

## **64<sup>th</sup> regular session (12 to 16 April 2021) – Proposed Revised Organizational arrangements**

Status: 30 March 2021

### **A. Background**

The 64<sup>th</sup> regular session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs is scheduled for 12 to 16 April 2021. The provisional annotated agenda has been published on the website of the Commission.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, the Commission decided to hold a ceremonial segment in commemoration of the anniversaries of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic substances after the opening of the session.

The present proposed organizational arrangements were drafted in response to the recent developments of the COVID-19 pandemic, taking into consideration the regulations by the host country, Austria, and the guidelines of the Vienna International Centre.

The original organizational arrangements were agreed upon by the Commission through silence procedure on Tuesday, 23 March 2021. Due to further developments regarding the COVID-19 situation in Vienna, the organizational arrangements are to be amended with a view to further reduce the in-person attendance in the Vienna International Centre during the 64<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission, in order to conduct the session in a safe manner .

### **B. Organization**

#### **a. Format**

The regular session will be conducted in a hybrid format, combining an in-person component with online participation. In-person audience is limited to the **following plenary meetings**:

- **Opening session** (including election of officers, adoption of agenda; ceremonial opening segment commemorating the anniversaries of the 1961 and the 1971 Conventions and adoption of the Joint statement on the COVID-19 pandemic at the opening of the general debate) – Monday, 12 April 2021, 9-11 AM
- **Consideration of WHO/ECDD Recommendations** – Wednesday, 14 April 2021, 12 noon – 2 PM (voting is to happen in person)
- **Closing session** (including adoption of resolutions and report) – Friday, 16 April 2021, 3 to 5 PM

The other plenary meetings and the meetings of the Committee of the Whole, as well as the related informal consultations, will be held in a podium-only format without in-

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<sup>1</sup> <https://undocs.org/E/CN.7/2021/1>.

person audience. “Podium-only” means that only the Chair and the Secretariat are present at the VIC.

For the meetings with in-person audience, the in-person participation will be limited to United Nations Member States, and a limited number of delegates from UN Entities, IGOs and NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC.

The plenary meetings and the meetings of the Committee of the Whole (COW) will be held in the plenary room of the M-Building (plenary/COW hall), the biggest available room in the VIC, in a consecutive manner.<sup>2</sup>

9 – 11 am (Vienna time) Committee of the Whole<sup>3</sup>

12 noon – 2 pm (Vienna time) Plenary

3 – 5 pm (Vienna time) Plenary

6 – 8 pm (Vienna time) Committee of the Whole

The pre-session consultations will be held in a podium-only format without in-person audience on 9 April 2021, in the plenary/COW hall in the M-Building, from 12 noon to 2 pm.

For the meetings with in-person audience, there will be in the plenary room one seat reserved for in-person participation for each United Nations Member State. In addition, there will be eight seats for UN Entities, eight seats for IGOs and eight seats for NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC reserved in the Plenary/COW hall, which will be assigned on a “first come first served”-basis. The in-person slots for NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC will be coordinated through the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs.

In light of the COVID-19 developments, journalists will be requested to follow the session online.

Board-Room A and the Press Room will be used for informal consultations on draft resolutions, in a podium-only format without in-person audience.

#### **b. In person participation**

Each Member State may appoint **up to 3 delegates** for physical participation, in order to allow for different delegates to cover those plenary meetings with in-person audience. There will be no additional room or seating facilities in the VIC for delegates not having access to the conference rooms, as described below. Delegates are requested to only come to the VIC for the time that they are representing their delegation in one of the designated conference rooms.

Access to the conference room is limited to one delegate per Member State, entity or organization at any given time under the conditions mentioned below:

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<sup>2</sup> Details on meeting times will be contained in the proposed organization of work contained in the document E/CN.7/2021/1/Rev.1.

<sup>3</sup> On 12 April, the Committee of Whole will only start at 6 PM. There will be plenary meetings from 9-11 AM, from 12 noon -2 PM and from 3-5 PM.

### *Floating badges*

The Secretariat will issue two types of badges to delegates who have been registered as in-person participant to the Conference:

- 1) Individual badges for in-person registered participants
- 2) Floating delegation badges without individual participants names (1 per delegation for plenary meetings with in-person audience)

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

The floating badge will be handed out together with the individual badges at the registration desk at Gate 1. A note verbal with the name of the person who will pick up the badges (individual badges and floating badge) should be sent to the Secretariat ([unodc-sgb@un.org](mailto:unodc-sgb@un.org)) in advance. The badges can be picked up on Friday, 9 April, prior to the pre-session consultations, at Gate 1 from 9 am to 12 noon. The floating badge must be passed on within the delegation. Delegations are requested to exchange the floating badge outside of the VIC premises.

### *Online access*

In-person Member States participants who want to have an online speaker's role, need to be also registered as online speaker in the registration form. UN Entities, IGO and NGO representatives nominated to participate in-person, who want to have also an online speaker's role, need to be also registered as online speaker in the official letter.

### **c. Online participation**

#### *Speakers*

Member States may appoint **up to seven delegates for online participation in the plenary and up to seven delegates as online participants for the Committee of the Whole**. Should Member States wish to be provided with additional links, they can indicate this to the Secretariat at the time of the registration of their delegation, listing the delegates for online participation in order of preference. In case there are "left-over" slots after the deadline for registration, those "left-over" slots can be distributed among those Member States that have indicated the wish to receive additional links.

Online participants will receive a link that technically enables them to request and take the floor. It is possible to use the link jointly from the same device.

#### *Observers*

Additionally, United Nations Member States may appoint an unlimited number of observers<sup>4</sup> who will be in a position to follow the **proceedings of the plenary via webcast**.

#### **d. Participation of UN Entities, IGOs and NGOs with ECOSOC status**

UN Entities and IGOs may appoint one virtual speaker for the plenary.

In line with the Rules of Procedure of the Functional Commissions of ECOSOC, NGOs with consultative status with ECOSOC may participate in the session of the Commission. A fixed number of online speaking slots for the plenary meetings will be assigned to participating NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC. The slots will be distributed in coordination with the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs.

In order to allow for broad participation, the meetings of the plenary will be webcast.

#### **e. Language**

Simultaneous interpretation in all official United Nations languages will be provided for the Plenary and the Committee of the Whole.

#### **f. Meeting Times**

For the Plenary and the Committee of the Whole meetings, the meeting times had to be adjusted:

9 – 11 am (Vienna time) Committee of the Whole  
12 noon – 2 pm (Vienna time) Plenary  
3 – 5 pm (Vienna time) Plenary  
6 – 8 pm (Vienna time) Committee of the Whole

#### **g. 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. The Secretariat can be contacted at [unodc-sgb@un.org](mailto:unodc-sgb@un.org) in case of questions. Registration will open on 24 March 2021, and close on 7 April 2021.

#### **h. Statements during the Plenary**

With a view to keeping the session within the available timeframe, all 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 made during the general debate shared with the Secretariat, including longer versions, will be posted on the website of the Commission, unless indicated otherwise.

The list of speakers for the general debate will be established on a "first come, first served" basis, differentiating only between ministers and other high-level speakers. The registration period for the general debate starts on 22 March and ends on 7 April 2021 ([unodc-sgb@un.org](mailto:unodc-sgb@un.org), cc: [zsoka.williams@un.org](mailto:zsoka.williams@un.org)).

Delegations intending to deliver a statement under other agenda items, may inform the Secretariat as of 22 March 2021, by indicating the agenda item as well as the representative who will deliver the statement. These statements should also be limited to three minutes.

UN Entities, IGOs and up to three NGOs per agenda item (coordinated by the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs) may make statements during the regular session, time permitting.

Instead of delivering a statement “live”, Member States, UN Entities, IGOs and NGOs may submit pre-recorded video statements for the general debate. The statements have to comply with the time limitation. For the technical details, please consult the guide on video statements published on the website of the Commission.<sup>5</sup>

#### **i. Documentation**

Pre-session documentation is only issued electronically. In-person participants who wish to use printed versions of the pre-session documents are requested to bring their own copies. 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 on the dedicated website.<sup>6</sup>

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

Given that all Member States will have the possibility of physically attending the relevant plenary meetings of the 64<sup>th</sup> regular session, 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 when the voting takes place, may cast their vote. Online 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.

#### **l. Side events**

As agreed by the Commission, side events will be held online only. Further information is available on the website of the Commission.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/session/64\\_Session\\_2021/session-64-of-the-commission-on-narcotic-drugs.html](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/session/64_Session_2021/session-64-of-the-commission-on-narcotic-drugs.html).

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/session/64\\_Session\\_2021/session-64-of-the-commission-on-narcotic-drugs.html](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/session/64_Session_2021/session-64-of-the-commission-on-narcotic-drugs.html)

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND-and-CCPCJ\\_Side-Events.html](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND-and-CCPCJ_Side-Events.html). The organization of the side events and the responsibility for the participation in the events is entirely up to the organizers. The Secretariat will not be in a position to control the access to such events nor provide assistance with trouble shooting. The links to the side events will be provided by the organizers and posted on the Commission’s website with a respective disclaimer.

### **m. Rooms for informals, regional group and bilateral meetings**

Due to the social distancing measures in place, no meeting rooms are available for bilateral or group meetings.

As mentioned above, Board-Room A and the Press Room will be used for informal consultations on draft resolutions. Informal consultations will be held in a podium-only format with no in-person audience.

The Secretariat will be in contact with the sponsors of the draft resolutions, and also assist with arranging informals.

## **C. COVID-19 preventive measures**

Before entering the VIC, all in-person participants must have a negative COVID (PCR or rapid antigen) test. The test must not older than 72 hours (PCR test) or 48 hours (rapid antigen test).<sup>8</sup>

All in-person participants are required to observe the COVID-19-related sanitary measures during the whole session. The most recent version will be published on the website of the Commission. In particular participants may not attend the meeting if they show symptoms associated with COVID-19. In line with the system used in the UN headquarters building in New York, participants automatically declare, by swiping their badge on entry to the VIC, as a condition of their entry that they:

- (1) Have not been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last 14 days;
- (2) Have not had symptoms consistent with COVID-19 in the last 14 days; and
- (3) Have not had close contact with someone with COVID-19 or symptoms consistent with COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
- (4) Have proof of a negative COVID-19 test, not older than 72 hours for a PCR Test and 48 hours for a Rapid Antigen Test.
- (5) Agree to assume any health risks related to their attendance.
- (6) Are familiar with and will adhere to the provisions set out in the “Guidance for in-person participants”.

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<sup>8</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/session/64\\_Session\\_2021/session-64-of-the-commission-on-narcotic-drugs.html](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/session/64_Session_2021/session-64-of-the-commission-on-narcotic-drugs.html). Participants who join the 64th session in person can take a COVID-19 rapid test at Austria Center (U1 Kaisermuehlen and Drive-In) before entering the VIC. Tests are free of charge and available for everybody, also persons without health insurance in Austria. Please register and make an appointment online <https://www.acv.at/en/rapid-testing/> and bring a photo ID.