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## Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Sixty-sixth session

Vienna, 13–17 March 2023

### Annotated provisional agenda

#### Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. General debate.

#### *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.

#### *Normative segment*

5. Implementation of the international drug control treaties:
  - (a) Changes in the scope of control of substances;
  - (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;
  - (c) International Narcotics Control Board;
  - (d) International cooperation to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion;
  - (e) Other matters arising from the international drug control treaties.
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.



7. Inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem.
8. Recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission.
9. Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in line with General Assembly resolutions [75/290 A](#) and [75/290 B](#), including follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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10. Preparations for the midterm review, to be held in 2024, of progress made in implementing all international drug policy commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem.
11. Provisional agenda for the sixty-seventh session of the Commission.
12. Other business.
13. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-sixth session.

## Annotations

### 1. Election of officers

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

In accordance with section I of Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/30 and rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Commission, at the end of its reconvened sixty-fifth session, on 9 December 2022, opened its sixty-sixth session for the sole purpose of electing its Bureau for that session. At that meeting, the Commission elected the members of the Bureau.

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

<i>Office</i>	<i>Regional group</i>	<i>Officer</i>
Chair	Latin American and Caribbean States	Miguel Camilo Ruíz Blanco (Colombia)
First Vice-Chair	African States	Philbert Abaka Johnson (Ghana)
Second Vice-Chair	Asia-Pacific States	Illa Mainali (Nepal)
Third Vice-Chair	Eastern European States	Barbara Zvokelj (Slovenia)
Rapporteur	Western European and other States	Paul Williams (Canada)

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-sixth 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 2022/329, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Commission on its sixty-fifth session and approved the provisional agenda for the sixty-sixth session of the Commission.

At its reconvened sixty-fifth session, held on 8 and 9 December 2022, the Commission decided that its sixty-sixth session would be held from 13 to 17 March 2023. The Commission also decided that it would hold its reconvened sixty-sixth session on 7 and 8 December 2023.

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, 13 February 2023, 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-sixth session. The proposed organization of work is contained in the annex to the present document.

## **Documentation**

Annotated provisional agenda (E/CN.7/2023/1)

## **3. General debate**

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

At the reconvened sixty-fifth session, the Chair recalled that, in its resolution [75/290 A](#), the General Assembly had encouraged the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council to align their discussions with the main theme of the Council. Delegations were therefore encouraged to link their statements at the sixty-sixth session to the main theme for 2023, “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels”.

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.

A maximum of three 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 five 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.7/2023/2-E/CN.15/2023/2), which contains 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 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 United Nations reform and results-based management; partnerships; research, evidence-based policy and data analysis; communication; resource mobilization; cross-cutting commitments; and organizational culture) and a number of recommendations for consideration by the Commission.

At its sixty-sixth session, the Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC (E/CN.7/2023/3-E/CN.15/2023/3).

At its reconvened sixty-fifth session, the Commission adopted resolution 65/5, entitled “Implementation of the budget for the biennium 2022–2023 for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme”. In that resolution, the Commission, inter alia, noted with concern the financial challenges faced by UNODC owing to the shortfall in general-purpose funding affecting the ability of the Office to effectively uphold core programmatic functions, such as normative work and research, and noted the importance for UNODC of broadening its donor base. The Commission also noted the importance of continued consultations within the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC on any proposals that would alter the funding model of the Office, as well as the continued strong donor confidence in programme delivery by UNODC and its involvement in the United Nations reform streams.

At the same session, the Commission considered the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the consolidated budget for the biennium 2022–2023 for UNODC (E/CN.7/2022/16-E/CN.15/2022/16) and a conference room paper prepared by the Secretariat on the draft proposed programme plan for 2024 and programme performance for 2022 for UNODC (E/CN.7/2022/CRP.16-E/CN.15/2022/CRP.9). The draft proposed programme plan for 2024 and programme performance for 2022 were subsequently transmitted to the Office of Programme Planning, Finance and Budget at United Nations Headquarters.

At its sixty-sixth session, the Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the proposed programme plan for 2024 and programme performance for 2022 for UNODC (E/CN.7/2023/10-E/CN.15/2023/12).

At its reconvened sixty-fifth session, the Commission also considered the report of the Executive Director on gender balance and geographical representation within UNODC (E/CN.7/2022/15-E/CN.15/2022/15).

At its sixty-sixth 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.

### Documentation

Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2023/2-E/CN.15/2023/2)

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.7/2023/3-E/CN.15/2023/3)

Note by the Secretariat on the proposed programme plan for 2024 and programme performance for 2022 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2023/10-E/CN.15/2023/12)

### 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-fifth meeting of the World Health Organization (WHO) Expert Committee on Drug Dependence was held from 10 to 13 October 2022. At that meeting, the Committee undertook critical reviews of nine psychoactive substances, namely, the synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonist ADB-BUTINACA; two benzodiazepines, adinazolam and bromazolam; four novel synthetic opioids, protonitazene (propoxynitazene), etazene (etodesnitazene), etonitazepyne (*N*-pyrrolidino etonitazene) and 2-methyl-AP-237; and two cathinones/stimulants, *alpha*-PiHP and 3-methylmethcathinone (3-MMC).

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 24 November 2022 of the following recommendations:

1. To be added to Schedule I of the 1961 Convention as amended:
  - (a) 2-Methyl-AP-237;
  - (b) Etazene;
  - (c) Etonitazepyne;
  - (d) Protonitazene.
2. To be added to Schedule II of the 1971 Convention:
  - (a) ADB-BUTINACA;
  - (b) *Alpha*-PiHP;
  - (c) 3-Methylmethcathinone.

At its sixty-sixth session, the Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat on changes in the scope of control of substances (E/CN.7/2023/8), containing relevant extracts from the report on the forty-fifth meeting of the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence, including the Committee's recommendations and 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, among other things, 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.

In the 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, adopted in 2019, 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 65/3, entitled “Intensifying efforts to address the diversion of non-scheduled chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of drugs and the proliferation of designer precursors”, the Commission expressed concern about the use of non-scheduled chemicals, including designer precursors, in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and the challenges that such chemicals posed to international drug control efforts. The Commission acknowledged the efforts of INCB to bring to the attention of the Commission the challenges related to non-scheduled precursors and noted with appreciation the UNODC Synthetic Drug Strategy. In addition, the Commission welcomed the cooperation of Member States with UNODC, INCB and other relevant international and regional organizations to implement proactive and innovative approaches to address the diversion of non-scheduled chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of drugs and the proliferation of designer precursors.

**(c) International Narcotics Control Board**

The annual report of INCB is submitted to the Economic and Social Council through the Commission, in accordance with the provisions of the international drug control treaties. The Commission may make such comments on the report as it sees fit. In addition, article 8 of the 1961 Convention as amended, article 17 of the 1971 Convention and article 21 of the 1988 Convention authorize the Commission to call the attention of the Board to any matters that may be relevant to the functions of the Board. The report of the Board for 2022 (E/INCB/2022/1) will be before the Commission.

Article 12, paragraph 13, of the 1988 Convention requires the Board to report annually to the Commission on the implementation of that article. It is suggested that the report of the Board for 2022 on the implementation of article 12 of the 1988 Convention (E/INCB/2022/4) be considered at the same time as the report of the Board for 2022 (E/INCB/2022/1), in line with past practice.

The Board decided to issue a supplement to its annual report for 2022 and thus prepared a special report entitled *No Patient Left Behind: Progress in Ensuring Adequate Access to Internationally Controlled Substances for Medical and Scientific Purposes* (E/INCB/2022/1/Supp.1). The special report describes major impediments to the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances under international control, as identified by Member States, as well as actions taken by Governments on the operational recommendations contained in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, on the world drug problem, held in 2016. The report also includes a new set of recommendations to assist Governments in achieving the goals of the international drug control conventions in relation to ensuring access to controlled substances.

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

In the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted in 2009, 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 Ministerial Declaration of 2019, 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 that regard, including affordability.

In its resolution 64/1, the Commission noted with concern the difficulties encountered by Member States in ensuring the continued access to and availability of internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes throughout the world, and expressed its appreciation for the work of INCB and UNODC, within their respective mandates, in supporting Member States to ensure the access to and availability of such drugs, as well as in raising awareness about the problem. In addition, the Commission encouraged Member States to continue to address barriers to access to and availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their non-medical use or diversion into illicit channels, 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, in particular with a view to ensuring improved responses to a possible future pandemic and other emerging threats.

In its resolution 64/4, the Commission noted the concern expressed by INCB in its annual report for 2020 about reported shortages of medicines containing controlled substances such as fentanyl and midazolam in some countries, largely driven by significant increases in the need to provide pain relief and sedation for patients with COVID-19 admitted into intensive care units, and that the Board had encouraged Governments to continue working closely with one another and with the Board to ensure the global availability of medicines containing controlled substances, especially for those who were most in need during emergency situations.

During the regular part of the sixty-fifth session, the Chair of the Commission launched, in close cooperation with the Executive Director of UNODC, the Director General of WHO and the President of INCB, a global initiative to scale up the implementation of the international drug policy commitments on improving the availability of and access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes. The initiative is aimed at raising awareness of the global crisis of lack of access to controlled medicines and at bringing about positive change in that area. As part of the initiative, four awareness-raising events were held, at the United Nations Offices at Vienna and Geneva and at Headquarters in New York, and an informational media campaign was carried out through the Commission's Twitter account (@CND\_tweets). More information can be found on the web page of the initiative.<sup>1</sup>

At its sixty-sixth session, the Commission will, within existing reporting obligations, be informed by the secretariat about the implementation of resolution 63/3, entitled "Promoting awareness-raising, education and training as part of a comprehensive approach to ensuring access to and the availability of internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes and improving their rational use", taking into account the work of and including collaboration with INCB and WHO.

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

Following the regular part of the sixty-fifth session of the Commission, held from 14 to 18 March 2022, and in view of the decisions taken by the Commission on the changes in the scope of control of substances, the *Multilingual Dictionary of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances under International Control* has been updated.

The Commission will have before it the latest issue of the publication entitled *Competent National Authorities under the International Drug Control Treaties* (ST/NAR.3/2022/1), 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.7/2023/8)

*Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2022* (E/INCB/2022/1)

*No Patient Left Behind: Progress in Ensuring Adequate Access to Internationally Controlled Substances for Medical and Scientific Purposes* (E/INCB/2022/1/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 2022 on the Implementation of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988* (E/INCB/2022/4)

*Competent National Authorities under the International Drug Control Treaties* (ST/NAR.3/2022/1)

**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

<sup>1</sup> [www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/session/65\\_Session\\_2022/availability\\_and\\_access.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/session/65_Session_2022/availability_and_access.html).



of the 2019 target date set in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action of 2009, and to enhance efforts beyond 2019. At the opening of the ministerial segment, Ministers and government representatives adopted by consensus the 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 Ministerial Declaration of 2019, 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 Political Declaration and Plan of Action of 2009, 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 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 and committed to ensuring that the Commission-led follow-up to the implementation of all the international drug policy commitments would be done 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 Ministerial Declaration of 2019. 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 fourth such thematic session was held by the Commission on 21 and 22 September 2022, in a hybrid format. In line with the multi-year workplan, the Commission focused its discussions on how to address the following challenge: “Responses not in conformity with the three international drug control conventions and not in conformity with applicable international human rights obligations pose a challenge to the implementation of joint commitments based on the principle of common and shared responsibility”. The challenge was discussed over both days of the thematic session. Each day comprised a panel discussion, followed by an interactive 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. More information can be found on the web page devoted to the thematic sessions.<sup>2</sup> A summary by the Chair of the thematic discussions, which was not subject to negotiation, is available in the form of a conference room paper (E/CN.7/2023/CRP.1).

At its sixty-sixth session, the Commission will also have before it a conference room paper on the implementation of all international drug policy commitments in follow-up to the Ministerial Declaration of 2019 (E/CN.7/2023/CRP.2).

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

<sup>2</sup> [www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/session/65\\_Session\\_2022/thematic-sessions.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/session/65_Session_2022/thematic-sessions.html).

quality of its reporting mechanisms and the support given to Member States in developing their capacity for data collection and analysis. The report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug abuse is contained in document E/CN.7/2023/4.

In addition, the Commission will have before it the report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking (E/CN.7/2023/5), 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, as well as resolutions 54/9 and 56/5. 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 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 (E/CN.7/2023/9).

### **Documentation**

Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem of 2009<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>4</sup>

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

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 of 2019<sup>5</sup>

Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2023/2-E/CN.15/2023/2)

Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug abuse (E/CN.7/2023/4)

Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking (E/CN.7/2023/5)

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 (E/CN.7/2023/9)

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

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

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

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, 2014, *Supplement No. 8 (E/2014/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, 2019, *Supplement No. 8 (E/2019/28)*, chap. I, sect. B.

In the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, on the world drug problem, Member States reaffirmed the principal role of the Commission 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, 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](#), [75/198](#) and [76/188](#), 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.

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 sixty-second session of the Commission. 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 Ministerial Declaration of 2019, 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 the follow-up to the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, the UNODC-led task team conducted a series of online meetings to discuss how to focus its attention on strategic communication to United Nations resident coordinators and United Nations country teams to encourage a coordinated approach to the drug problem in line with the common position by supporting Member States in the implementation of international drug policy commitments through effective inter-agency collaboration. The task team also developed a joint document to serve as guidelines for the United Nations country

teams to conduct a common country analysis and develop a United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework that encompasses drug matters.

In its resolution 64/1, the Commission invited UNODC, as the leading entity in the United Nations system for addressing and countering the world drug problem, in coordination with relevant United Nations entities and other international organizations, within their respective mandates, to conduct research and collect data on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the world drug problem, and to regularly inform the Commission about progress made in that regard.

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 (E/CN.7/2023/CRP.3). 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.7/2023/6. 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.

### **Documentation**

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.7/2023/6)

## **8. Recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission**

In its resolutions [74/178](#), [75/198](#), [76/188](#) and 77/238, the General Assembly referred to the contribution of the meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies and of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East to the strengthening of regional and international cooperation and to the implementation of all international commitments. The Commission will be informed of the results of the meetings of its subsidiary bodies held since its sixty-fifth session.

After two years of being held as special extraordinary sessions in an online format, the meetings of the Commission's subsidiary bodies were again held in person. At the meetings, participants discussed the current situation with regard to regional and subregional cooperation in addressing and countering the world drug problem; the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the previous meeting; the follow-up on 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, and preparations for the midterm review to be held in 2024; and the organization of the next meeting. Participants at the various meetings were also organized into working groups to consider the following topics: (a) trends in drug trafficking and concealment methods, and in intelligence-led international cooperation; (b) synthetic drug production and trafficking, including the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs and their precursors; (c) alternatives to conviction or punishment for drug-related offences; and (d) exchange of actionable intelligence and the role of regional cooperation platforms in facilitating such exchange.

The Commission is invited to consider the recommendations made at the Fourteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, held in Valletta from 12 to 15 September 2022; the Thirtieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in

Guatemala City from 4 to 7 October 2022; the Forty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 25 to 28 October 2022; the Thirtieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Nairobi from 8 to 11 November 2022; and the Fifty-fifth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, held in Ashgabat from 22 to 25 November 2022, with a view to taking any required follow-up action.

Pursuant to Commission resolution 56/10, a report of the Secretariat on action taken by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission has been prepared and is contained in document E/CN.7/2023/7.

### **Documentation**

Report of the Secretariat on action taken by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/CN.7/2023/7)

## **9. Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in line with General Assembly resolutions 75/290 A and 75/290 B, 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. In accordance with that 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 the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, on the world drug problem, Member States welcomed the 2030 Agenda 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 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 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 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.

In the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, Member States reiterated that efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to effectively address the world drug problem were complementary and mutually reinforcing.

At its reconvened sixty-fourth session, the Commission considered a conference room paper containing information on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 75/290 A on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.7/2021/CRP.14-E/CN.15/2021/CRP.8). The resolution established a new coordination segment, replacing the integration segment and the informal meeting of the Council with the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies. The coordination segment is intended to steer the Council system towards an efficient and integrated workflow, to provide guidance and coordination to subsidiary bodies, ensuring a clearer division of labour among them, and to develop action-oriented assessment and recommendations so that those bodies best contribute to the preparations for the

thematic review of the high-level political forum. The 2023 coordination segment will be held on 1 and 2 February 2023 at United Nations Headquarters.

In General Assembly resolution [75/290 A](#), the Economic and Social Council was invited to continue to strengthen its oversight, guidance and coordination role of its subsidiary bodies as outlined in paragraphs 28 and 29 of the annex to Assembly resolution [72/305](#). In addition, the President and Bureau of the Council were invited to work with the bureaux of its subsidiary bodies and in consultation with delegations during the 2022 session of the Council, so as to identify possible actions to be taken to implement the provisions regarding enhancing the work of subsidiary bodies contained in paragraphs 28 and 29 of the annex to Assembly resolution [72/305](#).

The Commission took on an active role in the review by the Economic and Social Council of its functional commissions and expert bodies mandated by General Assembly resolution [75/290 A](#), and submitted an assessment of its work to the Council in April 2022. In its decision 2022/334, the Council took note of the summary of the Vice-President of the Council on the review, as contained in a letter dated 27 May 2022 from the Vice-President to all Member States, and invited the President and Bureau of the Council, the Chairs and bureaux of the functional commissions and expert bodies of the Council, all Member States and the Secretariat to implement, to the extent possible within existing mandates and resources, the recommendations contained in the summary. The Council will review the implementation of the recommendations at its 2026 session. At its reconvened sixty-fifth session, the Commission considered a conference room paper by the Secretariat on the Council's review (E/CN.7/2022/CRP.17-E/CN.15/2022/CRP.10).

The high-level political forum on sustainable development will be convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council in New York from 10 to 19 July 2023. The thematic focus will be "Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels". 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-sixth 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, within its mandates, in particular in the lead-up to the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, scheduled to be held in September 2023, during the high-level segment of the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly, as well as how to further enhance synergies between its work and that of other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council. The Commission may also wish to discuss its implementation of the recommendations stemming from the Council's review of its functional commissions and expert bodies mandated by resolution [75/290 A](#).

**10. Preparations for the midterm review, to be held in 2024, of progress made in implementing all international drug policy commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem**

In the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, Member States decided to conduct, in 2024, a midterm review in the Commission, in the lead-up to the 2029 review of progress made in implementing all international drug policy commitments. The multi-year workplan adopted by the Commission on 24 June 2019 calls for the Commission to conduct, in the fourth quarter of 2023, a comprehensive stocktaking in the lead-up to the 2024 midterm review of progress made in implementing all international drug policy commitments, as reaffirmed in the Ministerial Declaration.

Under agenda item 10, the Commission should consider making definite arrangements for the midterm review, including with regard to its format, the proposed organization of work and the preparatory process in the intersessional period leading up to the sixty-seventh session.

**11. Provisional agenda for the sixty-seventh session of the Commission**

Under agenda item 11, the Commission should devote time to the consideration of any further enhancements that it may deem appropriate to the provisional agenda for its sixty-seventh and subsequent sessions.

**12. Other business**

No issues that need to be raised under item 12 have been brought to the attention of the Secretariat, and no documentation on the item is currently foreseen.

**13. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-sixth session**

It is expected that the Commission will adopt the report on its sixty-sixth session in the afternoon of 17 March 2023.



## 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 firm deadline for submission of draft resolutions to be considered at the sixty-sixth session is one month prior to the commencement of the session, that is, Monday, 13 February 2023, at noon. States members of the Commission intending to submit draft resolutions for consideration by the Commission at its sixty-sixth session are requested to submit them to the Secretariat as early as possible and at the latest by the firm 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 during the sixty-sixth session.
5. In the light of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) situation, the session will be held in a hybrid format, combining an in-person component with online participation. The meetings of the plenary and the Committee of the Whole will be held in parallel. For speakers participating in person, interpretation into the six official languages of the United Nations will be available. For speakers participating online, interpretation into the six official languages will be available for a total duration of up to 30 minutes during each three-hour meeting, in line with the guidance on remote interpretation arrangements received from the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management. If more speakers ask for the floor to participate online after the 30 minutes are exhausted, those speakers will be given the floor during the next meeting. More details on the organizational arrangements will be made available on the website of the Commission in due course.

#### Informal pre-session consultations, 10 March 2023

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*Date and time*

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##### Friday, 10 March

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

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#### Proposed organization of work for the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, 13–17 March 2023

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Plenary</i>	<i>Committee of the Whole</i>
<b>Monday, 13 March</b>		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	Opening of the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs <i>Item 1.</i> Election of officers <i>Item 2.</i> Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters <i>Item 3.</i> General debate	
3–6 p.m.	<i>Item 3.</i> General debate ( <i>continued</i> )	Consideration of draft resolutions



Date and time	Plenary	Committee of the Whole
<b>Tuesday, 14 March</b>		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	<b>Operational segment</b> <i>Item 4.</i> 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	Consideration of draft resolutions ( <i>continued</i> )
3–6 p.m.	<b>Normative segment</b> <i>Item 5.</i> Implementation of the international drug control treaties (a) Changes in the scope of control of substances (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 (c) International Narcotics Control Board (d) International cooperation to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion (e) Other matters arising from the international drug control treaties	Consideration of draft resolutions ( <i>continued</i> )
<b>Wednesday, 15 March</b>		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	<i>Item 5.</i> Implementation of the international drug control treaties ( <i>continued</i> )	Consideration of draft resolutions ( <i>continued</i> )
3–6 p.m.	<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	Consideration of draft resolutions ( <i>continued</i> )
<b>Thursday, 16 March</b>		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	<i>Item 6.</i> Follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem ( <i>continued</i> )	Consideration of draft resolutions ( <i>continued</i> )
3–6 p.m.	<i>Item 7.</i> Inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem <i>Item 8.</i> Recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission	Consideration of draft resolutions ( <i>continued</i> )
<b>Friday, 17 March</b>		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	<i>Item 9.</i> Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in line with General Assembly resolutions 75/290 A and 75/290 B, including follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development <i>Item 10.</i> Preparations for the midterm review, to be held in 2024, of progress made in implementing all international drug policy commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem	Consideration of draft resolutions ( <i>continued</i> )
3–6 p.m.	<i>Item 11.</i> Provisional agenda for the sixty-seventh session of the Commission <i>Item 12.</i> Other business <i>Item 13.</i> Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-sixth session	