

64th regular session (12 to 16 April 2021) – Organizational arrangements

Status: 19 March 2021

A. Background

The 64th 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.¹ 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.

Subject to the developments of the global health situation, the arrangements may have to be revised closer to the session.

B. Organization

a. Format

The regular session will be conducted in a hybrid format, combining an in-person component with online participation.

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.²

9 – 11 am (Vienna time) Committee of the Whole³

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 and hybrid format on 9 April 2021, in the plenary/COW hall in the M-Building, from 12 noon to 2 pm.

¹ <https://undocs.org/E/CN.7/2021/1/Rev.1> (to be issued).

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

³ 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.

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.

There will be a limited number of journalists allowed in-person for the opening session. The rest of the meeting can be followed online.

Board-Room A and the Press Room will be used for hybrid informal consultations on draft resolutions. Admission to the rooms will be for Member States on a first-come first-served basis.

b. In person participation

Each Member State may appoint up to 10 delegates for physical participation, in order to allow for different delegates to cover various agenda items and consultations. 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 encouraged 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 rooms is limited to one delegate per Member State, entity or organization at any given time under the conditions mentioned below:

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 Member State delegation for plenary/COW hall, 1 per Member State delegation for BR-A, 1 per Member State delegation for Press Room; 1 per UN Entities/IGO/NGO delegation for plenary/COW hall).

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.

They 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 badges) should be sent to the Secretariat (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 badges must be passed on within the delegation. Delegations are encouraged to exchange floating badges 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 five delegates as speakers for the plenary and up to five delegates as speakers for the Committee of the Whole.

Speakers will receive a 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.

Observers

Additionally, United Nations Member States may appoint an unlimited number of observers.⁴

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.

⁴ Observers will be in a position to follow the proceedings of the plenary on the webcast.

f. Meeting Times

As the Plenary and the Committee of the Whole will both be held in the plenary hall to allow for in-person participation of all Member States, the meeting times had to be adjusted, taking into account time for disinfection:

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 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, cc: 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.⁵

⁵ https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/session/64_Session_2021/session-64-of-the-commission-on-narcotic-drugs.html.

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.⁶

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

Given that all Member States will have the possibility of physically attending the 64th 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.⁷

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 hybrid informal consultations on draft resolutions. There is a maximum occupancy of 84

⁶ https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/session/64_Session_2021/session-64-of-the-commission-on-narcotic-drugs.html

⁷ <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.

for Board-Room A, and 45 for the Press Room. Admission to the rooms will be for Member States on a “first-come first-served”- basis.

The Secretariat will assist with arranging informals.

C. COVID-19 preventive measures

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.⁸ 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) Agree to assume any health risks related to their attendance.
- (5) Are familiar with and will adhere to the provisions set out in the “Guidance for in-person participants”.

⁸ 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 are encouraged to take a COVID-19 rapid test at Austria Center (UI 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.