



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

# Commission on Narcotic Drugs

► MANDATES AND FUNCTIONS



## Mandates and Functions of the Commission

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) was established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution 9(1) in 1946, to assist the Council in supervising the application of the international drug control treaties. The CND has important functions assigned to it by the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1953, as amended by the 1972 Protocol amending that Convention, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971, and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988. In 1991, the General Assembly further expanded the mandates of the CND to enable it to function as the governing body of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and to approve the budget of the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, which accounts for over 90 per cent of the resources available to the United Nations for drug control. In ECOSOC resolution 1999/30, the CND was requested to enhance its functioning by structuring its agenda into two distinct segments: a normative segment, during which the CND discharges its treaty-based and normative functions; and an operational segment, during which the CND exercises its role as the governing body of UNODC.

The Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation Towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem of 2009 gives the CND the mandate to monitor the world drug situation, develop strategies on international drug control and recommend measures to combat the world drug problem, including through reducing demand for drugs, promoting alternative development initiatives and adopting supply reduction measures. In 2014, the CND will conduct a high-level review by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, and the outcome of that high-level review will be submitted to the General Assembly (GA) for its consideration in view of, inter alia, the special session of the GA on the world drug problem in 2016.

As a treaty organ under the Conventions, the CND may decide to place or to change the level of control of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals under international control.

Based in Vienna, the CND meets annually when it considers and adopts a range of decisions and resolutions. Intersessional meetings of the CND are regularly convened to provide policy guidance to UNODC. Towards the end of each year, the CND meets at a reconvened session to consider budgetary and administrative matters as the governing body of the United Nations drug programme.

## Membership and Bureau of the Commission

The CND is composed of 53 Member States elected by the ECOSOC for a period of four years. The distribution of seats among the regional groups is as follows: eleven members for African States, eleven for Asian States<sup>1</sup>, ten from Latin American and Caribbean States, six for Eastern European States and fourteen for Western European and other States.

The Bureau of the CND is composed of the Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons and one Rapporteur. The Extended Bureau includes the Chairpersons of the five regional groups, the European Union, the Group of 77 and China.

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<sup>1</sup> One seat rotates between the Asian and the Latin American and the Caribbean States every four years.

## Subsidiary Bodies of the Commission

Subsidiary bodies of the CND are the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East and the meetings of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEAs) for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe respectively. The purpose of these meetings is to coordinate activities to counteract illicit drug trafficking and to monitor new trends within the respective regions. The recommendations of the subsidiary bodies are submitted to the sessions of the CND for its consideration and follow-up action.

## Secretariat to the Governing Bodies

The Secretariat to the Governing Bodies (SGB) is the main contact point for Member States concerning matters pertaining to the work and the competence of the CND and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as well as regarding the work of ECOSOC, the GA and the United Nations Crime Congresses as applicable to the Commissions. The SGB provides substantive and technical support to the Commissions as well as to their Bureaux and extended Bureaux.



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Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500, 1400 Vienna, Austria  
Tel.: (+43-1) 26060-0, Fax: (+43-1) 26060-5866, [www.unodc.org](http://www.unodc.org)

For further information please contact:

Fax: (+43-1) 26060-5885

Email: [sgb@unodc.org](mailto:sgb@unodc.org)

[www.unodc.org](http://www.unodc.org)