



# Economic and Social Council

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## Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Reconvened sixty-third session

Vienna, 2–4 December 2020

### Annotated provisional agenda

#### Addendum

#### Annotations

##### 1. Election of officers

Pursuant to 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 opened its sixty-third session on 13 December 2019 to elect its Bureau for that session. At that meeting, the Commission elected the Chair, the Second Vice-Chair and the Third Vice-Chair. The First Vice-Chair and the Rapporteur were elected on 2 March 2020. On 11 June 2020, the Western European and other States nominated Wolfgang Brühlhart (Switzerland) for the position of Second Vice-Chair upon the withdrawal of Ghislain D'hoop (Belgium) from the position. The Commission is expected to elect this officer of the Bureau, as well as any other officers as may be necessary for the remainder of the sixty-third session, on 2 December 2020.

##### 2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

The Economic and Social Council, in its decision 2011/259, entitled “Joint meetings of the reconvened sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”, decided that, starting in 2011, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice would hold joint meetings during their reconvened sessions for the purpose of considering agenda items included in the operational segment of the agendas of both Commissions, with a view to providing integrated policy directives to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on administrative, budgetary and strategic management issues. The Council also decided that the practice of holding back-to-back reconvened sessions of the Commissions would be continued to enable each Commission to consider, in separate meetings, agenda items included in the normative segment of its agenda.

In accordance with that decision, two meetings of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs will be held jointly with the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice during their reconvened sessions in order to consider the agenda item on strategic

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\* Second reissue for technical reasons (30 November 2020).



management, budgetary and administrative questions. The remaining items on the agenda will be considered in separate meetings.

In line with its decision 63/14, the Commission will, on 2 December 2020, consider the recommendations of the World Health Organization (WHO) on cannabis and cannabis-related substances. In that decision, the Commission decided to continue during its current sixty-third session the consideration of the WHO recommendations on cannabis and cannabis-related substances, bearing in mind their complexity, in order to clarify the implications and consequences of, as well as the reasoning for, those recommendations, and decided to vote at its reconvened sixty-third session in December 2020, in order to preserve the integrity of the international scheduling system.

This is reflected in the proposed organization of work contained in the annex to the present document.

#### **Documentation**

Annotated provisional agenda: addendum ([E/CN.7/2020/1/Add.1](#))

#### **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**

As mentioned above, the agenda item on strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions will be considered at the joint meetings with the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2011/259.

For its joint consideration of item 4 with the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Commission will again have before it the report of the Executive Director on the activities of UNODC ([E/CN.7/2020/2-E/CN.15/2020/2](#)), which contains an overview of the activities of the Office during 2019 to effectively address and counter the world drug problem and to effectively address crime, as well as activities in the area of research, trend analysis and scientific and forensic support and activities aimed at strengthening UNODC.

*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*

In its decision 2017/236, entitled “Improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: extension of the mandate of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime”, the Economic and Social Council decided to renew the mandate of the working group until the part of the sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to be held in the first half of 2021, at which time the commissions should carry out a thorough review of the functioning of the working group and consider the extension of its mandate.

In this regard, at its reconvened sixty-third session, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs is expected, together with the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-ninth session, to discuss the extension of the fifth mandate of the

working group. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs will have before it a statement by the Co-Chairs of the working group containing salient issues for its future work.

In its resolution 60/3, the Commission requested the working group to continue examining and discussing the funding situation and financial management of UNODC, the governance and financial situation of UNODC, integrated programming, evaluation and oversight, human resources governance to improve gender balance and geographical representation, and other matters. The Commission will have before it for its consideration a note by the Secretariat on the work of the working group ([E/CN.7/2020/3/Add.1-E/CN.15/2020/3/Add.1](#)).

#### *Budgetary issues*

In its resolution 62/9, the Commission requested UNODC to present in writing, through the working group, to the Commission at its next reconvened session the following: (a) a comprehensive overview of the current use and allocation of programme support costs, and proposals to more flexibly and effectively use programme support costs at headquarters, in particular for normative and substantive functions in support of programmatic work, and in the field, as appropriate; (b) information on its efforts to implement the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 72/266 B, on shifting the management paradigm, and an action plan; and (c) proposals on how to address the relevant recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions ([E/CN.7/2019/16-E/CN.15/2019/18](#)), as applicable and subject to the provisions of Commission resolution 62/9 and relevant General Assembly resolutions.

At its reconvened sixty-third session, the Commission will also have before it for its consideration the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the consolidated budget for the biennium 2020–2021 for UNODC ([E/CN.7/2020/16-E/CN.15/2020/16](#)).

For its joint consideration with the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Commission will have before it the draft proposed programme plan for 2021 and performance information for 2019 ([E/CN.7/2020/13-E/CN.15/2020/15](#)) and the draft proposed programme plan for 2022 and performance information for 2020 for UNODC ([E/CN.7/2020/CRP.20-E/CN.15/2020/CRP.1](#)).

#### *Policy issues*

In its resolution 62/9, the Commission requested the Executive Director to present, before its reconvened session in 2020, a revised longer-term vision or strategy for UNODC, including its headquarters and a strengthened and sustainable field network, as well as information on the financial implications of that vision or strategy and on potential reallocations to address those implications, taking into account the relevant recommendations emanating from the strategic evaluations carried out by the Independent Evaluation Section of the Office and from management responses. The revised longer-term vision or strategy for the Office will be brought to the attention of the Commission as a conference room paper ([E/CN.7/2020/CRP.22-E/CN.15/2020/CRP.3](#)).

The Commission, in the same resolution, requested the Executive Director to report to its next reconvened session on the involvement of the Office in the implementation of United Nations development system reform, including in terms of enhanced synergies and effectiveness, achievements, challenges, cost savings and benefits.

Also in the same resolution, the Commission requested UNODC to continue to mainstream a gender perspective into the development, implementation and evaluation of its programmes, policies, practices and strategies, and to report on the progress thereon to the Commission at its next reconvened session.

*Human resources issues*

In its resolution 62/9, the Commission also requested UNODC, in line with Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, to enhance its efforts, with a sense of urgency, to ensure the recruitment of staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible, in particular within the Professional and higher categories, including for field representatives, by, inter alia, intensifying its outreach efforts, and to report on the progress thereon to the Commission at its next reconvened session. In the same resolution, the Commission further requested UNODC to continue to include in such reporting, as well as in the dialogue within the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the Office, disaggregated data on the composition of staff by geographical area and gender, including the staff of the Division for Management and locally recruited staff, as well as updates on measures taken to improve the geographical distribution of, and ensure gender parity among, its staff, including a description of its internal and external recruitment processes, such as measures in place to ensure transparency.

At its reconvened sixty-third session, the Commission will have before it for its consideration the report of the Executive Director on gender balance and geographical representation within UNODC ([E/CN.7/2020/17-E/CN.15/2020/17](#)).

**Documentation**

Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2020/2-E/CN.15/2020/2](#))

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.7/2020/3-E/CN.15/2020/3](#) and [E/CN.7/2020/3/Add.1-E/CN.15/2020/3/Add.1](#))

Note by the Secretariat on the draft proposed programme plan for 2021 and performance information for 2019 ([E/CN.7/2020/13-E/CN.15/2020/15](#))

Report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the consolidated budget for the biennium 2020–2021 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2020/16-E/CN.15/2020/16](#))

Report of the Executive Director on gender balance and geographical representation within the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2020/17-E/CN.15/2020/17](#))

Note by the Secretariat on the draft proposed programme plan for 2022 and performance information for 2020 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2020/CRP.20-E/CN.15/2020/CRP.1](#))

Note by the Secretariat containing a revised longer-term vision or strategy for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including its headquarters and a strengthened and sustainable field network ([E/CN.7/2020/CRP.22-E/CN.15/2020/CRP.3](#))

**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**

*Consideration of the recommendations of the World Health Organization on cannabis and cannabis-related substances*

During its forty-first meeting, held in Geneva from 12 to 16 November 2018, the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence undertook critical reviews of cannabis and cannabis-related substances (cannabis resin, extracts and tinctures of cannabis, *delta*-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (*delta*-9-THC; dronabinol) and tetrahydrocannabinol (isomers of THC)) and evaluated their dependence-producing properties and harm to health.

At its sixty-second session, the Commission had before it a note by the Secretariat on changes in the scope of control of substances: proposed scheduling recommendations by the World Health Organization on cannabis and cannabis-related substances (E/CN.7/2019/12).

During its sixty-second session, on 19 March 2019, the Commission decided to postpone the voting on the recommendations of the WHO on the scope of control of cannabis and cannabis-related substances in order to provide States with more time to consider the recommendations (decision 62/14).

During the fourth and fifth intersessional meetings of the Commission at its sixty-second session, which were held on 24 June and 23 September 2019, the Commission considered the WHO recommendations on cannabis and cannabis-related substances and had the opportunity to address questions to representatives of WHO. Representatives of the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board and UNODC were also present to provide answers within their respective mandates.

At its sixty-third session, the Commission had before it a note by the Secretariat on changes in the scope of control of cannabis and cannabis-related substances (E/CN.7/2020/14), as well as a conference room paper containing questions and answers relating to the WHO recommendations on cannabis and cannabis-related substances (E/CN.7/2020/CRP.4) and a conference room paper containing comments submitted by States parties to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 in response to a note verbale sent by the Secretariat on 29 November 2019 (E/CN.7/2020/CRP.9).

At its sixty-third session, the Commission decided on 4 March 2020 to continue during its sixty-third session the consideration of the WHO recommendations on cannabis and cannabis-related substances and to vote at its reconvened sixty-third session, in December 2020 (decision 63/14).

During the intersessional consultations on the WHO scheduling recommendations on cannabis and cannabis-related substances, the Commission focused on the exchange of views among Member States regarding the implications arising from economic, social, legal, administrative and other factors and the ways of addressing them if any of those recommendations are adopted. The Commission held two closed informal meetings on 24 and 25 June and on 24 and 25 August 2020 and is expected to hold another closed informal meeting on 6 and 7 October 2020, as well as an intersessional meeting on 8 October 2020.

In a note verbale dated 5 August 2020, WHO clarified that the recommendation on pharmaceutical preparations of cannabis and dronabinol (*delta*-9-tetrahydrocannabinol) should read as follows: “The Committee recommended that preparations containing *delta*-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (dronabinol), produced either by chemical synthesis or as a preparation of cannabis, that are compounded as pharmaceutical preparations with one or more other ingredients and in such a way that *delta*-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (dronabinol) cannot be recovered by readily available means or in a yield which would constitute a risk to public health, be added to Schedule III of the 1961 Convention on Narcotic Drugs.” Accordingly, the phrase “containing *delta*-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (dronabinol)” should be regarded as part of the text of the recommendation on pharmaceutical preparations of cannabis and

dronabinol (*delta*-9-tetrahydrocannabinol) submitted to the Commission for consideration.

At its reconvened sixty-third session, the Commission will have before it a conference room paper on the WHO scheduling recommendations on cannabis and cannabis-related substances, outlining the conduct of the considerations of the recommendations by the Commission during its sixty-second and sixty-third sessions.

*Presentation by the World Health Organization of the outcome of the forty-third meeting of the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence*

In its resolution 58/11, the Commission invited WHO to present its scheduling recommendations to the Commission at its annual reconvened session in order to help Member States prepare for forthcoming scheduling decisions at the following regular session of the Commission.

The forty-third meeting of the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence is to be held from 12 to 20 October 2020. During that meeting, the Committee is to undertake critical reviews of 11 psychoactive substances, including the opioid isotonitazene; the benzodiazepines flubromazolam, clonazolam and diclazepam; the dissociative-type substances diphenidine, methoxphenidine (2-MeO-diphenidine) and 3-methoxyphencyclidine (3-MeO-PCP); the stimulant 3-fluorophenmetrazine (3-FPM); the hallucinogenic substance 5-methoxy-N,N-diallyltryptamine (5-MeO-DALT); and two synthetic cannabinoids, MDMB-4en-PINACA and Cumyl-PeGaCLONE. It is expected that WHO will report orally to the Commission during its reconvened sixty-third session about the outcome of that meeting.

**9. Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in line with General Assembly resolution 72/305, including follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

At its fifty-eighth session, in March 2015, the Commission decided to include a standing item on its agenda focusing on its contributions to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in line with General Assembly resolution 68/1. Pursuant to that resolution, the Council is expected to, inter alia, ensure the harmonization and coordination of the agendas and work programmes of the functional commissions by promoting a clearer division of labour among them and providing clear policy guidance to them. In accordance with that resolution, the Commission has been contributing, as appropriate, to the work of the Council relating to the common themes of the annual framework of the Council.

In September 2015, by its resolution 70/1, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, the General Assembly adopted the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda. In that outcome document, Heads of State and Government and High Representatives envisaged that thematic reviews of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, including cross-cutting issues, would take place at the high-level political forum on sustainable development and that those reviews would be supported by reviews by the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies and forums.

In 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.

As in previous years, the Commission submitted substantive input<sup>1</sup> to the 2020 high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Council from 7 to 16 July 2020.

In its resolution 74/298, the General Assembly decided to conduct the review of 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, during its seventy-fifth session.

In the same resolution, the Assembly decided that the thematic focus of the Economic and Social Council for its 2021 session and the 2021 high-level political forum would be “Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”. The following Goals will be reviewed in depth at the high-level political forum: 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16 and 17.

The Assembly also decided that the review would take into account the different and particular impact of the COVID-19 pandemic across all Sustainable Development Goals, consider progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda in its entirety and address the interlinkages between Goals.

The Commission may wish to use its reconvened sixty-third session to further consider how it can best contribute to the follow-up to and support the review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in line with the thematic focus of the 2021 high-level political forum for sustainable development, within its mandates, as well as how to further enhance synergies between its work and that of other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, with a view to making its outcomes more relevant, coherent and solution-oriented in respect of efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda, thereby contributing to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/305.

#### **10. Provisional agenda for the sixty-fourth session of the Commission**

Under agenda item 10, the Commission may wish to consider and discuss the preparations for its sixty-fourth session, including the provisional agenda and the dates for the regular and reconvened parts of that session.

#### **11. Other business**

No issues that need to be raised under item 11 have been brought to the attention of the Secretariat, and no documentation on the item is currently foreseen.

#### **12. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-third session**

Under agenda item 12, the Commission is expected to adopt the report on its reconvened sixty-third session.

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#### *Opening of the sixty-fourth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and election of officers*

Pursuant to rule 16 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the officers of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs hold office until their successors are elected, and they are eligible for re-election.

In section I of its resolution 1999/30, the Economic and Social Council decided that, with effect from 2000, the Commission should, at the end of each session, elect its

<sup>1</sup> Available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=30022&nr=2525&menu=3170>.

bureau for the subsequent session and encourage it to play an active role in the preparations for both the regular and the intersessional meetings of the Commission, so as to enable the Commission to provide continuous and effective policy guidance.

Pursuant to section I of Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/30 and rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions, the Commission is invited to open, at the end of its reconvened sixty-third session, on 4 December 2020, its sixty-fourth session for the sole purpose of electing the Chair, three Vice-Chairs and the Rapporteur for that session.

In view of the established practice of rotating the offices on the basis of regional distribution, the officers to be elected by the Commission for its sixty-fourth session will be from the regional groups as follows:

<i>Chair:</i>	Eastern European States
<i>First Vice-Chair:</i>	Western European and other States
<i>Second Vice-Chair:</i>	Latin American and Caribbean States
<i>Third Vice-Chair:</i>	African States
<i>Rapporteur:</i>	Asia-Pacific States

In accordance with established practice and Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/39, 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 will assist the Chair in dealing with organizational matters. That group, together with the elected officers, will constitute the extended Bureau.

## Annex

### Proposed organization of work

The proposed organization of work shown below is subject to approval by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. As soon as discussion on an item has been concluded, the following item will be taken up, time permitting. Suggested meeting times are from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, 2 and 3 December, and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, 4 December 2020.

It is difficult to anticipate at this stage how the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) situation will impact the format of the meetings. The Commission will continue to discuss and explore, through its extended Bureau, the possible modalities of the conduct of the December meeting on the basis of further developments with regard to the COVID-19 situation, also bearing in mind the relevant guidance received from the Crisis Management Team of the Vienna International Centre.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
Wednesday, 2 December	11 a.m.–1 p.m.		Opening of the reconvened sixty-third session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs
		1	Election of officers ( <i>continued</i> )
		2	Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters ( <i>continued</i> )
		5	Implementation of the international drug control treaties ( <i>continued</i> )
	3–5 p.m.	5	Implementation of the international drug control treaties ( <i>continued</i> )
Thursday, 3 December	11 a.m.–1 p.m.	2	Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters ( <i>continued</i> )
		4	Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions ( <i>continued</i> ) ( <i>joint meeting</i> )
	3–5 p.m.	4	Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions ( <i>continued</i> ) ( <i>joint meeting</i> )
Friday, 4 December	11 a.m.–1 p.m.	9	Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in line with General Assembly resolution <a href="#">72/305</a> , including follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ( <i>continued</i> )
		10	Provisional agenda for the sixty-fourth session of the Commission ( <i>continued</i> )
		11	Other business ( <i>continued</i> )
		12	Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-third session ( <i>continued</i> )