



United Nations

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

**Report on the reconvened
sixty-fifth session
(8 and 9 December 2022)**

**Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2022
Supplement No. 8A**

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

[15 December 2022]

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Executive summary

The present summary has been prepared pursuant to the annex to General Assembly resolution 68/1, entitled “Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council”, in which it is stated that the subsidiary bodies of the Council should, inter alia, include in their reports an executive summary, and pursuant to the annex to resolution 72/305, entitled “Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/1 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council.

The present document contains the report on the reconvened sixty-fifth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which was held on 8 and 9 December 2022. Chapter I contains the text of the resolution and decision adopted by the Commission, with the decision being recommended by the Commission for adoption by the Economic and Social Council. During the session, the Commission considered strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions; implementation of the international drug control treaties; 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; and matters relating to the organization of the sixty-sixth session of the Commission.

During its reconvened sixty-fifth session, the Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of a draft decision entitled “Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened sixty-fifth session”. In addition, 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”.

Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decision for adoption by the Economic and Social Council

1. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Draft decision

Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened sixty-fifth session

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened sixty-fifth session.

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

2. The attention of the Economic and Social Council is drawn to the following resolution, adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its reconvened sixty-fifth session, and to the action taken pursuant to General Assembly resolution [46/185 C](#), in section XVI of which the Assembly authorized the Commission to approve the programme budget for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme:

Resolution 65/5

Implementation of the budget for the biennium 2022–2023 for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Exercising the administrative and financial functions entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution [46/185 C](#), section XVI, paragraph 2, of 20 December 1991,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the consolidated budget for the biennium 2022–2023 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,¹

Noting with concern the financial challenges faced by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime 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,

Noting the importance for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime of broadening its donor base,

Recalling its resolution 64/6 of 10 December 2021,

1. *Notes* that the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the consolidated budget for the biennium 2022–2023 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime provides information on the adjustments to the consolidated budget;

¹ [E/CN.7/2022/16–E/CN.15/2022/16](#).

2. *Also notes* the importance of continued consultations within the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on any proposals that would alter the funding model of the Office, including on the proposals for direct cost recovery;

3. *Further notes* the continued strong donor confidence in programme delivery by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

4. *Notes* the involvement of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the United Nations reform streams;

5. *Approves* the revised budget for general-purpose funds for the biennium 2022–2023 in the amount of 5,452,400 United States dollars;

6. *Endorses* the revised budget for special-purpose funds and programme support costs for the biennium 2022–2023 as indicated below, without prejudice to the positions of Member States on a pilot initiative on direct cost recovery:

Resource projections for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme

	<i>Resources (thousands of United States dollars)</i>		<i>Posts</i>	
	<i>Approved budget, 2022–2023</i>	<i>Revised budget, 2022–2023</i>	<i>Approved budget, 2022–2023</i>	<i>Revised budget, 2022–2023</i>
General-purpose funds				
Post	3 485.5	3 550.9	11	11
Non-post	1 900.8	1 901.5		
Subtotal	5 386.3	5 452.4	11	11
Special-purpose funds	181 098.3	226 958.8	136	140
Subtotal	181 098.3	226 958.8	136	140
Programme support cost funds				
Post	18 112.1	18 109.9	67	67
Non-post	5 604.3	6 926.9		
Subtotal	23 716.4	25 036.8	67	67
Total	210 201.0	257 448.0	214	218

7. *Notes* that the estimated resource projections above are subject to the availability of funding.

Chapter II

Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions

3. At its 1st meeting, held jointly with the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on 8 December 2022, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs considered agenda item 4, which read as follows:

“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.”

4. For its consideration of item 4, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) 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.7/2022/3/Add.1-E/CN.15/2022/3/Add.1](#));

(b) Report of the Executive Director on gender balance and geographical representation within the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2022/15-E/CN.15/2022/15](#));

(c) Report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the consolidated budget for the biennium 2022–2023 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2022/16-E/CN.15/2022/16](#));

(d) Conference room paper prepared by the Secretariat on the draft proposed programme plan for 2024 and programme performance for 2022 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2022/CRP.16-E/CN.15/2022/CRP.9](#)).

5. The Director of the Division for Management and the Director of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) made introductory statements. The observer for Costa Rica, in his capacity as Vice-Chair of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC, also made an introductory statement.

6. Joint statements were made by the representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer, on behalf of the European Union and its member States,² and by the representative of Morocco on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

7. Statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Bangladesh, Kenya, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Sweden, Italy, Jamaica, Ecuador, Pakistan, Colombia, Peru, China and the Russian Federation.

8. Statements were also made by the observers for Honduras, the United Arab Emirates, Burkina Faso, Paraguay, Afghanistan, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Uzbekistan. The observer for the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and

² Also on behalf of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Ukraine and San Marino.

Criminal Justice made a statement, also on behalf of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs.

9. The representative of Ukraine made a statement in exercise of the right of reply.

A. Deliberations

10. Many speakers commended the work carried out by the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC, which continued to serve as a forum for dialogue between Member States and UNODC on strategic and programmatic matters with a view to increasing accountability with regard to programme development and implementation. Appreciation was expressed to the Chair and the Bureau of the working group for having guided the deliberations of the working group in a skilful manner. The importance of continued dialogue with the Executive Director and senior management of UNODC was underscored.

11. Several speakers welcomed the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the consolidated budget of UNODC for the biennium 2022–2023.

12. Several speakers recognized that UNODC had continued to deliver assistance in a period of multiple crises and that the Office had been experiencing financial challenges. They expressed concern about the low level of general-purpose and soft-earmarked funding. Many speakers reiterated that adequate, predictable and flexible funding was key for UNODC to ensure the implementation of its mandates. Some speakers called upon Member States to consider making non-earmarked contributions and emphasized the need for sufficient regular budget funding. The Office was invited to consider avenues for reducing its dependence on extrabudgetary resources. The importance of strengthening efforts to ensure an innovative and transparent funding model for UNODC was stressed. The Office was commended for placing greater emphasis on its field work and was encouraged to continue its efforts in that regard.

13. UNODC was commended for the implementation of its Strategy 2021–2025 and for the roll-out and implementation of its Strategic Vision for Africa 2030 and its Strategic Vision for Latin America and the Caribbean 2022–2025. It was noted that the approaches contained in the regional strategic visions should be implemented in line with the national priorities of relevant Member States. Some speakers reiterated the importance of improving and expanding UNODC regional and country programmes and projects in developing countries, with particular emphasis on technical assistance activities.

14. Several speakers commended UNODC for its continuous involvement in the implementation of the United Nations management and development system reforms and stressed the importance of providing further updates to Member States in that regard. Some speakers also called upon UNODC to continue to engage in full coordination with other United Nations entities at the country level and with the resident coordinators. The need for strengthened partnerships with United Nations entities, civil society and other relevant stakeholders in addressing and countering the world drug problem and preventing and countering crime was stressed.

15. The importance of building a culture of evaluation, results-based management and risk management, with a view to strengthening the overall performance of the Office and increasing accountability, was underscored. Some speakers welcomed the conference room paper on the draft proposed programme plan for 2024 and programme performance for 2022, and the inclusion of a reference to strengthening the Independent Evaluation Section.

16. While appreciation was expressed for the contributions of the Office to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the need for adherence to the international drug control conventions and for a balanced approach

to addressing the world drug problem – thereby focusing on core mandates of UNODC – was also mentioned.

17. It was noted that the Office’s research work should be based on mandates and policy guidance provided by its governing bodies, as well as on impartial and transparent data sources. The need for regular dialogue and close consultations between Member States and UNODC regarding ongoing and planned publications and research activities was emphasized.

18. UNODC was commended for the smooth organization and conduct of intergovernmental meetings since the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

19. A number of speakers reiterated the importance of continued efforts to ensure respect for multilingualism in the meetings of intergovernmental bodies.

20. Appreciation was expressed for the efforts of UNODC to promote equitable geographical representation in its staff composition, bearing in mind the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity. At the same time, many speakers stressed the need for strengthened efforts and initiatives aimed at further improving the situation in that regard.

21. The progress made by the Office in achieving gender parity in its staff composition was welcomed by a number of delegations, and the importance of the work in that area was highlighted.

22. Several speakers recognized the noticeable efforts of UNODC to mainstream a gender perspective into its programmes and activities, including in the framework of the United Nations Office at Vienna/UNODC Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (2022–2026). The work of the Office aimed at enhancing its strategic approach to youth empowerment was also commended.

B. Action taken by the Commission

23. At its 1st meeting, held on 8 December 2022, the Commission elected by acclamation Philbert Abaka Johnson (Ghana) as First Vice-Chair of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC for the remaining part of 2022.

24. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 December 2022, the Commission adopted a draft resolution entitled “Implementation of the budget for the biennium 2022–2023 for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme” ([E/CN.7/2022/L.9](#)). (For the text of the resolution, see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 65/5.)

25. Also at its 2nd meeting, the Commission elected by acclamation the following members of the Bureau of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC for 2023: Philbert Abaka Johnson (Ghana) as Chair, Hikihara Takeshi (Japan) as First Vice-Chair, Eglantina Gjermeni (Albania) as Vice-Chair, Alejandro Edmundo Solano Ortiz (Costa Rica) as Vice-Chair and Esther Monterrubio Villar (Spain) as Vice-Chair.

Chapter III

Implementation of the international drug control treaties

26. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 December 2022, the Commission considered agenda item 5, which read as follows:

“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.”

27. The Chief of the Drugs, Laboratory and Scientific Services Branch of UNODC and the observer for the World Health Organization (WHO) made introductory statements.

28. Statements were made by the representatives of Kazakhstan, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Pakistan, Belgium, Mexico, Peru, the Syrian Arab Republic, Austria, Australia, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Algeria, the Russian Federation, the United States, Cuba and Thailand.

29. Statements were also made by the observers for Singapore, Honduras, Azerbaijan and Türkiye, and by the representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer.

30. The observer for the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care also made a statement.

Deliberations

31. Pursuant to Commission resolution 58/11, in preparation for the scheduling decisions to be taken by the Commission at its sixty-sixth session, the observer for WHO gave an online presentation to the Commission on the outcome of the forty-fifth meeting of the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence, held from 10 to 13 October 2022.

32. Many speakers reiterated their full commitment to the international drug control treaties as the cornerstone of the international drug control system. They also highlighted the important role of UNODC and of the International Narcotics Control Board in addressing and countering the world drug problem. Several speakers expressed appreciation for the technical support provided by UNODC and the Board.

33. Several speakers shared information on national efforts to address the world drug problem from a supply reduction perspective, including with regard to the links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime and the criminal misuse of information and communications technologies for illicit drug-related activities. The challenges posed by synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances were also underlined.

34. Several speakers shared information regarding demand reduction measures at the national level, focusing on efforts to strengthen the prevention of drug use disorders and treatment and rehabilitation measures for people who use drugs.

35. A number of speakers highlighted the importance of ensuring access to and the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their abuse and diversion, and welcomed the initiative led by the Commission in 2022 on that topic.

36. The need for enhanced and reliable data collection was also underlined as a key factor in understanding and effectively addressing the world drug problem.

37. A number of speakers called for a human rights-based approach to addressing the world drug problem. Some speakers stressed the importance of countering the world drug problem with measures that are in full conformity with the three international drug control conventions. The importance of international cooperation and the principle of common and shared responsibility were also underscored.

Chapter IV

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

38. At its 1st meeting, held jointly with the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on 8 December 2022, and at its 2nd meeting, on 9 December 2022, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs considered agenda item 9, entitled “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”.

39. The Secretary made an introductory statement.

40. A statement was made by the representative of Azerbaijan.

Deliberations

41. The key role of the Economic and Social Council in balancing the three dimensions of sustainable development was highlighted. The Chair and the Secretary provided an overview of the substantive contributions made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, within their respective mandates, to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including in the run-up to the Sustainable Development Goals Summit in 2023. The active role taken on by the two Commissions in the review of the work of the functional commissions conducted by the Council in 2022 was noted, as were possible actions to follow up on the recommendations emanating from that review.

Chapter V

Provisional agenda for the sixty-sixth session of the Commission

42. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 December 2022, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs considered agenda item 10, entitled “Provisional agenda for the sixty-sixth session of the Commission”. The Chair introduced the item and brought to the attention of the Commission matters relating to the organization of work for its sixty-sixth session.

43. No statements were made under agenda item 10.

A. Deliberations

1. Duration of the sixty-sixth session and other arrangements

44. The Commission decided that the regular part of its sixty-sixth session would be held from Monday, 13 March 2023, to Friday, 17 March 2023, with pre-session consultations to be held on 10 March 2023. The Commission also decided that its reconvened sixty-sixth session would be held on 7 and 8 December 2023.

45. The Commission further decided that, in accordance with its decision 55/1, the firm deadline for the submission of draft resolutions would be one month prior to the commencement of the session, namely, by noon on Monday, 13 February 2023.

46. Owing to the difficulty of predicting the developments of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission decided that the extended Bureau would continue to discuss the logistical and organizational arrangements for the sixty-sixth session.

47. The Chair informed the Commission that, in addition to coordinating the programme of side events, the secretariat would also coordinate the organization of exhibitions during the regular part of the session from 2023 onward.

48. Regarding the organization of side events and exhibitions during the regular part of the sixty-sixth session of the Commission, it was mentioned that, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, consideration would need to be given to the feasibility of in-person and hybrid (both in-person and online) side events and exhibitions closer to the date of the session. It was recalled that the guidelines for side events and exhibitions during the sixty-sixth session had been shared with all Member States on 2 December 2022 and that the application period for side events and exhibitions would be from 9 to 20 January 2023.

2. Provisional agenda for the sixty-sixth session of the Commission

49. The Chair recalled that, in its decision 2022/329, the Economic and Social Council had approved the provisional agenda for the sixty-sixth session of the Commission.

50. The Chair further 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. The Chair therefore encouraged delegations to link their statements at the sixty-sixth session to the main theme for 2023, which would be “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels”.

B. Action taken by the Commission

51. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 December 2022, the Commission decided on the dates, deadlines and arrangements for its sixty-sixth session as set out in paragraphs 44–48 above.

Chapter VI

Other business

52. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 December 2022, the Commission considered agenda item 11, entitled “Other business”. No issues were raised under the agenda item.

Chapter VII

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its reconvened sixty-fifth session

53. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 December 2022, the Commission adopted the parts of its draft report on the organization of the reconvened session and administrative matters (E/CN.7/2022/L.1/Add.8) and on agenda item 4, on strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions (E/CN.7/2022/L.1/Add.9). The Commission decided that, in line with past practice, the present report would be brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council and that a draft decision on the report of the Commission on its reconvened sixty-fifth session, to be recommended to the Council for adoption, would be included in the report on the reconvened session (see chap. I, sect. A). The Commission also decided to entrust the finalization of the report to the Chair of the Commission, with the assistance of the Rapporteur.

Chapter VIII

Organization of the reconvened session and administrative matters

A. Opening and duration of the session

54. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs held its reconvened sixty-fifth session in Vienna on 8 and 9 December 2022.

55. 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 sole 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 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.

56. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs held two meetings during its reconvened sixty-fifth session. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2011/259, one meeting of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs was held jointly with the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to consider items 4 and 9 of the agenda of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and items 4 and 10 of the agenda of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

57. At the joint plenary meeting, the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice made statements.

B. Attendance

58. The organizational arrangements for the reconvened sixty-fifth session had been endorsed by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs by means of a silence procedure on 8 November 2022. In accordance with those arrangements, the session was conducted in a hybrid format (in person and online).

59. The reconvened sixty-fifth session was attended by representatives of all fifty-three States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations, representatives of entities of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations also participated. A list of participants is contained in document [E/CN.7/2022/INF/3](#).

C. Documentation

60. The documents before the Commission at its reconvened sixty-fifth session are listed in conference room paper E/CN.7/2022/CRP.15/Add.1.

D. Closure of the session

61. At the 2nd meeting, on 9 December 2022, a closing statement was made by the Chair of the Commission.