

Decision 55/1

Organization of work for the future sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

On 7 December 2012, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, bearing in mind its discussions on how to improve its methods of work, decided that:

(a) For future sessions of the Commission, the firm deadline for the submission of draft resolutions to be considered at the part of the session held in the first half of the year will be, in principle, one month prior to the commencement of that part of the session;

(b) The firm deadline for the submission of draft resolutions to be considered at the part of the fifty-sixth session to be held in the first half of 2013 will be three weeks prior to the commencement of that part of the session;

(c) For future sessions of the Commission, the part of the session held in the first half of the year will be preceded by informal pre-session consultations, with interpretation, to be held on the working day preceding the first day of that part of the session, as the informal pre-session consultations provide an opportunity for Member States to engage in informal consultations on draft resolutions and, *inter alia*, the provisional agenda for the next session of the Commission;

(d) The Secretariat will make the arrangements necessary for the adequate implementation of paragraphs (a) to (c) above, in particular by ensuring that draft resolutions are made available in all six official languages of the United Nations at least one week prior to the start of the informal pre-session consultations held in the first half of the year;

(e) In order to further the objectives of General Assembly resolution 52/214 of 22 December 1997, section B, in which the Assembly invited all intergovernmental bodies to consider, where appropriate, the possibility of reducing the length of their reports from the desired limit of 32 pages to 20 pages over a period of time without adversely affecting either the quality of presentation or the content of the reports, the Commission will make efforts to reduce the length of its annual reports, bearing in mind the need for such reports to include resolutions and decisions adopted or transmitted by the Commission, as well as a brief summary of its deliberations under each agenda item, focusing in particular on policy findings and conclusions reached;

(f) Bearing in mind the need to maintain budget discipline, to use conference services in a cost-effective manner and to conduct its work more efficiently, the Secretariat will submit a report to the Commission at its fifty-seventh session related to documentation prepared for the Commission, including the costs and the number and frequency of issuance of those documents, the efforts made by the Secretariat to find internal efficiencies in the manner in which it produces such documents and the savings linked to those efficiencies, as well as recommendations on these issues, including exploring possibilities to further improve and reduce the yearly reporting requirements through a thorough examination of its current mandates, with a view to identifying outdated or duplicative mandates.