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Commission on Narcotic Drugs

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Items 11-13 and 15 of the provisional agenda*

Opening of the high-level segment

General debate of the high-level segment

Round-table discussions of the high-level segment

Closure of the high-level segment

Substantive organization of the high-level segment

Note by the Secretariat

I. Opening of the high-level segment

1. In section I of its resolution 1999/30, the Economic and Social Council recommended that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should convene, whenever appropriate, ministerial-level segments of its sessions to focus on specific themes related to the follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. At its forty-third session, in 2000, the Commission agreed to convene a ministerial-level segment at its sessions in 2003 and 2008 to coincide with the two target dates for achieving the goals and targets agreed upon by the Assembly at its twentieth special session.

2. The Commission, in its resolution 50/12, decided to convene a high-level segment, open to all States Members of the United Nations, during its fifty-second session, in 2009, instead of convening a ministerial segment in 2008, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/30 and the agreement reached at the forty-third session of the Commission, in order to allow additional time for conducting an objective, scientific, balanced and transparent global assessment of the implementation of the declarations and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session.

* E/CN.7/2009/1.



3. In its resolution 51/4, the Commission decided that two days should be devoted to the high-level segment of its fifty-second session. The proposed programme of work for the high-level segment is contained in annex II. The arrangements for participation in the high-level segment were endorsed at an intersessional meeting of the Commission held on 29 September 2008.

II. General debate of the high-level segment

4. At its fifty-first session, the Commission agreed that the high-level segment would consist of a general debate and, in parallel, a series of round-table discussions. The general debate would review the progress achieved and the difficulties encountered by Member States in meeting the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session (General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex) and challenges for the future.

List of speakers

5. The list of speakers for the general debate will be established by the drawing of lots on 20 February 2009 and will be printed in the daily journal.

Duration of statements

6. Speakers are requested to keep their statements to a maximum of 5 minutes to enable the representatives of all Member States to address the two-day high-level segment.

III. Round-table discussions during the high-level segment

7. The Commission, at its fifty-first session, proposed that round-table discussions should be held in parallel with the general debate of the high-level segment and that those discussions should focus on the various aspects covered at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. The four themes approved for the round-table discussions are:

(a) Current and emerging challenges, new trends and patterns of the world drug problem and possible improvements to the evaluation system;

(b) Strengthening international cooperation in countering the world drug problem using shared responsibility as a basis for an integrated, comprehensive, balanced and sustainable approach in the fight against drugs through domestic and international policies;

(c) Demand reduction, treatment and preventive policies and practices;

(d) Countering illicit drug traffic and supply, and alternative development.

8. The format and organization of the round-table discussions are presented in annex I.

9. Each Member State may, in principle, participate in one or two round-table discussions, following consultations with the Chairman of the regional group of

which it is a member and with the Chairman of the round table (or each of the round tables) in question.

10. The allocation of seats for United Nations entities, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations at the round-table discussions will be decided after 20 February 2009, when the Member States will have indicated which round-table discussions they wish to participate in.

IV. Adoption of the political declaration and other declarations

11. In its resolution 51/4, the Commission resolved that a political declaration and, as appropriate, other declarations and measures to enhance international cooperation should be considered and adopted at the high-level segment, identifying, on the basis of the results of the review process, future priorities and areas requiring further action, as well as goals and targets to be set in countering the world drug problem beyond 2009, and also resolved that the outcome of the high-level segment should be submitted to the General Assembly.

12. A draft political declaration and draft plan of action, initiated by the Chairperson of the Commission, were reviewed by Member States between 3 November 2008 and 27 January 2009. A total of 33 open-ended informal consultations were held to negotiate the texts and further meetings were planned. The draft political declaration and draft plan of action will be made available at the high-level segment.

V. Closure of the high-level segment

13. Member States will adopt the political declaration and plan of action, and the chairmen of the round tables will present the outcome of the round-table discussions.

Annex I

Format and organization of the round-table discussions to be held during the high-level segment

A. Participants

1. Participation in the round-table discussions^a will be open to members and observers as follows:

- (a) *Members*: Persons representing Member States of the United Nations;
- (b) *Observers*:
 - (i) Persons representing entities in the United Nations system;
 - (ii) Persons representing intergovernmental organizations;
 - (iii) Persons representing non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

Number and distribution of participants

2. The maximum number of participants will be 51, at least 35 of whom will be representatives of Member States. Using as a basis United Nations membership, the number of members of each regional group participating in each round table will, in principle, be as follows:

- (a) *A total of 35 seats allocated to Member States as follows*:
 - (i) Group of African States: 9 Member States;
 - (ii) Group of Asian States: 9 Member States;
 - (iii) Group of Eastern European States: 5 Member States;
 - (iv) Group of Latin American and Caribbean States: 6 Member States;
 - (v) Group of Western European and other States: 6 Member States;

(b) *A maximum of 10 additional seats allocated to Member States*. To ensure flexibility, following consultations with the Chairman of each round table, a maximum of 10 additional seats will be allocated to ministers and heads of delegation of Member States, as needed;

(c) *A minimum of 5 seats for observers*. Each round table shall include a minimum of five participants representing observers (entities in the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council). The number of observers may be raised by as many as 10 if Member States do not require all of the 10 additional seats referred to in subparagraph (b) above. Statements by observers will be regulated by the Chairman of each round table in accordance with the relevant regulations and established practice;

^a The arrangements for participation in the high-level segment were endorsed at an intersessional meeting of the Commission held on 29 September 2008.

(d) *One seat for the secretariat.* The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as the secretariat of the high-level segment, will have one seat allocated to it at each round table and will assist the Chairman in preparing the conclusions for each round table.

B. Other organizational arrangements

3. Member States of the United Nations that are not members of any regional group, together with observers, may participate in different round tables, following consultations with the chairmen of those round tables.

4. In addition to the seat allocated to each participant in a round table, two additional seats in a second row will be made available for members of his or her delegation.

5. Representatives of any interested Member States may attend the round tables and follow the proceedings.

6. Twenty-four seats will be allocated to observers for entities in the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, so that they may attend the round-table discussions.

7. The Chairman of each regional group will communicate to the Chairperson of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, by 30 January 2009, the list of States from his or her region that will participate in each round table.

Annex II

Proposed programme of work for the general debate and round-table discussions of the high-level segment

Wednesday, 11 March 2009

9.30 a.m. Opening of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

High-level segment

9.40 a.m. *Item 11.* Opening of the high-level segment

10.30 a.m.-
12.30 p.m. *Item 12.* General debate of the high-level segment

10.30 a.m.-
1.30 p.m. *Item 13 (a).* Round-table discussion: current and emerging challenges, new trends and patterns of the world drug problem and possible improvements to the evaluation system

2.30-
5.30 p.m. *Item 12.* General debate of the high-level segment
(*continued*)

3.30-
6.30 p.m. *Item 13 (b).* Round-table discussion: strengthening international cooperation in countering the world drug problem using shared responsibility as a basis for an integrated, comprehensive, balanced and sustainable approach in the fight against drugs through domestic and international policies

Thursday, 12 March 2009

10 a.m.-
1 p.m. *Item 12.* General debate of the high-level segment
(*continued*)

9.30 a.m.-
12.30 p.m. *Item 13 (c).* Round-table discussion: demand reduction, treatment and preventive policies and practices

3-5 p.m. *Item 12.* General debate of the high-level segment
(*continued*)

2.30-
5.30 p.m. *Item 13 (d).* Round-table discussion: countering illicit drug traffic and supply, and alternative development

6-7 p.m. *Items 14 and 15.* Outcome of the high-level segment, and closure of the high-level segment