

*Commission on Narcotic Drugs
at its sixty-fifth session*

Proposed arrangements – Regular Session

14-18 March 2022

A. Background

The regular sixty-fifth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs is scheduled for 14-18 March 2022. The provisional annotated agenda will be published on the website of the Commission following the present arrangements.

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 and to changes to the regulations by the host Country Austria, the following arrangements may be revised closer to the session.

B. Organization

a. Format

The sessions will be conducted in a hybrid format, in the M-building and the C-building of the Vienna International Centre.

The meetings of the plenary and COW will be held in parallel. The plenary meetings will be held in the plenary hall of the M-building. The meetings of the COW will be held in the C-building in Boardroom D.

The in-person participation will be possible for a limited number of delegates from United Nations Member States, UN Entities, IGOs and NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC. Due to COVID-requirements the number of seats in the room is limited and as such only a limited number of in-person participants can join. In person participants are required to confirm adherence to relevant provisions contained in the COVID guidelines for participants¹ and are expected to provide supporting documents as necessary.

The pre-session consultations will be held in a hybrid format on 11 March 2021, in BR-C of the C-building, from 12 noon to 2 pm, with interpretation into the six official languages. A technical test will be offered by conference services in connection with the pre-session consultations (11 March, 11-12:00 a.m.)

¹ Access on https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/session/65_Session_2022/65CND_Main.html

b. Meeting Times

As the consecutive working time of interpreters using any virtual platform is two hours only, the meeting times will be 10 a.m. to 12 noon; 2 to 4 p.m.; and 5 to 7 p.m. (CET/Vienna time; Monday: 6 to 8 p.m. CET/Vienna time). The reduced interpretation time will be distributed as follows: the plenary will have interpretation for all meetings, the Committee of the Whole will have interpretation for the morning meeting (on Monday: for first meeting in the afternoon), other meetings will be in English only.

Monday, 14 March 2022:			
Plenary:	10 a.m. – 12 noon	2 – 4 p.m.	6 – 8 p.m.
COW:	-	2 – 4 p.m.	6 – 8 p.m. (E)
Tuesday, 15 March 2022:			
Plenary:	10 a.m. – 12 noon	2 – 4 p.m.	5 – 7 p.m.
COW:	10 a.m. – 12 noon	2 – 4 p.m. (E)	5 – 7 p.m. (E)
Wednesday, 16 March 2022:			
Plenary:	10 a.m. – 12 noon	2 – 4 p.m.	5 – 7 p.m.
COW:	10 a.m. – 12 noon	- (2)	5 – 7 p.m. (E)
Thursday, 17 March 2022:			
Plenary:	10 a.m. – 12 noon	2 – 4 p.m.	5 – 7 p.m.
COW:	10 a.m. – 12 noon	2 – 4 p.m. (E)	5 – 7 p.m. (E)
Friday, 18 March 2022:			
Plenary:	10 a.m. – 12 noon	2 – 4 p.m.	5 – 7 p.m.
COW:	10 a.m. – 12 noon	2 – 4 p.m. (E)	

c. Participation

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

In-person participation

In the meeting room for the plenary, one seat will be reserved for in-person participation for each United Nations Member State.

In addition, there will be 8 seats for UN Entities, 8 seats for IGOs and 8 seats for NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC reserved in the plenary Hall, which will be assigned on a “first come first served”-basis. The in-person slots for NGOs in consultative status with

² The COW will be suspended during the voting in plenary on the scheduling recommendations submitted by WHO and INCB.

ECOSOC will be determined through the Civil Society Unit of UNODC and the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs.

In the meeting room for the COW (BR-D/65 seats), one delegate per Member State can participate in person on a first come, first served basis. 2 seats will be reserved for observers. All others can join online.

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

Online access

The meetings will be held on an online conference platform. All registered participants will receive an access link to the online conference platform.

All registered participants can join the plenary and speak on the conference platform. In addition, all plenary meetings will be publicly webcast in all languages – all those who do not need to speak can follow the proceedings there.

Delegates registered for the COW can join the meetings of the COW and the related informal consultations on the online conference platform.

Registration

Participants can register for the session online. The link to the registration system will be posted on the Commission website 4 weeks before the start of the session.

Member States can register up to 10 participants for the plenary and 10 participants for the COW, with the possibility to come in-person or join online. Only one representative per delegation can come to the meeting room at a given time, others can join online.

UN Entities can register up to 5 participants with the possibility to come in-person or join online. Only one representative per delegation can come to the meeting room at a given time, within the overall number of assigned in-person slots for UN entities, others can join online.

IGOs can register up to 5 participants with the possibility to come in-person or join online. Only one representative per delegation can come to the meeting room at a given time, within the overall number of assigned in-person slots for IGOs others can join online.

NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC can register up to 5 participants with the possibility to come in-person or join online. Only one representative per delegation can come to the meeting room at a given time, within the overall number of assigned in-person slots for NGOs, others can join online.

d. Statements

Statements of Member States and other stakeholders are **limited to three minutes**. Statements by regional groups are limited to five minutes.

Statements shared with the Secretariat (unodc-sgb@un.org), including longer versions, will be uploaded on the website of the Commission. To facilitate the work of the interpreters, delegations are encouraged to share statements in advance with unov.conference@un.org.

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 21 February and closes on 7 March (unodc-sgb@un.org).

IGOs and NGOs (coordinated by the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs) may make statements during the session, time permitting.

Delegations intending to deliver a statement under a particular agenda item, are encouraged to inform the Secretariat as of 21 February 2022 and before the opening day, 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.

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 and technical requirements**. The videos need to be transmitted to unov-conference.statements@un.org by 7 March 2022. For the technical requirements, please consult the guide on video statements published on the website of the Commissions³.

e. Documentation

Pre-session documentation is issued in an electronic format. It is available on the Official Documentation System (ODS), and in addition also posted on the CND website.

In-session documentation (the parts of the report for adoption) will be made available on paper for the delegates in the room. It is available on the Official Documentation System (ODS).

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

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

g. Voting on scheduling recommendations

The voting on the scheduling recommendations will also take place in session and as per usual practice (scheduled to take place on Wednesday 16 March, at 2 PM in plenary). Only representatives of Commission members physically present when the voting takes place, may cast their vote. Online voting will not be possible.

³ Access on https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/session/65_Session_2022/65CND_Main.html

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.

h. Side events

Side events will be held online. The organization of the side events and the participation therein is the responsibility of the organizers. The Secretariat will not be in a position to provide assistance with trouble shooting. The Secretariat will publish a programme of events. The links to the side events provided by the organizers will be made available on the online conference platform.

i. Informal consultations on draft resolutions

Informal consultations, accessible for Member States only, can be arranged by sponsors of resolutions. The Secretariat will assist with arranging these informal consultations to limit, to the extent possible, overlap. Three meeting rooms will be available at the VIC to hold informal consultations (Boardroom A/62 seats, Press Room/42 seats, room M4/15 seats) in a hybrid format. Sponsors using these rooms will be responsible for adherence to COVID-19 measures during their informal consultations, including maximum room occupancy levels. Informal consultations can also be held fully online.

j. Rooms for bilateral and regional group meetings

Due to the social distancing measures in place, no meeting rooms are available for bilateral or group meetings. Bilateral meetings can be organized during the session on the online conference platform.