



United Nations

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

**Report on the sixty-eighth session
(6 December 2024 and 10–14 March 2025)**

Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2025
Supplement No. 8

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

**Report on the sixty-eighth session
(6 December 2024 and 10–14 March 2025)**



United Nations • New York, 2025

Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

The report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened sixty-eighth session, to be held on 4 and 5 December 2025, will be issued as *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2025, Supplement No. 8A* ([E/2025/28/Add.1](#)).

[3 April 2025]

Contents

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Page</i>
Executive summary	v
I. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention	1
A. Draft decisions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council	1
I. Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its sixty-eighth session and provisional agenda for its sixty-ninth session	1
II. Report of the International Narcotics Control Board	2
B. Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council	2
Resolution 68/1 Promoting comprehensive, scientific evidence-based and multisectoral national systems of drug use prevention for children and adolescents	2
Resolution 68/2 Promoting research on scientific evidence-based interventions for the treatment and care of stimulant use disorders.	5
Resolution 68/3 Complementing the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development	8
Resolution 68/4 Safety of officers in dismantling illicit synthetic drug laboratories, in particular those involving synthetic opioids	10
Resolution 68/5 Addressing the impacts of illicit drug-related activities on the environment.	14
Resolution 68/6 Strengthening the international drug control system: a path to effective implementation	16
Decision 68/1 Inclusion of <i>N</i> -pyrrolidino protonitazene in Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol	19
Decision 68/2 Inclusion <i>N</i> -pyrrolidino metonitazene in Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol	20
Decision 68/3 Inclusion of etonitazepipne in Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol	20
Decision 68/4 Inclusion of <i>N</i> -desethyl isotonitazene in Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol	20
Decision 68/5 Inclusion of hexahydrocannabinol in Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971.	20
Decision 68/6 Inclusion of carisoprodol in Schedule IV of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971.	20
Decision 68/7 Decision to move 3,4-MDP-2-P methyl glycidate (“PMK glycidate”) from the body of Table I of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 Convention to footnote 1 to that table, as the “methyl ester”.	21
II. General debate	22
III. Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions	27

A .	Deliberations	27
B .	Action taken by the Commission	28
IV .	Implementation of the international drug control treaties	29
A .	Deliberations	30
B .	Action taken by the Commission	34
V .	Follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem	38
A .	Deliberations	39
B .	Action taken by the Commission	43
VI .	Inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem	48
	Deliberations	48
VII .	Recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission	50
	Deliberations	50
VIII .	Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, including follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	51
	Deliberations	51
IX .	Provisional agenda for the sixty-ninth session of the Commission	52
A .	Deliberations	52
B .	Action taken by the Commission	52
X .	Other business	53
XI .	Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-eighth session	54
XII .	Organization of the session and administrative matters	55
A .	Informal pre-session consultations	55
B .	Opening and duration of the session	55
C .	Attendance	55
D .	Election of officers	55
E .	Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters	56
F .	Documentation	57
G .	Closure of the session	57

Executive summary

The present summary has been prepared pursuant to the annex to General Assembly resolution 68/1, entitled “Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council”, in which it is stated that the subsidiary bodies of the Council should, *inter alia*, include in their reports an executive summary.

The present document contains the report on the sixty-eighth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which was held from 10 to 14 March 2025. Chapter I contains the text of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission or recommended by the Commission for adoption by the Economic and Social Council.

During its session, the Commission considered strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions; the implementation of the international drug control treaties; the follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem; inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem; recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission; and contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, including follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Commission decided to include *N*-pyrrolidino protonitazene, *N*-pyrrolidino metonitazene, etonitazepipne and *N*-desethyl isotonitazene in Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol. The Commission also decided to include hexahydrocannabinol in Schedule II and carisoprodol in Schedule IV of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. Furthermore, the Commission decided to move 3,4-MDP-2-P methyl glycidate (“PMK glycidate”) from the body of Table I of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 to footnote 1 to that table, as the “methyl ester”.

The Commission adopted resolution 68/1, entitled “Promoting comprehensive, scientific evidence-based and multisectoral national systems of drug use prevention for children and adolescents”, resolution 68/2, entitled “Promoting research on scientific evidence-based interventions for the treatment and care of stimulant use disorders”, resolution 68/3, entitled “Complementing the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development”, resolution 68/4, entitled “Safety of officers in dismantling illicit synthetic drug laboratories, in particular those involving synthetic opioids”, resolution 68/5, entitled “Addressing the impacts of illicit drug-related activities on the environment”, and resolution 68/6, entitled “Strengthening the international drug control system: a path to effective implementation”.

The Commission recommended the following draft decisions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council: “Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its sixty-eighth session and provisional agenda for its sixty-ninth session” and “Report of the International Narcotics Control Board”.

Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decisions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council

1. The Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I

Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its sixty-eighth session and provisional agenda for its sixty-ninth session

The Economic and Social Council:

- (a) Takes note of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its sixty-eighth session;¹
- (b) Also takes note of Commission decision 55/1 of 7 December 2012;²
- (c) Approves the provisional agenda for the sixty-ninth session set out below.

Provisional agenda for the sixty-ninth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. General debate.

Operational segment

4. Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions:
 - (a) Work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;
 - (b) Directives on policy and budgetary issues for the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;
 - (c) Working methods of the Commission;
 - (d) Staff composition of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other related matters.

Normative segment

5. Implementation of the international drug control treaties:
 - (a) Changes in the scope of control of substances;
 - (b) Challenges and future work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the World Health Organization and the International Narcotics Control Board in the review of substances for possible scheduling recommendations;
 - (c) International Narcotics Control Board;

¹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2025, Supplement No. 8 (E/2025/28).*

² *Ibid.*, 2012, Supplement No. 8A (E/2012/28/Add.1), chap. I, sect. B.

- (d) International cooperation to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion;
 - (e) Other matters arising from the international drug control treaties.
- 6. Follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem.
 - 7. Inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem.
 - 8. Recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission.
 - 9. Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, including follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- ***
- 10. Provisional agenda for the seventieth session of the Commission.
 - 11. Other business.
 - 12. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-ninth session.

Draft decision II

Report of the International Narcotics Control Board

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2024.³

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

- 2. The following resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

Resolution 68/1

Promoting comprehensive, scientific evidence-based and multisectoral national systems of drug use prevention for children and adolescents

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Reaffirming the commitment of States parties to achieving the goals and objectives of and implementing the obligations contained in the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1953 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,⁴ the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971⁵ and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,⁶ in which States parties expressed their concern for the health and welfare of humankind,

³ E/INCB/2024/1.

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

⁵ Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

⁶ Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.

Reaffirming also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁷ and noting the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁸ adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989, in particular article 4 of the Convention, in which it is established that States parties are to undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognized in the Convention, and that, with regard to economic, social and cultural rights, States parties are to undertake such measures to the maximum extent of their available resources and, where needed, within the framework of international cooperation; article 24, in which States parties recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health; and article 33, in which States parties undertake to take all appropriate measures, including legislative, administrative, social and educational measures, to protect children from the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as defined in the relevant international treaties, and to prevent the use of children in the illicit production and trafficking of such substances,

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁹ as well as the commitment to ensuring that no one affected by the world drug problem is left behind, noting that efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to effectively address the world drug problem are complementary and mutually reinforcing, reaffirming the need to address the key causes and consequences of all aspects of the world drug problem, including those in the health, social, human rights, economic, justice, public security and law enforcement fields, and noting that integrating prevention efforts in the multisectoral systems focused on children and adolescents contributes to achieving those goals,

Recalling also its resolution 65/4 of 18 March 2022 on promoting comprehensive and scientific evidence-based early prevention, and noting that drug use prevention requires appropriate resource investment based on scientific evidence and that promoting comprehensive early prevention using, when appropriate, as a tool the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention*, developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in collaboration with the World Health Organization, is key for such child-centred preventive responses,

Recalling further its resolution 61/2 of 16 March 2018, in which it emphasized the significant role of educational settings in promoting education on drug use prevention among children, as well as healthy lifestyles, through curricular and extracurricular activities, including sports, as well as primary prevention and early intervention programmes, as appropriate, and recognizing that educational settings provide a unique opportunity to reach children within a system of prevention, while emphasizing the importance of implementing evidence-based prevention strategies within those environments to promote the health and well-being of children,

Recalling its resolution 60/7 of 17 March 2017 on promoting scientific evidence-based community, family and school programmes and strategies for the purpose of preventing drug use among children and adolescents, in which it recognized that communities, families and schools share responsibility for the education and welfare of children and adolescents, including in relation to drug use prevention,

Referring to its resolution 57/3 of 21 March 2014, in which it is stated that scientific evidence-based prevention interventions are an investment in the well-being and health of children, adolescents, youth, families and communities,

Recalling its resolution 63/4 of 6 March 2020 on promoting the involvement of youth in drug prevention efforts, in which it noted with appreciation, in that respect, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Youth Initiative,

⁷ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁹ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

Noting with concern the life trajectories of children and adolescents who are exposed to multiple, overlapping environmental risk factors, such as poverty, social inequality, discrimination, crime, violence and illicit drugs, including the growing phenomenon of synthetic drugs, for which there is a need to include in drug prevention efforts not only universal approaches but also selected and indicated prevention approaches to address both individual and environmental risk and protection factors,

Recognizing that the implementation of prevention systems that focus on children and adolescents, encompassing prenatal care, infancy and early and middle childhood, calls for a cross-sectoral, multidisciplinary and multi-stakeholder approach that takes into account gender- and age-specific needs and focuses on the social, structural and environmental determinants of well-being and health, including the influences of communities, families and individuals, and recognizing also that effective responses benefit from partnerships between local communities, governments, non-governmental organizations, as well as community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, civil society and academia,

Acknowledging that prevention systems aimed at children and adolescents go beyond preventing drug use as they support the healthy and safe development of children and adolescents so that they can realize their talents and potential by developing skills and being able to take advantage of opportunities to choose healthy lifestyles, and also support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Such a multisectoral child- and adolescent-focused approach contributes both to preventing drug use and reducing other risk behaviours, as well as improving the quality of life and general mental health of children and adolescents,

Noting with appreciation the development of tools such as the Review of Prevention Systems, derived from the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention*, and their potential for enabling Member States to systematically assess the structure and functioning of their prevention systems,

Expressing its appreciation for the launch by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime of the Children Amplified Prevention Services initiative, which is aimed at amplifying the resilience of children from birth to adolescence and preventing the use of drugs and other psychoactive substances and encourages Member States to adopt systems of prevention aimed at children and adolescents,

1. *Encourages* Member States to implement scientific evidence-based drug use prevention programmes and strategies aimed at children, such as the Children Amplified Prevention Services initiative, and adopt a system approach for prevention using, when appropriate, as a tool the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention*, allowing for the coordination of efforts of stakeholders across sectors to identify and resolve gaps in terms of prevention services at different stages of children's development and taking into account those living in socially and economically vulnerable situations, and to develop, implement and evaluate prevention systems that engage multiple sectors and various stakeholders in reaching children and adolescents and support the healthy and safe development of children and adolescents;

2. *Calls upon* Member States to identify the gaps in the training needs of prevention service providers and in the prevention services they offer to children and adolescents using tools such as the Review of Prevention Systems tool of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, considering the diverse levels of exposure of children and adolescents to risks, in respect to the principle of leaving no one behind, and thus allowing Member States to prioritize and focus their investments on improving and complementing the systems;

3. *Encourages* Member States to assess and map out their national prevention systems, engaging all stakeholders through a systematic and multisectoral approach using, when appropriate, as a tool the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention* and identifying local and regional evidence-based good practices to be evaluated and disseminated;

4. *Invites* Member States to strengthen partnerships with civil society, people affected by drug use, youth-led organizations, health and social service professionals, academia, educators, law enforcement entities and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to fully realize comprehensive systems of prevention in order to align national efforts aimed at delivering extensive scientific evidence-based drug prevention services, fostering collaborative efforts that utilize the strengths and expertise of each sector to effectively address diverse needs and build resilience and protective environments against drug use, using as a tool, when appropriate, the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention*;

5. *Also invites* Member States to enhance international cooperation and information exchange by promoting the sharing of experiences and best practices in the field of drug use prevention for children and adolescents;

6. *Encourages* Member States, in cooperation with universities and other research institutions, as well as civil society, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Health Organization and other relevant United Nations entities, and international organizations and programmes, in accordance with their mandates and national legislation, to develop and implement scientific research on the effectiveness, cost-effectiveness and return on investment of their prevention systems;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue, upon request, to support Member States by providing normative guidance, technical assistance and capacity-building for the development, mapping and implementation of systems of prevention that target children and adolescents at all stages of development and with all levels of exposure to risks, including through the use of tools such as the Review of Prevention Systems tool and through initiatives such as the Children Amplified Prevention Services initiative, ensuring that all prevention strategies are scientific evidence-based, inclusive, gender and age appropriate, and culturally sensitive and adaptable to the specific needs of diverse populations, including people in vulnerable situations;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its sixty-ninth session on the measures taken and on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution;

9. *Invites* Member States and donor countries to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

Resolution 68/2

Promoting research on scientific evidence-based interventions for the treatment and care of stimulant use disorders

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Reaffirming the commitment of States parties to achieving the goals and objectives of and implementing the obligations contained in the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,¹⁰ the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971¹¹ and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,¹² in which States parties expressed their concern for the health and welfare of humankind,

Reaffirming also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹³ which states in its articles 22 to 25, inter alia, that everyone has the right to social security, to work,

¹⁰ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

¹² *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

¹³ General Assembly resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

to leisure and to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of themselves and their families, including medical care and necessary social services,

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹⁴ in particular Goal 3, to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, and noting that efforts to strengthen drug prevention, treatment and recovery address that goal and constitute a step forward in its achievement,

Recalling also the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”,¹⁵ in which Member States resolved to strengthen national and international action to address the emerging challenge of new psychoactive substances, including their adverse health consequences, and the evolving threat of amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine, and underscored the importance of enhancing information-sharing and early warning networks, and developing appropriate national legislative, prevention and treatment models,

Recalling further the 2019 Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem,¹⁶ in which Member States note with concern persistent and emerging challenges related to the world drug problem, including that the rate of transmission of HIV, hepatitis C and other blood-borne infections associated with drug use, including injecting drugs, in some countries, remains high, that drug treatment and health services continue to fall short of meeting needs and that deaths related to drug use have increased,

Recalling its resolution 64/5 of 16 April 2021, in which Member States were called upon, consistent with their national legislation and contexts, to facilitate non-discriminatory and voluntary access to drug-related prevention, treatment, education, care, sustained recovery, rehabilitation, social reintegration and related support services for people who may face obstacles when accessing those services, including those impacted by social marginalization, while mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development and implementation of those services,

Taking note of the findings of the *World Drug Report 2024*¹⁷ on the increase of drug use globally, in part owing to the revival of stimulant drug use, following a decline during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and the widening of the treatment gap, with approximately only 1 in 18 women and 1 in 7 men with drug use disorders receiving treatment globally in 2022,

Noting with concern the increasing use of stimulants and its adverse effects on mental and physical health, the growing risks related to overdoses linked to the use of stimulants in some regions of the world and the heightened risk of contracting infectious diseases, such as HIV, tuberculosis, hepatitis B and hepatitis C, by people who use stimulants,

Commending the collaboration between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization, including to support Member States, upon request, in their efforts to achieve the aims of and implement the international drug control conventions within their respective mandates,

¹⁴ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

¹⁵ General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex.

¹⁶ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2019, Supplement No. 8 (E/2019/28)*, chap. I, sect. B.

¹⁷ United Nations publication, 2024.

Taking note of international standards¹⁸ that compile scientific evidence-based recommendations that reflect best prevention and treatment practices for possible use by Member States,

Recognizing that while for the non-medical use of pharmaceutical drugs such as sedatives, tranquillizers, pharmaceutical opioids and stimulants, the share of women using those substances could be nearly equal to that of men, women and girls continue to be underrepresented in drug use disorder treatment and face disproportionate barriers in accessing drug treatment and care services, due to factors such as gender-based violence, a lack of awareness of their needs and a lack of specific treatment services for women and girls and resources in some regions and countries,

Recognizing also the importance of enhancing the availability, accessibility and affordability of scientific evidence-based gender- and age-sensitive psychosocial treatments, such as contingency management, cognitive behavioural therapy and family therapy, within a continuum of care for people with stimulant use disorders, on a non-discriminatory and voluntary basis,

Stressing the need for data collection, research, sharing of information and international cooperation on pharmacological interventions for the treatment of stimulant use disorders, as the evidence needed for effective pharmacotherapy remains limited,

Stressing also the need for increased investment in research on effective treatment approaches for stimulant use disorders, including pharmacological and psychosocial interventions, with the goal of disseminating best practices tailored to the nature of stimulant use disorders,

Underscoring the important role played by all relevant stakeholders, including law enforcement, judicial and healthcare personnel, civil society, affected communities, the scientific community and academia, as well as the private sector as appropriate, in supporting the efforts of Member States in conducting research on scientific evidence-based interventions for the treatment and care of stimulant use disorders,

1. *Urges* Member States to promote research on innovative scientific evidence-based gender- and age-sensitive treatment within a continuum of care for people with stimulant use disorders;

2. *Invites* Member States to promote research on pharmacological interventions within a continuum of care for the treatment of stimulant use disorders, including through cooperation with academic institutions, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, other relevant United Nations entities, international and regional organizations within their respective mandates, civil society and affected communities as appropriate;

3. *Encourages* Member States to provide capacity-building and training to health professionals, social workers and other relevant professionals, with a view to ensuring that people with stimulant use disorders, including those in prisons and pretrial detention, are provided with voluntary, scientific evidence-based treatment and care, and with a view to promoting non-stigmatizing attitudes to reduce any possible discrimination, exclusion or prejudice that those people may encounter;

4. *Calls upon* Member States, through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to provide resources for appropriate, adequate and demand-driven technical assistance and capacity-building, as well as training courses, for Member States, in particular developing countries, to enable them to effectively address the different aspects of prevention and treatment of stimulant use disorders;

¹⁸ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and World Health Organization, *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention and International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders: Revised Edition Incorporating Results of Field-Testing*, 2020.

5. *Encourages* Member States, in accordance with their domestic laws, to provide plans and facilities to prevent and reduce the adverse public health and social consequences of drug use disorders, including the transmission of HIV and hepatitis C;

6. *Also encourages* Member States to explore scientific evidence-based and, as appropriate, innovative approaches to more effectively address public and individual health threats posed by the non-medical and non-scientific use of stimulants, including cocaine and amphetamine-type stimulants, by appropriately involving all relevant sectors; by supporting research, data collection, the analysis of evidence and the sharing of information; and by reinforcing healthcare systems and evidence-based measures aimed at preventing and reducing the adverse public health and social consequences of the non-medical use of drugs, as appropriate and in accordance with domestic legislation;

7. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in promoting research on scientific evidence-based pharmacological and psychosocial interventions for the treatment and care of stimulant use disorders in different regions and contexts through, inter alia, the #ScaleUp initiative;

8. *Invites* Member States to share results and best practices of scientific evidence-based research, in particular with respect to the treatment and care of stimulant use disorders, through international forums, to enhance global knowledge exchange and support the development of accessible and effective interventions;

9. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue and enhance its collaboration, as appropriate, with the World Health Organization, other relevant United Nations entities and relevant international and regional entities and organizations, including through joint programmes and partnerships, within their respective mandates;

10. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for those purposes, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

Resolution 68/3

Complementing the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution [68/196](#) of 18 December 2013,

Underscoring that the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,¹⁹ the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971²⁰ and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,²¹ together with other relevant international instruments, constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system,

Recognizing that the world drug problem continues to present challenges to the health, safety and well-being of all humanity, and resolving to tackle such challenges in order to help ensure that all people can live in health, dignity and peace, with security and prosperity,

Reaffirming that drug policies and programmes, including in the field of development, should be undertaken in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of

¹⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

²¹ *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

Human Rights²² and, in particular, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, all human rights, fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States, as well as the principle of common and shared responsibility, recalling the Sustainable Development Goals, and taking into account the specific situations of countries and regions,

Expressing concern that the illicit cultivation of drug crops and the illicit production, manufacture, distribution of and trafficking in drugs remain serious challenges in addressing and countering the world drug problem, and recognizing the need to strengthen comprehensive and sustainable crop control strategies and develop viable socioeconomic alternatives for the purposes of preventing and significantly and measurably reducing the illicit cultivation of crops, as well as the need to intensify joint efforts at the national, regional and international levels in a more progressive and comprehensive manner, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, including by means of enhanced, concrete and better-coordinated financial and technical assistance and action-oriented programmes, in order to tackle those challenges in a timely and efficient manner,

Recalling its resolution 67/3 of 22 March 2024, entitled “Celebrating the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development: effective implementation and the way forward”,

Noting with concern the findings of the *World Drug Report 2022* on drugs and the environment, aimed at providing a comprehensive overview of the current state of research on the direct and indirect impact on the environment of illicit drug crop cultivation, drug manufacture and drug policy responses, including regional variations, as well as the findings of the *World Drug Report 2023* on the nexus between drugs and crimes that affect the environment and convergent crime in the Amazon basin and the findings of the *World Drug Report 2024* on the illegal supply of drugs in the golden triangle: confluence with other crimes and impacts,

Recognizing the progress and contributions of alternative development programmes in addressing human vulnerabilities, including poverty, unemployment, a lack of opportunities, discrimination and social marginalization, as well as their contribution to mutually reinforcing endeavours to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, in accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,²³

Welcoming the holding of the ninth expert group meeting on alternative development, on the theme “Moving towards the update of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development”, in Bangkok from 28 to 30 November 2024, and of the Royal Project International Conference, entitled “From Alternative Development to Sustainable Development Goals: empowering alternative development to address the global challenges”, in Chiang Mai, Thailand, from 1 to 4 December 2024, and their contributions to alternative development,

Acknowledging that the design and implementation of future alternative development programmes should address current, persistent and evolving challenges, and taking note that the expert group meeting on alternative development identified those challenges to include climate change, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and challenges regarding food security, territorial approaches, public security, the displacement of people, and the empowerment and engagement of Indigenous Peoples and of local communities, as well as gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of increased efforts to promote viable domestic economic alternatives to the illicit cultivation, production and manufacturing of and trafficking in drugs, including through long-term, comprehensive, inclusive and

²² General Assembly resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

²³ General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

sustainable alternative development programmes and development-oriented interventions and initiatives that benefit all, in particular those local communities and regions affected by or at risk of the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and the illicit manufacture and production of and trafficking in drugs, as well as other illicit drug-related activities in urban and rural areas, bearing in mind the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, and noting the tenth anniversary of the Guiding Principles;

2. *Also reaffirms* the importance of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development as a crucial instrument for effective and sustainable development-oriented strategies and interventions for drug-related challenges and trends;

3. *Decides* to initiate a process to complement the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development in order to address the challenges posed by the evolving dynamics of the illicit drug economy, including the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and the illicit manufacture and production of and trafficking in drugs, as well as other illicit drug-related activities, through development-oriented measures aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to assist Member States in the organization of an inclusive expert group meeting on alternative development in 2025, which shall provide recommendations to complement the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, taking into account current, persistent and evolving challenges with a view to reinforcing and enhancing the effectiveness of alternative development programmes, for consideration by the Commission at its sixty-ninth session;

5. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to promote cross-sectoral synergies and multi-stakeholder engagement, and encourages Member States, relevant United Nations entities as well as other international and regional organizations, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders to leverage their expertise and resources in the process of complementing the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development;

6. *Takes note* of the conference room paper submitted jointly by Germany, Peru and Thailand and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime entitled “Moving towards the update of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development”, on recent challenges in the field of alternative development, bearing in mind its non-binding nature and that it does not necessarily reflect the position of all participants;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission at its sixty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

8. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

Resolution 68/4

Safety of officers in dismantling illicit synthetic drug laboratories, in particular those involving synthetic opioids

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Acknowledging with grave concern the international challenge posed by the rapid global spread of highly potent and accessible synthetic drugs, including amphetamine-type stimulants, synthetic cathinones and synthetic opioids, and noting

the risks associated with synthetic drugs, to public health and safety, and the need to protect law enforcement personnel and other relevant actors involved in dismantling laboratories used for the illicit manufacture of those substances,

Recalling its resolution 66/2 of 17 March 2023 on the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs, their precursors, and other chemicals used in illicit drug manufacture, and recognizing its relevance in addressing the risks posed by dismantling illicit synthetic opioid laboratories,

Noting that, while the illicit manufacture of synthetic drugs, in particular synthetic opioids, poses distinct and severe risks to law enforcement personnel and public health, it is also linked to broader patterns of synthetic drug manufacture, including of amphetamines, methamphetamines and synthetic cathinones, which in some regions are predominant in illicit laboratory activity,

Recognizing the heightened risks posed by synthetic drugs, in particular synthetic opioids, and the urgent need for updated guidelines focusing on the unique protective measures required for handling those potent substances, while remaining mindful of broader synthetic drug-related threats,

Noting that the handling of synthetic drugs, due to the relatively low manufacturing cost of those drugs, may benefit from the application of innovative technologies and procedures to mitigate exposure and associated health hazards, and noting also that synthetic opioids, owing to their high potency leading to increased risk of accidental exposure and severe health consequences, pose unique risks and may require specialized protocols and protective measures, as well as international cooperation, as applicable, for the dismantling of illicit laboratories,

Recognizing the importance of addressing hazards that are generally related to chemical precursors of synthetic drugs, as appropriate, and, in that context, of enhancing the effectiveness of secure and safe dismantling operations and ensuring the safety of law enforcement personnel and other relevant actors involved in dismantling illicit drug laboratories,

Noting the important efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to develop guidelines and provide technical assistance to Member States on the handling and disposal of hazardous chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of synthetic drugs, including synthetic opioids,

Acknowledging the importance of increased international cooperation and coordination in developing standardized guidelines on training and educational programmes based on available evidence, as well as in sharing technological advancements, as appropriate, and acknowledging the importance of strengthening best practices to improve the safety of personnel involved in countering the illicit manufacture of synthetic drugs, including synthetic opioids, through the dismantling of illicit laboratories,

Noting the critical importance of modern technologies and advanced protective measures in the safe dismantling of illicit laboratories, and recognizing the importance of continuously enhancing research, innovation and the sharing of best practices in the development of protective equipment and dismantling technologies, while ensuring their effective adaptation to the evolving nature of the manufacture of synthetic drugs, including synthetic opioids, and the importance of continuously improving and providing technical assistance, equipment and technology, along with necessary training,

1. *Encourages* Member States to undertake the necessary efforts to promote the safety of law enforcement personnel and other relevant actors involved in the dismantling of illicit synthetic drug laboratories, particularly those used for the manufacture of synthetic opioids, by implementing enhanced protective measures within their means, in recognition of the fact that such operations may involve exposure to hazards such as precursor chemicals, toxic by-products and potentially

explosive materials, and by implementing protective measures, including the following:

(a) The provision of personal protective equipment suitable for handling highly potent synthetic drugs, including amphetamine-type stimulants, synthetic cathinones, and synthetic opioids such as nitazenes, fentanyl and its analogues, as well as protective equipment for mitigating risks associated with other hazardous substances that may be present in illicit laboratories;

(b) Advanced decontamination protocols for the handling of and exposure to synthetic drugs, including synthetic opioids, to ensure that all potentially exposed personnel can be properly protected from associated health risks;

(c) The promotion, in accordance with domestic law and prescription regulations, of targeted emergency overdose reversal medications, such as naloxone for opioid overdose, where appropriate, as emergency life-saving measures for law enforcement and front-line personnel and other persons who may be exposed to synthetic drugs, in particular synthetic opioids, during dismantling operations, and the provision of training on the management of overdoses;

2. *Also encourages* Member States to develop and support, in coordination with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in partnership with other relevant international and regional organizations, such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), and upon request, national training programmes for law enforcement personnel and first responders on the safe dismantling of illicit synthetic drug laboratories, including synthetic opioid laboratories. Such programmes should include the following:

(a) Specialized training and educational modules focused on the handling and disposal of synthetic drugs, including synthetic opioids, their precursors and chemicals used in their illicit manufacture;

(b) Practical exercises on the use of appropriate technologies, inter alia, portable detection devices and real-time data monitoring, for identifying hazardous substances in laboratories;

(c) Information and training on emergency response procedures, aimed at minimizing health risks and protecting the surrounding environment, for incidents involving exposure to synthetic drugs, in particular synthetic opioids, and their associated precursor chemicals, as well as chemical spills, explosions and unexpected exposure to other potentially hazardous substances;

(d) Training on how to recognize the signs and symptoms of accidental intoxication or overdose and, in accordance with domestic law, on the administration of appropriate medications, in line with Commission resolution [55/7](#) of 16 March 2012 and relevant United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime initiatives on overdose prevention;

3. *Further encourages* Member States, in partnership with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to prioritize the development and testing of emerging technologies intended specifically for processes used in dismantling illicit drug laboratories, in particular illicit synthetic drug laboratories, focusing on rapid detection, containment and neutralization measures that address the unique health and safety risks posed by synthetic drugs, in particular synthetic opioids;

4. *Calls upon* Member States to strengthen cooperation, on a voluntary basis, in the sharing of best practices, scientific research and technological advancements in relation to the safe dismantling of illicit synthetic drug laboratories, in particular synthetic opioid laboratories, with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Narcotics Control Board, including joint operations and intelligence-sharing to counter illicit cross-border trafficking, with the support of INTERPOL, the World Customs Organization and other relevant international organizations, as appropriate;

5. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, together with Member States, to establish a dedicated repository focused on the dismantling of illicit synthetic drug laboratories, in particular synthetic opioid laboratories, in which incident data, specialized protective measures and lessons learned would be compiled with a view to enhancing the safety and operational efficiency of law enforcement personnel, and invites Member States to contribute data, on a voluntary basis, to the repository;

6. *Invites* Member States to report through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime annual report questionnaire and other existing tools to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the progress made in dismantling illicit synthetic drug laboratories, including synthetic opioid laboratories, and to share best practices and lessons learned in that regard;

7. *Stresses* the importance of research and innovation for detecting, disrupting and dismantling illicit synthetic opioid laboratories, while also addressing the broader risks associated with the illicit manufacture and trafficking of synthetic drugs, their precursor chemicals and other hazardous substances;

8. *Encourages* Member States, research institutions and relevant stakeholders to enhance cooperation in the development of advanced solutions for dismantling illicit synthetic drug laboratories, in particular synthetic opioid laboratories, and ensuring the safe disposal of hazardous substances, in accordance with domestic and international law;

9. *Reaffirms* the commitment of Member States to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 3 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,²⁴ which is to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, and Sustainable Development Goal 16, which is to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, and encourages further international cooperation to address the global synthetic drug crisis, with a particular focus on synthetic opioids;

10. *Invites* Member States to continue to make use of training, guidance and expertise from relevant international organizations, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Narcotics Control Board and INTERPOL, to enhance their capacity for the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in their illicit manufacture, in line with Commission resolution 66/2, and encourages Member States, as appropriate, to utilize relevant data-sharing tools and mechanisms provided by international organizations in order to alert officers to emerging threats, new concealment methods and tactics used by transnational criminals;

11. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue and, where appropriate, further develop its technical assistance programmes and provide specialized support to developing countries in the safe dismantling of illicit synthetic drug laboratories, particularly those involving synthetic opioids, through the provision of modern equipment, training and financial assistance, in coordination with Member States and in accordance with available resources;

12. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

²⁴ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

Resolution 68/5

Addressing the impacts of illicit drug-related activities on the environment

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Underscoring that the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,²⁵ the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971²⁶ and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,²⁷ together with other relevant international instruments, constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system,

Reaffirming the principal role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control matters,

Recalling its high-level declaration on the 2024 midterm review, following up to the Ministerial Declaration of 2019,²⁸ in which it recognizes that illicit drug-related activities can adversely affect the environment and local communities, and acknowledging the need to address those impacts and their root causes,

Recalling also the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, held in 2016,²⁹ in which Member States reaffirmed the importance of protecting the environment in the context of addressing the illicit cultivation of drug crops and other drug-related activities,

Reiterating its resolve, in the framework of the existing policy documents, inter alia, to prevent, significantly reduce and work towards the elimination of illicit crop cultivation and the production and manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

Bearing in mind the adoption by the General Assembly of its resolution [76/300](#) of 28 July 2022 on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment,

Recalling its resolution 65/1 of 18 March 2022 on promoting alternative development as a development-oriented drug control strategy, taking into account measures to protect the environment,

Recalling also its resolution 66/2 of 17 March 2023 on the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs,

Recognizing that the world drug problem continues to present challenges to the health, safety, security and well-being of all humanity,

Expressing concern that the illicit cultivation, production, manufacture, transportation, trafficking, consumption, handling and disposal of drugs can cause serious harm to the environment,

Acknowledging that the proceeds of illicit drug-related activities can be a source of financing for crimes that affect the environment,

Expressing its appreciation for the research conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in recent years, including the research for the 2022, 2023 and 2024 editions of the *World Drug Report*, which, inter alia, provide an overview of the direct and indirect impacts of illicit drug-related activities on the environment,

²⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

²⁸ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2024, Supplement No. 8 (E/2024/28)*, chap. I, sect. B.

²⁹ General Assembly resolution [S-30/1](#), annex.

Reaffirming that drug policies and programmes, including in the field of development, should be undertaken in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights³⁰ and, in particular, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, all human rights, fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States, as well as the principle of common and shared responsibility, recalling the Sustainable Development Goals, and taking into account the specific situations of countries and regions, as affirmed by the Commission in its resolution 65/1,

1. *Encourages* Member States to take into account the protection of the environment in their drug-related policies, as appropriate and in accordance with their domestic law, on the basis of scientific evidence-based assessments of the impacts of illicit drug-related activities on the environment;

2. *Notes with great concern* the significant direct and indirect adverse impacts on the environment of the illicit cultivation, production, manufacture, transportation, trafficking, marketing, consumption, handling and disposal of drugs, and encourages Member States to properly address, in accordance with their domestic law, those impacts, with a view to safeguarding the environment, biodiversity and human health, taking into account the role of international cooperation in that regard;

3. *Encourages* Member States, when designing and implementing drug-related policy responses, to prevent adverse impacts on the environment and human health, including by avoiding the use of harmful chemicals or exposure to such chemicals and harmful waste, and to properly address such adverse impacts;

4. *Also encourages* Member States to take appropriate measures to address the nexus between illicit drug-related activities and crimes that affect the environment, including by targeting drug-related illicit financial flows and money-laundering;

5. *Further encourages* Member States to continue to support scientific evidence-based research on the impacts of illicit drug-related activities on the environment and, consequently, on the population, including through the collection of age- and gender-disaggregated data, in order to inform the development of environmentally sound and gender-sensitive policies and programmes, and to share the findings of such research while continuing to raise awareness, including among young people;

6. *Encourages* Member States to establish and implement, in accordance with their domestic law, adequate practical procedures for the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, including those encountered in drug control efforts, that are informed and guided by scientific evidence, are environmentally responsible and ensure the health and safety of persons, especially those on the front line of drug control and response, as well as other relevant personnel, bearing in mind the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Synthetic Drug Strategy 2021–2025;

7. *Also encourages* Member States to establish and implement, within their means and in accordance with their domestic law, adequate practical procedures for the safe handling and dismantling of clandestine laboratories used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, including synthetic drugs, that are environmentally sound and that ensure the health and safety of persons, making full use of the resources of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including its clandestine laboratory investigation platform;

8. *Further encourages* Member States to promote and protect sustainable and viable livelihoods for Indigenous Peoples and for local communities affected by illicit drug-related activities and responses;

³⁰ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

9. *Encourages* Member States to address the negative impacts on the environment resulting from the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and from other illicit drug-related activities and to increase their efforts to that end with a view to promoting viable domestic economic alternatives to the illicit cultivation of drug crops and other illicit drug-related activities, including through long-term, comprehensive, inclusive and sustainable alternative development programmes;

10. *Calls upon* Member States to strengthen international cooperation, including, where appropriate, through the establishment of partnerships with other Member States and with international and regional organizations and relevant stakeholders, and to provide to developing countries, upon request, technical assistance and capacity-building, including empowerment programmes for women, girls and young people and, on a voluntary and mutually agreed basis, the transfer of technology, and to share information on best practices for addressing the direct and indirect impacts of illicit drug-related activities on the environment;

11. *Decides* to continue to discuss the topic of the impacts of illicit drug-related activities on the environment in the framework of the 2029 review of progress made in implementing all international drug policy commitments;

12. *Encourages* Member States to develop and pursue cross-border strategies to address the impact of illicit drug-related activities on the environment by fostering international cooperation among judicial and law enforcement authorities while respecting national sovereignty and international law;

13. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to expand the delivery of the capacity-building and technical assistance activities of its Laboratory and Scientific Services to support Member States in addressing the impacts of illicit drug related activities on the environment;

14. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate, to continue producing research on the impacts of illicit drug-related activities and drug policy responses on the environment and to share its findings, including through the Commission on Narcotics Drugs and the *World Drug Report*;

15. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission on the implementation of the present resolution;

16. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

Resolution 68/6

Strengthening the international drug control system: a path to effective implementation

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Underscoring that the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,³¹ the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,³² the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988³³ and other relevant international instruments constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system, welcoming the efforts made by States parties to comply with the provisions and ensure the effective implementation of those conventions, and urging all Member States that have not yet done so to consider taking measures to ratify or accede to those instruments,

³¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

³² *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

³³ *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

Recognizing that the abiding concern of the three international drug control conventions is the health and welfare of humankind,

Reaffirming the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,³⁴ the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action³⁵ and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, held in 2016,³⁶ and reaffirming also the 2019 Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem,³⁷ as well as the high-level declaration by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the 2024 midterm review, following up to the Ministerial Declaration of 2019,³⁸

Reaffirming also its principal role as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control matters and its support and appreciation for the efforts of the relevant United Nations entities, in particular those of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as the leading entity of the United Nations system for addressing and countering the world drug problem, and reaffirming further the treaty-mandated roles of the International Narcotics Control Board and the World Health Organization,

Noting with grave concern the findings of the *World Drug Report* that, for many years, the issues relating to the illicit cultivation, production, manufacture, trafficking and consumption of drugs have continued to present challenges to the health, safety and security of all humanity,

Recognizing that, despite the significant efforts undertaken by the international community, and while progress has been made, considerable gaps remain in the implementation of many international drug policy commitments,

Recognizing also that there are persistent, new and evolving challenges that should be addressed in conformity with the three international drug control conventions, which allow for sufficient flexibility for States parties to design and implement national drug policies according to their priorities and needs, consistent with the principle of common and shared responsibility and applicable international law,

Taking note of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2024,³⁹ which alerts Member States to the fundamental reshaping of drug markets,

Stressing with grave concern the increase in the number of overdose deaths associated with the use of drugs, including synthetic drugs, and the alarming number of deaths caused by criminal groups involved in illicit drug-related violence,

Expressing deep concern at the high price paid by society and by individuals and their families as a result of the world drug problem, and paying special tribute to those societies that have suffered from violence related to the illicit cultivation, production and manufacture of and trafficking in drugs and to the fight against criminal groups involved in illicit drug-related activities, and to those individuals who have sacrificed their lives and those who dedicate themselves to addressing and countering the world drug problem,

³⁴ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

³⁵ *Ibid.*, 2014, *Supplement No. 8 (E/2014/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

³⁶ General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex.

³⁷ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2019, Supplement No. 8 (E/2019/28)*, chap. I, sect. B.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, 2024, *Supplement No. 8 (E/2024/28)*, chap. I, sect. B.

³⁹ E/INCB/2024/1.

Guided by the common interest in strengthening the Commission's work, and bearing in mind its mandate to consider what changes may be required in the existing machinery for the international control of narcotic drugs and to submit proposals thereon to the Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the treaty-mandated functions entrusted to the Commission under the international drug control conventions,

Recognizing the urgent need to take further ambitious, effective, improved and decisive actions, including, where appropriate, innovative measures in accordance with applicable international law, to propel concrete, comprehensive, balanced, integrated, multidisciplinary and scientific evidence-based policies and initiatives, in order to promote better implementation of all international drug policy commitments, placing the health and well-being, human rights, public security and safety of all members of society, in particular those most affected by or at risk of illicit drug-related activities, at the centre of the efforts of Member States, to ensure that no one affected by the world drug problem is left behind, and to commit to enhancing efforts to bridge the gaps in addressing persistent and emerging trends and challenges,

Reiterating its commitment to increasing the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building to Member States, upon request, in particular those most affected by the world drug problem, including by illicit cultivation and production, transit and consumption,

Underscoring the important role played by all relevant stakeholders, including law enforcement, judicial and healthcare personnel, civil society, the scientific community and academia, as well as the private sector, in supporting the efforts to implement the joint commitments at all levels, and underscoring the importance of promoting relevant partnerships,

Reaffirming the resolve to review, within the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2029, the progress in implementing all international drug policy commitments, in line with the Ministerial Declaration of 2019 and taking into account the outcomes of the midterm review in 2024,

1. *Decides* to establish under its auspices, and with the aim of strengthening its work, a multidisciplinary panel of 19 independent experts, acting in their personal capacity, to prepare a clear, specific and actionable set of recommendations aimed at enhancing the implementation of the obligations of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 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, as well as the obligations of other relevant international instruments, and the achievement of all international drug policy commitments, with a view to contributing to the review to be conducted by the Commission in 2029:

Composition of the panel

- (a) The panel shall be composed as follows:
 - (i) Ten members selected by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, ensuring representation of the five regional groups within the United Nations, with two nominations from each regional group;
 - (ii) Five members selected by the Secretary-General; three members selected by the International Narcotics Control Board, consistent with its treaty-mandated role; and one member selected by the Director-General of the World Health Organization, consistent with its treaty-mandated role;

Selection of Co-Chairs

- (b) The Co-Chairs of the panel shall be selected as follows:

- (i) One Co-Chair shall be appointed by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs from among its designated members;
- (ii) One Co-Chair shall be appointed by the Secretary-General from among the 19 selected members;

Criteria for selection

(c) The members, including the Co-Chairs of the panel, shall be chosen with due consideration to ensuring balanced representation with respect to:

- (i) Expertise in relevant fields;
- (ii) Geographically equitable representation;
- (iii) Diverse policy approaches;

2. *Decides* that the panel shall conduct consultations with States and hold consultations via a virtual platform in accordance with the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, with relevant stakeholders, including civil society, the scientific community, academia, youth groups, the private sector and other pertinent actors;

3. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to serve, for the duration of the panel's mandate, as the secretariat to provide administrative support for the panel's work;

4. *Decides* to receive an update on the progress made in establishing the panel at its sixty-ninth session and discuss the panel's recommendations at its seventieth session;

5. *Encourages* all Member States, observer States, entities of the United Nations system and other observers to consider being represented at the highest possible level at the Commission's seventieth session;

6. *Stresses* the need to strengthen the capacity of Member States and relevant United Nations entities, within their respective mandates, to effectively respond to persistent and emerging drug-related trends and challenges;

7. *Decides* that the implementation of the present resolution is subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, and invites Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

Decision 68/1

Inclusion of *N*-pyrrolidino protonitazene in Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol

At its 5th meeting, on 12 March 2025, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided by 49 votes to none, with no abstentions, to include *N*-pyrrolidino protonitazene in Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol.

Decision 68/2

Inclusion of *N*-pyrrolidino metonitazene in Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol

At its 5th meeting, on 12 March 2025, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided by 50 votes to none, with no abstentions, to include *N*-pyrrolidino metonitazene in Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol.

Decision 68/3

Inclusion of etonitazepipne in Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol

At its 5th meeting, on 12 March 2025, Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided by 50 votes to none, with no abstentions, to include etonitazepipne in Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol.

Decision 68/4

Inclusion of *N*-desethyl isotonitazene in Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol

At its 5th meeting, on 12 March 2025, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided by 50 votes to none, with no abstentions, to include *N*-desethyl isotonitazene in Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol.

Decision 68/5

Inclusion of hexahydrocannabinol in Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971

At its 5th meeting, on 12 March 2025, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided by 49 votes to none, with one abstention, to include hexahydrocannabinol in Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971.

Decision 68/6

Inclusion of carisoprodol in Schedule IV of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971

At its 5th meeting, on 12 March 2025, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided by 48 votes to none, with two abstentions, to include carisoprodol in Schedule IV of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971.

Decision 68/7

Decision to move 3,4-MDP-2-P methyl glycidate (“PMK glycidate”) from the body of Table I of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 to footnote 1 to that table, as the “methyl ester”

At its 5th meeting, on 12 March 2025, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided by consensus to move 3,4-MDP-2-P methyl glycidate (“PMK glycidate”) from the body of Table I of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 to footnote 1 to that table, as the “methyl ester”.

Chapter II

General debate

3. At its 1st to 3rd meetings, on 10 and 11 March 2025, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs considered agenda item 3, entitled “General debate”. Statements were made in person or by way of pre-recorded video messages.

4. At the 1st meeting of the sixty-eighth session of the Commission, on 10 March, the following persons made statements:

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso to the United Nations (Vienna) (on behalf of the Group of African States)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations (Vienna) (on behalf of the Group of Asia-Pacific States)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations (Vienna) (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States)

Ambassador and Permanent Observer of the European Union to the United Nations (Vienna) (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union)⁴⁰

Vice-President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of Ecuador

Undersecretary of State to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of Italy⁴¹

Secretary of the Department of Justice of the Philippines

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia

Minister for Social Policy and Children’s Rights of Malta (pre-recorded video)

Minister of State for Policing, Fire and Crime Prevention of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (pre-recorded video)

Deputy Secretary of the Presidency of Uruguay (pre-recorded video)

Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of Armenia

State Secretary, Ministry of Health and Care Services of Norway

Minister of State for Home Affairs and National Development of Singapore

Joint Secretary, Department of Revenue of the Ministry of Finance of India

Deputy Minister of Interior Affairs of Turkmenistan

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations (Vienna)

Director General of the Anti-Narcotics Force of Pakistan

Head of the National Narcotics Board of Indonesia (pre-recorded video)

⁴⁰ The following countries aligned themselves with the statement: Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

⁴¹ Also delivered a statement on behalf of the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe.

Director General of the Public Health Directorate of the Ministry of Health of Slovenia

Chair of the State Customs Committee of Azerbaijan

Executive President of the National Commission for Development and Life without Drugs of Peru

Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of Kyrgyzstan

5. At the 2nd meeting of the sixty-eighth session of the Commission, on 10 March, the following persons made statements:

Secretary-General of the Drug Control Headquarters of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations (Vienna)

Deputy Director General of the General Directorate of Narcotics Control of Saudi Arabia

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations (Vienna)

Secretary-General of the Narcotics Control Board, Ministry of Justice of Thailand

President of the Interministerial Mission for Combating Drugs and Addictive Behaviours of France

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations (Vienna)

Secretary of State, Ministry of Health of Poland

Vice-Minister of Justice of Cuba

Director General of the General Directorate of Crime Detection and Forensic Science of Bahrain

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations (Vienna)

Head of the Office of Social Services of Liechtenstein

Secretary for Comprehensive Policies on Drugs of Argentina

National Secretary for Drug Policy and Asset Management, Ministry of Justice and Public Security of Brazil

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations (Vienna)

Commissioner of the Federal Government for Drug and Addiction Policy, Federal Ministry of Health of Germany

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations (Vienna)

Deputy Secretary-General of the National Narcotics Control Commission and Deputy Director General of the Narcotics Control Bureau, Ministry of Public Security of China

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Czechia to the United Nations (Vienna)

Senior Bureau Official of the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, Department of State of the United States of America

Vice-Director General of the Federal Office of Public Health, Head of the Division of International Affairs and Ambassador for Global Health of Switzerland

Deputy Secretary-General for Security of the Ministry of Home Affairs of Malaysia

Counsellor and Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Albania to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations (Vienna)

Director General of the Controlled Substances and Overdose Response Directorate of Health Canada

Deputy Director General for Public Health, Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations (Vienna)

National Coordinator for Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies, Ministry of Health of Portugal

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations (Vienna)

Director General for Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances Affairs of the Ministry of Interior of Iraq

Deputy Director General of the Federal General Department of Anti-Narcotics of the United Arab Emirates

Secretary of State for the Hospital Area of Angola

Director of the National Centre for Drug Control of Uzbekistan

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations (Vienna)

Director of the Drug, Tobacco and Alcohol Control Department of Lithuania

Assistant Director for Combating Drug Abuse, Institute of Public Health of Croatia

6. At the same meeting, the representative of China made a statement in exercise of the right of reply.

7. At the 3rd meeting of the sixty-eighth session of the Commission, on 11 March, the following persons made statements:

Chair of the National Authority for the Campaign against Alcohol and Drug Abuse of Kenya

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Türkiye to the United Nations (Vienna)

National Coordinator for Addictions and President of the National Organization for Prevention and Addiction Treatment of Greece

Assistant Minister of Interior and Director of the Anti-Narcotics General Administration of Egypt

Second Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Burkina Faso to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations (Vienna)

Head of the Main Department for Drug Control and Combating Human Trafficking of Belarus

Assistant Prosecutor General of the Prosecutor General's Office of Kazakhstan

Public Health Adviser to the Office of the President and Cabinet of Zimbabwe

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations (Vienna)

Deputy Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations (Vienna)

President of the National Addictions Authority of Cyprus

Secretary of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency of Nigeria

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Paraguay to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations (Vienna)

Second Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of the Niger to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador of and Permanent Observer for the Sovereign Order of Malta to the United Nations (Vienna)

Chief of the Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Deputy Secretary-General for Political Cooperation of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Secretary-General of the Colombo Plan

Director of the Organized and Emerging Crime Directorate of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)

Minister Counsellor of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean

Secretary-General of the Andean Community

Director of the Department of Mental Health, Brain Health and Substance Use
of the World Health Organization (WHO)

Director of the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime
(pre-recorded video)

8. At the same meeting, the representatives of Canada, the United States, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom made statements in exercise of the right of reply.

Chapter III

Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions

9. At its 3rd and 4th meetings, on 11 March 2025, the Commission considered agenda item 4, which reads as follows:

“Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions:

(a) Work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

(b) Directives on policy and budgetary issues for the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

(c) Working methods of the Commission;

(d) Staff composition of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other related matters.”

10. For its consideration of item 4, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2025/2-E/CN.15/2025/2](#));

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2025/3-E/CN.15/2025/3](#));

(c) Note by the Secretariat on the draft proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance for 2024 ([E/CN.7/2025/4-E/CN.15/2025/4](#)).

11. An introductory statement was made by the Principal Administrative Officer, Division for Management of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

12. The observer for Albania, in her capacity as Chair of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC, reported on the deliberations of the working group.

13. Statements were made by the representatives of South Africa, Japan, the Republic of Korea, China, the Russian Federation, the United States, Argentina and Colombia.

14. A statement was also made by the observer for Pakistan.

15. The observer for Smart Approaches to Marijuana also made a statement.

A. Deliberations

16. Several speakers commended UNODC on the implementation of the UNODC Strategy 2021–2025 and expressed their views on the formulation of a new strategy for the period 2026–2030.

17. Some speakers recognized the challenges in addressing and countering the world drug problem and commended UNODC on its work in supporting Member States’ efforts to implement all international drug policies and providing technical assistance to strengthen national capacities in a broad range of drug-related areas. Reference was made to the Office’s research work, including the publication of the *World Drug Report 2023*, its youth initiatives and its capacity-building efforts in the field; the need for a comprehensive approach to the Office’s research work was highlighted. UNODC was encouraged by some speakers to further mainstream gender and age perspectives into drug-related policies and programmes. The Office was also

called upon to intensify its efforts in strengthening results-based management, monitoring, reporting and evaluation to assess the impacts and effectiveness of its programmes in order to ensure accountability.

18. Many speakers recognized the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC as an important forum for dialogue between Member States and the Office and for enhancing governance and strengthening accountability and transparency.

19. Concern was expressed regarding the ongoing liquidity crisis of the regular budget of the United Nations, which adversely impacted the Office's financial stability and compromised its ability to effectively fulfil its mandates, including supporting the intergovernmental work of the Commission, as exemplified by the cancellation of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission in 2024 and the lack of interpretation services for mandated intergovernmental meetings of that Commission. Some speakers mentioned that, despite the financial crisis, the implementation of mandates and support to Member States should not be subjected to limitations.

20. Other challenging financial constraints of the Office, including the decrease in the general-purpose funds and the dependence on extrabudgetary resources, were noted with concern. Concerns were also raised with regard to the percentage accounted for by programme support costs. The Office was invited to diversify its donor base and foster broader stakeholder engagement, and it was commended for its work on United Nations system-wide inter-agency cooperation to maximize available resources for a more comprehensive and effective response to the world drug problem. Member States were encouraged to provide UNODC with adequate, predictable, flexible, sustainable and unearmarked resources to fully implement its mandates.

21. Many speakers welcomed the efforts of UNODC to improve gender parity and geographical representation among its staff and urged the Office to make further efforts in that regard. At the same time, it was emphasized that the basis for candidate selection should be merit and competence, while due regard should also be paid to the importance of recruiting staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible, in line with article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations.

22. One delegate stated that her country defined the term "gender" in line with article 7, paragraph 3, of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and referred to her country's sustained commitment to protecting women's rights without generating inequities that it considered to go against the principle of non-discrimination.

B. Action taken by the Commission

23. At its 3rd meeting, on 11 March 2025, the Commission endorsed the nomination of Magdi Ahmed Mofadal Elnour (Sudan) and Mostafa Shafizadeh (Islamic Republic of Iran) as Vice-Chairs of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC for 2025.

Chapter IV

Implementation of the international drug control treaties

24. At its 4th and 5th meetings, on 11 and 12 March 2025, the Commission considered agenda item 5, which read as follows:

“Implementation of the international drug control treaties:

- (a) Changes in the scope of control of substances;
- (b) Challenges and future work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the World Health Organization and the International Narcotics Control Board in the review of substances for possible scheduling recommendations;
- (c) International Narcotics Control Board;
- (d) International cooperation to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion;
- (e) Other matters arising from the international drug control treaties.”

25. For its consideration of item 5, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Note by the Secretariat on changes in the scope of control of substances: proposed scheduling recommendations by the World Health Organization ([E/CN.7/2025/9](#));

(b) Note by the Secretariat containing a notification from the President of the International Narcotics Control Board ([E/CN.7/2025/10](#));

(c) Conference room paper containing comments by States parties on proposed scheduling recommendations by the World Health Organization ([E/CN.7/2025/CRP.6](#)).

26. The Chief of the Drugs, Laboratory and Scientific Services Branch of UNODC made introductory statements. Introductory statements were also made by observers for WHO and by the President of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB).

27. Statements were made by the representatives of Singapore, Japan, Canada, Indonesia, China, Ghana, the United States, Colombia, the United Kingdom, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, India, Kenya, Nigeria, Indonesia, the Russian Federation, the United Republic of Tanzania, Thailand, Australia, Guatemala, Algeria and Trinidad and Tobago.

28. Statements were also made by the representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer (also on behalf of its member States⁴²), and the observers for the Niger, Pakistan and Burkina Faso.

29. Statements were also made by the observers for the African Union and OHCHR.

30. Statements were also made by the observers for Physicians for Responsible Opioid Prescribing, International Drug Policy Consortium, Students for Sensible Drug Policy, Dejusticia, Instituto RIA, International Network of People Who Use Drugs and Harm Reduction International.

⁴² Also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Serbia, Türkiye and Ukraine (agenda item 5 (b)); Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Serbia and Ukraine (agenda item 5 (c)); and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine (agenda item 5 (d)).

A. Deliberations

1. Changes in the scope of control of substances

(a) Consideration of a proposal from the World Health Organization to place *N*-pyrrolidino protonitazene in Schedule I of the 1961 Convention as amended

31. The observer for WHO informed the Commission that *N*-pyrrolidino protonitazene, also referred to as protonitazepyne, was a synthetic opioid that had been described as a beige powder or a white colourless or crystalline solid and had been identified in falsified pharmaceutical opioid tablets. The substance's presence had been analytically confirmed in many deaths and hospital admissions, including as the only substance detected. *N*-Pyrrolidino protonitazene was reported to be administered by various routes, such as by smoking, snorting or injection, and its effects were blocked by the opioid antagonist naltrexone. Seizures of *N*-pyrrolidino protonitazene had been reported in multiple countries in three regions. The observer informed the Commission that, as *N*-pyrrolidino protonitazene was liable to abuse and produced ill effects similar to those of other opioids that were controlled under Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, as its use caused substantial harm, including death, and as it had no known therapeutic use, WHO recommended that *N*-pyrrolidino protonitazene, also referred to as protonitazepyne, be added to Schedule I of the 1961 Convention as amended.

(b) Consideration of a proposal from the World Health Organization to place *N*-pyrrolidino metonitazene in Schedule I of the 1961 Convention as amended

32. The observer for WHO informed the Commission that *N*-pyrrolidino metonitazene, also referred to as metonitazepyne, was a synthetic opioid described as a beige powder. He stated that multiple deaths had been reported in which *N*-pyrrolidino metonitazene was analytically confirmed, including one death in which no other opioids were involved. *N*-Pyrrolidino metonitazene was reported to be administered by injection, and its effects were blocked by the opioid antagonist naltrexone. Seizures of *N*-pyrrolidino metonitazene had been reported in multiple countries in two regions. The observer informed the Commission that, as *N*-pyrrolidino metonitazene was liable to abuse and produced ill effects similar to those of other opioids that were controlled under Schedule I of the 1961 Convention as amended, as there was evidence that its use caused substantial harm, including death, and as it had no known therapeutic use, WHO recommended that *N*-pyrrolidino metonitazene, also referred to as metonitazepyne, be added to Schedule I of the 1961 Convention as amended.

(c) Consideration of a proposal from the World Health Organization to place etonitazepipne in Schedule I of the 1961 Convention as amended

33. The observer for WHO informed the Commission that etonitazepipne, also referred to as *N*-piperidinyll etonitazene, was a synthetic opioid described as a crystalline solid and a white-yellowish or yellow powder. Etonitazepipne had been identified in falsified pharmaceutical opioid tablets. Non-fatal intoxications requiring hospitalization had been reported, and multiple deaths in which etonitazepipne use was analytically confirmed had been reported in at least two regions, including some in which etonitazepipne was considered the primary cause of death or no other substances were involved. Online self-reports indicated typical opioid effects, including relaxation, euphoria and sedation. The substance's effects were blocked by the opioid antagonist naltrexone. The observer informed the Commission that, as etonitazepipne produced ill effects similar to those of other opioids that were controlled under Schedule I of the 1961 Convention as amended, as there was evidence that its use caused substantial harm, including death, and as it had no known therapeutic use, WHO recommended that etonitazepipne, also referred to as *N*-piperidinyll etonitazene, be added to Schedule I of the 1961 Convention as amended.

(d) Consideration of a proposal from the World Health Organization to place *N*-desethyl isotonitazene in Schedule I of the 1961 Convention as amended

34. The observer for WHO informed the Commission that *N*-desethyl isotonitazene, also referred to as norisotonitazene, was a synthetic opioid that had been described as a crystalline solid and had been identified in falsified pharmaceuticals. Multiple deaths and hospital admissions had been reported in at least two regions, including deaths to which *N*-desethyl isotonitazene was considered to have contributed. The substance's effects were blocked by the opioid antagonists naltrexone and naloxone. Seizures of *N*-desethyl isotonitazene had been reported in multiple countries in three regions. The observer informed the Commission that, as *N*-desethyl isotonitazene was liable to abuse and produced ill effects similar to those of other opioids that were controlled under Schedule I of the 1961 Convention as amended, as there was evidence that its use caused substantial harm, including death, and as it had no known therapeutic use, WHO recommended that *N*-desethyl isotonitazene, also referred to as norisotonitazene, be added to Schedule I of the 1961 Convention as amended.

(e) Consideration of a proposal from the World Health Organization to place hexahydrocannabinol in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention

35. The observer for WHO informed the Commission that hexahydrocannabinol, also known as HHC, was a semi-synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonist that had been described as a colourless viscous oil or resin. Hexahydrocannabinol-containing products included low-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) cannabis flowers and resins infused or sprayed with the substance, e-liquids and cartridges for electronic cigarettes, edible products such as gummies and marshmallows, tinctures resembling dietary supplements and distillate oils. The routes of administration included inhalation, oral and sublingual. Hexahydrocannabinol had been analytically confirmed in people driving under the influence of drugs and in clinical admissions for drug intoxication in adults and children in multiple countries, including cases in which hexahydrocannabinol was confirmed to be the only substance involved. Seizures of hexahydrocannabinol had been reported in many countries in a number of regions. The observer informed the Commission that, as hexahydrocannabinol had a mechanism of action and effects similar to those of *delta*-9-tetrahydrocannabinol, which was controlled under Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, and as there was sufficient evidence that hexahydrocannabinol was used in such a way as to constitute a public health and social problem, warranting placement under international control, WHO recommended that hexahydrocannabinol be added to Schedule II of the 1971 Convention.

(f) Consideration of a proposal from the World Health Organization to place carisoprodol in Schedule IV of the 1971 Convention

36. The observer for WHO informed the Commission that carisoprodol was a centrally acting skeletal muscle relaxant sold as a single-ingredient preparation and in combination products. It was available as a pharmaceutical product in tablet form, had been detected in falsified pharmaceuticals and was also found as a white powder. Fatal and non-fatal intoxications and cases of driving while under the influence of carisoprodol, either alone or in combination with other substances, had been observed. Non-medical use of carisoprodol was widely documented in multiple countries and regions, including in combination with opioids and benzodiazepines. Increased restrictions on the prescription of carisoprodol or removal of the drug from the market in several countries had led to decreased incidences of poisoning and other types of public health harm. Seizures of carisoprodol had been reported in many countries in several regions. There was increasing evidence that non-medical use of carisoprodol in a number of countries constituted a significant risk to public health. The observer informed the Commission that, as carisoprodol was a medicine that had been shown to produce a state of dependence, central nervous system depression and ill effects similar to those of other substances that were listed under Schedule IV of

the 1971 Convention, WHO recommended that carisoprodol be added to Schedule IV of the 1971 Convention.

- (g) **Consideration of a proposal from the International Narcotics Control Board to move 3,4-MDP-2-P methyl glycidate (“PMK glycidate”) from the body of Table I of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 to footnote 1 to that table, as the “methyl ester”, so that it appears together with the other seven esters of 3,4-MDP-2-P methyl glycidic acid**

37. The President of INCB reminded the Commission that on 4 September 2024 he had informed the Chair of the Commission of a proposal to move the methyl ester of 3,4-MDP-2-P methyl glycidic acid from the body of Table I of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 to the footnote introduced pursuant to Commission decision 67/25 of 19 March 2024. That proposal followed on the Board’s observation of an inconsistency with regard to the manner in which the esters of 3,4-MDP-2-P methyl glycidic acid were presented in Table I of the Convention. Specifically, while seven esters of 3,4-MDP-2-P methyl glycidic acid had been included in a footnote to Table I of the Convention in accordance with Commission decision 67/25, the methyl ester, which had been added to Table I of the Convention in November 2019, was still included in the body of that table as 3,4-MDP-2-P methyl glycidate (“PMK glycidate”). The Board therefore proposed to the Commission that the methyl ester be removed from the body of Table I of the 1988 Convention and instead be included (as the “methyl ester”) in the same footnote.

38. Under the same item, some speakers urged WHO to consider undertaking an evaluation of further substances, such as tramadol, ketamine and veterinary medicines such as xylazine. Some speakers also reported on their national efforts to control such substances even though they had not been placed under international control.

2. Challenges and future work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the World Health Organization and the International Narcotics Control Board in the review of substances for possible scheduling recommendations

39. Many speakers expressed concern regarding the continued proliferation of synthetic drugs, new psychoactive substances, in particular synthetic opioids, and precursor chemicals, and emphasized the need to keep pace with the rapid changes in the drug market. The challenges posed by innovations in emerging substances and in the use of non-scheduled precursors for the illicit manufacture of drugs were highlighted. Some speakers mentioned innovative national responses, including the adaptation of their national legislation using approaches involving temporary scheduling and the scheduling of substances, including precursors, by class.

40. Some speakers highlighted the need for capacity-building, including on the analysis and identification of emerging drugs. The importance of monitoring, and the critical role of early warning in responding to, emerging threats, as well as promoting the exchange of data and best practices in that regard, were highlighted. The importance of international scheduling was mentioned, and support was expressed for the treaty-mandated roles of the Commission, INCB and WHO in the continuing efforts to schedule harmful substances and precursor chemicals. Reference was made to the recommendation of INCB to schedule groups of related chemicals so as to allow regulatory controls to outpace the activities of criminal networks.

41. Some speakers shared information on national supply and demand reduction strategies and highlighted that a comprehensive and balanced approach should be used to address the synthetic drug problem. Other proposed approaches included establishing public-private partnerships between customs and law enforcement authorities and courier services, online platforms and industry operators to enable them to share information and data on non-scheduled precursor chemicals and

substances, protect the integrity of supply chains and improve detection and interception efforts.

3. International Narcotics Control Board

42. Several speakers expressed support and appreciation for the work of INCB and welcomed its annual report for 2024. They also reiterated their commitment to the international drug control conventions and expressed appreciation for the Board's efforts to support Member States in carrying out their treaty obligations. Some speakers highlighted the work of INCB in the area of synthetic drugs and welcomed the focus of the thematic chapter of the Board's annual report for 2024 on possible responses to the rapid expansion of illicit synthetic drug manufacture. The support provided to countries in preventing the manufacture, trafficking and consumption of new psychoactive substances through the use of real-time communication tools by law enforcement officers was welcomed by some speakers.

43. Many speakers expressed appreciation for the INCB annual report for 2024, as it was an important tool for guiding Member States in their drug control treaty-mandated actions. Some speakers also made reference to the continued focus of INCB on human rights in its annual report and to the complementarity of the drug conventions and human rights instruments highlighted in it. One speaker suggested that the report should also address challenges that the international drug control system is facing and not focus exclusively on the achievements of the system. The speaker further expressed appreciation that the report provided information on the impact that illicit drug trafficking and production had on the environment.

44. Some speakers made reference to the proactive scheduling of 16 designer precursors of amphetamine-type stimulants in 2024 as a good approach to ensuring more effective and timely scheduling. The work of INCB to raise awareness among competent authorities of the tools available for the effective control and monitoring of drug precursors was commended.

45. The recommendation by INCB that Member States prioritize the submission of accurate and timely reports was welcomed, as reliable and comprehensive data were the basis for the work of INCB and for the efforts of Member States to develop effective, evidence-based drug policies. Some speakers highlighted the importance of the independent role of INCB in the evaluation of chemical precursors for possible scheduling.

4. International cooperation to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion

46. The importance of ensuring adequate availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes was highlighted by several speakers, and the work carried out by INCB, WHO, UNODC and the Commission was recognized. The essential role of medicines containing internationally controlled substances – both narcotics and psychotropics – in treating mental health illnesses, drug use disorders and neurological conditions was also highlighted, as were concerns about their diversion and non-medical use.

47. The affordability of controlled substances for medical purposes was underscored by one speaker, who stressed as well the importance of engaging various stakeholders in efforts in that regard. Several speakers emphasized the need to ensure that safeguarding measures did not lead to scarcity, inaccessibility or compromises in quality, safety and efficacy.

48. Some speakers shared information on the major barriers and impediments to access and availability and the measures taken at the national level to address them. The issue of diversion was also mentioned by several speakers. Speakers drew attention to the relevance of having resilient pharmaceutical industries, using digital tools for supply chain effectiveness and employing traceability methods to mitigate

the risks of diversion to illicit markets, and they expressed concern over substandard and falsified medical products.

49. Some speakers underlined the need to consider the issue of access to and availability of controlled substances for the treatment of drug use disorders, including the development of new long-acting substances that were not at risk of diversion. Guidance was requested from UNODC and WHO on the use of long-acting medication for the treatment of opioid use disorders. Examples of national policies to address the problem were provided, with the focus being on legal instruments, national manufacturing and the training of health professionals.

50. Concern was expressed about the lack of adequate access to medications during armed conflicts, epidemics and natural disasters. The need to facilitate the import and export of controlled substances was mentioned in relation to the International Import and Export Authorization System (I2ES).

51. Calling for regional cooperation and balanced approaches, some speakers urged countries to step up support for developing countries by providing technical assistance and capacity-building to improve regulatory and distribution systems.

5. Other matters arising from the international drug control treaties

52. The increasing levels of both demand for and supply of controlled substances at the global level were highlighted and the need for comprehensive and integrated drug policies was underlined.

53. Some speakers also highlighted the increasing challenges with regard to organized crime and synthetic opioids and their negative consequences on public health and human security, and called for a balanced approach, based on common and shared responsibility, to address them. Some speakers reported on national efforts to address the world drug problem through enhanced efforts in the areas of prevention, treatment and data collection, as well as changes in national legislation and control measures.

B. Action taken by the Commission

54. At its 5th meeting, on 12 March 2025, the Commission decided by 49 votes to none, with no abstentions, to include *N*-pyrrolidino protonitazene in Schedule I of the 1961 Convention as amended. (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. B, decision 68/1.)

55. At the same meeting, the Commission decided by 50 votes to none, with no abstentions, to include *N*-pyrrolidino metonitazene in Schedule I of the 1961 Convention as amended. (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. B, decision 68/2.)

56. At the same meeting, the Commission decided by 50 votes to none, with no abstentions, to include etonitazepipne in Schedule I of the 1961 Convention as amended. (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. B, decision 68/3.)

57. At the same meeting, the Commission decided by 50 votes to none, with no abstentions, to include *N*-desethyl isotonitazene in Schedule I of the 1961 Convention as amended. (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. B, decision 68/4.)

58. At the same meeting, the Commission decided by 49 votes to none, with one abstention, to include hexahydrocannabinol in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention. (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. B, decision 68/5.)

59. At the same meeting, the Commission decided by 48 votes to none, with two abstentions, to include carisoprodol in Schedule IV of the 1971 Convention. (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. B, decision 68/6.)

60. At the same meeting, the Commission decided by consensus to move 3,4-MDP-2-P methyl glycidate (“PMK glycidate”) from the body of Table I of the

1988 Convention to footnote 1 to that table, as the “methyl ester”. (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. B, decision 68/7.)

61. Statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of Brazil, the United States and Indonesia.

62. The representative of Brazil expressed a preference for postponing the vote on placing carisoprodol in Schedule IV of the 1971 Convention as he considered further impact studies to be necessary. He highlighted that the substance was not currently controlled in Brazil and there had been no significant reports of abusive use in the country. The possible inclusion in Schedule IV would require several administrative adjustments in the regulated sectors and in order for the national health surveillance agents to be able to comply with the Convention’s control requirements. As the inclusion of the substance could lead to administrative and economic impacts, Brazil was of the view that it was important to assess the potential impacts before any decision on listing the substance was taken.

63. The representative of the United States said that his country supported the use of the international scheduling system to make scientifically informed decisions about international drug control, however he was unable to vote on the proposals to place hexahydrocannabinol in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention and to place carisoprodol in Schedule IV of the 1971 Convention. He noted that, nevertheless, both substances were already controlled in the United States at levels that would allow the country to meet its international obligations arising from the decisions of the Commission.

64. The representative of Indonesia expressed her country’s support for the inclusion of the substances in Schedule I of the 1961 Convention as amended, as voted on. With respect to the 1971 Convention, Indonesia supported adding hexahydrocannabinol to Schedule II and carisoprodol to Schedule IV. Regarding carisoprodol, Indonesia had already implemented strict control measures that classified it as a Schedule I narcotic. The effectiveness of that measure had been demonstrated through successful enforcement actions by the National Narcotics Board in 2024. Regarding the 1988 Convention, Indonesia supported the technical amendment to remove the methyl ester from Table I and to include it in the corresponding footnote alongside the seven other esters. That adjustment would enhance the clarity of international control measures, while maintaining comprehensive coverage of the substances. She reaffirmed that Indonesia remained committed to strengthening international cooperation in addressing the world drug problem and supporting evidence-based scheduling decisions that protected public health and safety.

65. At its 9th meeting, on 14 March 2025, the Commission took action on a revised draft resolution entitled “Strengthening the international drug control system: a path to effective implementation” ([E/CN.7/2025/L.6/Rev.1](#)) as amended by document [E/CN.7/2025/L.10](#), sponsored by Belgium, Brazil, Colombia, Côte d’Ivoire, Ecuador, Honduras, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Norway, Portugal, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Uruguay. (For the text of the resolution, see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 68/6.)

66. The representative of Colombia, noting that the amendments contained in document [E/CN.7/2025/L.10](#) had been proposed after those contained in document [E/CN.7/2025/L.9](#) had been proposed, requested that the Commission first take up consideration of the amendments contained in document [E/CN.7/2025/L.10](#). The representative of the United States, however, disagreed and requested that consideration of the amendments contained in document [E/CN.7/2025/L.9](#) be taken up first. The representatives of Mexico, the Russian Federation and Côte d’Ivoire made statements. The Chair informed the Commission that the matter raised complex questions of procedure, and that, after careful consideration of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and the amendments contained in documents [E/CN.7/2025/L.9](#) and [E/CN.7/2025/L.10](#), in his assessment, the amendments contained in document [E/CN.7/2025/L.9](#) were the furthest removed in substance from the contents of the original revised draft resolution. Accordingly, the Chair was of the view that the Commission was to first

consider the amendments contained in document [E/CN.7/2025/L.9](#). In the case that the amendments contained in document [E/CN.7/2025/L.9](#) were not adopted, the Commission would immediately consider the amendments contained in document [E/CN.7/2025/L.10](#). The representative of Colombia disagreed with the Chair's ruling and requested that it be reconsidered, expressing the view that, as the amendments contained in document [E/CN.7/2025/L.10](#) had been submitted subsequently, they should therefore be decided upon first. At that stage, the representative of Brazil moved for a vote on the Chair's ruling. The Commission rejected that motion by a vote of 20 against to 10 in favour, with 20 abstentions, thereby confirming the ruling by the Chair that the Commission should first consider the amendments contained in document [E/CN.7/2025/L.9](#). The representative of Brazil made a statement. The representatives of Mexico, Canada and the United Kingdom made statements in explanation of vote.

67. The representative of the United States then introduced the amendments contained in document [E/CN.7/2025/L.9](#). The representative of Colombia subsequently requested a vote on those amendments. The Commission rejected the amendments contained in document [E/CN.7/2025/L.9](#) by a vote of 25 against to 12 in favour, with 14 abstentions.

68. The representative of Colombia then introduced the amendments contained in document [E/CN.7/2025/L.10](#). The representative of the United States subsequently requested a vote on those amendments. The Commission adopted the amendments contained in document [E/CN.7/2025/L.10](#) by a vote of 31 in favour to 8 against, with 13 abstentions.

69. At its 10th meeting, on 14 March 2025, the Commission adopted revised draft resolution [E/CN.7/2025/L.6/Rev.1](#) as amended by document [E/CN.7/2025/L.10](#) by a vote of 30 in favour to 3 against, with 18 abstentions.

70. Upon adoption of the draft resolution as amended, the representative of Colombia and the observer for Egypt made statements. Statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of the United States, Côte d'Ivoire, China and the Russian Federation.

71. The representative of the United States stated that his country believed that the revised draft resolution, even as amended, had not been ripe for a decision by the Commission on that day, and that, like many of those who had voted against or had abstained from voting on that revised draft resolution as amended, the United States had many questions about the matter, including with regard to how the resolution could even be implemented; how INCB would, within its treaty-mandated role, appoint independent experts to participate in the panel to be established in accordance with the resolution; whether the sponsor of the revised draft resolution had asked INCB that question; how Member States would nominate experts who would act in their personal capacity only; how the five regional groups of Member States would consider those nominations; how the Commission would appoint a Co-Chair of the panel; whether that appointment would require an election by the Commission; how often the panel would meet; how the Secretariat would prepare a budget estimate when it was not known how often the panel would meet; and whether the sponsor of the revised draft resolution had asked UNODC the latter question. He also asked, in the light of the liquidity crisis of the United Nations and the budget constraints within UNODC, how much that effort would cost, and whether non-governmental groups with political agendas would be able to fund and drive that effort from outside, with disregard for the Commission's role. He stated that it was unfortunate that the final text of the resolution as adopted by the Commission had left all those questions unanswered, and that his assumption was that the Commission would need to meet again in the future to determine the answers to those questions. He indicated that the United States had called for a vote on the revised draft resolution as amended, and had voted against it because the United States believed that any discussions on strengthening the international drug control framework should remain within the Commission, the United Nations body that had been established for the very purpose

of addressing that issue, and that a high-level examination led by panel members selected by the Secretary-General, INCB and WHO would unnecessarily shift the debate beyond Vienna, introducing a more politicized process that would undermine the technical approach of the Commission. Lastly, he noted that, while the United States recognized the need to improve drug control efforts, it would remain convinced that the Commission was the appropriate forum for such discussions, as the Commission would ensure that reforms were guided by expertise rather than political dynamics.

72. The representative of Côte d'Ivoire stressed that his country aligned itself with the resolution and subscribed to everything contained in it. He welcomed what in his view was a very good analysis of the situation. In terms of harm reduction, he emphasized the need to have a clearer vision and a better analysis of the situation.

73. The representative of China stated that her delegation had been actively, responsibly and constructively participating in the consultations on the revised draft resolution submitted by Colombia and had clearly put forward the views of China on the establishment of the panel requested in it. She noted that, in the course of their consultations, Colombia, as the lead sponsor of the revised draft resolution, had held conversations with representatives of Member States, including China, on the above-mentioned issues, and that States supporting the respective sides of the debate had made efforts to move towards a common position. She stated, however, that, regrettably, the wording of the resolution as adopted regarding the composition of the panel failed to address the concerns of China, as could be seen by the vote on the revised draft resolution submitted by Colombia and the amendments thereto proposed by the United States and Colombia, respectively, as significant differences remained among States members of the Commission on a range of issues that had not been properly resolved. She explained that China had therefore abstained from voting on the resolution as a whole. She also noted that China maintained that the panel to be established pursuant to the resolution should carry out its work in strict accordance with the mandates of the Commission, and that the panel should, in accordance with the principles of equality, mutual respect and genuine multilateralism, formulate recommendations for the consideration of the Commission that were generally acceptable to all parties and that would have the broad support of the members of the Commission. She expressed the hope that the above-mentioned efforts would contribute to the effective strengthening of the international drug control system based on the three drug control conventions, effectively promote the work of the Commission and strengthen the status and role of the Commission as the main policymaking body within the United Nations system for global drug-related matters.

74. The representative of the Russian Federation stated that her country had voted against the amendments contained in document [E/CN.7/2025/L.10](#) and against revised draft resolution [E/CN.7/2025/L.6/Rev.1](#) as amended because, in the view of her delegation, the adoption of that revised draft resolution as amended would have a detrimental impact on the authority of the international drug control system based on the three drug control conventions and would undermine the authority of the Commission. She noted that, at the same time, the Russian Federation was deeply disappointed that all of the draft resolutions submitted to the Commission at its current session had been put to a vote, noting that the Vienna spirit of consensus had “flown out through the walls of the room”, and that that was a source of great disappointment. She expressed the hope that, in future discussions, the consensual approach to decision-making would prevail on the basis of the common and shared responsibility for combating the world drug problem.

Chapter V

Follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem

75. At its 5th and 6th meetings, on 12 March 2025, and 7th meeting, on 13 March 2025, the Commission considered agenda item 6, entitled “Follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem”.

76. For its consideration of item 6, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2025/2-E/CN.15/2025/2](#));

(b) Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug abuse ([E/CN.7/2025/5](#));

(c) Conference room paper containing the Chair’s summary on the thematic discussions on the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, following up to the Ministerial Declaration of 2019 and the 2024 midterm review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, following up to the Ministerial Declaration ([E/CN.7/2025/CRP.1](#));

(d) Conference room paper containing a note by the Secretariat on the follow-up by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to the implementation of all international drug policy commitments ([E/CN.7/2025/CRP.3](#)).

77. Introductory statements were made by a representative of the secretariat of the Commission and by the Chief of the Drugs, Laboratory and Scientific Services Branch and the Chief of the Research and Trend Analysis Branch of UNODC. In addition, representatives of the Youth Forum, the UNODC-WHO Informal Scientific Network and the UNODC Young Doctors Network, and participants in the consultation between the International AIDS Society, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), WHO and UNODC on strategies to eliminate hepatitis B and C briefed the Commission on the outcome of their consultations held on the margins of the session.

78. Statements were made by the representatives of Singapore, Kenya, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, South Africa, Argentina, Nigeria, Guatemala, Indonesia, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Korea, Bangladesh, China, Ghana, Thailand, Algeria, Morocco, India, Poland, Colombia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

79. Statements were made by the representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer (on behalf of the European Union and its member States⁴³) and by the observers for Pakistan, Egypt, Ecuador, the Philippines, the Niger, Brunei Darussalam, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Türkiye, Sri Lanka, Zambia, Germany, Antigua and Barbuda, Honduras, Malaysia, Kuwait and Namibia.

⁴³ The following countries associated themselves with the statement: Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Türkiye and Ukraine.

80. A statement was made by the representative of the Russian Federation on behalf of a group of countries.⁴⁴ A statement was also made by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of a group of countries.⁴⁵

81. Statements were made by the observers for OHCHR, INTERPOL, UNAIDS and the Organization of American States.

82. Statements were also made by the observers for the Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association, Asociación Proyecto Hombre, Instituto RIA, Harm Reduction International, Harm Reduction Australia, Frontline AIDS and the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care.

83. The representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer, made a statement in exercise of the right of reply.

A. Deliberations

84. Many speakers reaffirmed the commitment of their countries to the effective implementation of the international drug policy commitments as recalled in the high-level declaration by the Commission on the 2024 midterm review, following up to the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, and emphasized the importance of upholding those commitments in full conformity with the international drug control conventions, the Charter of the United Nations and other international instruments, including international human rights instruments. Many speakers recalled the central role of the Commission as the principal policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control matters, and that the three international drug control conventions, together with other relevant international instruments, continued to constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system. A group of speakers underscored the role of INCB in monitoring Member States' compliance with their obligations under the three international drug control conventions. In response, one speaker noted that the primary function of INCB was to assist States in implementing the conventions rather than acting as a compliance-monitoring body.

85. A group of speakers highlighted that the flexibility of the drug control conventions enabled Member States to implement national drug policies that reflected their unique contexts while limiting drug use strictly to medical and scientific purposes. That group of speakers emphasized the sovereign right to tailor drug policies to national circumstances and rejected the idea that there is a one-size-fits-all approach, cautioning against an exclusive focus on harm reduction measures as a policy response to address the drug problem. Furthermore, speakers expressed concern over the legalization of cannabis for non-medical use, urging all Member States to comply with their treaty obligations.

86. Several speakers called for human rights-based, people-centred approaches that addressed the root causes of drug production and trafficking. Some speakers emphasized that efforts to fulfil all international drug policy commitments should be aligned with the goals and objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

87. Many speakers welcomed the "Pledge4Action" initiative as a means to mobilize concrete and impactful actions to enhance the implementation of the international

⁴⁴ Algeria, Angola, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Türkiye, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zimbabwe and State of Palestine.

⁴⁵ Belarus, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Myanmar, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zimbabwe and State of Palestine.

drug policy commitments and address the challenges outlined in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem. Speakers provided updates on the implementation of their commitments under the “Pledge4Action” initiative across all key areas. The continued focus on thematic discussions under the Commission’s new workplan for the period 2024–2028 was welcomed by many speakers as an opportunity to address the implementation of all international drug policy commitments and respond to evolving drug-related challenges and other substantive matters.

88. A range of persistent and emerging challenges in implementing drug policies were highlighted by a number of speakers; they emphasized the evolving nature of the global drug threats. Those threats included the increasing proliferation and use of synthetic drugs, in particular synthetic opioids and cathinones, the shift of drug distribution to online platforms and the use of modern technologies for drug-related crimes. Concerns were also raised about the non-medical use of controlled medicines, the continued threat of new psychoactive substances, the risks associated with methamphetamine use, the emergence of new trafficking routes, the gaps in access to treatment and the environmental and societal impacts of illicit drug markets. An example was shared illustrating the growing challenge posed by money-laundering facilitated by modern technologies, which enabled anonymous transactions and the cross-border movement of illicit funds, thereby complicating efforts to track and disrupt drug-related financial flows. Speakers stressed the need for, inter alia, adaptive policy measures, technological innovations, stronger international cooperation, strengthened forensic capacities, and improved data collection to ensure evidence-based policymaking. The rising trend of polydrug use was identified as a challenge to traditional treatment interventions, and in that regard several speakers underscored the importance of enhanced health responses to address the consequences of synthetic drug use, in particular opioid overdoses, as well as stricter control over precursor chemicals. Concerns were also expressed about the impact of drug trafficking and organized crime on institutional stability and public security.

89. Many speakers emphasized the need for a balanced, integrated, multidisciplinary and evidence-based approach, highlighting national initiatives relating to legislation, policy development, institutional strengthening and capacity-building. Several speakers reiterated their commitment to zero-tolerance approaches to drug trafficking and the non-medical use of controlled substances, advocating for a world free from drug abuse. Several speakers underscored the importance of continuous evaluation as a means to assess the effectiveness of national policies and facilitate the exchange of best practices at the international level. The critical role of reliable data on different drug indicators in ensuring the effective implementation and assessment of drug policies was also highlighted, and emphasis was placed on the need for accurate, transparent and timely collection, analysis and sharing of data.

90. Many speakers shared insights on national demand reduction efforts, highlighting initiatives in the areas of prevention, treatment, care, recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration, as well as measures aimed at minimizing the public health and social consequences of drug abuse, referred to by many as harm reduction interventions.

91. Many speakers highlighted prevention, in particular early prevention, as a fundamental pillar of drug policies, and a strong focus was placed on national initiatives aimed at reducing the initiation of drug use and the progression to harmful patterns of drug use and drug use disorders. Many speakers shared examples of balanced approaches that integrated prevention and enforcement. Those initiatives, implemented in collaboration with municipalities, judicial partners and youth organizations, were presented as key elements of strategies to prevent the engagement of children and youth in crime.

92. The expansion of evidence-based prevention services was a recurring theme, and several speakers shared information on initiatives focused on supporting

individuals, families and communities. Capacity-building programmes to enhance the capacities of the prevention workforce and strengthen quality assurance in the implementation of prevention strategies were also highlighted. Several speakers shared examples of successful outcomes of school-based programmes and the successful integration of prevention curricula, social media campaigns, media outreach efforts and public events, whereby young people and the general public had been effectively engaged in raising awareness of drug-related risks and consequences. Some speakers reported that implementing comprehensive drug demand reduction strategies had led to a better understanding of drug use disorders and had increased community engagement, as well as public interest in addiction-related expertise and certification. A number of speakers welcomed UNODC initiatives such as the Children Amplified Prevention Services (CHAMPS) initiative, which supported comprehensive prevention systems to strengthen the resilience of children.

93. Several speakers emphasized the need for accessible, high-quality treatment and rehabilitation as a key component of drug policies. Reference was made to national efforts focused on expanding evidence-based treatment, aftercare and community-based services, including targeted interventions for children and women, aligned with international standards. Some speakers highlighted efforts aimed at integrating psychosocial and medical interventions in order to provide comprehensive treatment and rehabilitation, while also ensuring the availability of those interventions in prison settings. Speakers highlighted the establishment of rehabilitation centres, including specialized facilities for children, as well as investments in capacity-building through specialized training and knowledge exchange to enhance professional expertise. Some speakers referred to comprehensive national initiatives to prevent the transmission of HIV, viral hepatitis and other infections associated with the use of drugs. Investments in evaluation, research and technology-driven interventions, including artificial intelligence-based tools and digital treatments, were also highlighted as factors contributing to more effective approaches to prevention and treatment.

94. A number of speakers reported on investments in vocational and skills development programmes, as well as partnerships with civil society organizations engaged in prevention and treatment services, as means to promote long-term recovery.

95. A number of speakers emphasized that international cooperation was essential to preventing the diversion of controlled drugs while ensuring their availability for medical and scientific purposes. Speakers highlighted the importance of sharing information on domestic regulatory frameworks and facilitating access to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for legitimate use while preventing their misuse and trafficking. In that context, several examples were shared, including with regard to the need for national policies and laws to remain adaptable to the evolving nature of drug markets and associated public health risks. In addition, the harmonization of national lists of controlled substances was highlighted as a way to prevent criminal networks from exploiting regulatory discrepancies among jurisdictions. A number of speakers shared information on national initiatives related to the control of precursors and chemicals that were aimed at strengthening monitoring and regulation efforts in order to prevent the diversion of precursors and chemicals for illicit purposes.

96. Many speakers highlighted challenges encountered in supply reduction efforts, including the continued diversification of drug markets and the proliferation of synthetic opioids and cathinones, which posed significant risks to public health and security. Many speakers shared information on successful investigations, drug seizures and actions leading to the dismantling of organized criminal groups, including statistics on drug seizures. Some speakers detailed successful law enforcement operations, joint enforcement operations, expanded exchanges of intelligence and strengthened bilateral and regional partnerships to address illicit drug flows, which in some cases had resulted in significant seizures of controlled substances. A number of speakers highlighted ongoing efforts to enhance drug enforcement activities, including through the integration of advanced detection technologies, intelligence-sharing mechanisms and inter-agency collaboration, as

well as by strengthening the enforcement of customs laws and regulations at key entry points and deploying high-performance scanning equipment and specialized enforcement units to counter increasingly sophisticated smuggling methods. With regard to addressing money-laundering facilitated by modern technologies, speakers reported on national measures such as financial intelligence-related collaboration, banking surveillance and literacy programmes.

97. Other reported interventions focused on how to address the links between drug-related offences and other crimes and how to achieve better results in the investigation of drug-related cases, with particular emphasis on addressing illicit financial flows, money-laundering and asset forfeiture. Strengthening financial investigations and enhancing cooperation between drug control and financial intelligence units were highlighted as key measures to dismantle drug-related criminal networks. The importance of addressing the challenges posed by the criminal misuse of virtual currencies as part of money-laundering schemes and in view of the association of such currencies with several predicate offences, including drug-trafficking, was highlighted.

98. Several speakers emphasized the need for long-term, sustainable alternative development programmes, highlighting community empowerment as a key strategy in reducing the illicit cultivation of and trafficking in drugs. Speakers shared examples of initiatives and national strategies aimed at supporting cultivators in transitioning to licit crop production, including by promoting sustainable livelihoods through alternative crops such as rice, cocoa, coffee, potatoes and tomatoes, as well as addressing vulnerabilities in urban populations – particularly among adolescents – to prevent the non-medical use of drugs and involvement in microtrafficking.

99. Recognizing the complex and multifaceted nature of drug-related challenges, speakers emphasized the need for strengthened cooperation and coordination among national authorities at all levels. In addition, the importance of international, regional and bilateral collaboration was underscored, and the principle of common and shared responsibility was reaffirmed. In that context, regional cooperation and meetings were highlighted as key platforms for facilitating intelligence-sharing, exchanging best practices and coordinating enforcement efforts. In addition, some speakers drew attention to the impact of the world drug problem on transit countries. A group of speakers called on Member States to refrain from unilateral measures that would undermine multilateralism and impede international cooperation on drug-related matters, stressing the importance of adhering to the Charter of the United Nations and international legal obligations. In response, it was noted that sanctions and restrictions, implemented in full conformity with international law, could serve as lawful and effective tools to promote peace and security.

100. The importance of early warning systems was underscored, and speakers called for Member States to utilize existing tools to detect and respond swiftly to emerging drug-related threats. Strengthening those systems was recognized as essential to anticipating shifts in drug markets, identifying new psychoactive substances and mitigating public health and security risks before they escalate. Speakers also shared information on national efforts to enhance institutional capacities, including the establishment of forensic laboratories to improve drug analysis and detection and the creation of intelligence centres to strengthen inter-agency coordination. The use of advanced technologies, such as data integration systems, predictive analytics, artificial intelligence and information security tools, was highlighted as a means to enhance real-time monitoring and decision-making.

101. Many speakers also stressed the importance of ensuring the meaningful participation of civil society, the scientific community, communities, local stakeholders and affected populations in the development, implementation and evaluation of drug policies.

102. Meeting the need for enhanced technical assistance and resource mobilization was widely emphasized as a critical factor in strengthening responses to drug-related challenges. Many speakers underscored the importance of capacity-building efforts

aimed at equipping law enforcement agencies, national laboratories, healthcare professionals and civil society service providers with the necessary skills and tools.

103. Many speakers reaffirmed their strong support for UNODC and its central role in coordinating international drug policy responses, providing technical assistance and capacity-building and conducting research to help Member States effectively address drug-related challenges.

B. Action taken by the Commission

104. At its 9th meeting, on 14 March 2025, the Commission adopted a revised draft resolution entitled “Promoting comprehensive, scientific evidence-based and multisectoral national systems of drug use prevention for children and adolescents” ([E/CN.7/2025/L.2/Rev.1](#)), sponsored by Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Egypt, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), the Russian Federation, Singapore, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom and Uruguay. (For the text of the resolution, see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 68/1.)

105. Upon the adoption of the revised draft resolution, the representatives of Chile and Egypt made statements. Statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of the United States and Argentina.

106. The representative of the United States noted the strong support of his delegation for efforts to promote effective approaches to the prevention of drug use among children and young people. He indicated, however, that his delegation had decided to call for a vote on revised draft resolution [E/CN.7/2025/L.2/Rev.1](#), as it was concerned that the revised draft resolution represented a reaffirmation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals set out therein, which, in the view of his delegation, advanced a programme of soft global governance that was inconsistent with the sovereignty of the United States and adverse to the rights and interests of Americans. He stated that the United States rejected and denounced the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, and that it would no longer reaffirm them as a matter of course. Lastly, he indicated that the text of the revised draft resolution had failed to use precise language regarding the biological reality that there were two sexes: male and female. For those reasons, the United States had voted against the revised draft resolution.

107. The representative of Argentina expressed the full commitment of his delegation to promoting comprehensive national drug use prevention systems for children and adolescents. He thanked Chile for the flexibility it had shown throughout the discussions on the revised draft resolution adopted. He noted, however, that the word “gender”, as it appeared in international treaties, in the view of his delegation, referred to the two sexes, male and female, and that, in the context of society, the term “gender” had no other meaning than that. Further, he noted that, for Argentina, the 2030 Agenda was composed of aspirations that were not legally binding, and that each State, in exercise of its sovereignty, had the right to pursue those aspirations freely.

108. At the same meeting, the Commission took action on a revised draft resolution entitled “Promoting research on scientific evidence-based interventions for the treatment and care of stimulant use disorders” ([E/CN.7/2025/L.3/Rev.1](#)), sponsored by Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Guatemala, Japan, Honduras, Morocco, New Zealand, the Niger, Norway, Peru, Poland (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), the Russian Federation, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand and the United Kingdom. The representative of the United States requested a vote on revised draft resolution [E/CN.7/2025/L.3/Rev.1](#). The Commission adopted by a vote of 49 to 2, with no abstentions, revised draft resolution [E/CN.7/2025/L.3/Rev.1](#). (For the text of the resolution, see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 68/2.)

109. Upon the adoption of the revised draft resolution, the representatives of Thailand and Norway made statements. Statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of the United States and Argentina.

110. The representative of the United States stated that his country supported efforts to promote research on pharmacological treatments for those battling the harms associated with the non-medical use of stimulant drugs. That support notwithstanding, his delegation had decided to call for a vote on the revised draft resolution, as it had concerns about the language used throughout the text. He stated that, firstly, the text failed to acknowledge the natural reality that there were two sexes, male and female, and that for the freedom and dignity of all men and women, the use of gender ideology-related terms must be stopped, and secondly, that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals advanced a programme of soft global governance that constituted an overreach into national decision-making and was therefore inconsistent with the sovereignty of the United States and adverse to the rights and interests of Americans. He stated that the United States rejected and denounced the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, and that the United States would no longer reaffirm them as a matter of course. He concluded that for those reasons, the United States had voted against the revised draft resolution.

111. The representative of Argentina stated that, in the view of his delegation, the word “gender”, as included in international treaties, referred to the two sexes, male and female, and that, in the context of society, the term “gender” had no other meaning than that. With regard to the gender perspective, he underlined that the commitment of Argentina to women’s rights was long-standing and was incorporated in its legislation and domestic practices, which went beyond international standards. He stated, however, that implementing a sectorized perspective on human rights led to inequities that were contrary to the goal of non-discrimination. He further stated that, for Argentina, the 2030 Agenda was composed of aspirations that were not legally binding, and that each State, in exercise of its sovereignty, was free to interpret those aspirations.

112. At the same meeting, the Commission took action on a revised draft resolution entitled “Complementing the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development” ([E/CN.7/2025/L.4/Rev.1](#)), sponsored by Albania, Armenia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia, Japan, Norway, Peru, Poland (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Switzerland, Thailand and the United Kingdom. The representative of the United States requested a vote on revised draft resolution [E/CN.7/2025/L.4/Rev.1](#). The Commission adopted, by a vote of 48 to 2, with one abstention, revised draft resolution [E/CN.7/2025/L.4/Rev.1](#). (For the text of the resolution, see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 68/3.)

113. Upon the adoption of the revised draft resolution, the representatives of Peru, Germany and Thailand made statements. Statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of Guatemala, Argentina, the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

114. The representative of Guatemala stated that his delegation had voted in favour of the revised draft resolution entitled “Complementing the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development”, tabled by Germany, Peru and Thailand. Guatemala considered that the resolution was aimed at furthering the work in the area of alternative development and considered that work to be important for its region. He noted, however, that for Guatemala, any reference to Indigenous Peoples must respect the characteristics, nature and the origins of the rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as the work done and recommendations made by established mechanisms to safeguard everything relating to Indigenous Peoples, namely, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples. The representative reiterated his country’s strong reservation to the tenth preambular paragraph of the

resolution, especially because it considered the use of the term “local communities” to be arbitrary and a surreptitious attempt to subsume the term “Indigenous Peoples” within a term empty of explicit content, that is, “local communities”, in a specialized forum, namely, the Commission, which could not be accepted by Guatemala. Furthermore, he noted that there was no authoritative source for the term “local communities” in international instruments and that the use of the term undermined the acknowledged rights of Indigenous Peoples. He stated that, for those reasons, his delegation would like its reservation to be reflected in the report.

115. The representative of Argentina stated that, in the view of his delegation, the word “gender”, as included in international treaties, referred to the two sexes, female and male, and that, in the context of society, the term “gender” had no other meaning than that. Further, he stated that, for Argentina, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was composed of aspirations that were not legally binding, and that each State, in the exercise of its sovereignty, had the right to interpret and pursue those aspirations freely.

116. The representative of the United States stated that his country was concerned about the use in the text of language reaffirming the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. Although framed in neutral language, the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, in the view of his delegation, advanced a programme of soft global governance that was inconsistent with the sovereignty of the United States and adverse to the rights and interests of Americans. He stated that the United States rejected and denounced the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, and that the United States would no longer reaffirm them as a matter of course. He also stated that the text of the resolution failed to use precise language regarding the biological reality that there were two sexes, male and female, and that, in the view of his delegation, it was time for a clear and overdue course correction with regard to gender ideology. He further stated that the resolution went beyond the scope of alternative development, which was intended to address illicit crop cultivation, and read more as a resolution on sustainable development.

117. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that, while noting the efforts made by the sponsors of the resolution to achieve consensus, his delegation wished to express its serious concern about the fact that the resolution, as in the case of previous resolutions, once again departed from agreed text as reflected in similar draft resolutions tabled at the sixty-sixth session of the Commission. In that regard, he noted with concern that the resolution had refrained from reflecting one of the major challenges that some Member States had encountered with regard to unilateral coercive sanctions imposed on those States in contravention of international law. Regarding the issue of gender, he stated that, in the view of his delegation, the meaning of the term “gender” was restricted to the female and male sexes. With regard to sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals, he stated that his delegation believed that progress had been made in the implementation of the Goals; however, it was of the view that those were political commitments that were composed of all ideas, including respect for the national laws, regulations and policies of Member States, that should be highlighted with every effort in those kinds of resolutions.

118. At the same meeting, the Commission took action on a draft resolution, as revised, entitled “Safety of officers in dismantling illicit synthetic drug laboratories, in particular those involving synthetic opioids” ([E/CN.7/2025/L.5](#)), sponsored by Albania, Armenia, Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Ghana, Honduras, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Poland (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The representative of the United States requested a vote on draft resolution [E/CN.7/2025/L.5](#), as revised. The Commission adopted by a vote of 48 to 1, with 2 abstentions, draft resolution [E/CN.7/2025/L.5](#), as revised. (For the text of the resolution, see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 68/4.)

119. Upon the adoption of the draft resolution, as revised, the representatives of Poland and Mexico made statements. The representatives of the United States and Argentina made statements in explanation of vote.

120. The representative of the United States stated that his delegation was concerned about the use in the text of the resolution of language reaffirming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. Although they were framed in neutral language, in the view of his delegation, the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals advanced a programme of soft global governance that was inconsistent with the sovereignty of the United States and adverse to the rights and interests of Americans. He stated that the United States would therefore no longer reaffirm them as a matter of course.

121. The representative of Argentina reaffirmed his country's commitment, and the importance it attached, to the safety of officers in dismantling illicit synthetic drug laboratories, and explained that that was the reason why his delegation had abstained from voting on the draft resolution, as revised. He stated, however, that for Argentina, the 2030 Agenda, to which references were contained in the resolution, was made up of aspirations that were not legally binding, and that each State, in exercise of its sovereignty, was free to pursue those aspirations.

122. At the same meeting, the Commission took action on a revised draft resolution entitled "Addressing the impacts of illicit drug-related activities on the environment" ([E/CN.7/2025/L.7/Rev.1](#)), sponsored by Albania, Andorra, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Ghana, Honduras, Japan, Morocco, Norway, Peru, Poland (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The representative of the United States requested a vote on revised draft resolution [E/CN.7/2025/L.7/Rev.1](#). The Commission adopted by a vote of 48 to 2, with one abstention, revised draft resolution [E/CN.7/2025/L.7/Rev.1](#). (For the text of the resolution, see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 68/5.)

123. Upon adoption of the revised draft resolution, the representatives of France, Brazil, Morocco and Costa Rica made statements. Statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of Guatemala, the United States, Argentina, the Islamic Republic of Iran and China.

124. The representative of Guatemala indicated that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution, as revised, and considered that it addressed a very important subject, namely, the environmental impact of illicit drug-related activities, and promoted the development of evidence-based policies to mitigate the negative impact of such activities on ecosystems. He noted, however, that for Guatemala, any reference to Indigenous Peoples must respect the characteristics, nature and the origins of the rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as the work done and recommendations made by established mechanisms to safeguard everything relating to Indigenous Peoples, namely, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples. The representative reiterated his country's strong reservation to paragraph 8 of the resolution, especially because it considered the use of the term "local communities" to be arbitrary and a surreptitious attempt to subsume the term "Indigenous Peoples" within a term empty of explicit content, that is, "local communities", in a specialized forum, namely, the Commission, which could not be accepted by Guatemala. Furthermore, he noted that there was no authoritative source for the term "local communities" in international instruments and that the use of the term undermined the acknowledged rights of Indigenous Peoples. He stated that, for those reasons, his delegation would like its reservation to be reflected in the report.

125. The representative of the United States stated that his country recognized that illicit drug-related activities could adversely affect the environment. He expressed the view that, unfortunately, the resolution deviated significantly from the worthy goal of addressing that issue and therefore the United States had called for a vote on the revised draft resolution and had voted against it because much of the text violated

current policies of the United States. He stated that a primary concern of the United States was the reference in the resolution to the Sustainable Development Goals, and that those Goals advanced a programme of soft global governance that was inconsistent with the sovereignty of the United States and adverse to the rights and interests of Americans. He noted that the citizens of all Member States should be concerned about the inclusion of the reference to the Sustainable Development Goals in that text, which was ostensibly focused on addressing the impacts of drug-related activities on the environment, a real and present problem that would not be resolved through the Sustainable Development Goals. He noted that the text of the resolution also failed to use precise language regarding the biological reality that there were two sexes: male and female. Of greatest concern, in the view of his delegation, was the mention of the terms “gender-disaggregated data” and “gender-sensitive policies and programmes”, concepts for which, he claimed, there were no agreed definitions. Moreover, he stated that those terms were used to endorse divisive cultural causes and champion the censorship of viewpoints online. Lastly, he expressed concern that the resolution called for UNODC to continue activities for which the United States was still evaluating its support, both financial and political.

126. The representative of Argentina explained that his country had voted against the revised draft resolution because it contained references to the word “gender”, which, as his country believed, was used in international treaties to refer to the two sexes, male and female, and stated that, in the context of society, the term “gender” had no other meaning than that. He further stated that, for Argentina, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was composed of aspirations that were not legally binding, and that each State, in exercise of its sovereignty, had the right to interpret and pursue those aspirations freely.

127. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that, for his country, as a member of the Commission, in view of the activities of his country at the front line of efforts to combat narcotic drugs in the region and as a neighbouring country to Afghanistan, the decisions of the Commission were very important. He noted that his delegation had actively participated in the meetings and informal consultations on the revised draft resolution and had tried to harmonize the text so that it would reflect the concerns of his delegation and those of other members of the Commission; however, unfortunately, none or almost none of those concerns had been reflected by the co-sponsors. He stated that in any case his delegation had joined the decision.

128. The representative of China indicated that his delegation had voted in favour of the resolutions adopted at the session and had participated as a co-sponsor of some of them, although China had its own ideas and proposals for some of the content contained in the resolutions. He noted that China had been very flexible and proactive in participating in the drafting of the resolutions and had made its own contribution to the successful passing of the resolutions by landslide, overwhelming majorities. He emphasized that China had a positive attitude towards the content regarding the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development contained in the above-mentioned resolutions, and noted that China, together with other States members of the Commission, including those that were developing countries, actively supported the Sustainable Development Goals and actively supported the view that the Commission should emphasize the Sustainable Development Goals and development-related issues in its resolutions. In addition, he mentioned the importance attached by developing countries and the global South to development-related issues, and that China would continue to work with the countries of the global South and the States members of the Commission in the continuing efforts to promote development-related issues in the work of the Commission.

Chapter VI

Inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem

129. At its 7th meeting, on 13 March 2025, the Commission considered agenda item 7, entitled “Inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem”.

130. For its consideration of item 7, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Note by the Secretariat on promoting coordination and alignment of decisions between the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS ([E/CN.7/2025/7](#));

(b) Note by the Secretariat on inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem ([E/CN.7/2025/CRP.2](#)).

131. Introductory remarks were delivered by a representative of the Drugs, Laboratory and Scientific Services Branch of UNODC.

132. Statements were made by the representatives of Thailand, Singapore, Canada, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea, India, the United Kingdom, Trinidad and Tobago, Morocco and Colombia.

133. Statements were made by the representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer (on behalf of the European Union and its member States),⁴⁶ and by the observers for Cuba and Malaysia.

134. Statements were also made by the observers for INTERPOL, OHCHR and UNAIDS (video message).

135. The observers for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Dejusticia, Open Society Foundations and the International Drug Policy Consortium also made statements.

Deliberations

136. Many speakers reaffirmed commitments to international cooperation in addressing the world drug problem and emerging challenges through a comprehensive and balanced response. Reference was made to the three international drug conventions, together with other relevant international instruments, as the cornerstone of the international legal framework, and to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control.

137. Many speakers highlighted the vital role of inter-agency cooperation among all sectors and at all levels, as well as among United Nations entities and with civil society, in implementing international drug policy commitments and resolutions, to effectively respond to the complex nature of the world drug problem. In this regard, reference was made to the importance of an evidence-based approach, science, the coordination of data collection and the sharing of data, as well as rule of law and human rights.

138. A number of speakers reaffirmed their continued commitment to the work of UNODC as the leading United Nations entity on drug-related matters and referred to activities implemented at the national and regional levels. Some speakers also

⁴⁶ Also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, San Marino and Ukraine.

expressed appreciation to the work of OHCHR and the Special Rapporteur on the right to health and took note of their recent reports.

139. Reference was made to the importance of collaboration between UNODC, INCB and WHO in ensuring that drug policies remained evidence-based. Some speakers also referred to important collaborations with other relevant entities, such as INTERPOL, OHCHR, UNAIDS, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), within their mandated functions, and the participation of those entities in the work of the Commission was welcomed. In the context of further enhancing synergies, reference was made to the recent signing of the UNODC-United Nations Industrial Development Organization memorandum of understanding and to the importance of the future participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the work of the Commission.

140. Some speakers referred to the United Nations system common position supporting the implementation of the international drug control policy through effective inter-agency collaboration and expressed support to UNODC for leading the United Nations system coordination task team on the implementation of the United Nations system common position. UNODC was encouraged by some speakers to provide more regular briefings to Member States on the implementation of the common position.

141. Many speakers mentioned the threat posed by illicit drug use and illicit drug trafficking and related crimes, and highlighted the necessity of taking effective measures, including capacity-building, technical assistance and intelligence exchange. Reference was made to specific initiatives, in particular those aimed at preventing illicit drug use, as well as to enhancing access to treatment and care and recovery measures. Reference was also made to activities aimed at improving the capacity of law enforcement agencies at seaports, airports and land border crossings, as well as the role of laboratories, early warning systems and postal services.

142. Some speakers expressed commitment to a drug-free world. One speaker expressed the view that the international drug control system was unable to keep up with the evolution of drug-related matters.

Chapter VII

Recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission

143. At its 7th meeting, on 13 March 2025, the Commission considered agenda item 8, entitled “Recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission”.

144. For its consideration of item 8, the Commission had before it the note by the Secretariat on action taken by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs ([E/CN.7/2025/8](#)).

145. Statements were made by the representatives of Kenya, China, Colombia, the Republic of Korea and Thailand.

Deliberations

146. Several speakers expressed regret at the cancellation of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission in 2024 due to the liquidity crisis of the regular budget of the United Nations. They emphasized the positive contribution of the subsidiary bodies to regional drug law enforcement cooperation and recognized the role of those bodies as a fundamental forum for addressing common challenges and strengthening regional action and understanding on all drug-related matters.

Chapter VIII

Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, including follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

147. At its 8th meeting, on 13 March 2025, the Commission considered agenda item 9, entitled “Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, including follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

148. The Chief of the Secretariat to the Governing Bodies of UNODC and the Officer-in-Charge of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs of UNODC made introductory statements.

149. Statements were made by the representatives of Thailand (pre-recorded video), Argentina, India, Colombia and the United States.

150. Statements were also made by the observers for OHCHR, INTERPOL, the Eurasian Harm Reduction Association, the Slum Child Foundation, Youth RISE and the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs.

Deliberations

151. Some speakers reiterated their commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals and to addressing global challenges such as climate change, as well as the protection of human rights and the promotion of gender equality.

152. The importance of alternative development for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was mentioned by some speakers, as well as the need to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange to enhance alternative development interventions. The use of meditation as a preventive strategy as well as an adjunctive treatment for those affected by drug use disorders was also noted.

153. One speaker stated that her Government defined the term “gender” in line with article 7, paragraph 3, of the Rome Statute and referred to her Government’s sustained commitment to protecting women’s rights without generating inequities that it considered to go against the principle of non-discrimination. In the view of her Government, the 2030 Agenda was made up of legally non-binding aspirations that each State, in the exercise of its sovereignty, had the right to interpret and freely pursue. The speaker further recalled her country’s dissent on the Pact for the Future.

154. One speaker stated that her country opposed the link between the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The view was expressed that the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals advanced a programme of soft global governance that was inconsistent with that country’s sovereignty and adverse to the rights and interests of the country’s citizens. The speaker requested that the agenda item should instead reaffirm the Commission’s core purpose of assisting the Economic and Social Council in supervising the application of the international drug control treaties.

Chapter IX

Provisional agenda for the sixty-ninth session of the Commission

155. At its 8th and 10th meetings, on 13 and 14 March 2025, the Commission considered agenda item 10, entitled “Provisional agenda for the sixty-ninth session of the Commission”. For its consideration of item 10, the Commission had before it a draft decision entitled “Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its sixty-eighth session and provisional agenda for its sixty-ninth session” ([E/CN.7/2025/L.8](#)).

156. Statements were made by the representatives of the United States, Argentina, Finland, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Austria, Belgium, France, the United Kingdom, Spain, Portugal, Mexico, Algeria, Columbia, South Africa, Chile, Lithuania, Slovenia, Canada, Poland and Switzerland.

A. Deliberations

157. At the 8th meeting, on 13 March 2025, the representative of the United States proposed to amend item 9 of the provisional agenda for the sixty-ninth session of the Commission to exclude the reference to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; the proposal was supported by the representative of Argentina. All other representatives making statements under agenda item 10 opposed the proposal.

158. At the 10th meeting, on 14 March 2025, the representative of Argentina, who had expressed support for the proposed amendment, requested a vote on the proposal.

B. Action taken by the Commission

159. At its 10th meeting, on 14 March 2025, the Commission rejected the proposed amendment to item 9 of the provisional agenda for the sixty-ninth session of the Commission by a vote of 47 against to 2 in favour, with 2 abstentions, and decided to recommend for adoption by the Economic and Social Council the draft decision containing the draft provisional agenda for the sixty-ninth session of the Commission ([E/CN.7/2025/L.8](#)). (For the text of the draft decision, see chap. I, sect. A, draft decision I.)

Chapter X

Other business

160. At its 8th meeting, on 13 March 2025, the Commission considered agenda item 11, entitled “Other business”. No issues were raised under the agenda item.

Chapter XI

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-eighth session

161. At its 9th and 10th meetings, on 14 March 2025, the Commission considered agenda item 12, entitled “Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-eighth session”. The Rapporteur introduced the draft report.

162. At the same meetings, the Commission adopted the report on its sixty-eighth session, as orally amended.

Chapter XII

Organization of the session and administrative matters

A. Informal pre-session consultations

163. At the pre-session consultations, chaired by the nominee for First Vice-Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Andranik Hovhannisyan (Armenia), and held on 7 March 2025, the Commission conducted a preliminary review of draft proposals that had been submitted by the deadline of 10 February 2025, pursuant to Commission decision 55/1, and dealt with organizational matters of the sixty-eighth session.

B. Opening and duration of the session

164. The Commission held its sixty-eighth session in Vienna from 10 to 14 March 2025. On 10 March 2025, the Chair of the Commission opened the session. The President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed the Commission in pre-recorded video messages. The Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) made an opening statement. The Commission was then addressed by the Director-General of WHO in a pre-recorded video message. A statement was also made by the President of INCB.

C. Attendance

165. The session was attended by representatives of 52 States members of the Commission (1 was not represented). Also attending were observers for 85 other States Members of the United Nations, as well as non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations.

D. Election of officers

166. In section I of its resolution 1999/30, the Economic and Social Council decided that, with effect from the year 2000, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should, at the end of each session, elect its Bureau for the subsequent session and should encourage it to play an active role in the preparations for the regular as well as the intersessional meetings of the Commission, so as to enable the Commission to provide continuous and effective policy guidance to the drug programme of UNODC.

167. In accordance with that resolution and rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Commission, at the end of its reconvened sixty-seventh session, on 6 December 2024, opened its sixty-eighth session for the purpose of electing its Bureau for that session. At that meeting, the Commission elected the Chair, the Second and Third Vice-Chairs and the Rapporteur.

168. On 27 January 2025, the Group of Eastern European States nominated Andranik Hovhannisyan (Armenia) for the office of First Vice-Chair of the Commission. At its 1st meeting, on 10 March 2025, the Commission elected Mr. Hovhannisyan as First Vice-Chair.

169. In view of the rotation of offices based on regional distribution, the officers of the Commission at its sixty-eighth session and their respective regional groups were as follows:

<i>Office</i>	<i>Regional group</i>	<i>Officer</i>
Chair	Asia-Pacific States	Shambhu Kumaran (India)
First Vice-Chair	Eastern European States	Andranik Hovhannisyan (Armenia)
Second Vice-Chair	Western European and other States	Peter Potman (Kingdom of the Netherlands)
Third Vice-Chair	Latin American and Caribbean States	Alex Wetzig (Chile)
Rapporteur	African States	Mohamed Amine Boukhris (Morocco)

170. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution [1991/39](#) and established practice, a group composed of the Chairs of the five regional groups, the Chair of the Group of 77 and China and the representative of or observer for the State holding the Presidency of the European Union assists the Chair of the Commission in dealing with organizational matters. That group, together with the officers, constitutes the extended Bureau foreseen in Council resolution [1991/39](#).

171. During the sixty-eighth session of the Commission, the extended Bureau met on 12 and 13 March 2025 to consider matters related to the organization of work.

E. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

172. At its 1st meeting, on 10 March 2025, the Commission adopted by consensus its provisional agenda and organization of work ([E/CN.7/2025/1](#)), pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2023/318. The Commission decided to correct a technical error in agenda item 5 (b). The agenda was as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. General debate.

Operational segment

4. Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions:
 - (a) Work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;
 - (b) Directives on policy and budgetary issues for the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;
 - (c) Working methods of the Commission;
 - (d) Staff composition of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other related matters.

Normative segment

5. Implementation of the international drug control treaties:
 - (a) Changes in the scope of control of substances;
 - (b) Challenges and future work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the World Health Organization and the International Narcotics Control Board in the review of substances for possible scheduling recommendations;
 - (c) International Narcotics Control Board;

- (d) International cooperation to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion;
 - (e) Other matters arising from the international drug control treaties.
6. Follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem.
 7. Inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem.
 8. Recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission.
 9. Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, including follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
 10. Provisional agenda for the sixty-ninth session of the Commission.
 11. Other business.
 12. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-eighth session.

F. Documentation

173. The documents before the Commission at its sixty-eighth session are listed in document E/CN.7/2025/CRP.12.

G. Closure of the session

174. At the 10th meeting, on 14 March 2025, a closing statement was made by the Executive Director of UNODC. The representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer, and the Chair of the Commission made closing remarks.
