



# Economic and Social Council

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## Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Sixty-sixth session

Vienna, 13–17 March 2023

### Draft report

*Rapporteur:* Paul Williams (Canada)

## Organization of the session and administrative matters

### A. Informal pre-session consultations

1. At the pre-session consultations chaired by the First Vice-Chair of the Commission, Philbert Abaka Johnson (Ghana), and held on 10 March 2023, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs conducted a preliminary review of draft proposals that had been submitted by the deadline of 13 February 2023, pursuant to Commission decision 55/1, and dealt with organizational matters of the sixty-sixth session. The Chair also provided an overview of the organization of the programme of work of the session.

### B. Opening and duration of the session

2. The Commission held its sixty-sixth session in Vienna from 13 to 17 March 2023. The Chair of the Commission opened the session and made a statement. The President of the Economic and Social Council addressed the Commission in a pre-recorded video message. The Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) made an opening statement. The Commission was then addressed by the Director General of the World Health Organization in a pre-recorded video message. A statement was also made by the President of the International Narcotics Control Board. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights addressed the Commission in a pre-recorded video message.

### C. Attendance

3. The arrangements for the organization of the sixty-sixth session had been endorsed by the Commission by means of a silence procedure that ended on 30 January 2023. In accordance with those arrangements, the session was conducted in a hybrid format.

4. The session was attended by representatives of [...] States members of the Commission ([...] were not represented). Also attending were observers for [...] other States Members of the United Nations, as well as non-member States, representatives



of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations.

#### D. Election of officers

5. 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 UNODC.

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

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

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

8. 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.

9. During the sixty-sixth session of the Commission, the extended Bureau met on 15 and 16 March 2023 to consider matters related to the organization of work.

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

10. At its 1st meeting, on 13 March 2023, the Commission adopted by consensus its provisional agenda and organization of work ([E/CN.7/2023/1](#)), pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2022/329. The agenda was as follows:

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

##### *Operational segment*

4. Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions:
  - (a) Work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

- (b) Directives on policy and budgetary issues for the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;
- (c) Working methods of the Commission;
- (d) Staff composition of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other related matters.

*Normative segment*

5. Implementation of the international drug control treaties:
    - (a) Changes in the scope of control of substances;
    - (b) Challenges and future work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the World Health Organization and the International Narcotics Control Board in the review of substances for possible scheduling recommendations;
    - (c) International Narcotics Control Board;
    - (d) International cooperation to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion;
    - (e) Other matters arising from the international drug control treaties.
  6. Follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem.
  7. Inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem.
  8. Recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission.
  9. Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in line with General Assembly resolutions [75/290 A](#) and [75/290 B](#), including follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
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10. Preparations for the midterm review, to be held in 2024, of progress made in implementing all international drug policy commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem.
  11. Provisional agenda for the sixty-seventh session of the Commission.
  12. Other business.
  13. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-sixth session.