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

Vienna (online), 20–24 September 2021

Annotated provisional agenda

Provisional agenda

1. Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe:
 - (a) Opening;
 - (b) Impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in the region with regard to the topics to be discussed by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at the thematic discussions¹ to be held in October 2021:
 - (i) COVID-19 and the increasing links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime;
 - (ii) COVID-19 and proceeds of crime related to money-laundering arising from drug trafficking;
 - (iii) COVID-19 and the criminal misuse of information technologies for illicit drug-related activities.
2. Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa:
 - (a) Opening;
 - (b) Impact of COVID-19 in the region with regard to the topics to be discussed by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at the thematic discussions to be held in October 2021:
 - (i) COVID-19 and the increasing links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime;
 - (ii) COVID-19 and proceeds of crime related to money-laundering arising from drug trafficking;
 - (iii) COVID-19 and the criminal misuse of information technologies for illicit drug-related activities.

¹ The Commission on Narcotic Drugs holds thematic discussions in the fourth quarter of the year on the challenges identified in the Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem, following up on the implementation of all international drug policy commitments (www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/Mandate_Functions/thematic-discussions.html).



3. Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East:
 - (a) Opening;
 - (b) Impact of COVID-19 in the region with regard to the topics to be discussed by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at the thematic discussions to be held in October 2021:
 - (i) COVID-19 and the increasing links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime;
 - (ii) COVID-19 and proceeds of crime related to money-laundering arising from drug trafficking;
 - (iii) COVID-19 and the criminal misuse of information technologies for illicit drug-related activities.
4. Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific:
 - (a) Opening;
 - (b) Impact of COVID-19 in the region with regard to the topics to be discussed by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at the thematic discussions to be held in October 2021:
 - (i) COVID-19 and the increasing links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime;
 - (ii) COVID-19 and proceeds of crime related to money-laundering arising from drug trafficking;
 - (iii) COVID-19 and the criminal misuse of information technologies for illicit drug-related activities.
5. Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean:
 - (a) Opening;
 - (b) Impact of COVID-19 in the region with regard to the topics to be discussed by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at the thematic discussions to be held in October 2021:
 - (i) COVID-19 and the increasing links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime;
 - (ii) COVID-19 and proceeds of crime related to money-laundering arising from drug trafficking;
 - (iii) COVID-19 and the criminal misuse of information technologies for illicit drug-related activities.

Annotations

Opening

Opening remarks will be provided by the Chair and the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The Secretariat will provide procedural information on the meeting.

Documentation²

Annotated provisional agenda (UNODC/CND/ES/2021/1)

² All documentation for the meetings will be posted on the website of the subsidiary bodies (www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/Subsidiary_Bodies/Subsidiary-Bodies_Index.html).

Impact of COVID-19 in the various regions with regard to the topics to be discussed by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at the thematic discussions to be held in October 2021

(a) COVID-19 and the increasing links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime

The COVID-19 crisis is taking its toll on the global economy, on public health and on people's lives. Many areas of economic activity have either been shut down by Governments to halt the spread of the virus or seen demand collapse. Drug traffickers rely heavily on legal trade to conceal their activities and on individuals being able to distribute drugs to consumers. The measures implemented by Governments to counter the COVID-19 pandemic have inevitably affected all aspects of illegal drug markets, from production and trafficking to consumption. At the same time, with the usual means of making illicit profits, such as trafficking in drugs and firearms and smuggling of migrants, being tightly constricted by restrictions on movement, organized criminal groups are moving into the manufacture of falsified medical products.

The discussions under the sub-item will be focused on the global impact of COVID-19 on the supply of drugs and links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime.

(b) COVID-19 and proceeds of crime related to money-laundering arising from drug trafficking

Money-laundering involving the use of cash couriers has been significantly reduced as a result of the closure of ports and airports. Organized criminal groups might seek alternative remittance methods, such as cryptocurrencies or wire transfers, while awaiting the reopening of borders. Owing to social-distancing measures, some law enforcement entities around the world have reported disrupted access to secure anti-money-laundering intelligence systems. This has decreased capacities to pursue money-laundering and financing of terrorism cases. Fiscal and non-fiscal frauds related to the public response to COVID-19 are increasing. Cryptocurrency and pyramid-scheme scams are likely to become more widespread and transnational organized criminal groups and terrorist financiers are likely to seek to exploit opportunities to offer financial services when State and private sector capabilities are reduced.

The discussions under the sub-item will be focused on how the pandemic presents myriad criminal finance (and investigative) opportunities, including in connection with drug trafficking.

(c) COVID-19 and the criminal misuse of information technologies for illicit drug-related activities

Cybercrime is evolving and growing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Individuals may become victims of online fraud, extortion or online child sexual abuse; and systems, including those of hospitals, may be compromised by ransomware. Governments continue to be targeted by malware. The increasing spread of misinformation and disinformation continues to confuse the public and undermines the scientific response.

The number of specialist law enforcement counter-cybercrime personnel has been reduced throughout most of 2020. Cybercrime will increase in the short term and victims will likely face delays in achieving justice. Cybercriminals are exploiting perceived operational gaps.

The discussions under the sub-item will be focused on how information technology has been misused during the COVID-19 pandemic, including for illicit drug-related activities.

Documentation

Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking
([E/CN.7/2021/5](#))

Background paper by the Secretariat on the topics to be discussed by the Commission
on Narcotic Drugs at the thematic discussions to be held in October 2021
(UNODC/CND/ES/2021/CRP.1)

Annex

Proposed organization of work

<i>Date and time (Vienna)</i>		<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
Monday, 20 September	9–11 a.m.	1	Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe
		1 (a)	Opening
		1 (b) (i)	Discussion on the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the increasing links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime
		1 (b) (ii)	Discussion on COVID-19 and proceeds of crime related to money-laundering arising from drug trafficking
	12–2 p.m.	1 (b) (ii)	Discussion on COVID-19 and proceeds of crime related to money-laundering arising from drug trafficking
	3–5 p.m.	1 (b) (iii)	Discussion on COVID-19 and the criminal misuse of information technologies for illicit drug-related activities
Tuesday, 21 September	9–11 a.m.	2	Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa
		2 (a)	Opening
		2 (b) (i)	Discussion on COVID-19 and the increasing links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime
		2 (b) (ii)	Discussion on COVID-19 and proceeds of crime related to money-laundering arising from drug trafficking
	12–2 p.m.	2 (b) (ii)	Discussion on COVID-19 and proceeds of crime related to money-laundering arising from drug trafficking
	3–5 p.m.	2 (b) (iii)	Discussion on COVID-19 and the criminal misuse of information technologies for illicit drug-related activities
Wednesday, 22 September	9–11 a.m.	3	Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East
		3 (a)	Opening
		3 (b) (i)	Discussion on COVID-19 and the increasing links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime
		3 (b) (ii)	Discussion on COVID-19 and proceeds of crime related to money-laundering arising from drug trafficking
	12–2 p.m.	3 (b) (ii)	Discussion on COVID-19 and proceeds of crime related to money-laundering arising from drug trafficking
	3–5 p.m.	3 (b) (iii)	Discussion on COVID-19 and the criminal misuse of information technologies for illicit drug-related activities
Thursday, 23 September	7–9 a.m.	4	Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific ¹
		4 (a)	Opening
		4 (b) (i)	Discussion on COVID-19 and the increasing links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime
		4 (b) (ii)	Discussion on COVID-19 and proceeds of crime related to money-laundering arising from drug trafficking
	10 a.m.–12 p.m.	4 (b) (ii)	Discussion on COVID-19 and proceeds of crime related to money-laundering arising from drug trafficking
	1–3 p.m.	4 (b) (iii)	Discussion on COVID-19 and the criminal misuse of information technologies for illicit drug-related activities
Friday, 24 September	3–5 p.m.	5	Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean

¹ Breaks reduced upon request.

<i>Date and time (Vienna)</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
	5 (a)	Opening
	5 (b) (i)	Discussion on COVID-19 and the increasing links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime
6–8 p.m.	5 (b) (ii)	Discussion on COVID-19 and proceeds of crime related to money-laundering arising from drug trafficking
9–11 p.m.	5 (b) (iii)	Discussion on COVID-19 and the criminal misuse of information technologies for illicit drug-related activities
