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Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Sixty-second session

Vienna, 14–22 March 2019

Items 4 and 5 of the provisional agenda*

General debate of the ministerial segment

Interactive, multi-stakeholder round tables of the ministerial segment

Organization of the ministerial segment of the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Note by the Secretariat

I. Mandate of the ministerial segment

1. In the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-second session, Member States decided to establish 2019 as a target date for the goals set out in paragraph 36 of the Declaration.
2. In its resolution 60/1, the Commission decided to convene a ministerial segment open to all States Members of the United Nations and interested stakeholders, to be held during its sixty-second session, in Vienna in 2019, which was to last two days in addition to the five days scheduled for the regular session of the Commission, held in the first half of the year, to take stock of the implementation of the commitments made to jointly address and counter the world drug problem, in particular in the light of the 2019 target date.
3. In its resolution 61/10, the Commission decided that the ministerial segment would include a general debate and two interactive, multi-stakeholder round tables, to be conducted in parallel with the general debate in the plenary. It also determined the modalities for participation in and for the chairing and composition of the round tables.
4. Also in its resolution 61/10, the Commission resolved that an outline for the way beyond 2019 would be presented by the Chair to the Commission at its reconvened sixty-first session for further consideration, including at its intersessional meetings prior to the sixty-second session, in the light of the preparations for the ministerial segment.

* E/CN.7/2019/1.



II. Organization of the ministerial segment and general debate

5. Pursuant to paragraph 10 of Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 60/1 and paragraph 1 (b) of Commission resolution 61/10, and following the format of the general debate conducted during the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission and the high-level segment of the fifty-seventh session, the ministerial segment will be open to all States Members of the United Nations and interested stakeholders. The seating arrangements will follow the protocol used by the General Assembly.

Rules of procedure

6. Unless decided otherwise, the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council will apply to the ministerial segment of the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

Agenda of the ministerial segment

7. The agenda items of the high-level segment of the sixty-second session, as recommended by the Commission in its decision 61/13, are contained in annex I.

Programme of work for the ministerial segment

8. The proposed programme of work for the general debate and the interactive, multi-stakeholder round-table discussions is contained in annex II.

Election of officers of the ministerial segment

9. In line with past practice, at the opening of the ministerial segment, a chair, three vice-chairs and a rapporteur will be elected from the States from which the members of the Bureau of the sixty-second session of the Commission were drawn. In the absence of a high-level representative from those States, the nomination of a high-level representative would rest with the respective regional group.

Chairing of the ministerial segment and of the general debate

10. The general debate will be chaired by the Chair of the ministerial segment, who, in line with past practice, will be a high-level representative from the same State as the Chair of the Commission.

Opening of the general debate

11. The Secretary-General, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the President of the International Narcotics Control Board and the Director-General of the World Health Organization will be invited to deliver introductory statements.

12. In line with past practice, short introductory statements will also be delivered by representatives of the scientific community, youth groups and civil society in the context of a ceremonial opening.

Participation in and list of speakers for the general debate

13. Following the introductory statements by the Secretary-General, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the President of the International Narcotics Control Board and the Director-General of the World Health Organization, the floor will be given to the high-level representatives of the Member States chairing the regional groups, followed by statements by high-level representatives of Member States speaking in their national capacities. Heads of entities of the United Nations, including programmes, funds, specialized agencies and

regional commissions, may make statements in the general debate. Representatives of intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council will participate in accordance with articles 74 and 76 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

14. The list of speakers for the general debate will be established by the drawing of lots during an intersessional meeting in the beginning of 2019. The procedure proposed for the drawing of lots and the establishment of the list of speakers is contained in annex III.

Duration of statements in the general debate

15. Speakers are requested to keep their statements to a maximum of five minutes (approximately 500 words) in order to enable the representatives of all Member States to address the ministerial segment. Chairs of regional groups will be allotted a speaking time of a maximum of seven minutes.

Presentation of the outcome of the general debate

16. Pursuant to operative paragraph 1 (d) of Commission resolution 61/10, a summary by the Chair of the general debate will be presented at the plenary prior to the closure of the ministerial segment.

III. Interactive, multi-stakeholder round tables during the ministerial segment

17. At its reconvened sixty-first session, the Commission, in its decision 61/13, decided that the round tables should focus on:

(a) Taking stock of the implementation of all commitments¹ made to jointly address and counter the world drug problem, in particular in the light of the 2019 target date for the goals set in paragraph 36 of the Political Declaration; analysing existing and emerging trends, gaps and challenges;

(b) Safeguarding the future: enhancing our efforts to respond to the world drug problem through strengthening international cooperation, including means of implementation, capacity-building and technical assistance, on the basis of common and shared responsibility.

Format and organization of the interactive, multi-stakeholder round tables

18. The format and organization of the round tables pursuant to operative paragraph 1 (c) of Commission resolution 61/10 are described in annex IV.

19. All States Members of the United Nations, observer States and observers, including relevant international organizations with observer status and entities of the United Nations system, and representatives of non-governmental organizations, representatives of civil society and the scientific community, academia, youth groups and other relevant stakeholders participating in the ministerial segment, are to be invited to participate in the interactive, multi-stakeholder round tables.

¹ Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem; the 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 Problem; and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”.

20. Pursuant to operative paragraph 1 (c) (iii) of Commission resolution 61/10, each round table will consist of a panel composed of five panellists to be nominated by the regional groups, and one panellist to be nominated by the civil society task force. In addition, the panel could include up to two speakers from entities of the United Nations system. The final list of the panellists and other speakers will be drawn up by the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in consultation with the extended Bureau of the Commission. The interventions by the panellists will be followed by an interactive discussion.

Chairing of the round tables

21. Pursuant to operative paragraph 1 (c) (ii) of Commission resolution 61/10, the round tables will be co-chaired by two representatives of two different regional groups, each to be nominated by the respective regional group.

Presentation of the outcome of the round tables

22. Pursuant to operative paragraph 1 (d) of Commission resolution 61/10, the co-chairs of the round tables, with the assistance of the Secretariat, will, in their individual capacities, make a summary of the salient points of the round-table discussions for presentation in a plenary meeting prior to the closure of the ministerial segment.

IV. Outcome of the ministerial segment

23. Member States, relevant entities of the United Nations system and other stakeholders are encouraged to actively participate in the 2019 ministerial segment in order to foster an in-depth exchange of information and expertise on efforts, achievements, challenges and best practices to address and counter the world drug problem.

24. In its resolution 61/10, the Commission decided that a summary by the Chair of the general debate, in addition to a summary of the salient points raised during the round tables, to be prepared by the co-chairs of the round tables, will be presented at the plenary.

25. In the same resolution, the Commission resolved that an outline for the way beyond 2019 would be presented by the Chair to the Commission at its reconvened sixty-first session for further consideration, including at its intersessional meetings prior to the sixty-second session, in the light of the preparations for the ministerial segment. Pursuant to that provision, delegations at the reconvened sixty-first session had before them for their consideration a conference room paper containing an outline for the way beyond 2019 by the Chair of the sixty-first session (E/CN.7/2018/CRP.14).

26. Representatives discussed the possible outcome of the ministerial segment during the special segment of the reconvened sixty-first session of the Commission on 5 December 2018 and called for the preparation of a short, concise and action-oriented ministerial outcome document that would send a strong political message.

Annex I

Provisional agenda for the ministerial segment

1. Opening of the ministerial segment.
2. General debate of the ministerial segment.
3. Interactive, multi-stakeholder round tables of the ministerial segment:
 - (a) Taking stock of the implementation of all commitments made to jointly address and counter the world drug problem, in particular in the light of the 2019 target date for the goals set in paragraph 36 of the Political Declaration; analysing existing and emerging trends, gaps and challenges;
 - (b) Safeguarding the future: enhancing our efforts to respond to the world drug problem through strengthening international cooperation, including means of implementation, capacity-building and technical assistance, on the basis of common and shared responsibility.
4. Outcome of the ministerial segment.
5. Closure of the ministerial segment.

Annex II

Proposed programme of work for the general debate and round-table discussions of the ministerial segment of the sixty-second session

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Plenary</i>	<i>Round-table discussions</i>
Thursday, 14 March 2019		
9.30 a.m.	Opening of the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs <i>Item 2</i> Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters	
	<i>Ministerial segment</i>	
10 a.m.	<i>Item 3</i> Opening of the ministerial segment <i>Item 4</i> General debate of the ministerial segment	
3 p.m.	<i>Item 4 (continued)</i> General debate of the ministerial segment	<i>Item 5 (a)</i> Interactive, multi-stakeholder round table of the ministerial segment: taking stock of the implementation of all commitments made to jointly address and counter the world drug problem, in particular in the light of the 2019 target date for the goals set in paragraph 36 of the Political Declaration; analysing existing and emerging trends, gaps and challenges
Friday, 15 March 2019		
10 a.m.	<i>Item 4 (continued)</i> General debate of the ministerial segment	<i>Item 5 (b)</i> Interactive, multi-stakeholder round table of the ministerial segment: safeguarding the future: enhancing our efforts to respond to the world drug problem through strengthening international cooperation, including means of implementation, capacity-building and technical assistance, on the basis of common and shared responsibility
3 p.m.	<i>Item 4 (continued)</i> General debate of the ministerial segment <i>Item 6</i> Outcome of the ministerial segment <i>Item 7</i> Closure of the ministerial segment	

Annex III

Procedure for the establishment of the list of speakers for the general debate

1. In accordance with Commission resolutions 60/1 and 61/10, the list of speakers for the general debate to be conducted during the ministerial segment of the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs will be established on the basis of four meetings. On Thursday, 14 March 2019, the general debate will start immediately after the opening of the ministerial segment. Accordingly, the first meeting will have 25 speaking slots.¹ The second and third meetings, in the afternoon of Thursday, 14 March 2019, and on the morning of Friday, 15 March 2019, will each have 30 speaking slots. The fourth meeting, in the afternoon of Friday, 15 March 2019, will have 25 speaking slots, since the last half hour will be devoted to the outcome of the ministerial segment (presentation of summary by the Chair of the salient points of the general debate and the chairs' summaries of the salient points of the round tables) and the closing of the ministerial segment.
2. Following the format of the general debate conducted during the high-level segment of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission, the meetings of the general debate will be open to all States Members of the United Nations. The seating arrangements will follow the protocol used by the General Assembly. Following the introductory statements by the Secretary-General, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the President of the International Narcotics Control Board and the Director-General of the World Health Organization, the floor will be given to the high-level representatives of the Member States chairing the regional groups, followed by statements by high-level representatives of Member States speaking in their national capacities. Heads of entities of the United Nations, including programmes, funds, specialized agencies and regional commissions, may make statements in the general debate. Representatives of intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council will participate in accordance with articles 74 and 76 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.
3. In order to accommodate all speakers at the ministerial segment, statements should be limited to five minutes, on the understanding that this will not preclude that more extensive texts can be made available online on the website of the sixty-second session of the Commission. Technical devices will be used to remind speakers of the remaining speaking time. Chairs of regional groups will be allotted a speaking time of a maximum of seven minutes.
4. The establishment of the initial list of speakers for the general debate by means of the drawing of lots will take place at an intersessional meeting, tentatively to be held on 7 March 2019.
5. The Secretariat will inform all Member States by a note verbale of the drawing of lots. In order to be included in the drawing of lots, Member States should reply to the Secretariat with information regarding their participation in the ministerial segment by noon (Vienna time) on 4 March 2019, at the latest.

¹ The number of speaking slots at each of the four meetings devoted to the general debate might be revised according to the total number of States that announce to the Secretariat before 4 March 2019 their intention to participate in the ministerial segment.

6. The drawing of lots to establish the list of speakers will be done using the following procedure:

(a) There will be two different boxes, one containing the names of the States that will be represented at the ministerial level (namely, cabinet-level ministers, such as Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Home Affairs, Justice or Health, and Prosecutors General), and the other containing the names of States that will be represented at a level lower than cabinet level; if the Secretariat has been informed that more than one State will be represented at a level higher than ministerial level (Head of State or Head of Government), there will be an additional box containing the names of States that will be represented at the highest level, and the same procedure will be followed as the one described in subparagraphs (b) and (c) below. The drawing of lots from this box will then happen first;

(b) A representative of the Secretariat will draw one name from the box containing the names of all States that will be represented at the ministerial level. Once the name of a State has been drawn by the representative of the Secretariat, that State will be invited first to choose a meeting (morning or afternoon of Thursday, 14 March 2019, or morning or afternoon of Friday, 15 March 2019) and then to choose the speaking slot in that meeting. This procedure will be repeated until all names have been drawn from that box;

(c) After States to be represented at the ministerial level have chosen meetings and speaking slots, a representative of the Secretariat will draw one name from the box containing the names of all States that will be represented at a level lower than ministerial level. That procedure will be repeated until all names have been drawn from that box;

(d) The last speaking slots of the second and third plenary meetings (afternoon of Thursday, 14 March 2019, and the morning of Friday, 15 March 2019) may be reserved for the Holy See and the State of Palestine in their capacities as observer States.

7. Member States that are present during the drawing of lots can choose their preferred slot from among the slots that remain available within the category of their speaker (ministerial or other level); Member States not present during the drawing of lots will be assigned the next available slot in the category of their speaker (ministerial or other level).

8. If the level at which a statement is to be made is subsequently changed, the speaker will be moved to the next available speaking slot in the appropriate category at that same meeting or the next meeting.

9. Participants may arrange to exchange their speaking slots in accordance with the established practice of the United Nations. In such cases a written notification must be provided to the Secretariat by the concerned parties. A form has been prepared by the Secretariat for this purpose.

10. Speakers who are not present when their speaking turn comes will be automatically moved to the next available speaking slot within their category at the same meeting or the next meeting.

11. Intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council will not participate in the drawing of lots; they may make statements in accordance with the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, if time permits.

12. Speakers should inform the Secretariat if they do not want their statement to be posted on the website of the Commission.

13. In any case not covered by the present proposal, the Chair, in consultation with the Secretariat, will try to accommodate requests for speaking slots.

Annex IV

Format and organization of the round-table discussions to be held during the ministerial segment of the sixty-second session

A. Participants

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

- (a) Members: persons representing States Members of the United Nations;
- (b) Observers:
 - (i) Persons representing other delegations with permanent status at the United Nations;
 - (ii) Persons representing entities in the United Nations system;
 - (iii) Persons representing intergovernmental organizations;
 - (iv) Persons representing non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council;
 - (v) Representatives of the scientific community, academia, youth groups and other relevant stakeholders participating in the ministerial segment.

B. Other organizational arrangements

Nomination of panellists

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

(a) The Chair of each regional group will communicate to the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, with copy to the Secretariat, the names of the panellists for the round tables, at least one month before the opening of the session of the Commission, namely, as soon as possible, and at the latest by 14 February 2019; pertinent entities from the United Nations system should also communicate to the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, with copy to the Secretariat, at least one month before the opening of the session their interest in nominating speakers at the round tables;

(b) The Chair of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs will inform the Secretariat at least one month before the opening of the session of the Commission, and at the latest by 14 February 2019, of the name of the panellist representing the civil society task force and about the representation of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council;

(c) The final list of the panellists and other speakers will be drawn up by the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in consultation with the extended Bureau of the Commission.

Chairing

3. Each of the two round tables will be co-chaired by two representatives, of two different regional groups, each to be nominated by the respective regional group one month in advance of the opening of the session and at the latest by 14 February 2019. The assignment of co-chairs to the round tables will be done by the drawing of lots, to be conducted during a meeting of the extended Bureau.

Introductory statements

4. The substantive Secretariat (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) may be invited to make brief introductory statements.
5. The co-chairs of each round table will open the discussions, followed by the interventions by the panellists.
6. In order to accommodate as many speakers as possible, interventions by the panellists will be limited to a maximum of five minutes, and interventions from the floor will be limited to a maximum of three minutes.

Interventions

7. There will be no list of speakers. Delegations wishing to make interventions will do so by bringing it to the attention of the co-chairs.
8. In view of the duration of each round-table discussion, it is envisaged that there will be no prepared or national statements, and it is recommended that interventions take the form of questions or comments on matters covered under the round-table topics, in order to encourage debate and an exchange of expertise and experiences among participants.
9. Statements by observers will be regulated by the co-chairs of each round-table discussion, in order to allow their participation in the discussions in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and established practice. The co-chairs may intervene to seek the cooperation of the speaker in respecting the time limit or discouraging the reading of national statements and may exercise their discretion to select speakers according to the thrust of the discussion.

Presentation of the outcome of the round-table discussions

10. The co-chairs of each round table, with the assistance of the Secretariat, will, in their individual capacity, summarize the salient points of their round tables and present them to the plenary prior to the closure of the ministerial segment.
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