

CND Newsletter July - December 2022

65th Reconvened Session



From 8 to 9 December 2022, the [Commission on Narcotic Drugs](#) held its [reconvened 65th session](#) in a hybrid format, which was attended by representatives from governments, UN entities, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. On 8 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.

A separate meeting of the CND was held on 9 December, during which the Commission considered the agenda item on the implementation of the international drug control treaties. The World Health Organization reported orally on the outcome of the 45th meeting of the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence, which had taken place from 10 – 13 October 2022. The Commission also considered matters concerning ECOSOC, including contributions to the 2030 Agenda.

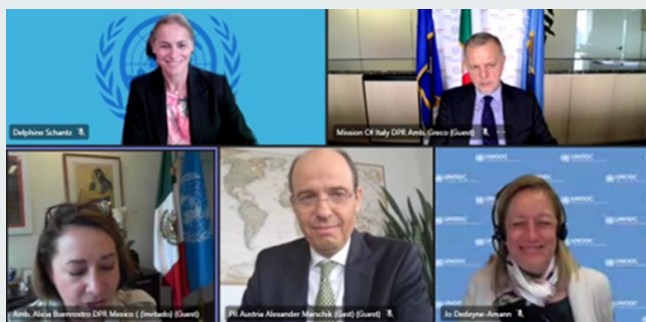
Autumn Thematic Discussions



Pursuant to the [2019-2023 workplan](#) adopted in June 2019, the Commission held, from 21-22 September 2022, the fourth 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 [three international drug policy documents](#).

The 2022 Thematic Discussions, held in a hybrid format, focused on: *“Responses not in conformity with the three international drug control conventions and not in conformity with applicable international human rights obligations pose a challenge to the implementation of joint commitments based on the principle of common and shared responsibility”*. The thematic sessions consisted of an introductory presentation and a panel discussion, followed by interventions from UN entities, international and non-governmental organizations as well as an interactive debate.

Online Briefing during the General Assembly Third Committee



On 30 September 2022, the Secretariat, in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations (New York) and the UNODC New York Liaison Office, organized an online briefing on the work of the CND at its 65th session, ahead of the consideration by the Third Committee of the agenda item on “International drug control”.

Meetings of the HONLEAs and the Subcommission

In 2022, for the first time since the COVID-19 outbreak, the CND subsidiary bodies met again in person and brought together national experts from their respective region. The meetings facilitated rich discussions and adopted each a set of operational recommendations addressing trends in drug trafficking and concealment methods; synthetic drug production and trafficking; alternatives to conviction or punishment for drug-related offences; and the role of regional cooperation platforms in facilitating the exchange of actionable intelligence.

(1) The [14th meeting of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies \(HONLEA\), Europe](#), was held from 12-15 September 2022 in Valletta, Malta.

(2) The [30th meeting of HONLEA Latin America and the Caribbean](#) was organized from 4-7 October 2022 in Guatemala City.

(3) The [44th meeting of HONLEA Asia and the Pacific](#) was organized from 25-28 October 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand.

(4) The [30th meeting of HONLEA Africa](#) was organized from 8-11 November 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya.

(5) The [55th meeting of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in Near and Middle East](#), was organized from 22-25 November 2022 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

A report will be presented to the CND 66th session.



CND Chair's "Availability and Access" Initiative



The Chair of the CND at its 65th session, H.E. Mr. Ghislain D'Hoop, launched a [Chair's initiative](#) on scaling up the implementation of the international drug policy commitments on improving availability of and access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes. This initiative aimed at promoting the various policy commitments made by the Commission in relation to availability and access.

The Chair's initiative has encompassed a global awareness-raising campaign, with events held at the United Nations offices in [Vienna](#), [New York](#) and [Geneva](#) – culminating in the [One-Day Special Forum](#) on 10 October 2022 – and various forms of outreach through the internet, including a social media campaign on [Twitter](#), [an e-learning tool](#), and livestreams of the events.

Side event at the 2022 High-Level Political Forum

On 6 July 2022, the CND and CCPCJ jointly held [a side event](#) at the margins of the 2022 ECOSOC High-level Political Forum, entitled "*Leveraging international action to address the impact of COVID-19 on drugs and crime – integrated multidisciplinary responses by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*". The event was co-sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Austria to UN in New York and the UNODC New York Liaison Office. The event examined the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the world drug problem, outlined and promoted the work of the Commission, as well as highlighted the guidance provided by the CND in relation to responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Bureau members of the 66th CND

Chairperson: H.E. Miguel Camilo Ruiz BLANCO (*Colombia*)

1st Vice-Chairperson: H.E. Philbert Abaka JOHNSON (*Ghana*)

2nd Vice-Chairperson: Ms. Illa MAINALI (*Nepal*)

3rd Vice-Chairperson: H.E. Barbara ZVOKEJ (*Slovenia*)

Rapporteur: Mr. Paul WILLIAMS (*Canada*)

Upcoming

9-20 January 2023: [Application period for CND side events and exhibitions](#)

13–17 March 2023: 66th session of the CND