organization of work for the sixty-third session. The proposed organization of work is contained in the annex to the present document.

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda (E/CN.7/2020/1)

3. General debate

During the regular part of its sixty-second session, the Commission decided to include a general debate in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session.

Following established practice, the extended Bureau is expected to establish a date for opening the list of speakers that will differentiate only between speakers at the ministerial level and other speakers.

Following established practice, a maximum of 5 minutes of speaking time (which is equivalent to statements of approximately 500 words) will be allotted to those speaking in their national capacity and 7 minutes will be allotted to the Chairs of the regional groups.

Operational segment

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 drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**
- (c) Working methods of the Commission**
- (d) Staff composition of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other related matters**

For its consideration of item 4, the Commission will have before it the report of the Executive Director on the activities of UNODC (E/CN.7/2020/2-E/CN.15/2020/2), which contains an overview of the activities of the Office during 2019 to effectively address and counter the world drug problem (inter alia, measures in the areas of demand reduction, including prevention and treatment; availability of and access to controlled substances; supply reduction; drugs and human rights, youth, children, women and communities; evolving reality, trends and existing circumstances, emerging and persisting challenges and threats; strengthening international cooperation; and alternative development) and to effectively address crime (inter alia, measures in the areas covered by the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto; trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants; trafficking in firearms; money-laundering; other related organized crime issues; countering corruption; preventing terrorism; and crime prevention and criminal justice), as well as activities in the area of research, trend analysis and scientific and forensic support (inter alia, data collection, research and trend analysis; and scientific and forensic support) and activities aimed at strengthening UNODC (inter alia, measures relating to strategic planning; and evaluation; finance and partnerships).

In its decision 2017/236, the Economic and Social Council decided to renew the mandate of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC until the part of the sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to be held in the first half of 2021. The terms of reference of the working group are contained in the annex to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 52/13.

At its sixty-third session, the Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the work of the working group (E/CN.7/2020/3-E/CN.15/2020/3).

At its reconvened sixty-second session, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs adopted resolution 62/9, entitled “Budget for the biennium 2020–2021 for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme”.

At the same session, the Commission considered the report of the Executive Director on the consolidated budget for the biennium 2020–2021 for UNODC (E/CN.7/2019/14-E/CN.15/2019/16) and the draft proposed programme plan for 2021 and performance information for 2019 for UNODC (E/CN.7/2019/CRP.13-E/CN.15/2019/CRP.9). The draft proposed programme plan for 2021 and performance

information for 2019 have subsequently been transmitted to the Office of Programme Planning, Finance and Budget at United Nations Headquarters (see E/CN.7/2020/13-E/CN.15/2020/15).

At its reconvened sixty-second session, the Commission also considered the report of the Executive Director on gender balance and geographical representation within UNODC (E/CN.7/2019/15-E/CN.15/2019/17).

At its sixty-third session, the Commission may wish to continue discussing the efforts undertaken by UNODC to ensure the recruitment of staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible, in particular in the Professional and higher categories, and to achieve the goal of a 50/50 gender balance, in accordance with Commission resolutions 58/12, 59/9, 60/10, 61/12, and 62/9.

Documentation

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)

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)

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

Normative segment

5. Implementation of the international drug control treaties

Under item 5, the Commission is called upon to carry out its treaty functions under the provisions of various articles of the international drug control treaties.

(a) Changes in the scope of control of substances

The forty-first meeting of the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence was held in Geneva from 12 to 16 November 2018. At that meeting, the Committee undertook critical reviews of cannabis and cannabis-related substances (cannabis plant and cannabis resin, extracts and tinctures of cannabis, *delta*-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (*delta*-9-THC; dronabinol) and tetrahydrocannabinol (isomers of THC)) and evaluated their dependence-producing properties and harm to health.

At its sixty-second regular session, the Commission had before it a note by the Secretariat on the changes in the scope of control of substances: proposed scheduling recommendations by the World Health Organization on cannabis and cannabis-related substances (E/CN.7/2019/12).

During its sixty-second regular session, on 19 March 2019, the Commission decided to postpone the voting on the recommendations of the World Health Organization (WHO) on the scope of control of cannabis and cannabis-related substances in order to provide States with more time to consider the recommendations (decision 62/14).

During the fourth and the fifth intersessional meetings of the Commission at its sixty-second session, which were held on 24 June 2019 and 23 September 2019, the Commission considered the WHO recommendations on cannabis and cannabis-related substances and had the opportunity to address questions to representatives of WHO. Representatives of the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and UNODC were also present to provide answers within their respective mandates.

At its sixty-third session, the Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat on changes in the scope of control of cannabis and cannabis-related substances (E/CN.7/2020/14), as well as a conference room paper containing questions and answers relating to the WHO recommendations on cannabis and cannabis-related substances and a conference room paper containing comments submitted by States

parties to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances in response to a note verbale sent by the Secretariat on 29 November 2019.

The Commission will also have before it a note by the Secretariat on changes in the scope of control of substances (E/CN.7/2020/10), containing relevant extracts of the report of the forty-second meeting of the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence relating to 12 psychoactive substances (synthetic cannabinoids, synthetic stimulants, fentanyl analogues and benzodiazepines), including the Committee's recommendations, as well as the assessments and findings on which those recommendations were based.

The Commission will also have before it a note by the Secretariat on changes in the scope of control of substances under the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 (E/CN.7/2020/11), containing information transmitted by INCB pursuant to article 12, paragraph 4, of the 1988 Convention, with regard to the assessment of methyl *alpha*-phenylacetoacetate (MAPA).

(b) Challenges and future work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the World Health Organization and the International Narcotics Control Board in the review of substances for possible scheduling recommendations

The sub-item entitled "Challenges and future work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the World Health Organization in the review of substances for possible scheduling recommendations" was added to the provisional agenda for the fifty-seventh session of the Commission and maintained on the agendas of the subsequent sessions (and later expanded to include INCB), in order to assist Member States in applying the existing scheduling procedures contained in the three international drug control conventions. Under the sub-item, the Commission will address the ongoing challenge of identifying and detecting new psychoactive substances.

In the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016, Member States resolved to strengthen national and international action to address the emerging challenge of new psychoactive substances, including their adverse health consequences, and the evolving threat of amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine, and underscored the importance of enhancing information-sharing and early warning networks, developing appropriate national legislative, prevention and treatment models and supporting scientific evidence-based review and scheduling of the most prevalent, persistent and harmful substances.

The Commission, in its resolution 60/4, invited WHO, with the support of Member States, UNODC and other relevant international and regional organizations, to enhance its surveillance of new psychoactive substances of concern, to regularly update its surveillance list and disseminate it to Member States and relevant international and regional organizations and to issue voluntary public health alerts where there was sufficient evidence that a substance posed a significant risk to public health and safety.

In the 2019 Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem, Member States committed to continuing to facilitate informed scheduling decisions on the most persistent, prevalent and harmful substances, including synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances, precursors, chemicals and solvents, while ensuring their availability for medical and scientific purposes.

In its resolution 62/8, the Commission requested INCB, in cooperation with the Commission and WHO, within their treaty mandates, to continue to facilitate informed scheduling decisions on the most persistent, prevalent and harmful

substances, including synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances, precursors, chemicals and solvents, while ensuring their availability for medical and scientific purposes, bearing in mind the need to accelerate changes in the scope of control for previously unscheduled substances with no currently known legitimate medical or industrial uses beyond research and analytical purpose.

(c) International Narcotics Control Board

The annual report of INCB is submitted to the Economic and Social Council through the Commission, in accordance with the provisions of the international drug control treaties. The Commission may make such comments on the report as it sees fit. In addition, article 8 of the 1961 Convention as amended, article 17 of the 1971 Convention and article 21 of the 1988 Convention authorize the Commission to call the attention of the Board to any matters that may be relevant to the functions of the Board. The report of the Board for 2019 (E/INCB/2019/1) will be before the Commission.

Article 12, paragraph 13, of the 1988 Convention requires the Board to report annually to the Commission on the implementation of that article. It is suggested that the report of the Board for 2019 on the implementation of article 12 of the 1988 Convention (E/INCB/2019/4) be considered at the same time as the report of the Board for 2019 (E/INCB/2019/1), in line with past practice.

(d) International cooperation to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion

In the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, Member States called for continued cooperation between Member States, INCB and WHO to ensure the adequate availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances under international control, including opiates, for medical and scientific purposes, while concurrently preventing their diversion into illicit channels, pursuant to the international drug control conventions, and recommended a set of actions.

The outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016 includes a stand-alone chapter with operational recommendations on ensuring the availability of and access to controlled substances exclusively for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion.

In the 2019 Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem, Member States noted with concern that the availability of internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes remained low to non-existent in many parts of the world and reiterated their resolve to ensure access to and the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, including for the relief of pain and suffering, and address existing barriers in this regard, including affordability.

(e) Other matters arising from the international drug control treaties

Following the regular part of the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held from 18 to 22 March 2019, and in view of the decisions taken by the Commission on the changes in the scope of control of substances, the *Multilingual Dictionary of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances under International Control* has been updated.

The Commission will have before it, for information, the latest issue of the publication entitled *Competent National Authorities under the International Drug Control Treaties* (ST/NAR.3/2019/1), which provides information to facilitate cooperation between competent national authorities that are empowered to issue certificates and authorizations for the import and export of narcotic drugs and psychotropic

substances and that regulate or enforce national controls over precursors and essential chemicals in accordance with the international drug control treaties.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on changes in the scope of control of substances: proposed scheduling recommendations by the World Health Organization (E/CN.7/2020/10)

Note by the Secretariat on changes in the scope of control of substances under the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 (E/CN.7/2020/11)

Note by the Secretariat on changes in the scope of control of substances: proposed scheduling recommendations by the World Health Organization on cannabis and cannabis-related substances (E/CN.7/2020/14)

Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2019 (E/INCB/2019/1)

Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2019 on the Implementation of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 (E/INCB/2019/4)

Competent National Authorities under the International Drug Control Treaties (ST/NAR.3/2019/1)

6. Follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem

In March 2019, Ministers and government representatives met for a ministerial segment to take stock of the implementation of the commitments made over the past decade to jointly address and counter the world drug problem, in particular in the light of the 2019 target date set in the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, and to enhance efforts beyond 2019. At the opening of the ministerial segment, Ministers and government representatives adopted by consensus the 2019 Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem.

In the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, Member States, while acknowledging that tangible progress had been achieved over the past decade, noted with concern the persistent and emerging challenges posed by the world drug problem and committed to accelerating, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, the full implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission and the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016, aimed at achieving all commitments, operational recommendations and aspirational goals set out therein.

Member States reiterated the principal policymaking role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and committed to ensuring that the Commission-led follow-up to the implementation of all the international drug policy commitments in a single track, devoting a single standing agenda item at each regular session of the Commission to the implementation of all commitments.

A core part of the Commission-led process for following up on the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments is the thematic discussions focused on the exchange of good practices, challenges and lessons learned in the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, as follow-up to the 2019 Ministerial Declaration. On 24 June 2019, at the sixth intersessional meeting of its sixty-second session, the Commission adopted a multi-year workplan which

foresees the organization of interactive thematic sessions, to be held in the second half of each year, in the period up to 2024, to address the challenges identified in the Ministerial Declaration, through the implementation of the provisions and recommendations contained in the three policy documents (issued in 2009, 2014 and 2016).

The first such thematic session was held by the Commission from 16 to 18 October 2019 at the United Nations Office at Vienna. In line with the multi-year workplan, the Commission focused its discussions on how to address the following challenges: (a) both the range of drugs and drug markets are expanding and diversifying; (b) the abuse, illicit cultivation and production and manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, as well as the illicit trafficking in those substances and in precursors, have reached record levels, and the illicit demand for and the domestic diversion of precursor chemicals are on the rise; and (c) synthetic opioids and the non-medical use of prescription drugs pose increasing risks to public health and safety, as well as scientific, legal and regulatory challenges, including with regard to the scheduling of substances. Each day of those meetings focused on one of those three challenges, which had been identified in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, and consisted of a panel discussion followed by a thematic debate. The panels included representatives of the five regional groups, United Nations entities and other intergovernmental and international organizations, as well as representatives of civil society. A summary by the Chair of the thematic discussions on the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, following up on the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, held in October 2019, which was not subject to negotiations, is made available in the form of a conference room paper.

In the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, Member States also committed to ensuring that the collection of reliable and comparable data, through a strengthened and streamlined annual report questionnaire, reflected all commitments, and requested the Executive Director of UNODC to adapt the existing biennial report, transforming it into a single report, to be prepared on a biennial basis on the basis of the responses provided by Member States to the strengthened and streamlined annual report questionnaire on progress made to the implement all commitments at the national, regional and international levels. The first of those reports should be submitted for consideration by the Commission at its sixty-fifth session, in 2022.

The biannual report of the Executive Director that the Commission will have before it at its sixty-third session (E/CN.7/2020/6) follows the format used in the past and focuses on the efforts undertaken to fully implement the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem. The report is to be read in conjunction with, and is complemented by, the report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug abuse (E/CN.7/2020/4) and the report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking (E/CN.7/2020/5), as well as a conference room paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, following up on the 2019 Ministerial Declaration.

In its resolution 53/16, the Commission requested the Executive Director of UNODC to continue to submit to it the annual reports on trends in global drug abuse and the illicit supply of drugs, in accordance with the reporting mandates contained in the 1961 Convention as amended and the 1971 Convention. Furthermore, in its resolution 54/9, the Commission requested the Executive Director to provide an overview of measures and activities undertaken by UNODC to enhance the scientific quality of its reporting mechanisms and the support given to Member States in developing their capacity for data collection and analysis. The report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug abuse is contained in document E/CN.7/2020/4.

Furthermore, the Commission will have before it the report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking (E/CN.7/2020/5), which includes

information on the implementation of resolution 53/16, in which the Commission requested the Executive Director to continue to submit to it the annual reports on trends in global drug abuse and the illicit supply of drugs. The report provides an overview of the latest trends in illicit drug production and trafficking worldwide.

As requested in Commission resolution 49/4, entitled “Responding to the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases among drug users”, and Commission resolution 60/8, entitled “Promoting measures to prevent HIV and other blood-borne diseases associated with the use of drugs, and increasing financing for the global HIV/AIDS response and for drug use prevention and other drug demand reduction measures”, the Commission will have before it the report of the Executive Director on responding to the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases among drug users (E/CN.7/2020/8).

Pursuant to Commission resolution 56/3, the Commission will have before it a conference room paper containing the report of the Secretariat on strengthening international cooperation in combating illicit opiates originating in Afghanistan through continuous and reinforced support to the Paris Pact initiative.

In addition, the Secretariat will report on the implementation of Commission resolution 61/11 on promoting non-stigmatizing attitudes to ensure the availability of, access to and delivery of health, care and social services for drug users.

(a) Consideration of the improved and streamlined annual report questionnaire, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019²

At the reconvened fifty-third session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in December 2010, Member States adopted a revised annual report questionnaire for biennial reporting to the Commission on 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, as well as for reporting mandated by the three international drug control conventions.

In its resolution 60/1, the Commission invited UNODC, in close cooperation with Member States, to reflect on possibilities to strengthen and streamline its existing data-collection and analysis tools, including improving the quality and effectiveness of the annual report questionnaire. UNODC convened the first meeting of the expert working group on improving drug statistics and strengthening the annual report questionnaire from 29 to 31 January 2018.

In the 2019 Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem, Member States requested UNODC, in close cooperation with Member States, to continue, in an inclusive manner, expert-level consultations on strengthening and streamlining the existing annual report questionnaire and to submit an improved and streamlined annual report questionnaire for consideration at the sixty-third session of the Commission.

The second meeting of the expert working group was convened from 28 to 30 August 2019. A pilot exercise on the new annual report questionnaire was conducted in October 2019 to assess the availability of data and information and the clarity of the new questions in the annual report questionnaire.

On 13 December 2019, during the reconvened sixty-second session, the Research and Trend Analysis Branch of UNODC briefed the Commission on the expert-level consultations and progress made in strengthening and streamlining the annual report questionnaire to reflect and assess progress made in the implementation of all commitments.

² Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem, eleventh paragraph of the section entitled “Way forward”.

Further to the request contained in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, the Commission will have before it at its sixty-third session a note by the Secretariat on the improved and streamlined annual report questionnaire (E/CN.7/2020/12).

Documentation

Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem of 2009³

Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 High-Level Review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of 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 Problem⁴

Outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem” (General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex)

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)

Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug abuse (E/CN.7/2020/4)

Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking (E/CN.7/2020/5)

Report of the Executive Director on action taken by Member States to implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (E/CN.7/2020/6)

Report of the Executive Director on responding to the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases among drug users (E/CN.7/2020/8)

Note by the Secretariat on the improved and streamlined annual report questionnaire (E/CN.7/2020/12)

7. Inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem

In the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, Member States encouraged international and regional agencies working on drug demand and supply reduction, in particular UNODC, WHO, the United Nations Development Programme, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and INCB, to engage in dialogue in order to strengthen inter-agency cooperation for a more effective response, while respecting each organization’s role and mandate.

In the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, Member States reaffirmed the principal role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control matters, and reaffirmed their support and appreciation for the efforts of UNODC as the leading entity in the United Nations system for addressing and countering the world drug problem. Also in the outcome document, Member States encouraged the Commission and UNODC to further increase cooperation and collaboration with all relevant United Nations entities and international financial institutions, within their respective mandates, when assisting Member States in designing and implementing comprehensive, integrated and balanced national drug strategies, policies and programmes.

³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

⁴ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 8 (E/2014/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in its process of follow-up to the special session, also actively seeks to strengthen horizontal cooperation with the other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, addressing cross-cutting issues in the broader framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In its resolutions 71/211, 72/198, and 73/192 the General Assembly reaffirmed the outcome document and encouraged all relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies to identify operational recommendations in it that fell within their area of specialization and to commence implementing the recommendations that were within their existing mandates, in collaboration and cooperation with UNODC and INCB, keeping the Commission informed of programmes and progress made to achieve goals set out in the outcome document.

In addition to supporting the Commission's process of follow-up to the special session on the world drug problem, UNODC also continued to strengthen its cooperation with other United Nations entities to support Member States in the implementation of the recommendations. At the sixty-first session of the Commission, INCB, UNODC and WHO delivered a joint statement on implementation of the recommendations issuing from the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly which reinforced the commitment of the three entities to support Member States in effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem.

Through a decision in April 2017 of the Executive Committee established by the Secretary-General, UNODC has been tasked with leading the coordination with the following United Nations entities in assisting Member States with the implementation of the recommendations contained in the outcome document: the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNAIDS, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), WHO, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General.

Through the network of focal points, UNODC has provided regular updates on the work of the Commission, and since April 2017, a number of United Nations system-wide activities have been initiated, including United Nations system-wide joint messaging, a joint calendar of events and social media campaigns highlighting the joint efforts for supporting Member States.

At the internal meeting of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination held in November 2018, principals of the United Nations agencies discussed how the United Nations system could most effectively support the implementation of international drug control policy through effective inter-agency collaboration. At the meeting of the Board, principals adopted the common United Nations position on drug policy, in which they committed to harnessing synergies and strengthening inter-agency cooperation, making best use of the expertise within the United Nations system and supporting each other's activities, within established mandates, and to delivering balanced, comprehensive, integrated, evidence-based, human rights-based, development-oriented and sustainable support to Member States in implementing their joint commitments.

With a view to ensuring coherent efforts to realize the commitments under the common United Nations position on drug policy and, in particular, coordinated data collection to promote scientific, evidence-based implementation of international commitments, a United Nations-system coordination task team, led by UNODC, was created within the framework of the Secretary-General's Executive Committee in preparation for the ministerial segment of the Commission's sixty-second session.

Under the consideration of this agenda item at the sixty-second session, UNODC presented the joint efforts conducted with United Nations partner entities in supporting Member States in their implementation of the joint commitments made.

Under the agenda item, the Commission had for its consideration at the sixty-second session a conference room paper submitted by the Secretary-General entitled “What we have learned over the last 10 years: a summary of knowledge acquired and produced by the United Nations system on drug-related matters”.

In the 2019 Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem, Member States encouraged the relevant United Nations entities, the international financial institutions and relevant regional and international organizations, within their respective mandates, to further contribute to the work of the Commission.

The Commission will have before it a conference room paper prepared by the Secretariat on efforts undertaken together with relevant United Nations entities and other stakeholders in supporting Member States in the implementation of the joint commitments made.

Pursuant to Commission resolution 51/14, relevant decisions of the Programme Coordinating Board of UNAIDS are transmitted to the Commission in a note by the Secretariat on promoting coordination and alignment of decisions between the Commission and the Programme Coordinating Board of UNAIDS. Information on the relevant decisions of the Board taken at its meetings in December 2017 and June 2018 will be before the Commission in document [E/CN.7/2020/7](#). In its resolution 62/6, the Commission requested UNODC, as the convening agency of UNAIDS for matters relating to HIV/AIDS and drug use and to HIV/AIDS in prison settings, to continue to provide its leadership and guidance on those matters, in partnership with relevant United Nations entities.

Documents

Note by the Secretariat on promoting coordination and alignment of decisions between the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS ([E/CN.7/2020/7](#))

8. Recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission

In its resolution [73/192](#), the General Assembly encouraged the continued contribution of the meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies and of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East to the strengthening of regional and international cooperation. The Commission will be informed of the results of the meetings of its subsidiary bodies held since its sixty-second session. The Commission is invited to consider the recommendations made at the Thirteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, held in Lisbon from 2 to 5 July 2019; the Twenty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Balacava, Mauritius, from 16 to 20 September 2019; the fifty-fourth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, held in Tashkent from 23 to 27 September 2019; the Twenty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Lima from 7 to 11 October 2019; and the Forty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 22 to 25 October 2019, with a view to taking any required follow-up action.

Each of the subsidiary bodies, following a review of the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in addressing and countering the world drug problem, discussed drug law enforcement issues of priority in its region and formulated a set of recommendations. Consideration of the issues was facilitated by the discussions that had been held during informal meetings of the working groups established for that purpose. In addition, each of the subsidiary bodies reviewed the implementation of previous recommendations. The follow-up of the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in

the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem, was also considered by the subsidiary bodies.

Pursuant to Commission resolution 56/10, a report of the Secretariat on action taken by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission is contained in document [E/CN.7/2020/9](#).

Documentation

Report of the Secretariat on action taken by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs ([E/CN.7/2020/9](#))

9. 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

At its fifty-eighth session, in March 2015, the Commission decided to include a standing item on its agenda focusing on its contributions to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in line with General Assembly resolution 68/1. Pursuant to that resolution, the Council is expected to, inter alia, ensure the harmonization and coordination of the agendas and work programmes of the functional commissions by promoting a clearer division of labour among them and providing clear policy guidance to them. In accordance with that same resolution, the Commission has been contributing, as appropriate, to the work of the Council relating to the common themes of the annual framework of the Council.

In September 2015, by its resolution 70/1, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, the General Assembly adopted the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda. In that outcome document, Heads of State and Government and High Representatives envisaged that thematic reviews of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, including cross-cutting issues, would take place at the high-level political forum on sustainable development and that those reviews would be supported by reviews by the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies and forums.

In the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly held in 2016, Member States welcomed the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and noted that efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to effectively address the world drug problem were complementary and mutually reinforcing. Also in the outcome document, Member States encouraged the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to contribute to the global follow-up and support the thematic review of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, within its mandates, bearing in mind the integrated nature of the Goals as well as the interlinkages between them, and make that information available to the high-level political forum on sustainable development through the appropriate institutional framework, taking into account General Assembly resolution 70/1.

In its resolution 72/305 on the review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/1 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council, the Assembly requested the Economic and Social Council to improve its outcomes and the outcomes of its subsidiary bodies, making them more relevant, coherent and solution-oriented to address implementation challenges and ensuring their follow-up so as to strengthen the impact of the work of the Council.

The Commission has been considering specific action points for the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, stemming from the annex to General Assembly resolution 72/305, that were brought to the attention of the Commission at its reconvened sixty-first session, in the form of a conference room paper (E/CN.7/2018/CRP.15-E/CN.15/2018/CRP.9).

In the 2019 Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem, Member States

reiterated that efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to effectively address the world drug problem were complementary and mutually reinforcing.

The Commission may wish to use its sixty-third session to further consider how it can best contribute to the follow-up to, and support the review of, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, within its mandates, as well as how to further enhance synergies between its work and that of other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

10. Provisional agenda for the sixty-fourth session of the Commission

Under agenda item 10, the Commission should devote time to the consideration of any further enhancements that it may deem appropriate to the provisional agenda for its sixty-fourth and subsequent sessions.

11. Other business

No issues that need to be raised under item 11 have been brought to the attention of the Secretariat, and no documentation on the item is currently foreseen.

12. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-third session

It is expected that the Commission will adopt the report on its sixty-third session in the afternoon of 6 March 2020.

Annex

Proposed organization of work

1. In its resolution 1991/39, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should establish a committee, the membership of which should be open to all States members of the Commission, to perform such functions as requested by the Commission in order to assist it in dealing with its agenda and to facilitate its work.
2. In accordance with established practice, the Commission will first consider draft resolutions in the Committee of the Whole before they are submitted to the plenary. Pursuant to Commission decision 55/1, the formal deadline for submission of draft resolutions to be considered at the sixty-third session is one month prior to the commencement of the session, that is, Monday, 3 February 2020, at 12 noon. States members of the Commission intending to submit draft resolutions for consideration by the Commission at its sixty-third session are requested to submit them to the Secretariat as early as possible and at the latest by the formal deadline.
3. It is proposed that, in line with past practice, the work of the Committee of the Whole be suspended during the voting in plenary meeting on recommendations submitted by the World Health Organization and the International Narcotics Control Board, under agenda item 5 (a).
4. The proposed organization of work is subject to approval by the Commission. As soon as discussion on an item or sub-item has been concluded, the following one will be taken up, time permitting. Suggested meeting times are from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.
5. Allotted speaking time of five minutes must be strictly adhered to during the sixty-third session.

Informal pre-session consultations, 28 February 2020

Date and time

Friday, 28 February 2020

| | |
|----------------|---|
| 10 a.m.–1 p.m. | Informal consultations |
| 3–6 p.m. | Informal consultations (<i>continued</i>) |

Proposed organization of work for the sixty-third session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, 2–6 March 2020

| <i>Date and time</i> | <i>Plenary</i> | <i>Committee of the Whole</i> |
|------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Monday, 2 March | | |
| 10 a.m.–1 p.m. | Opening of the sixty-third session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs <i>Item 1.</i> Election of officers <i>Item 2.</i> Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters <i>Item 3.</i> General debate | |
| 3–6 p.m. | <i>Item 3.</i> General debate (<i>continued</i>) | Consideration of draft resolutions |

| Date and time | Plenary | Committee of the Whole |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| Tuesday, 3 March | | |
| 10 a.m.–1 p.m. | <p data-bbox="588 331 847 353">Operational segment</p> <p data-bbox="588 378 1114 439"><i>Item 4.</i> Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions</p> <p data-bbox="588 461 1142 584">(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</p> <p data-bbox="588 607 1102 696">(b) Directives on policy and budgetary issues for the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime</p> <p data-bbox="588 719 1102 741">(c) Working methods of the Commission</p> <p data-bbox="588 763 1134 846">(d) Staff composition of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other related matters</p> | Consideration of draft resolutions (<i>continued</i>) |
| 3–6 p.m. | <p data-bbox="588 875 831 898">Normative segment</p> <p data-bbox="588 922 1142 983"><i>Item 5.</i> Implementation of the international drug control treaties</p> <p data-bbox="588 1005 1070 1066">(a) Changes in the scope of control of substances</p> <p data-bbox="588 1088 1082 1267">(b) Challenges and future work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the World Health Organization and the International Narcotics Control Board in the review of substances for possible scheduling recommendations</p> <p data-bbox="588 1290 1110 1312">(c) International Narcotics Control Board</p> <p data-bbox="588 1335 1126 1458">(d) International cooperation to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion</p> <p data-bbox="588 1480 1015 1541">(e) Other matters arising from the international drug control treaties</p> | Consideration of draft resolutions (<i>continued</i>) |
| Wednesday, 4 March | | |
| 10 a.m.–1 p.m. | <i>Item 5.</i> Implementation of the international drug control treaties (<i>continued</i>) | Consideration of draft resolutions (<i>continued</i>) |
| 3–6 p.m. | <p data-bbox="588 1756 1142 1912"><i>Item 6.</i> Follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem</p> <p data-bbox="588 1935 1134 2016">(a) Consideration of the improved and streamlined annual report questionnaire, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019</p> | Consideration of draft resolutions (<i>continued</i>) |

| <i>Date and time</i> | <i>Plenary</i> | <i>Committee of the Whole</i> |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| Thursday, 5 March | | |
| 10 a.m.–1 p.m. | <i>Item 6.</i> Follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem (<i>continued</i>) | Consideration of draft resolutions (<i>continued</i>) |
| 3–6 p.m. | <i>Item 7.</i> Inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem <i>Item 8.</i> Recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission | Consideration of draft resolutions (<i>continued</i>) |
| Friday, 6 March | | |
| 10 a.m.–1 p.m. | <i>Item 9.</i> 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 | Consideration of draft resolutions (<i>continued</i>) |
| 3–6 p.m. | <i>Item 10.</i> Provisional agenda for the sixty-fourth session of the Commission <i>Item 11.</i> Other business <i>Item 12.</i> Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-third session | |