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Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Sixty-fourth session

Vienna, 12–16 April 2021

Annotated provisional agenda

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* Reissued for technical reasons on 25 March 2021.



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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-third session, on 4 December 2020, opened its sixty-fourth 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 office of the First Vice-Chair and the Rapporteur remained vacant. On 7 December 2020, the Group of Asia-Pacific States nominated Ms. Begaiym Nurlan of Kyrgyzstan for the office of Rapporteur. 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-fourth session and their respective regional groups are as follows:

<i>Office</i>	<i>Regional group</i>	<i>Officer</i>
Chair	Eastern European States	Dominika Krois (Poland)
First Vice-Chair	Western European and other States	<i>(vacant)</i>
Second Vice-Chair	Latin American and Caribbean States	Miguel Camilo Ruíz Blanco (Colombia)
Third Vice-Chair	African States	Bukar Hamman (Nigeria)
Rapporteur designate	Asia-Pacific States	Begaiym Nurlan (Kyrgyzstan)

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-fourth 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 2020/214, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Commission on its sixty-third session and approved the provisional agenda for the sixty-fourth session of the Commission.

At its reconvened sixty-third session, held from 2 and 4 December 2020, the Commission decided that its sixty-fourth session would be held from 12 to 16 April 2021. The Commission also decided that it would hold its reconvened sixty-fourth session on 9 and 10 December 2021.

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, 15 March 2021, 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-fourth session. The proposed organization of work is contained in the annex to the present document.

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda ([E/CN.7/2021/1](#))

3. General debate

During the regular part of its sixty-third session, the Commission decided to include a general debate in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session. At the reconvened sixty-third session, it was proposed to focus the general debate at the sixty-fourth session on the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on the world drug problem.

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

Owing to the time limitations of the virtual interpretation, the duration of meetings is restricted to two hours. Therefore, a maximum of 3 minutes of speaking time (which

is equivalent to a statement of approximately 300 words) will be allotted to those speaking in their national capacity, and 5 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.7/2021/2-E/CN.15/2021/2](#)), which contains an introduction to and an overview of the effects and consequences of COVID-19 on UNODC and information on the main activities carried out related to COVID-19, as well as information on the strategic orientation of UNODC and progress made by UNODC in implementing its mandates with regard to the five thematic areas outlined in the new UNODC Strategy 2021–2025: addressing and countering the world drug problem; preventing and countering organized crime; preventing and countering corruption and economic crime; preventing and countering terrorism; and crime prevention and criminal justice. The report also provides information on the activities undertaken with regard to strengthening UNODC (inter alia, measures relating to the United Nations reform; partnerships, communication, resource mobilization and cross-cutting commitments; and the organizational culture of the Organization), and a number of recommendations for consideration by the Commission.

At its reconvened sixty-third session, the Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of a draft decision in which the Council, recalling its decision 2017/236, would extend the mandate of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC 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.

At its sixty-fourth session, the Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the work of the working group ([E/CN.7/2021/3-E/CN.15/2021/3](#)).

At its reconvened sixty-third session, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs adopted resolution 63/6, entitled “Implementation of the budget for the biennium 2020–2021 for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme”. In the resolution, the Commission, inter alia, requested UNODC to continue to fully implement Commission resolution 62/9 and regularly report on its implementation to the working group. In the same resolution, the Commission requested the Office to continue to report on the financial and governance impact of the COVID-19 crisis and on the response of the Office to the crisis, and to present recommendations that may improve the response to potential future crises. Further, the Commission requested the Office to present suggestions for possible solutions to the budget shortfalls, including those deriving from the liquidity crisis, as well as information on any savings realized and any possible reallocation of resources.

At the same session, the Commission considered the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the consolidated budget for the biennium 2020–2021 for UNODC ([E/CN.7/2020/16-E/CN.15/2020/16](#)), a 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) and the draft proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance for 2020 for UNODC (E/CN.7/2020/CRP.20-E/CN.15/2020/CRP.1). The draft proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance for 2020 have subsequently been transmitted to the Office of Programme Planning, Finance and Budget at United Nations Headquarters (see E/CN.7/2021/9-E/CN.15/2021/15).

At its reconvened sixty-third session, the Commission also considered the report of the Executive Director on gender balance and geographical representation within UNODC (E/CN.7/2020/17-E/CN.15/2020/17).

At its sixty-fourth 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, 62/9 and 63/6.

Further, at its reconvened sixty-third session, the Commission considered the note by the Secretariat containing a revised longer-term vision or strategy for the Office, including its headquarters and a strengthened and sustainable field network (E/CN.7/2020/CRP.22-E/CN.15/2020/CRP.3).

Documentation

Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2021/2-E/CN.15/2021/2)

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.7/2021/3-E/CN.15/2021/3)

Note by the Secretariat on the draft proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance for 2020 (E/CN.7/2021/9-E/CN.15/2021/15)

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-third meeting of the World Health Organization (WHO) Expert Committee on Drug Dependence was held in a virtual format from 12 to 16 October 2020. At that meeting, the Committee undertook critical reviews of 11 psychoactive substances, including the opioid isotonitazene; the benzodiazepines flubromazolam, clonazepam and diclazepam; the dissociatives diphenidine, methoxyphenidine (2-MeO-diphenidine) and 3-methoxyphencyclidine (3-MeO-PCP); the stimulant 3-fluorophenmetrazine (3-FPM); the hallucinogenic substance 5-methoxy-*N,N*-diallyltryptamine (5-MeO-DALT); and two synthetic cannabinoids, MDMB-4en-PINACA and CUMYL-PEGACLONE.

Pursuant to article 3, paragraphs 1 and 3, of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol and article 2, paragraphs 1 and 4, of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, the Director-General of WHO notified the Secretary-General in his communication dated 30 November 2020 of the following recommendations:

1. To be added to Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended: isotonitazene.
2. To be added to Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971:

- (a) CUMYL-PEGACLONE;
 - (b) MDMB-4en-PINACA;
 - (c) 3-Methoxyphencyclidine;
 - (d) Diphenidine.
3. To be added to Schedule IV of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances 1971):
- (a) Clonazolam;
 - (b) Diclazepam;
 - (c) Flubromazolam.

At its sixty-fourth session, the Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat on changes in the scope of control of substances (E/CN.7/2021/8), containing relevant extracts of the report of the forty-third meeting of the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence, including the Committee's recommendations as well as the assessments and findings on which those recommendations were based.

(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 was later expanded to include the International Narcotics Control Board (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 thirtieth 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.

In its resolution 63/1, the Commission expressed appreciation for the effort by Member States in addressing challenges posed by synthetic drugs, including the scheduling of substances by class at the national level, where appropriate.

Further, the Commission recognized in its resolution 63/2 the progress made by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the collection of toxicological and pharmacological data on new psychoactive substances to inform scientific evidence-based responses and drug policy decisions.

(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 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 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 2020 (E/INCB/2020/1) will be before the Commission. The report of the Board is supplemented by the publication entitled *Celebrating 60 Years of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and 50 Years of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971* (E/INCB/2020/1/Supp.1).

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 2020 on the implementation of article 12 of the 1988 Convention (E/INCB/2020/4) be considered at the same time as the report of the Board for 2020 (E/INCB/2020/1), 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 thirtieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem 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 entitled 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.

In its resolution 63/3, the Commission reiterated that a key objective of the international drug control system was to ensure the availability of and access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their non-medical use or diversion into illicit channels and that to this end efforts were needed to address all the existing barriers, including those related to legislation, regulatory systems, health-care systems, affordability, the training of health-care professionals, education, awareness-raising, estimates, assessments and reporting, benchmarks for consumption of substances under control and international cooperation and coordination. Further, in the resolution, the Commission encouraged Governments to adopt measures for awareness-raising, which included the provision of objective and adequate information to all relevant persons, including patients, family members and caregivers, and stressed the importance of the education and training of health-care professionals, such as physicians, pharmacists and nurses, on the essential role and rational use of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes and the negative outcomes associated with non-medical use and diversion.

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

Following the regular part of the sixty-third session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held from 2 to 6 March 2020, 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. In addition, revised guidance has been issued in the *Recommended Methods for the Identification and Analysis of Synthetic Cannabinoid Receptor Agonists in Seized Materials* (ST/NAR/48/Rev.1) and *Recommended Methods for the Identification and Analysis of Synthetic Cathinones in Seized Materials* (ST/NAR/49/Rev.1).

The Commission will have before it the latest issue of the publication entitled *Competent National Authorities under the International Drug Control Treaties* (ST/NAR.3/2020/1), 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.7/2021/8](#))

Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2020 (E/INCB/2020/1)

Celebrating 60 Years of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and 50 Years of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 (E/INCB/2020/1/Supp.1)

Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2020 on the Implementation of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 (E/INCB/2020/4)

Competent National Authorities under the International Drug Control Treaties (ST/NAR.3/2020/1)

Recommended Methods for the Identification and Analysis of Synthetic Cannabinoid Receptor Agonists in Seized Materials (ST/NAR/48/Rev.1)

Recommended Methods for the Identification and Analysis of Synthetic Cathinones in Seized Materials (ST/NAR/49/Rev.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 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 thirtieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, 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, 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 second such thematic session was held by the Commission from 19 to 21 October 2020 in a hybrid format, combining in-person participation at the United Nations at Vienna with an online component. In line with the multi-year workplan, the Commission focused its discussions on how to address the following challenges: (a) drug treatment and health services continue to fall short of meeting needs, and deaths related to drug use have increased; (b) the rate of transmission of HIV, the hepatitis C virus and other blood-borne diseases associated with drug use, including injecting drug use in some countries, remains high; (c) the adverse health consequences of and risks associated with new psychoactive substances have reached alarming levels; and (d) the availability of internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, including for the relief of pain and palliative care, remains low to non-existent in many parts of the world. Each of those challenges was introduced in 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 2020, which was not subject to negotiations, is made available in the form of a conference room paper.

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. In its resolution 63/4, entitled “Promoting the involvement of youth in drug prevention efforts”, the Commission requested the Executive Director to report on the implementation of that resolution within existing reporting obligations at the Commission’s sixty-fourth session. In its resolution 63/5, entitled “Promoting alternative development as a development-oriented drug control strategy”, the Commission requested the Executive Director to report on the implementation on that resolution at the Commission’s sixty-fourth session. The report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug abuse is contained in document [E/CN.7/2021/4](#).

Furthermore, the Commission will have before it the report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking ([E/CN.7/2021/5](#)), 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.

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.

Documentation

Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem of 2009¹

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 Problem²

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)

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 Problem³

Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2021/2-E/CN.15/2021/2](#))

Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug abuse ([E/CN.7/2021/4](#))

Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking ([E/CN.7/2021/5](#))

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 8 (E/2014/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2019, Supplement No. 8 (E/2019/28)*, chap. I, sect. B.

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 (UNDP), 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.

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](#), [73/192](#), [74/178](#) and [75/198](#), the General Assembly reaffirmed the outcome document of its thirtieth special session 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.

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, UNDP, 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 and Peacebuilding 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 in supporting Member States.

During 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. Prior to the sixty-second session, the task team submitted a paper 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", for consideration by the Commission.

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.

In its resolution 63/2, the Commission invited UNODC, INCB, WHO and other relevant United Nations entities, as well as regional and intergovernmental organizations, to streamline the international and regional collection of data and improve data-sharing between organizations, thereby strengthening inter-agency cooperation and avoiding duplication of work, and requested the Executive Director to brief Member States on a regular basis on the efforts of UNODC to coordinate and ensure effective United Nations inter-agency collaboration to support the implementation of international drug control policies and to promote the scientific evidence-based implementation of international commitments, in particular through improved and coordinated data collection.

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 with the implementation of their joint commitments. UNODC will further provide a briefing on the work of the United Nations system coordination task team during the consideration of this agenda item.

Pursuant to Commission resolution 51/14, relevant decisions 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 will be before the Commission in document [E/CN.7/2021/6](#). 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.7/2021/6](#))

8. Recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission

In its resolutions [74/178](#) and [75/198](#), the General Assembly encouraged the continued contribution of the meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies and

of the Subcommittee 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-third session.

Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic and relating challenges for in-person meetings and travel, in 2020, special extraordinary sessions of the Commission's subsidiary bodies were held on 1 and 2 October in an online and scaled-down format. During the session, participants discussed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the regional drug situation from a law enforcement perspective. The next regular meetings of the subsidiary bodies will be held in 2021.

In its resolution [75/198](#), the General Assembly welcomed the holding of the extraordinary sessions of 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.7/2021/7](#).

Documentation

Report of the Secretariat on action taken by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs ([E/CN.7/2021/7](#))

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 thirtieth 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.

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 high-level political forum on sustainable development will be convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council in New York from 6 to 15 July 2021. The thematic focus will be “Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”. As in past years, the Commission will continue to provide substantive input to the high-level political forum.

The Commission may wish to use its sixty-fourth 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-fifth 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-fifth 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-fourth session

It is expected that the Commission will adopt the report on its sixty-fourth session in the afternoon of 16 April 2021.

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-fourth session is one month prior to the commencement of the session, that is, Monday, 15 March 2021, at noon. States members of the Commission intending to submit draft resolutions for consideration by the Commission at its sixty-fourth session are requested to submit them to the Secretariat as early as possible and at the latest by the formal deadline.
3. 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.
4. The allotted speaking time of three minutes must be strictly adhered to at the sixty-fourth session.
5. Because of the situation created by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the session is likely to be held in a hybrid format, combining an in-person component with virtual participation. Due to the time limitations of virtual interpretation, the length of meetings has to be restricted to two hours. Owing to COVID-19-related restrictions and the associated social distancing measures, the plenary meetings and the meetings of the Committee of the Whole will all be held, in a consecutive manner, in the Plenary Hall of M-Building, the largest room at the Vienna International Centre.

Informal pre-session consultations, 9 April 2021

Date and time

Friday, 9 April 2021

12 noon–2 p.m.

Informal consultations

Proposed organization of work for the sixty-fourth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, 12–16 April 2021

Date and time

Plenary (Plenary Hall)

*Committee of the Whole
(Plenary Hall)*

Monday, 12 April

9–11 a.m.

Opening of the sixty-fourth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Item 1. Election of officers

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Ceremonial opening segment

12 noon–2 p.m.

Item 3. General debate

3–5 p.m.

Item 3. General debate (continued)

Date and time	Plenary (Plenary Hall)	Committee of the Whole (Plenary Hall)
6–8 p.m.		Consideration of draft resolutions
Tuesday, 13 April		
9–11 a.m.		Consideration of draft resolutions (<i>continued</i>)
12 noon–2 p.m.	<p>Operational segment</p> <p><i>Item 4.</i> Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions</p> <p>(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>(b) Directives on policy and budgetary issues for the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime</p> <p>(c) Working methods of the Commission</p> <p>(d) Staff composition of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other related matters</p>	
3–5 p.m.	<p>Normative segment</p> <p><i>Item 5.</i> Implementation of the international drug control treaties</p> <p>(a) Changes in the scope of control of substances</p> <p>(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>(c) International Narcotics Control Board</p> <p>(d) International cooperation to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion</p> <p>(e) Other matters arising from the international drug control treaties</p>	
6–8 p.m.		Consideration of draft resolutions (<i>continued</i>)
Wednesday, 14 April		
9–11 a.m.		Consideration of draft resolutions (<i>continued</i>)
12 noon–2 p.m.	<i>Item 5.</i> Implementation of the international drug control treaties (<i>continued</i>)	
3–5 p.m.	<i>Item 6.</i> Follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all	

Date and time	Plenary (Plenary Hall)	Committee of the Whole (Plenary Hall)
	commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem	
6–8 p.m.		Consideration of draft resolutions (<i>continued</i>)
Thursday, 15 April		
9–11 a.m.		Consideration of draft resolutions (<i>continued</i>)
12 noon–2 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>)	
3–5 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	
6–8 p.m.		Consideration of draft resolutions (<i>continued</i>)
Friday, 16 April		
9–11 a.m.		Consideration of draft resolutions (<i>continued</i>)
12 noon–2 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	
3–5 p.m.	<i>Item 10.</i> Provisional agenda for the sixty-fifth session of the Commission <i>Item 11.</i> Other business <i>Item 12.</i> Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-fourth session	