

ECOSOC MANAGEMENT MEETING

10-11 June 2025

H.E Ambassador Shambhu Santha Kumaran,
Chair of the 68th Commission on Narcotic Drugs

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Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to provide you with some information on the 68th session of the CND, held from 10 to 14 March 2025.

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The 68th session was attended by over **2,000 participants** from a diverse range of stakeholders. There was also a record number of **182 side events and 33 exhibitions**.

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The Commission adopted **six resolutions**, for the first time all of them by a vote. Topics covered this year included:

- Drug use prevention for children and adolescents;
- Treatment and care of stimulant use disorders;
- Alternative development

- The safety of officers in dismantling illicit synthetic drug laboratories;
- The impacts of illicit drug-related activities on the environment; and
- Strengthening the international drug control system.

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Resolution 68/6 aims to establish a **multidisciplinary expert group**, comprising 19 experts, including 10 experts selected by the CND, to develop recommendations to strengthen the work of the CND, as well as to improve the implementation of the obligations of the international drug control conventions, with a view to contributing to the **2029 review**.

The Extended Bureau and Regional Groups are currently discussing implementation modalities including the required XB resources.

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In addition, the Commission adopted seven **decisions on the scope of control of substances under the international drug control conventions**, as reflected on the screen.

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The next **CND Thematic Discussions** will be held from 30 September to 2 October 2025, addressing topics such as (i) public health responses to drug use, (ii) specific health challenges related to infectious diseases and the impact of New Psychoactive Substances, and (iii) access to controlled medicines for medical and scientific purposes. Member States have further the opportunity to submit proposals for issues to be considered under “Other Substantive Matters”.

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The Commission on Narcotic Drugs is committed to contribute to the work of the Economic and Social Council. As you may recall, in February this year, I participated (via video message) in the **ECOSOC Coordination Segment**, and provided information on, inter alia, evidence-based approaches and data collection & analysis as one of the core components of the work of the CND.

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I have further submitted – on behalf of the Commission - **substantive written input to the 2025 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**, and the plan is to organize – as per established practice - a side event, with the CCPCJ, at the margins of the HLPF in July.

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In conclusion, the Commission counts on the Council to provide visibility to the important work undertaken in Vienna. Invitations to brief the Council, such as the one today, are useful opportunities. The Commission is operating with limited resources, in an efficient and cost-effective manner and it is very much hoped that the challenging financial situation of the UN will not jeopardize the valuable work done within the Commission. Thank you for your attention.