



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

A close-up photograph of a blister pack containing numerous white, round tablets. The pack is partially open, and the tablets are arranged in rows. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the pills.

**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION  
ON NARCOTIC DRUGS**

## MANDATES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

### The origins of the Commission

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) was established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), in its resolution 9(1) in 1946, to assist the Council in supervising the application of the **international drug control conventions**. CND has important functions assigned to it by the following:

- **The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1953, as amended by the 1972 Protocol**
- **The Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971**
- **The United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988**

### What the Commission does

Under the Conventions, CND is **mandated to decide**, on the basis of the medical and scientific assessment by the World Health Organization and the International Narcotics Control Board, **to place narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals under international control, to change the level of control or to release substances from control.**

In 1991, the General Assembly further expanded the mandates of CND to enable it to function as the **governing body of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**, and to approve the budget for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, which accounts for most of the resources available to the United Nations for drug control.

In ECOSOC resolution 1999/30, CND was requested to enhance its functioning by structuring its agenda into two distinct segments: a **normative segment**, during which CND discharges its treaty-based and normative functions; and an **operational segment**, during which CND exercises its role as the governing body of UNODC.

In addition to its **annual regular meeting**, CND convenes **intersessional meetings**. Towards the end of each year, CND meets at a **reconvened session** to consider budgetary and administrative matters, and other matters as required, as the governing body of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

## Milestones

The **2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation Towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem** gave CND the mandate to monitor the world drug situation; develop strategies on international drug control; and recommend measures to combat the world drug problem, including through reducing demand for drugs, promoting alternative development initiatives, adopting supply reduction measures, and strengthening international cooperation. The 2009 Political Declaration set targets to eliminate or reduce significantly and measurably the following:

- The illicit cultivation of opium poppy, coca bush and cannabis plant
- The illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; and drug-related health and social risks
- The illicit production, manufacture, marketing and distribution of, and trafficking in, psychotropic substances, including synthetic drugs
- The diversion of and illicit trafficking in precursors
- Money-laundering related to illicit drugs

In 2014, at the high-level review of the progress made in the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, CND adopted a **Joint Ministerial Statement** identifying achievements, challenges and priorities for further action by the target date of 2019.

In 2016, following the preparatory process led by the fifty-ninth session of CND, the General Assembly held a special session (**UNGASS 2016**) on the world drug problem and adopted resolution S-30/1, containing the outcome document entitled “**Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem**”. The outcome document contains operational recommendations for implementation by Member States under seven thematic chapters, as follows:

- Demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as other health-related issues
- Ensuring the availability of and access to controlled substances exclusively for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion
- Supply reduction and related measures; effective law enforcement; responses to drug-related crime; and countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation

- Cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, children, women and communities
- Cross-cutting issues in addressing and countering the world drug problem: evolving reality, trends and existing circumstances, emerging and persistent challenges and threats, including new psychoactive substances, in conformity with the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments
- Strengthening international cooperation based on the principle of common and shared responsibility
- Alternative development; regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented balanced drug control policy; addressing socioeconomic issues

At its sixty-second session, CND held a **ministerial segment** to take stock of the implementation of the commitments made to jointly address and counter the world drug problem. Participants adopted by consensus the **2019 Ministerial Declaration on strengthening actions at the national, regional and international levels to accelerate the implementation of joint commitments to address and counter the world drug problem**. The Ministerial Declaration consists of three parts: a preamble, a stock-taking section and a section on the way forward.

Member States agreed to focus on the **practical implementation of the joint commitments made over the past decade** (namely the commitments stemming from the 2009 Political Declaration, the 2014 Joint Ministerial Statement and the 2016 UNGASS outcome document). Member States resolved, in following up to the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, to review in the Commission in 2029 the progress made in implementing all the international drug policy commitments, with a mid-term review in CND in 2024.

In the follow-up to the Ministerial Declaration, the Commission decided, in the 2019–2023 multi-year workplan, to hold for the period 2019–2022 interactive thematic discussions on addressing the challenges identified in the Ministerial Declaration, as well as to have, in 2023, in the lead-up to the 2024 mid-term review, a comprehensive stock-taking of progress made in implementing all international drug policy commitments.

The 2019 Ministerial Declaration also reiterates that efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to effectively address the world drug problem are complementary and mutually reinforcing.

## MEMBERSHIP AND BUREAU OF THE COMMISSION

CND is composed of 53 Member States elected by ECOSOC for a period of four years. The distribution of seats among the regional groups is as follows: eleven members for African States, eleven for Asian States, ten from Latin American and Caribbean States, six for Eastern European States and fourteen for Western European and other States. One seat rotates between the Asian and the Latin American and the Caribbean States every four years.

The **Bureau** of CND is composed of the Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons and one Rapporteur. The **Extended Bureau** includes the Chairpersons of the five regional groups, the Chair of the Group of 77 and China, and the representative of the State holding the presidency of the European Union.

## SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COMMISSION

CND has the following subsidiary bodies: the **Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East**, and the meetings of the **Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA) for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe**, respectively. The purpose of these meetings is to strengthen regional and international cooperation, coordinate activities and identify policy issues, as well as to promote the best ways to address the regional dynamics of the world drug problem. The recommendations of the subsidiary bodies are submitted to CND for its consideration or action.

More information on the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs can be obtained from the Secretariat to the Governing Bodies.

## Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Further information is available at:

<http://cnd.unodc.org>

<http://unodc.org/2019MDFollow-Up>

<http://www.unodc.org/postungass2016/>



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