

CCPCJ Newsletter *January - June 2020*

29th session of CCPCJ and 14th Crime Congress postponed due to COVID-19 outbreak



The 29th session of the [Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/ccpcj/index.html) (CCPCJ) had been scheduled to take place from 18 to 22 May 2020 in Vienna, Austria, with the overall theme on “*Effective measures to prevent and counter the smuggling of migrants, while protecting the rights of smuggled migrants, particularly women and children, and those of unaccompanied migrant children*”. Due to the global circumstances in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 29th session was postponed to an as yet undetermined date. Following the postponement decision, the Commission has been conducting consultations on the new dates and format of the 29th session (for updates visit <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/ccpcj/index.html>).



The 14th [United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice](https://www.unodc.org/congress/), had been originally scheduled to take place from 20 to 27 April 2020 in Kyoto, Japan, under the overall theme “*Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda*”. The 14th Crime Congress was postponed, also in light of the COVID-19 developments, until further notice. Information on the new dates will be communicated as soon as the relevant decision has been made (for updates visit <https://www.unodc.org/congress/>).

CCPCJ and CND going virtual

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and the CCPCJ explored, during the lockdown period, the opportunities of holding virtual meetings. In particular, an online survey was launched by the [Secretariat to the Governing Bodies](#) to collect and share ideas from Member States on the remote working arrangements of the two Commissions. In addition, a virtual test meeting was organized on 15 April, through Microsoft Teams, to provide an opportunity for Member States to get used to the system and meeting modalities. Furthermore, a dedicated training session on the use of Microsoft Teams was conducted together with the Information Technology Service of UNODC for interested delegates on 29 April. A number of Commissions-related meetings have been held virtually since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, such as meetings and informal briefings of the [Open-ended intergovernmental working group on the governance and financial situation of UNODC](#), the [Commissions’ joint high-level special event](#) to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Beijing+25 Declaration and Platform of Action, the [CND special event](#) commemorating the UN International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, and the CND first topical meeting of the intersessional considerations on the WHO scheduling recommendations on cannabis and cannabis-related substances.



CCPCJ and CND commemorate 25th anniversary of the Beijing+25 Declaration and Platform for Action



The CCPCJ and the CND hosted a joint virtual [high-level special event](#) in commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The special event was organized with a view to raising awareness for the commitments made in 1995 in Beijing, in particular in relation to the work of the [Vienna-based Commissions](#), and to discussing how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting women and girls and further deepening pre-existing inequalities. [Ms. Ghada Waly](#), Executive Director of UNODC, addressed the event, followed by interventions from H.E. Ms.

Nathalie Muylle, Minister of Employment, Economy and Consumer Affairs, in charge of Combating Poverty, Equal Opportunities, and Disabled People, Belgium; H.E. Mr. Mher Margaryan, Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women at its 64th session; H.E. Ms. Elisabeth Tichy-Fisslberger, President of the Human Rights Council; and Ms. Åsa Regnér, Deputy Executive Director of the UN Women. The high-level discussion further benefitted from the interventions of the Vienna-based International Gender Champions, including H.E. Ms. Alicia Guadalupe Buenrostro Massieu, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the UN in Vienna, and [H.E. Ms. Khojesta Fana Ebrahimkhel](#), Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the UN in Vienna, as well as contributions from civil society. See full list of speakers and statements: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/beijing-plus-25.html>.

Multilingualism initiatives

The Secretariat to the Governing Bodies (SGB) undertook a number of initiatives, during the lockdown period and within existing resources, to further promote respect for multilingualism in the work of the two Commissions, in line with CND resolution [62/9](#) and CCPCJ resolution [28/4](#). In particular, over 20 webpages of the two Commissions were made available in five official languages of the UN spoken by SGB staff. Resolutions and decisions adopted by the [CND](#) and [CCPCJ](#) in 2019 were also made available online in five languages.

Accessibility & Commissions

In implementation of the [United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy](#), launched by the Secretary-General in 2019, SGB is improving the accessibility of the work of the CCPCJ and CND. With a view to increasing the accessibility of the web content for people with visual impairments, SGB added image descriptions on the Commissions' webpages, in five official languages of the UN, and developed a guide to ensure the sustainability of the initiative. Development of an accessibility guide for participants of meetings and conferences held at the Vienna International Centre is underway.

Bureau members of the 29th CCPCJ



Chairperson:

H.E. Mr. Jose Antonio Marcondes De Carvalho (Brazil)

1st Vice-Chairperson:

(vacant)

2nd Vice-Chairperson:

H.E. Ms. Khojesta Fana Ebrahimkhel (Afghanistan)

3rd Vice-Chairperson:

(vacant)

Rapporteur:

Mr. Ivan Gospodinov (Bulgaria)

Upcoming events

3-4 December 2020: Reconvened 29th session, Vienna, Austria