



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

## Commission on Narcotic Drugs



## MANDATES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

### The origins of the Commission

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs was established by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 9(1) in 1946, to assist the Council in supervising the application of the international drug control treaties. The Commission has important functions assigned to it by:

- The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol
- The Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971
- The United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988

### What the Commission does

As the competent treaty organ under the Conventions, the Commission may decide to place narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals under international control or to change the level of control.

In 1991, the General Assembly further expanded the mandates of the Commission to enable it to function as the governing body of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and to approve the budget of the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, which accounts for most of the resources available to the United Nations for drug control. In resolution 1999/30 of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission was requested to enhance its functioning by structuring its agenda into two distinct segments: a normative segment, during which the Commission discharges its treaty-based and normative functions; and an operational segment, during which the Commission exercises its role as the governing body of UNODC.





In addition to its annual regular meeting, the Commission convenes intersessional meetings to provide policy guidance to UNODC. Towards the end of each year, the Commission meets at a reconvened session to consider budgetary and administrative matters, and other issues as required, as the governing body of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

## Milestones

The Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation Towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem of 2009 gives the Commission the mandate to monitor the world drug situation, develop strategies on international drug control and recommend measures to combat the world drug problem, including through reducing demand for drugs, promoting alternative development initiatives and adopting supply reduction measures. In 2014, at the high-level review of the progress made in the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the Commission adopted a Joint Ministerial Statement identifying achievements, challenges and priorities for further action until the target date of 2019.

In 2016, following the preparatory process led by the fifty-ninth Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the General Assembly held a special session on the world drug problem and adopted resolution S-30/1, containing the outcome document entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”. The outcome document contains operational recommendations for implementation by Member States under seven thematic chapters, as follows:

- Demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as other health-related issues
- Ensuring the availability of and access to controlled substances exclusively for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion

- Supply reduction and related measures; effective law enforcement; responses to drug-related crime; and countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation
- Cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, children, women and communities
- Cross-cutting issues in addressing and countering the world drug problem: evolving reality, trends and existing circumstances, emerging and persistent challenges and threats, including new psychoactive substances, in conformity with the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments
- Strengthening international cooperation based on the principle of common and shared responsibility
- Alternative development; regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented balanced drug control policy; addressing socioeconomic issues

The 2016 General Assembly special session outcome document also welcomes the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and notes that efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to effectively address the world drug problem are complementary and mutually reinforcing. In 2019, during the regular sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, a ministerial segment will be convened to take stock of the implementation of the commitments made to jointly address and counter the world drug problem.



## MEMBERSHIP AND BUREAU OF THE COMMISSION

The Commission is composed of 53 Member States elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of four years. The distribution of seats among the regional groups is as follows: 11 members from African States, 11 from Asian States,<sup>1</sup> 10 from Latin American and Caribbean States, 6 from Eastern European States and 14 from Western European and other States.

The Bureau of the Commission is composed of the chairperson, three vice-chairpersons and one rapporteur. The extended Bureau includes the chairpersons of the five regional groups, the Chair of the Group of 77 and China, and the representative of the State holding the Presidency of the European Union.

## SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COMMISSION

Subsidiary bodies of the Commission are the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, and the meetings of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe, respectively. The purpose of these meetings is to strengthen regional and international cooperation, coordinate activities and identify policy issues to promote the best ways to address the regional dynamics of the world drug problem. The recommendations of the subsidiary bodies are submitted to the Commission for its consideration or action.

## SECRETARIAT TO THE GOVERNING BODIES

The Secretariat to the Governing Bodies is the main point of contact for Member States concerning matters pertaining to the work and the competence of the Commission, its subsidiary bodies, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as well as regarding the work of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on drug control and crime matters. The Secretariat provides substantive and technical support to the Commissions as well as to their Bureaux and extended Bureaux.

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<sup>1</sup>One seat rotates between the Asian and the Latin American and the Caribbean States every four years.

Further information is available at:

<http://cnd.unodc.org>

<http://www.unodc.org/postungass2016/>



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