



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
28 December 2010

Original: English

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Fifty-fourth session

Vienna, 21-25 March 2011

Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

Round-table discussions

Organization of the round-table discussions at the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions

Note by the Secretariat

I. Establishment of the round-table discussions

1. The provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs was endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2010/244, while the topic of the thematic debate remained to be agreed.

2. Following the main part of the Commission's fifty-third session, in March 2010, the extended Bureau of the Commission considered ways to improve the thematic debate to make the work of the Commission more efficient, focused and interactive. A number of proposals and positions presented by the regional groups and States were examined at the meetings of the extended Bureau on 17 June and 25 August 2010. At its meeting on 25 August 2010, the extended Bureau agreed to establish an intersessional informal working group to consider how to revise the substance and format of the thematic debate. At its meeting on 25 October 2010, the extended Bureau endorsed the recommendations of the informal working group and invited each regional group to communicate to the Chairman of the Commission the topic selected by the Group for its round table.

3. In line with those recommendations, the extended Bureau of the Commission, at its meeting held on 26 November 2010, agreed that:

(a) Five round tables would be held, instead of a thematic debate, with three round tables to be held at the fifty-fourth session and two at the fifty-fifth session;

* E/CN.7/2011/1.



(b) The three round tables at the fifty-fourth session would take place in the afternoon, with two of them taking place in the time allotted to the plenary and one taking place in parallel, in the time allotted to the Committee of the Whole, prior to the commencement of discussions on draft resolutions;

(c) Each round table would have a duration of one and a half hours;

(d) The round tables would be open to all Member States, with a group of 10 core participants nominated, two by each regional group.

4. The revised provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session of the Commission was finalized at the reconvened fifty-third session of the Commission, on 2 December 2010, including the topics of the round tables proposed by the regional groups, and was transmitted to the Economic and Social Council by the Commission in its draft decision contained in the report on the reconvened fifty-third session of the Commission (E/2010/28/Add.1, chap. I, draft decision).

5. The proposed programme of work for the round-table discussions is contained in annex II. The organizational arrangements for the thematic debate were endorsed at the meeting of the extended Bureau of the Commission held on 26 November 2010.

II. Organization of the round-table discussions

Themes for the round-table discussions

6. The themes for the three round-table discussions to be held at the fifty-fourth session of the Commission are:

(a) Regional and international cooperation in combating the world drug problem and its connection with organized crime;

(b) Revitalization of the principle of joint and shared responsibility as the centrepiece of international cooperation to confront the challenges posed by the world drug problem, in a manner consistent with the relevant United Nations conventions and declarations;

(c) Addressing key public health and safety issues such as addictive behaviours of youth and drugged driving.

7. The themes for the two round-table discussions at the fifty-fifth session of the Commission are:

(a) Counter-narcotics efforts and the principle of common and shared responsibility: opportunities and challenges;

(b) Measures to prevent diversion of substances frequently used in the manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances from domestic distribution channels, including by strengthening partnerships with the private sector.

Format and organization

8. The format and organization of the round-table discussions are presented in annex I.

9. The allocation of seats for United Nations entities, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations at the round-table discussions will be decided after 15 February 2011, when the Member States will have indicated which round-table discussions they wish to participate in.

Work programme and timetable

10. The proposed programme of work and the timetable for the round-table discussions at the fifty-fourth session are contained in annex II.

List of speakers

11. There will be no list of speakers. Delegations wishing to make interventions at a round table will do so by drawing the attention of the Chair.

Duration of interventions

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

Chairing of the round-table discussions

13. The round-table discussions will be chaired by a member of the Bureau of the Commission. Other chairing arrangements, if required, would be at the discretion of the Chair of the Commission, in consultation with the Bureau or the extended Bureau, as required.

Introductory statements

14. The Chair of each round table will open the round table and make a brief introductory statement. The Secretariat may be invited to make brief introductory statements.

Presentation of the outcome of the round-table discussions

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

Annex I

Format and organization of the round-table discussions to be held at the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

A. Participants

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

- (a) Representatives of States members of the Commission;
- (b) Observers:
 - (i) Representatives of States not members of the Commission that are Members of the United Nations;
 - (ii) Persons representing other delegations with permanent status at the United Nations;
 - (iii) Persons representing entities of the United Nations system;
 - (iv) Persons representing intergovernmental organizations;
 - (v) Persons representing non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

Number and distribution of participants

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

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

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

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

(c) *A minimum of four seats for observers.* Each round table shall include a minimum of 4 participants representing observers (delegations with permanent status at the United Nations, entities of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council). The number of observers

may be increased by as many as 4 if Member States do not require all of the 59 additional seats referred to in subparagraph (b) above. Statements by observers will be regulated by the Chair of each round table in accordance with the relevant regulations and established practice;

(d) *One seat for the Secretariat.* The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime will have 1 seat allocated to it at each round table and will assist the Chair in preparing the conclusions for each round table.

B. Other organizational arrangements

3. States Members of the United Nations that are not members of any regional group, together with observers, may participate in different round tables, following consultations with the Chair of the Commission and/or the Chair of each round table involved, as appropriate.

4. Representatives of any interested member States may attend the round tables and follow the proceedings. A total of 50 seats will be available for this purpose.

5. A maximum of 10 seats will be available for observers for delegations with permanent status at the United Nations, entities of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, so that they may attend the round-table discussions.

6. With reference to paragraph 2 (b) above, the Chair of each regional group will communicate to the Chairman of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, by 15 February 2011, the list of States from his or her region that will participate in each round table.

Annex II

Proposed programme of work for the round-table discussions

Fifty-fourth session, 21 March 2011

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Conference room M2</i>	<i>Conference room M3</i>
Monday, 21 March	<i>(Plenary suspended)</i>	<i>(Committee of the Whole suspended)</i>
	<i>Item 5</i>	<i>Item 5</i>
3:00-4:30 p.m.	Round table on theme (a). Regional and international cooperation in combating the world drug problem and its connection with organized crime	Round table on theme (b). Revitalization of the principle of joint and shared responsibility as the centrepiece of international cooperation to confront the challenges posed by the world drug problem, in a manner consistent with the relevant United Nations conventions and declarations
4:30-6:00 p.m.	Round table on theme (c). Addressing key public health and safety issues such as addictive behaviours of youth and drugged driving	