

CND Newsletter *July - December 2021*

64th Reconvened Session



From 9 to 10 December 2020, the [Commission on Narcotic Drugs](#) held its [reconvened 64th session](#) in a hybrid format, which was attended by representatives from governments, UN entities, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. On 9 December, the Commission held a joint meeting with the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) to discuss strategic management, budgetary and administrative issues of UNODC. Under this agenda item, the Commissions, among others, considered the consolidated budget of UNODC for the biennium 2022-2023.

One separate meeting of the CND was held on 10 December, during which, the Commission had under consideration an agenda item on the implementation of the international drug control treaties. The World Health Organization reported to the Commission about the outcome of the 44th meeting of its Expert Committee on Drug Dependence held from 11 to 15 October 2021.

Virtual Briefing during the General Assembly Third Committee

On 4 October 2021, a virtual briefing on the work undertaken by the Commission was organized, on the occasion of the Third Committee's deliberations on the world drug problem, for delegations of the United Nations in New York and interested stakeholders. During the briefing, co-sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations in New York and UNODC, information was shared on the work undertaken by the Commission at its 64th session, including its normative functions under the three international drug control conventions, as well as on action taken regarding the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, following-up to the 2019 Ministerial Declaration.

CND Special Event



A [special event](#) at the 64th session of CND on [UNODC Synthetic Drug Strategy 2021-2025](#) was held in a hybrid format on 19 November 2021.

During the meeting, Ms. Ghada WALY, Executive Director of UNODC, delivered opening remarks, followed by interventions made by six panellists, including H.E. Ms. Faouzia MEBARKI, Permanent Representative of Algeria to the UN (Vienna); H.E. Mr. Muhammad Abdul MUHITH, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN (Vienna); H.E. Ms. Katrina KAKTINA, Permanent Representative of Latvia to the UN (Vienna); H.E. Ms. Julia VILLATORO TARIO, Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the UN (Vienna); H.E. Mr. Ghislain D'HOOP, Permanent Representative of Belgium to the UN (Vienna); and Mr. Jamie BRIDGE, Chair of the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs. Mr. Justice TETTEY, Chief of UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Services, presented highlights of the new strategy and actions to address the global synthetic drug problem.

Autumn Thematic Discussions

Pursuant to the [2019-2023 workplan](#) adopted in June 2019, the Commission held, from 19 to 21 October 2021, the third round of [thematic discussions](#) following the adoption of the [2019 Ministerial Declaration](#), with a view to fostering multi-stakeholder, interactive and inclusive discussions on the full implementation of the joint drug policy commitments contained in the [2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action](#), the [2014 Ministerial Statement](#) and the [2016 UNGASS outcome document](#). The 2021 Thematic Discussions, held in a hybrid format, enabled an interactive and inclusive exchange of good practices and lessons learned in addressing [three of the challenges](#) identified in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration. Each day of the thematic discussions consisted of an introductory presentation and a panel discussion followed by interventions from international organizations and UN entities and an interactive debate. The panels included representatives from Member States nominated through the regional groups, as well as civil society.



Meetings of the HONLEAs and the Subcommission

The meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEAs) and the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East (Subcommission), which are the [subsidiary bodies](#) of the Commission, take place annually to identify salient policy issues, analyze these issues in working groups, and bring their reports and recommendations to the attention of the Commission.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related challenges for in person meetings and travel, the [extraordinary sessions](#) of the CND subsidiary bodies ([HONLAF](#), [HONLAC](#), [HONLAP](#), [HONEUR](#) and [Subcommission](#)) took place from 20–24 September 2021 in a virtual format. The extraordinary sessions were held for one day per subsidiary body, to discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the regional drug situation. The next regular sessions of the subsidiary bodies will be held in 2022.



Side event at the 2021 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

On 7 July 2021, the CND and the CCPCJ, during the 2021 HLPF on Sustainable Development, organized [a side event](#) with the Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations in New York. The side event touched upon the [deliberations and activities of the CND](#) that focused on addressing the devastating impact of the pandemic on the world drug problem, including [the related Joint Statement](#) adopted by the Commission at its 64th session. Information was also provided on the working methods of the two Vienna-based Commissions during the pandemic.



Bureau members of the 64th CND

Chairperson: H.E. Ghislain D'hoop (*Belgium*)
1st Vice-Chairperson: H.E. Miguel Camilo Ruiz Blanco (*Colombia*)
2nd Vice-Chairperson: vacant (*African Group*)
3rd Vice-Chairperson: vacant (*Group of Asia-Pacific States*)
Rapporteur: vacant (*Eastern European Group*)

Upcoming

14–18 March 2022: 65th session of the CND