

Distr.: General
24 July 2020

Original: English

Extraordinary session of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Vienna (online), 1 and 2 October 2020

Annotated provisional agenda

Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda.
2. Current situation with respect to addressing and countering the world drug problem in the light of coronavirus disease (COVID-19).
3. Meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs:
 - (a) Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean:
 - (i) Opening;
 - (ii) Discussion on the impact of COVID-19 on the regional drug situation from a law enforcement perspective;
 - (b) Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific:
 - (i) Opening;
 - (ii) Discussion on the impact of COVID-19 on the regional drug situation from a law enforcement perspective;
 - (c) Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East:
 - (i) Opening;
 - (ii) Discussion on the impact of COVID-19 on the regional drug situation from a law enforcement perspective;
 - (d) Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa:
 - (i) Opening;
 - (ii) Discussion on the impact of COVID-19 on the regional drug situation from a law enforcement perspective.
4. Closure of the session.



Annotations

1. Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda

The 1st meeting will be attended by the participants in all the subsidiary bodies. High-level speakers will address the meeting and the Secretariat will provide procedural information.

Documentation¹

Annotated provisional agenda
(UNODC/CND/ES/2020/1)

2. Current situation with respect to addressing and countering the world drug problem in the light of coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) crisis is taking its toll on the global economy, on public health and on people's lives. The virus has infected millions of people worldwide and has led Governments to take drastic measures to limit the spread of the disease, with more than half of the global population being affected by mobility restrictions, the closure of international border crossings and the drastic decline in economic activity, as many countries have opted to close non-essential businesses. Under the item, participants will discuss the global impact of COVID-19 on the demand for and supply of drugs.

Documentation¹

Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking
([E/CN.7/2020/5](#))

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *COVID-19 and the Drug Supply Chain: From Production and Trafficking to Use* (Vienna, 2020)

3. Meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Separate meetings will be held for each of the subsidiary bodies.

The facilitator of each meeting will make introductory remarks. The remarks will be followed by a short introduction by representatives of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on trends and responses and then a discussion among the participants on the impact of COVID-19 on the regional drug situation from a law enforcement perspective.

Drug trafficking relies heavily on legal trade to camouflage its activities and on individuals being able to distribute drugs. The measures implemented by Governments to counter the COVID-19 pandemic have thus inevitably affected all aspects of the illegal drug markets, from the production of and trafficking in drugs to the consumption of drugs.

The measures implemented to address COVID-19 have resulted in an overall shortage of numerous types of drugs on the illicit market at the retail level, as well as an increase in prices and a reduction in purity. The impact on large-scale drug supply varies. Some countries have experienced a sharp decrease in the number of drug seizures, others have reported interruptions to drug trafficking. There have also been reports of organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking turning to emerging crimes linked to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as cybercrime and trafficking in falsified medicines.

Cybercrime is evolving and growing in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Drug traffickers are moving their operations to online platforms as a result of physical distancing measures and home-based working has increased the pool of potential

¹ All documentation for the session will be posted on the website of the subsidiary bodies:
www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/Subsidiary_Bodies/Subsidiary-Bodies_Index.html.

cybercrime victims. Cybercriminals will exploit perceived operational gaps. Counter-intuitively, this will create tactical and strategic law enforcement opportunities.

COVID-19 is affecting all parts of society and is changing lives and livelihoods. While attention is currently focused on those most immediately affected by the virus, there are many indications that the pandemic will have long-lasting social, cultural, economic, political and multidimensional impacts on the whole of societies, including young people, as highlighted in the report of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group entitled “Shared responsibility, global solidarity: responding to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19” (March 2020).

Documentation

Report of the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation (UNODC/HONLAC/30/3)

Report of the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in addressing and countering the world drug problem ([UNODC/HONLAP/44/3](#))

Report of the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation (UNODC/SUBCOM/55/3)

Report of the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in addressing and countering drug trafficking (UNODC/HONLAF/30/3)

4. Closure of the session

The Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs will make closing remarks.

Annex

Proposed organization of work

<i>Date and time (CEST)</i>		<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
Thursday, 1 October	10 a.m.		Session login opens
	11 a.m.–1 p.m.	1	Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda
		2	Current situation with respect to addressing and countering the world drug problem in the light of coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
	3–5 p.m.	3 (a)	Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean
Friday, 2 October	8–10 a.m.	3 (b)	Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific
	11 a.m.–1 p.m.	3 (c)	Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East
	3–5 p.m.	3 (d)	Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa
	5.30–5.45 p.m.	4	Closure of the session