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Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Reconvened fifty-eighth session

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Item 8 of the provisional agenda*

Preparation for the special session of the General

Assembly on the world drug problem in 2016

Organization of the special segment on the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

The present report provides information on the organization of the special segment to be held during the reconvened fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016. It provides information on the status of the preparations for the special session, including ongoing deliberations on the preparation of the outcome document of the special session, and on the organizational arrangements for the five interactive multi-stakeholder round tables to be conducted during the special session.

* E/CN.7/2015/1 and Add.1.



I. Mandate and background

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 67/193, decided to convene, early in 2016, a special session on the world drug problem to review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments.

2. In its resolution 68/197, the General Assembly requested the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the United Nations organ with prime responsibility for drug control matters, to engage in the preparatory process for the special session, including by presenting proposals from the fifty-seventh and fifty-eighth sessions of the Commission through the Economic and Social Council in support of the preparatory process, including progress made in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, to be considered by the Assembly starting at its sixty-ninth session.

3. In its resolution 69/200, the General Assembly decided that the Commission, as the central policymaking body within the United Nations system dealing with drug-related matters, should lead the preparations for the special session of the Assembly by addressing all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended manner, and invited the President of the Assembly to support, guide and stay involved in the process.

4. In that resolution, the Assembly invited organs, entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, multilateral development banks, other relevant international organizations, including the International Narcotics Control Board, and regional organizations to contribute fully to the preparations for the special session in 2016, in particular by submitting to the Commission, through the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, specific recommendations on the issues to be addressed at the special session.

5. Also in that resolution, the Assembly recognized the important role played by civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations, in the preparations for and during the fifty-second and the fifty-seventh sessions of the Commission, including their high-level segments, and also recognized the need for their active involvement in the preparations for the special session, as well as the need for their effective, substantive and active involvement during the special session, in accordance with the rules of procedure and practice developed for other special sessions of the General Assembly, and requested the Chair of the Commission to consider undertaking consultations and other appropriate actions in this regard with relevant stakeholders.

6. Further to its resolution 57/5, to ensure an adequate, inclusive and effective preparatory process, the Commission established a website for the special session (www.ungass2016.org) to enable global dialogue in an inclusive and transparent manner and to function as a hub of knowledge, evidence and research on various aspects of the world drug problem. All relevant United Nations entities, international and regional organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations, have been invited to send written contributions to the Secretariat. All contributions

received have been posted on the website. Presentations made during the intersessional meetings, the interactive informal discussions and the side events are also available on the website for the special session.

7. At its reconvened fifty-seventh session, in December 2014, the Commission adopted decision 57/2, pursuant to which a Board tasked by the Commission with preparations for the special session was established. The Board was put in charge of organizing all actions to be taken by the Commission in preparation for the special session, by addressing all organizational and substantive matters, in an open-ended manner, in preparation for and during the special segments of Commission sessions devoted to the preparations. The Board was elected based on the regional distribution of officers of the Bureau of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission. It facilitates the participation of all States Members and observers of the United Nations, along with organs, entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, multilateral development banks and other relevant international and regional organizations, parliamentarians, the scientific community and civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations, in its preparations for the special session.

8. The Commission, at its regular fifty-eighth session, in March 2015, adopted resolution 58/8, entitled “Special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016”, and recommended to the Economic and Social Council the approval of a draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly, defining the modalities of the special session on the world drug problem.

9. Pursuant to the draft resolution on the modalities of the special session contained in paragraph 6 of Commission resolution 58/8, to be adopted, the General Assembly would decide that the special session be held from 19 to 21 April 2016 and would consist of a general debate and interactive, multi-stakeholder round tables conducted in parallel to the plenary. In addition to the provisions related to the preparations for the drafting of the outcome document and for the conduct of the interactive multi-stakeholder round tables at the special session, Commission resolution 58/8 contains provisions related to the opening of the special session and the general debate, the participation of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, and the participation of representatives of other relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society and the scientific community, academia, youth groups and other relevant stakeholders, with due regard for geographical balance. Also pursuant to the draft resolution on the modalities of the special session, the Assembly would request the Commission, as the entity leading the preparations for the special session by addressing all organizational and substantive matters, to report to the Assembly at its special session on the preparations that have been undertaken for the session, through the Chair of the Board tasked by the Commission with preparations for the special session. Commission resolution 58/8 further reiterates the importance of an inclusive preparatory process, including extensive substantive consultations, and encourages organs, entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, relevant international and regional organizations, civil society, academia, the scientific community and other relevant stakeholders to continue to fully contribute to the process by actively participating in the preparations by the Commission, in accordance with relevant rules of procedure and established practice.

10. On 21 July 2015, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2015/25, in which it recommended that the General Assembly adopt those modalities.

11. At its regular fifty-eighth session, in March 2015, the Commission also adopted decision 58/14, containing the provisional agenda for the special segment to be held during the reconvened fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and decision 58/15, containing the preliminary provisional agenda for the special segment to be held during the fifty-ninth session of the Commission. The provisional agenda and the proposed organization of work for the reconvened fifty-eighth session and the preliminary agenda for the regular fifty-ninth session are contained in annexes I, II and III to the present note.

II. Preparation of the outcome document

12. Pursuant to the draft resolution contained in paragraph 6 of Commission resolution 58/8 on the modalities of the special session, the General Assembly would request the Commission to produce a short, substantive, concise and action-oriented document comprising a set of operational recommendations, based upon a review of the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, including an assessment of the achievements as well as ways to address long-standing and emerging challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments. That document, to be recommended for adoption at the plenary of the special session, should, *inter alia*, address measures to reach an effective balance between supply and demand reduction and address the key causes and consequences of the world drug problem, including those in the health, social, human rights, economic, justice and security fields, in line with the principle of common and shared responsibility.

13. During the intersessional meeting of the Commission held on 12 June, the Board invited Member States to provide, through their respective regional representatives on the Board, proposals for consideration in the preparation of the outcome document.

14. By the deadline set for the middle of September 2015, over 180 pages of input had been received. They have been compiled into a comprehensive package and circulated to all Member States through the members of the Board.

15. Bearing in mind the wealth of contributions, and aware of the mandate to produce a short, substantive, concise and action-oriented outcome document, the Board was of the view that it would be premature for the Commission to start to work on a full-fledged text immediately, and for that reason presented to the Commission, at its fifth intersessional meeting, held on 24 September 2015, a timeline comprising two phases. In the first phase of the timeline, lasting until December 2015, work would focus on shaping the main elements with a view to having a first full-fledged draft by the end of December 2015. That draft would then be the subject of negotiations during the second phase, in the first quarter of 2016. The Commission is expected to approve the draft outcome document at its fifty-ninth session, in March 2016, for submission to the General Assembly.

16. Also at that intersessional meeting, the Board shared with the Commission the first version of the paper containing the elements for further consideration by Member States. During the sixth intersessional meeting of the Commission, held on 15 October 2015, Member States provided their initial feedback on that first version, the general tendency of which was that the draft was a good basis to start to work. The paper is being further updated and fine-tuned in the intersessional period, after which it will provide the foundation for a first full-fledged draft document.

III. Organizational arrangements for the interactive multi-stakeholder round tables

17. Pursuant to the draft resolution on the modalities of the special session, to be adopted by the General Assembly, the General Assembly would decide that the Commission, as the entity leading the preparations for the special session, should address in an open-ended manner, supported and guided by the President of the General Assembly, the organizational arrangements, including chairing arrangements, speakers and participation, for the five interactive multi-stakeholder round tables, while considering the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, in line with General Assembly resolutions 67/193 and 69/201.

(a) Themes

18. Pursuant to the draft resolution, the round tables would focus on the following themes:

Round table 1: Demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as health-related issues; and ensuring the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion (“drugs and health”):

- (i) Demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as health-related issues, including HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care;
- (ii) Ensuring the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion;

Round table 2: Supply reduction and related measures; responses to drug-related crime; and countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation (“drugs and crime”):

- (i) Domestic, regional and cross-regional responses to drug-related crime; and countering money-laundering, including, where appropriate, in connection with the financing of terrorism, and promoting judicial cooperation in criminal matters;
- (ii) Addressing emerging issues including new psychoactive substances, precursors and the misuse of the Internet;

Round table 3: Cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, women, children and communities:

- (i) Addressing drug-related issues in full conformity with the purposes and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other relevant international law, including the three drug control conventions;
- (ii) Drugs and youth, women, children and communities;

Round table 4: Cross-cutting issues: new challenges, threats and realities in preventing and addressing the world drug problem in compliance with relevant international law, including the three drug control conventions; strengthening the principle of common and shared responsibility and international cooperation:

- (i) New challenges, threats and realities in preventing and addressing the world drug problem in compliance with relevant international law, including the three drug control conventions;
- (ii) Strengthening the principle of common and shared responsibility and enhancing international cooperation, including technical assistance, leading up to 2019;

Round table 5: Alternative development; regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented balanced drug control policy; addressing socioeconomic issues:

- (i) Drugs, addressing socioeconomic issues and fostering alternative development, including preventive alternative development;
- (ii) Enhancing regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented, balanced drug control policy.

(b) Organizational arrangements

19. Based on information provided by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management in New York, the five round tables will be held in conference room 4. It is proposed that the first round table be conducted in the afternoon of 19 April 2016, the second and third in the morning and afternoon of 20 April 2016, respectively, and the fourth and fifth in the morning and afternoon of 21 April 2016, respectively. To enable the chairs of the fifth round table to present a summary of its salient points in plenary, as requested in the draft resolution, it is proposed that the fifth round table start earlier in the afternoon of 21 April 2016.

20. The Chair of the Board tasked with preparations for the special session has been undertaking consultations with the President of the General Assembly about the format of the round tables. During those consultations, the President mentioned that the interactive dialogues held during the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda had been very successful. He was also aware of the positive response given to the panel format, which had been used for the interactive discussions during the special segment of the fifty-eighth session of the Commission, held in March 2015, on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly. According to the President, the panel format, while not used for the interactive dialogues during the summit, had been used at other recent Assembly meetings, such as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (2012)

and the Second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (2013).

21. In light of this, the Commission might wish to consider the following proposals, modelled along the format used for the interactive discussions at the special segment of its fifty-eighth session, held in March 2015, on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly:

- (i) The interactive, multi-stakeholder round tables would be open to all Member States of the United Nations, observer States and observers; representatives of organs, entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and relevant international and regional organizations; and representatives of non-governmental organizations, representatives of civil society and the scientific community, academia, youth groups and other relevant stakeholders;
- (ii) The round tables will be co-chaired by two representatives from different regional groups. One of the co-chairs will be a member of the Board (the Board includes a representative from each of the five regional groups), the other co-chair will be nominated by one of the remaining regional groups in consultation with the President of the General Assembly;
- (iii) The round tables will include a panel, of which three members will be nominated by the three remaining regional groups and one by civil society;
- (iv) The panel discussions will be followed by an interactive discussion. The order of the speakers will be determined by the co-chairs, who will strive to achieve a balance between speakers from Member States and speakers for other stakeholders, such as the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, and civil society. Representatives of other stakeholders wishing to take the floor during the interactive discussion need to inform the Secretariat beforehand. Their speaking time will be allotted taking into consideration thematic expertise and equal geographical representation. Heads of organs, entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system will be given the opportunity to speak during at least one of the round tables. To accommodate as many speakers as possible, panel statements will be limited to seven minutes, and statements from the floor to three minutes.

22. It is expected that the Commission will decide on the organizational arrangements for the round tables during the special segment of its reconvened fifty-eighth session.

Annex I

Provisional agenda for the special segment to be held during the reconvened fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

1. Opening of the special segment.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016:
 - (a) Consideration of the draft provisional agenda of the special session, including preparations for the interactive, multi-stakeholder round tables;
 - (b) Consideration of the status of preparations of the outcome of the special session;
 - (c) Consideration of any other matters.
4. Provisional agenda for the special segment to be held by the Commission during its fifty-ninth session, in March 2016, in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016, and the organization of the intersessional work of the Commission.
5. Other business.
6. Outcome and closure of the special segment.

Annex II

Proposed organization of work for the special segment to be held during the reconvened fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
Wednesday, 9 December	10.15 a.m.-1 p.m.	8	Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 (<i>continued</i>) Opening of the special segment Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016: (a) Consideration of the draft provisional agenda of the special session, including preparations for the interactive, multi-stakeholder round tables (b) Consideration of the status of preparations of the outcome of the special session (c) Consideration of any other matters
	3-6 p.m.		Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 (<i>continued</i>) Provisional agenda for the special segment to be held by the Commission during its fifty-ninth session, in March 2016, in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016, and the organization of the intersessional work of the Commission Other business Outcome and closure of the special segment

Annex III

Preliminary provisional agenda for the special segment to be held during the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

1. Opening of the special segment.
 2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
 3. Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016:
 - (a) Consideration of the draft provisional agenda of the special session, including preparations for the interactive, multi-stakeholder round tables;
 - (b) Consideration of the outcome of the special session;
 - (c) Consideration of any other matters.
 4. Other business.
 5. Outcome and closure of the special segment.
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