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Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Sixty-eighth session

Vienna, 10–14 March 2025

Annotated provisional agenda

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* Reissued for technical reasons on 19 February 2025.



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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-seventh session, on 6 December 2024, opened its sixty-eighth session for the sole purpose of electing its Bureau for that session. At that meeting, the Commission elected the Chair, the Second and Third Vice-Chairs and the Rapporteur. The Commission is expected to elect the first Vice-Chair during its consideration of item 1 of the present provisional agenda.

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

| <i>Office</i> | <i>Regional group</i> | <i>Officer</i> |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Chair | Asia-Pacific States | Shambhu Kumaran (India) |
| First Vice-Chair | Eastern European States | (vacant) |
| Second Vice-Chair | Western European and other States | Peter Potman (Kingdom of the Netherlands) |
| Third Vice-Chair | Latin American and Caribbean States | Alex Wetzig (Chile) |
| Rapporteur | African States | Mohamed Amine Boukhris (Morocco) |

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-eighth 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 2024/321, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Commission on its sixty-seventh session and approved the provisional agenda for the sixty-eighth session of the Commission.

At its reconvened sixty-seventh session, held on 5 and 6 December 2024, the Commission decided that its sixty-eighth session would be held from 10 to 14 March 2025. The Commission also decided that it would hold its reconvened sixty-eighth session on 4 and 5 December 2025.

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, 10 February 2025, 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-eighth session. The proposed organization of work is contained in the annex to the present document.

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda ([E/CN.7/2025/1](#))

3. General debate

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

At the reconvened sixty-seventh 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 and the high-level political forum on sustainable development held under the auspices of the Assembly and the Council. Delegations were therefore encouraged to link their statements at the sixty-eighth session to the main theme for 2025, “Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind”.

Following established practice, the extended Bureau is expected to establish a date for opening the list of speakers, which will differentiate only between cabinet ministers and other representatives.

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 (which is equivalent to a statement of approximately 500 words) 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.7/2025/2-E/CN.15/2025/2](#)), 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: (a) addressing and countering the world drug problem; preventing and countering organized crime; (b) preventing and countering corruption and economic crime; (c) preventing and countering terrorism; and (d) 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-eighth 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.7/2025/3-E/CN.15/2025/3](#)).

At its reconvened sixty-seventh session, the Commission adopted resolution 67/5, entitled “Implementation of the budget for the biennium 2024–2025 for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme”. In the resolution, the Commission 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 challenges that remained with regard to the provision by the Office of technical assistance and capacity-building, despite an increase in special-purpose funding. Also in the resolution, the Commission acknowledged the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the consolidated budget for the biennium 2024–2025 and noted the importance of continued discussions within the intergovernmental working group on budgetary matters, including any proposals to improve the funding pattern of the Office.

At the same session, the Commission considered the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the consolidated budget for the biennium 2024–2025 for UNODC ([E/CN.7/2024/17-E/CN.15/2024/18](#)) and a conference room paper prepared by the Secretariat on the draft proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance for 2024 for UNODC ([E/CN.7/2024/CRP.15-E/CN.15/2024/CRP.8](#)). The draft proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance for 2024 were subsequently transmitted to the Office of Programme Planning, Finance and Budget at United Nations Headquarters.

At its sixty-eighth session, the Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the draft proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance for 2024 for UNODC ([E/CN.7/2025/4-E/CN.15/2025/4](#)).

At its reconvened sixty-seventh session, the Commission also considered the report of the Executive Director on gender balance and geographical representation within UNODC ([E/CN.7/2024/16-E/CN.15/2024/17](#)).

At its sixty-eighth 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 gender balance.

Documentation

Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2025/2-E/CN.15/2025/2](#))

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.7/2025/3-E/CN.15/2025/3](#))

Note by the Secretariat on the draft proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance for 2024 ([E/CN.7/2025/4-E/CN.15/2025/4](#))

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-seventh meeting of the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence of the World Health Organization (WHO) was held from 14 to 18 October 2024. At that meeting, the Committee undertook critical reviews of seven new psychoactive substances: one semi-synthetic cannabinoid, hexahydrocannabinol (HHC); four synthetic opioids, *N*-pyrrolidino protonitazene (protonitazepyne), *N*-pyrrolidino metonitazene (metonitazepyne), etonitazepipne (*N*-piperidinyl etonitazene) and *N*-desethyl isotonitazene (norisotonitazene); one dissociative-type substance, 3-hydroxyphencyclidine (3-OH-PCP); and one cathinone/stimulant, *N*-ethylheptedrone (*N*-ethylnorheptedrone). In addition, the Committee carried out a critical review of the medicine carisoprodol.

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 21 November 2024 of the following recommendations:

1. To be added to Schedule I of the 1961 Convention as amended:
 - (a) *N*-Pyrrolidino protonitazene (protonitazepyne);
 - (b) *N*-Pyrrolidino metonitazene (metonitazepyne);
 - (c) Etonitazepipne (*N*-piperidinyl etonitazene);
 - (d) *N*-Desethyl isotonitazene (norisotonitazene);
2. To be added to Schedule II of the 1971 Convention:
 - (a) Hexahydrocannabinol (HHC);
3. To be added to Schedule IV of the 1971 Convention:
 - (a) Carisoprodol;

4. To be kept under surveillance:
 - (a) *N*-Ethylheptedrone (*N*-ethylnorheptedrone);
 - (b) 3-Hydroxyphencyclidine (3-OH-PCP).

At its sixty-eighth session, the Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat on changes in the scope of control of substances ([E/CN.7/2025/9](#)), containing relevant extracts from the report on the forty-seventh 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.

The Commission will also have before it a note by the Secretariat containing a notification transmitted by the President of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) pursuant to article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 ([E/CN.7/2025/10](#)). In the notification, the President of INCB informed the Chair of the Commission that the Board had found an inconsistency with regard to the manner in which the esters of 3,4-MDP-2-P methyl glycidic acid were presented in Table I of the 1988 Convention, and in that regard the Board had noted that, while seven esters of 3,4-MDP-2-P methyl glycidic acid had been included in a footnote to Table I of the 1988 Convention introduced in accordance with Commission decision 67/25 of March 2024, the methyl ester, which had been added to Table I of the 1988 Convention in November 2019, was still included in the body of that table, as 3,4-MDP-2-P methyl glycidate ("PMK glycidate"). The Board therefore proposed that the methyl ester be removed from the body of Table I of the 1988 Convention and instead be included in the same footnote (as the "methyl ester") so that it appeared together with the other seven esters, which would also be consistent with the presentation, in accordance with Commission decision 67/17, of P-2-P methyl glycidic acid and its esters in Table I of the 1988 Convention.

(b) Challenges and future work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the World Health Organization 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 of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission and maintained on the agendas of the subsequent sessions, and the sub-item was later expanded to include mention of INCB, with a view to assisting Member States in applying the existing scheduling procedures contained in the three international drug control conventions. Under the sub-item, the Commission will address the ongoing challenge of identifying and detecting new psychoactive substances. The Commission will also address similar challenges posed by the proliferation of non-scheduled chemicals, including designer precursors.

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. Also in the outcome document, Member States resolved to tackle the misuse of pre-precursors and substitute or alternative precursors for illicit drug manufacturing.

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 at the ministerial segment

of the sixty-second session of the Commission, 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. Among the key challenges identified in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019 and recalled in the high-level declaration by the Commission on the 2024 midterm review, following up to the Ministerial Declaration, in relation to the implementation of the international drug policy commitments were legal and regulatory challenges, including with regard to the scheduling of substances. During the thematic discussions held by the Commission in 2024, one of the thematic sessions was focused on discussing regulatory challenges in scheduling substances under the international drug control conventions (see E/CN.7/2025/CRP.1).

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 acknowledged the challenges posed by chemicals which are not included in Table I or Table II of the 1988 Convention and thus are not under international control. The Commission welcomed the cooperation of Member States with UNODC and INCB, as well as with other relevant international and regional organizations and entities, 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.

In its resolution 66/3, entitled “Strengthening information-sharing to increase scientific evidence-based support for international scheduling and the effective implementation of international scheduling decisions”, the Commission expressed concern that synthetic drugs and the non-medical use of prescription drugs posed increasing risks to health and safety, as well as scientific, legal and regulatory challenges, including with regard to the scheduling of substances. The Commission acknowledged the efforts of INCB and WHO to bring to the attention of the Commission the challenges related to new psychoactive substances and new precursor chemicals. In addition, the Commission welcomed cooperation between Member States, UNODC, INCB and other relevant international and regional organizations to implement proactive approaches to detect and identify new psychoactive substances and new precursor chemicals.

(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 2024 (E/INCB/2024/1) 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 2024 on the implementation of articles 12 and 13 of the 1988 Convention (E/INCB/2024/4) be considered at the same time as the report of the Board for 2024 (E/INCB/2024/1), in line with past practice.

(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, included, for the first time, 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 those purposes, including for the relief of pain and suffering, and address existing barriers in that regard.

In the high-level declaration by the Commission on the 2024 midterm review, following up to the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, Member States 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.

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 the coronavirus disease (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 awareness-raising initiative with the motto #NoPatientLeftBehind, 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. Further information on the “#NoPatientLeftBehind” initiative is available on the Commission’s web page on the initiative.¹

In its resolution 67/2, the Commission expressed concern about the persistent disparities in progress made with regard to the availability of and access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, and emphasized the need to address affordability, as part of a comprehensive approach in order to be able to ensure quality, safe and effective controlled medicines for all patients in need. Also in the resolution, the Commission welcomed the “#NoPatientLeftBehind” (“Access and availability”)

¹ www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/session/65_Session_2022/availability_and_access.html.

initiative, and called upon Member States to continue to work through the Commission to enhance access to and the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes. In addition, the Commission urged Member States to take into account the specific needs of children when assessing, developing and implementing domestic policies to improve access and availability, and encouraged Member States to develop and use scientific evidence-based practices and domestic clinical guidelines relating to the medical needs and care of children. In that regard, the Commission requested UNODC, and invited INCB, to collaborate with WHO and other relevant United Nations entities, such as the United Nations Children's Fund, to continue to strengthen and improve their inter-agency cooperation in that area.

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

The Commission will have before it the latest issue of the publication entitled *Competent National Authorities under the International Drug Control Treaties* (ST/NAR.3/2024/1), 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.

The Commission will also have before it the latest issue of the publication entitled *Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Their Precursors: 2023* (ST/NAR.4/2023/1), which provides information on national manufacturers authorized by Governments to manufacture or convert specific narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, as well as manufacturers of precursor chemicals.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on changes in the scope of control of substances: proposed scheduling recommendations by the World Health Organization (E/CN.7/2025/9)

Note by the Secretariat containing a notification from the President of the International Narcotics Control Board (E/CN.7/2025/10)

Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2024 (E/INCB/2024/1)

Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2024 on the Implementation of Articles 12 and 13 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 (E/INCB/2024/4)

Competent National Authorities under the International Drug Control Treaties (ST/NAR.3/2024/1)

Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Their Precursors: 2023 (ST/NAR.4/2023/1)

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

High-level declaration by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the 2024 midterm review, following up to the Ministerial Declaration of 2019

At the opening of the high-level segment of the sixty-seventh session of the Commission, in March 2024, Member States adopted by consensus the high-level declaration by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the 2024 midterm review, following up to the Ministerial Declaration of 2019.

In the high-level declaration, Ministers and government representatives reaffirmed the commitments made in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019 and emphasized the need for accelerated, scientific evidence-based and comprehensive actions to address

persistent and emerging drug-related challenges. In addition, they called for enhanced cooperation at all levels, recognized the importance of leveraging technological innovation and highlighted the need for improved data collection and analysis to drive effective policy decisions, as well as for increased capacity-building and resource mobilization to support Member States in the implementation of existing drug policy commitments. They also reiterated their resolve to review in 2029 the progress made in implementing all international drug policy commitments.

Thematic discussions

Also in the high-level declaration on the 2024 midterm review, the Commission expressed gratitude to the Chairs of the Commission who had facilitated the thematic discussions from 2019 to 2023. In line with the commitment made in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019 to foster broad, transparent and inclusive discussions, the Commission adopted, by silence procedure on 8 May 2024, a workplan for the thematic discussions to be held in the lead-up to the review in 2029. The workplan foresees for the period 2024–2028 the holding of one meeting each year focused on the implementation of all international drug policy commitments to address the challenges identified in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019.

For the thematic discussions held from 12 to 14 November 2024, an updated format was introduced with a view to fostering more dynamic and inclusive exchanges. The discussions, based on three challenges identified in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019,² in accordance with the workplan, were structured into three thematic days, with two sessions each day. Key topics discussed during the three days included the expanding range of drugs and diversification of markets; challenges related to synthetic opioids and the non-medical use of prescription drugs; the illicit cultivation and production and trafficking in narcotic drugs; and regulatory challenges in scheduling substances under the international drug control conventions. Each session included introductory presentations by representatives of UNODC, expert panel discussions with experts nominated through the regional groups and interactive debates moderated by the Chair of the Commission.

Under the newly introduced item on the agenda for the thematic discussions, entitled “Other substantive matters”, delegations had the opportunity to bring to the attention of the Commission persistent, new or emerging issues of particular concern to their Governments.

Under the item on other substantive matters, discussions focused on challenges encountered in identifying new drugs emerging on the illicit market and enhancing forensic capacity, evidence-based harm reduction measures, the social determinants of drug policy and barriers to accessing services, the role of scientific evidence in the implementation of global drug policies, threats to the integrity of the international drug control system, and the current status of the critical review by WHO of coca leaf.

The hybrid format adopted for the thematic discussions allowed both in-person and online participation, and the sessions were broadcast live on UN Web TV.

At its sixty-eighth session, the Commission will have before it a conference room paper containing the Chair’s summary on the thematic discussions on the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, following up to the Ministerial Declaration of 2019 and the 2024 midterm review (E/CN.7/2025/CRP.1).

² Over the course of the three days of the thematic discussions, and in accordance with the workplan, the following challenges identified in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019 were discussed: that both the range of drugs and drugs markets are expanding and diversifying; that the abuse, illicit cultivation and production and manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, as well as the illicit trafficking in those substances and in precursors, have reached record levels, and that the illicit demand for and the domestic diversion of precursor chemicals are on the rise; and that synthetic opioids and the non-medical use of prescription drugs pose increasing risks to public health and safety, as well as scientific, legal and regulatory challenges, including with regard to the scheduling of substances.

“Pledge4Action” initiative

At the high-level segment in March 2024, the “Pledge4Action” initiative was launched, aimed at mobilizing Member States and stakeholders to undertake concrete, impactful actions to address the key challenges outlined in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019. The initiative generated significant engagement; since its launch, 69 pledges have been made by Member States, UNODC and stakeholders (of which 66 were made during the high-level segment, and 2 were made during the reconvened sixty-seventh session, in December 2024), reflecting a strong collective commitment to tackling persistent and emerging drug-related issues.

As part of the thematic discussions of the Commission in 2024, a dedicated segment, the “‘Pledge4Action’ Progress Spotlight”, provided Member States with an opportunity to report on the progress made in fulfilling their pledges. A total of 17 Member States provided updates on the implementation of their pledges, showcasing advancements and highlighting best practices. To further sustain momentum, the Secretariat is actively engaging with Member States to encourage regular reports on progress made, which are then shared widely, including on the “Pledge4Action” portal.³ As mentioned above, at the reconvened sixty-seventh session, two more Member States joined the initiative and made pledges. At the same session, one Member State reported on progress made.

Member States that have not yet joined the “Pledge4Action” initiative may do so by making a pledge, at the sixty-eighth session, to undertake concrete action to address the key challenges identified in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019 and the high-level declaration by the Commission on the 2024 midterm review. Member States wishing to report on progress made in the implementation of their pledges may provide updates at the sixty-eighth session during their interventions under agenda item 6, entitled “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”.

At its sixty-eighth session, the Commission will have before it a conference room paper containing a note by the Secretariat on the follow-up by the Commission to the implementation of all international drug policy commitments (E/CN.7/2025/CRP.3).

In its resolution 53/16, the Commission requested the Executive Director of UNODC to continue to submit 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 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.7/2025/5](#).

Owing to the ongoing financial constraints stemming from the liquidity crisis in the United Nations regular budget, the report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking, which was to include information on the implementation of Commission resolutions 53/16, 54/9 and 56/5, could not be prepared.

Documentation

Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2025/2-E/CN.15/2025/2](#))

Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug abuse ([E/CN.7/2025/5](#))

³ www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/session/67_Session_2024/pledge4action-cnd-2024-midterm-review.html.

Conference room paper containing the Chair's summary on the thematic discussions on the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, following up to the Ministerial Declaration of 2019 and the 2024 midterm review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, following up to the Ministerial Declaration (E/CN.7/2025/CRP.1)

Conference room paper containing a note by the Secretariat on the follow-up by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to the implementation of all international drug policy commitments (E/CN.7/2025/CRP.3)

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.

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.

In the Ministerial Declaration of 2019 and the high-level declaration by the Commission on the 2024 midterm review, Member States encouraged further contributions of relevant United Nations entities, international financial institutions and relevant regional and international organizations, within their respective mandates, to the work of the Commission and the efforts of Member States to address and counter the world drug problem, to strengthen international and inter-agency cooperation, and encouraged them to make available relevant information to the Commission in order to facilitate its work and to enhance coherence within the United Nations system at all levels with regard to the world drug problem.

Furthermore, the Commission continues to actively seek 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.

In its resolutions [71/211](#), [72/198](#), [73/192](#), [74/178](#), [75/198](#), [76/188](#), [77/238](#) and [79/191](#), the General Assembly noted with appreciation the contributions of United Nations entities, international financial institutions and relevant regional and international organizations to the work of the Commission, to strengthen international and inter-agency cooperation.

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 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.

In 2024, in line with decision of the Secretary-General's Executive Committee, UNODC field representatives continued to actively promote the common United Nations position on drug policy and its implementation through briefings to United Nations resident coordinators and United Nations country teams, which resulted in new inter-agency initiatives to support Member States in the implementation of international drug policy commitments. In addition to holding a briefing to Member States in January 2024 and a side event on the margins of the sixty-seventh session of the Commission, in March 2024, the UNODC-led task team held several meetings to coordinate work on drug-related matters implemented by its member entities and has started to coordinate and explore new joint data collection activities. The member entities of the task team have actively participated in and contributed to the work of the Commission, including during its high-level segment in March 2024 and during the thematic discussions held in 2024. UNODC reports regularly to the secretariat of the Secretary-General's Executive Committee on the implementation of the Committee's decisions related to the task team.

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 in the implementation of their joint commitments to address and counter the world drug problem (E/CN.7/2025/CRP.2). In addition, during the consideration of this agenda item, UNODC will provide a briefing on the work of the United Nations system coordination task team.

As requested in Commission resolution 51/14, entitled "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", the Commission will have before it note by the Secretariat on the implementation of the resolution (E/CN.7/2025/7).

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.7/2025/7)

Conference room paper prepared by the Secretariat on efforts undertaken together with relevant United Nations entities and other stakeholders in supporting Member States in the implementation of their joint commitments (E/CN.7/2025/CRP.2)

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.

Owing to the ongoing financial constraints stemming from the liquidity crisis in the United Nations regular budget, the meetings of the above-mentioned subsidiary bodies planned for 2024 were postponed to 2025. The funding required to service those meetings was available neither for conference management services nor for substantive secretariat services.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on action taken by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs ([E/CN.7/2025/8](#))

9. Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, 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 same 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 both the Ministerial Declaration of 2019 and the high-level declaration by the Commission on the 2024 midterm review, 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](#) ([E/CN.7/2021/CRP.14-E/CN.15/2021/CRP.8](#)), in which the Assembly introduced a new coordination segment to replace the integration segment and the informal meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Chairs of its subsidiary bodies. The coordination segment is aimed at streamlining workflows, providing guidance to subsidiary bodies, enhancing coordination and developing actionable recommendations on strengthening the contributions of subsidiary bodies to the thematic review of the high-level political forum. The 2025 coordination segment of the Council is to be held on 6 and 7 February 2025 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 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. 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 14 to 23 July 2025. The thematic focus will be "Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind". 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-eighth session to further consider how it can best contribute to the follow-up to, and support the implementation of, the 2030 Agenda, 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. 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 General Assembly resolution [75/290 A](#).

10. Provisional agenda for the sixty-ninth session of the Commission

Under agenda item 10, the Commission should devote time to the consideration of any further enhancements that it may deem appropriate to the provisional agenda for its sixty-ninth and subsequent sessions.

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-eighth session

It is expected that the Commission will adopt the report on its sixty-eighth session in the afternoon of 14 March 2025.

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 formal deadline for submission of draft resolutions to be considered at the sixty-eighth session is four weeks prior to the commencement of the session, that is, Monday, 10 February 2025, at noon. States members of the Commission intending to submit draft resolutions for consideration by the Commission at its sixty-eighth session are requested to submit them to the Secretariat as early as possible and at the latest by the formal deadline.
3. The voting on the scheduling of substances will be held under agenda item 5 (a), entitled “Implementation of the international drug control treaties: changes in the scope of control of substances”, on Wednesday, 12 March 2025, during the morning session.
4. 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. Suggested meeting times are from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.
5. The allotted speaking time of three minutes for statements delivered by representatives speaking in their national capacity and five minutes for statements delivered by the Chairs of the regional groups, are to be strictly adhered to during the sixty-eighth session.
6. As agreed at the reconvened sixty-seventh session, on 6 December 2024, upon the recommendation of the extended Bureau, the pre-session consultations on 7 March will be held in English only.

Informal pre-session consultations, 7 March 2025

Date and time

Friday, 7 March

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

Proposed organization of work for the sixty-eighth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, 10–14 March 2025

Date and time

Plenary

Committee of the Whole

Monday, 10 March

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 10 a.m.–1 p.m. | Opening of the sixty-eighth 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>Date and time</i> | <i>Plenary</i> | <i>Committee of the Whole</i> |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| | <i>Item 3. General debate</i> | |
| 3–6 p.m. | <i>Item 3. General debate (continued)</i> | Consideration of draft resolutions |
| Tuesday, 11 March | | |
| 10 a.m.–1 p.m. | Operational segment | Consideration of draft resolutions |
| | <i>Item 4. Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions</i> | <i>(continued)</i> |
| | (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 | |
| 3–6 p.m. | <i>Item 4. Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions (continued)</i> | Consideration of draft resolutions <i>(continued)</i> |
| | Normative segment | |
| | <i>Item 5. Implementation of the international drug control treaties</i> | |
| | (a) Changes in the scope of control of substances | |
| | (b) Challenges and future work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the World Health Organization 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 | |

| <i>Date and time</i> | <i>Plenary</i> | <i>Committee of the Whole</i> |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Wednesday, 12 March | | |
| 10 a.m.–1 p.m. | <p><i>Item 5.</i> Implementation of the international drug control treaties (<i>continued</i>)</p> <p><i>Item 5 (a).</i> Implementation of the international drug control treaties: changes in the scope of control of substances</p> <p><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</p> | Consideration of draft resolutions (<i>continued</i>) |
| 3–6 p.m. | <p><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>)</p> | Consideration of draft resolutions (<i>continued</i>) |
| Thursday, 13 March | | |
| 10 a.m.–1 p.m. | <p><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>)</p> <p><i>Item 7.</i> Inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem</p> | Consideration of draft resolutions (<i>continued</i>) |
| 3–6 p.m. | <p><i>Item 8.</i> Recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission</p> <p><i>Item 9.</i> Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, including follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</p> | Consideration of draft resolutions (<i>continued</i>) |
| Friday, 14 March | | |
| 10 a.m.–1 p.m. | <i>Item 10.</i> Provisional agenda for the sixty-ninth session of the Commission | Consideration of draft resolutions (<i>continued</i>) |
| 3–6 p.m. | <p><i>Item 11.</i> Other business</p> <p><i>Item 12.</i> Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-eighth session</p> | |