Invitation for Written Contributions to the Expert Panel Established pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs Resolution 68/6

The Expert Panel established pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) resolution 68/6 is pleased to invite written contributions from stakeholders in support of its work.

The Expert Panel was established by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to provide **clear, specific and actionable recommendations** to strengthen the implementation of the three international drug control conventions, other relevant international instruments and international drug policy commitments, in accordance with its mandate contained in CND resolution 68/6 (annexed). The Panel is expected to complete its work and present its final recommendations to the Commission in 2027.

In carrying out its work, the Panel seeks to benefit from the knowledge, experience and expertise of a broad range of stakeholders, including those engaged in the development, implementation, evaluation or study of drug policies.

Stakeholders are therefore invited to submit written contributions addressing matters that they consider relevant to the Panel's mandate (see annexed resolution 68/6). Contributors may wish to describe:

- their role, expertise or experience relevant to the Panel's mandate;
- challenges, barriers or opportunities they have identified in the implementation of the international drug control conventions, other relevant international instruments and international drug policy commitments;
- examples of policies, practices or approaches that they consider having been effective or ineffective, in the implementation of the international drug control conventions, other relevant international instruments and international drug policy commitments; and
- practical, evidence-informed and actionable recommendations that the Expert Panel may wish to take into account when considering its recommendations to strengthen the implementation of the international drug control conventions, other relevant international instruments and international drug policy commitments.

Contributors are encouraged to focus on issues that fall within the mandate of the Expert Panel, while remaining free to identify those aspects of implementation that they consider most relevant based on their knowledge and experience.

Written submissions, in English or accompanied by an English translation, should not exceed 1,500 words and must be submitted electronically to unodc-sgb@un.org by latest 15 November 2026. In view of the Panel's timetable of work, only submissions received by the above deadline and complying with the submission requirements will be considered by the Expert Panel.

Unless otherwise indicated by the contributor at the time of submission, all written contributions will be made publicly available on the **Expert Panel's webpage** **https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/expert-panel.html**

Contributors who wish their submissions to remain confidential are requested to indicate this when submitting their contribution. Such submissions will be circulated exclusively to members of the Expert Panel for the purposes of its deliberations and will not be published on the Expert Panel's webpage.

The Expert Panel expresses its appreciation to all contributors for sharing their expertise and experience in support of its work and looks forward to receiving their contributions.

Annex

Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 68/6

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,[1] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,[2] the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988[3] 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,

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,[4] 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 Action[5] and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, held in 2016,[6] 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,[7] 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,[8]

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,[9] 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,

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.

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

[2] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

[3] Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.

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

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

[6] General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex.

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

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

[9] E/INCB/2024/1.