

Revised proposed arrangements – Reconvened Session on 2 to 4 December 2020

Status: 6 November 2020

A. Background

The reconvened session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs is scheduled for 2 to 4 December 2020.

As decided during the Second Intersessional Meeting on 8 October 2020, the Commission will on 2 December 2020 consider agenda item 5, entitled “*Implementation of the international drug control treaties*”, which, in line with CND Decision 63/14, will include the voting on the WHO scheduling recommendations on cannabis and cannabis-related substances.

On 3 December 2020, the Commission will hold joint meetings with the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for the purpose of considering agenda item 4 entitled “*Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions*”, included in the operational segment of both Commissions.

On 4 December 2020 in the morning, the Commission will hold a separate meeting dedicated to 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*” and agenda item 10 entitled “*Provisional agenda for the sixty-fourth session of the Commission*”.

Following the closure of the 63rd session on 4 December 2020, the 64th session will be opened for the sole purpose of electing the Chair, three Vice-Chairs and the Rapporteur for that session.

The present proposed arrangements for the 63rd reconvened session will be presented to the Extended Bureau for consideration. Once agreed upon by the Extended Bureau, the arrangements will be subject to a silence procedure.

Following the new restrictions in place in Austria as of 3 November 2020, the proposed arrangements for the reconvened session have been adjusted, limiting the in-person participation to Commission members.

B. Organization

a. Format

If the COVID-19 situation and the relating physical distancing regulations allow, the reconvened session will be conducted in a hybrid format. Commission members will be allowed to be physically present in the conference room. All other stakeholders will be joining virtually. Most likely Interprefy will be used as virtual platform.

b. In person participation

Each Commission member **may appoint two delegates** for physical participation in the reconvened session. Only **one delegate may be physically present in the conference room at any given time**. The Secretariat will issue two types of badges to delegates who have been registered as physically attending the Conference:

- 1) Two individual badges for in-person registered participants per Commission member
- 2) One floating delegation badge without individual participants names per Commission member

In order to allow for physical distancing measures in the conference room, only participants with both the individual main badge and the floating badge are allowed into the meeting room. Floating badges do not show individual participants' names and can be exchanged within the delegation.

c. Virtual participation

Each Member State might appoint up to two delegates as speakers joining virtually (i.e. delegates who receive a personalized speaker link that technically enables them to request the floor). It is possible that more speakers use the speaker link jointly from the same device.

Additionally, Member States may register delegates as observers joining virtually (i.e. delegates who receive an observer link that enables them to follow the proceedings of the Commission but not take the floor).

Virtual conference platforms regularly have limited capacity for observer links. Depending on the overall number of registered observers and the technical capacity of the platform used, the number of observers per Member States might have to be limited at a later stage. However, States can register more than one delegate who would follow the proceedings from the same room as the delegate making use of the personalized observer link.

The speaker and observer links will be shared with the registered participants via email to their individual email address in advance of the session.

d. Participants

In line with the Rules of Procedure of the Functional Commissions of ECOSOC, Member States, as well as representatives of IGOs and NGOs with consultative status with ECOSOC may participate in the reconvened session.

Possible virtual participation of IGOs and NGOs with speaker and observer links will have to be limited; details will be communicated in due course.

In order to allow for broad participation, notwithstanding the possibility to participate virtually indicated above, all the meetings of the reconvened session will be webcast.

e. Language

Simultaneous interpretation in all official United Nations languages will be provided.

f. Meeting Times

As the consecutive working time of interpreters using a virtual platform is limited to two hours, the meeting times indicated in the invitation have to be adjusted. To accommodate different time zones to the extent possible, the meeting will thus be held from 11.00 hrs to 13.00 hrs and from 15.00 hrs to 17.00 hrs (CET).

g. Statements

Delegations are reminded that the provisional agenda of the reconvened 63rd session does not foresee a general debate; statements can only be made under the respective agenda items.

With a view to keeping the session within the available timeframe, statements of Member States and other stakeholders shall be **limited to three minutes**. Statements by regional groups are limited to five minutes.

In line with past practice, statements shared with the Secretariat (unodc-sgb@un.org), including longer versions, will be uploaded on the website of the Commission.

IGOs and up to five NGOs (coordinated by the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs) may make statements during the reconvened session.

Delegations intending to deliver a statement under a particular agenda item, may inform the Secretariat as of 26 November 2020, by indicating the agenda item as well as the representative who will deliver the statement. Member States will be accommodated on a “first come, first serve” basis.

h. Registration

Participants have to register through “Indico” using the link that will be provided to them. The Permanent Mission’s note verbale/organization’s official letter confirming the participant’s participation, will have to be uploaded together with the registration form in “Indico”. Only registration applications submitted together with the corresponding note verbale/official letter in “Indico” will be reviewed and approved by the Secretariat. Notes verbales/official letters sent directly to the Secretariat by email may serve for information purposes, but will not replace registration in “Indico”. The Secretariat can be contacted at unodc-sgb@un.org in case of questions.

i. Documentation

In-session documentation (i.e. the parts of the report for adoption) will be made available in paper form to delegates who are physically present. In addition, it will be made available electronically and will be shared through the Official Documentation System (ODS), with the link provided in the interpretation platform during the meeting.

j. Adoption of resolutions/decisions/the report of the meeting

Given that all Commission members will have the possibility of physically attending the 63rd reconvened session and other Member States will have the possibility to be represented virtually with the ability to deliver statements, resolutions and decisions, as well as the report on its meeting will be adopted in-session. In accordance with past practice, those parts of

the report that reflect the last day of the session will be compiled and finalized by the Chair with the assistance of the Rapporteur.

k. Voting on scheduling recommendations

The voting on the scheduling recommendations will also take place in session and as per usual practice. Only representatives of Commission members physically present in the VIC where the voting will take place may cast their vote. Virtual voting will not be possible.

Delegations of Commission members that are not able to join physically may delegate their vote to a representative of another Member State (“proxy voting”). More information on proxy voting can be provided upon request.

General information on the voting procedure under the international drug control conventions may be found in the [brochure on scheduling procedures](#) and the [e-learning tool “Introduction to Scheduling”](#).