

CHAIR'S PROPOSAL WORKPLAN CND THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS 2024-2028

1. Introduction

For the **period 2024-2028** there will be a meeting every year focused on the implementation of all international drug policy commitments to address the challenges identified in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, in line with the workplan outlined in this document. In addition, time will be devoted to “Other substantive matters” which would allow Member States to bring to the attention of the Commission persistent, new, or emerging issues of particular concern to delegations.

For **2028**, preceding the final review, there would be a comprehensive stock-taking of progress made in implementing all international drug policy commitments to address the challenges identified in the Ministerial Declaration, similar to the thematic discussions held in 2023.

The format of the thematic discussions would be in line with the conduct of the thematic discussions held from 2019 to 2023.

2. Consideration of cross-cutting elements identified in the “way forward”-part of the 2024 CND High-level Declaration

Each thematic session would, amongst others, provide a unique opportunity to **encompass**, when discussing the challenges under consideration, **cross-cutting issues, including those identified in the “way forward”-part of the 2024 CND High-Level Declaration:**

- a) Cooperation at all levels
- b) Data collection and analysis
- c) Technological innovation
- d) Capacity building and resource mobilization

3. Organizational arrangements

3.a. Moderated expert panel discussion with guiding questions

Each thematic session would begin with an introduction by UNODC's Research and Analysis Branch followed by a moderated expert panel discussion with experts from Member States, UN entities, international and regional organizations and civil society¹. Member States experts would be nominated in consultation with the Chairs of their respective Regional Group.

3.b. Interactive discussion

Following the moderated expert panel discussion, an interactive discussion with the floor will be opened. National interventions would be focused on replying to the guiding questions. In addition, more comprehensive national statements could be posted (if requested already before the session) on the website of the thematic discussions.

¹ Civil society experts will be nominated through the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs in cooperation with the UNODC Civil Society Unit

3.c. Other substantive matters

For issues to be discussed under “Other substantive matters” the Secretariat would invite delegations to submit topics, if they wish to do so, at least six weeks prior to the session.

An introductory presentation by the UNODC Research and Analysis Branch could kick off the discussion under “Other substantive matters”.

3.d. Outcome

The outcome would be, in line with past practice, a Chair’s summary, of the most salient points, not subject to negotiations, which would be made available to the Commission in the form of a Conference Room Paper during the following regular session.

3.e. Participation

As was the case in previous years, the thematic discussions aim to provide an inclusive platform for the exchange of views by governmental experts, representatives from the United Nations system, representatives from international organizations, and civil society organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC.

4. Reporting on Pledge4Action initiative

The thematic discussion would also provide an opportunity for Member States to report to the Commission on progress in the implementation of their pledges made during the high-level segment of the 67th session of the CND as part of the Chair’s Pledge4Action initiative.

PROPOSED WORKPLAN

2024 (3 days in total)

a) Thematic discussions on challenges identified in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration

- both the range of drugs and drugs markets are expanding and diversifying;
- the abuse, illicit cultivation and production and manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, as well as the illicit trafficking in those substances and in precursors, have reached record levels, and that the illicit demand for and the domestic diversion of precursor chemicals are on the rise;
- synthetic opioids and the non-medical use of prescription drugs pose increasing risks to public health and safety, as well as scientific, legal and regulatory challenges, including with regard to the scheduling of substances;

b) Other substantive matters

2025 (3 days in total)

a) Thematic discussions on challenges identified in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration

- drug treatment and health services continue to fall short of meeting needs and deaths related to drug use have increased; and
- the rate of transmission of HIV, the hepatitis C virus and other blood-borne diseases associated with drug use, including injecting drug use in some countries, remains high;
- the adverse health consequences of and risks associated with new psychoactive substances have reached alarming levels;
- the availability of internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, including for the relief of pain and palliative care, remains low to non-existent in many parts of the world;

b) Other substantive matters

2026 (3 days in total)

a) Thematic discussions on challenges identified in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration

- increasing links between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime, including trafficking in persons, trafficking in firearms, cybercrime and money-laundering and, in some cases, terrorism, including money-laundering in connection with the financing of terrorism, are observed;
- the value of confiscated proceeds of crime related to money-laundering arising from drug trafficking at the global level remains low;
- the criminal misuse of information and communications technologies for illicit drug-related activities is increasing;

b) Other substantive matters

2027 (3 days in total)

a) Thematic discussions on challenges identified in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration

- that responses not in conformity with the three international drug control conventions and not in conformity with applicable international human rights obligations pose a challenge to the implementation of joint commitments based on the principle of common and shared responsibility;

b) Other substantive matters

2028 (Two times 3 days)

a) Thematic discussions on challenges identified in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration

- Comprehensive stock-taking, in the lead up to the 2024 mid-term review, of the progress made in implementing all international drug policy commitments as reaffirmed in the Ministerial Declaration.

b) Other substantive matters – Way Forward