

CND Newsletter *July - December 2020*

63rd Reconvened Session

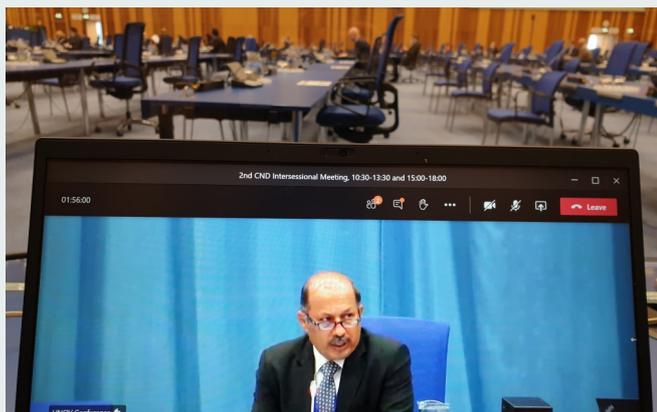


From 2 to 4 December 2020, the [Commission on Narcotic Drugs](#) held its [reconvened 63rd session](#) in hybrid format, which was attended by representatives from the 53 States members of the Commission, other States members of the UN, UN entities, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. On 2 December, the Commission [voted on the WHO scheduling recommendations on cannabis and cannabis-related substances](#). On 3 December, the Commission held a joint meeting with the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to discuss strategic management, budgetary and administrative issues of UNODC. The Commission held a separate meeting on 4 December to discuss the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the provisional agenda for the sixty-fourth session of the Commission.

Voting Results of Cannabis Scheduling Recommendations

- [Recommendations 5.1](#)
The Commission decided by 27 votes to 25 and with one abstention to follow recommendation 5.1. Cannabis and cannabis resin will accordingly be deleted from Schedule IV of the 1961 Convention.
- [Recommendation 5.2.1 & 5.2.2](#)
The Commission rejected by 23 votes to 28 with 2 abstentions recommendation 5.2.1 to add dronabinol and its stereoisomers to Schedule I of the 1961 Convention. Due to the conditionalities included in the WHO recommendations, the Commission did not vote on recommendation 5.2.2.
- [Recommendation 5.3.1 & 5.3.2](#)
Due to the conditionalities included in the WHO recommendations, the Commission did not vote on the recommendation to move tetrahydrocannabinol from the 1971 Convention to the 1961 Convention.
- [Recommendations 5.4](#)
The Commission decided by 24 votes to 27 and with 2 abstentions not to delete extracts and tinctures of cannabis from Schedule I of the 1961 Convention.
- [Recommendation 5.5](#)
The Commission decided by 6 to 43 votes and with 4 abstentions not to add a footnote to Schedule I of the 1961 Convention.
- [Recommendation 5.6](#)
The Commission had predetermined in a procedural decision, adopted at the beginning of the meeting, that Recommendation 5.6 was deemed rejected, due to the rejection of the Recommendation 5.2.1.

Consultations on cannabis recommendations – topical and intersessional meetings



In summer and autumn 2020, Member States continued the considerations of the WHO recommendations on cannabis and cannabis-related substances in accordance with CND [decision 63/14](#). Three online topical meetings were held on 24 - 25 June, on 24 - 25 August 2020 and on 6 - 7 October 2020, focusing on the exchange of information among national experts. On 8 October 2020, the Commission held an [intersessional meeting](#) in a hybrid format, involving all interested stakeholders.

Autumn Thematic Discussions

Pursuant to the [2019-2023 workplan](#) it had adopted in June 2019, the Commission held, from 19 to 21 October 2020, the second 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 2020 Thematic Discussions, held in a hybrid format, enabled an interactive and inclusive exchange of good practices and lessons learned in addressing [four 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 by international organizations and UN entities and an interactive debate. The panels included representatives from Member States nominated by 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, which are the [subsidiary bodies](#) of the Commission, normally 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 relating challenges for in person meetings and travel, in 2020, [special extraordinary sessions](#) of the CND subsidiary bodies ([HONLAF](#), [HONLAC](#), [HONLAP](#) and [Sub-commission](#)) took place on 1–2 October in a virtual manner and a scaled-down format. During the session, participants discussed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the regional drug situation from a law enforcement perspective. The next regular sessions of the subsidiary bodies will be held in 2021.



Virtual Briefing during the General Assembly Third Committee

On 7 October 2020, a virtual briefing on the work undertaken by the Commission was organized, on the occasion of the Third Committee's deliberation 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 63rd session, including related to its normative functions under the three international drug control conventions, as well as on action taken on the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, following-up to the 2019 Ministerial Declaration.



Bureau members of the 64th CND

- Chairperson:** H.E. Dominika Anna Krois (*Poland*)
1st Vice-Chairperson: vacant (*Group of Western European and Other States*)
2nd Vice-Chairperson: H.E. Miguel Camilo Ruiz Blanco (*Colombia*)
3rd Vice-Chairperson: Mr. Bukar Hamman (*Nigeria*)
Rapporteur: vacant (*Group of Asia-Pacific States*)

Upcoming

12–16 April 2021: 64th session of the CND