



Join Your **Delegation**

at the 67th **Session
of the Commission
on Narcotic Drugs**

Campaign briefing

UNITE Parliamentarians Network for Global Health



1. What is the Join your Delegation campaign?

“**Join your delegation**” is an advocacy campaign developed by the UNITE Parliamentarians Network for Global Health, with the aim of calling for the **inclusion of Members of Parliament** in the **national delegations** to **global health multilateral fora**.

Parliamentarians are uniquely positioned, through their core roles of law-making, budgeting and oversight, to transform societies, enabling **everyone** to have **access** to the **health services they need**.

By joining the national delegations, parliamentarians can bring attention to national and regional health priorities and perspectives, strengthening their country’s position in international health policy discussions and, thus, making significant **contributions to global health governance**. As members of parliament are the representatives of their constituents, they play a critical role in **representing people’s voices and aspirations** within these discussions.

At the same time, when back home, parliamentarians can **hold their governments accountable** for the political and financial commitments made during these multilateral discussions.

This year, the campaign will focus on **three key events**:

- **67th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs**, taking place in Vienna, Austria, scheduled for March;
- **77th World Health Assembly**, taking place in Geneva, Switzerland, scheduled for May;
- **UN High-Level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance**, taking place in New York City, USA, scheduled for September.

2. What is the Commission on Narcotic Drugs?

The **Commission on Narcotic Drugs** (CND) is one of the functional commissions of the **United Nations' Economic and Social Council** (ECOSOC), and is the central drug policy-making body within the United Nations System.

The CND also has important mandates under the **three international drug control conventions**, alongside the **three other treaty-mandated bodies**: *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime* (on behalf of Secretary-General), *World Health Organization*, and *International Narcotics Control Board*.

3. What is the 2024 Midterm Review?

The **2024 Midterm Review**, to be held **14-15 March 2024**, will serve to assess progress made in the implementation of all international drug policy commitments as set forth in the [2019 Ministerial Declaration](#).

Preceding the 2024 midterm review was a **comprehensive stock-taking of all 11 challenges** related to the **world drug problem** identified in the *Ministerial Declaration*, which took place during the **thematic discussions** held on 23-25 October and 4-6 December 2023. This comprehensive stock-taking complements the [thematic discussions](#) held by the Commission since 2019. An *end-of-cycle review* of the implementation of all international drug policy commitments is planned for **2029**.

4. What are the main trends in global drug policy discussions?

In November **2018**, the **UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination** (CEB), the main instrument for coordination between 31 UN agencies, adopted the first ever “*United Nations System Common Position supporting the implementation of the international drug control policy through effective inter-agency collaboration*”, to raise awareness of the multifaceted nature of the world drug problem and inspire the planning and implementation of United Nations activities, including **joint inter-agency activities**, stepping up efforts to ensure that **no one is left behind**.

The *67th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs* (CND) and the *Midterm Review* is taking place at a moment when a renewed push for greater convergence between **human rights** and **drug policy commitments** is happening across the United Nations system.

In 2023, the **UN Human Rights Council in Geneva** adopted one of the most ambitious and progressive resolutions on drug policy to date, which paved the way for the preparation of a report on human rights challenges in drug policy presented by the **High Commissioner** - a truly ground-breaking document that presents a clear blueprint for global reform.

Enhancing global efforts includes establishing the **drug control policy** firmly within the global health agenda, to adequately address the impact of drug policies on **public health**. Despite the evidence in favor of following a **health and human rights-based approach to drugs**, punitive responses to drugs are still prioritized all over the world and public health policies are still not discussed together with policies on drug control.

Political leaders across the world are calling for other options to be debated, explored and implemented using the best possible **evidence** and **analysis**. This should include assessing the impacts of current drug control policies in all their complexity and exploring **cost-effective** and **rights-based health services** and **harm reduction interventions**, and invest in programs that prioritize **health, community** and justice.

5. What is Pledge4Action?

Reaffirming the global community's renewed and unwavering commitment to address the world drug situation, a voluntary "Pledge4Action" initiative is proposed by the **Chair of the Commission** at its **sixty-seventh session**, to mobilize **Member States'** commitment toward concrete, impactful actions along the key challenges outlined in the *2019 Ministerial Declaration* including the cross-cutting challenge on **data collection**.

Pledges are the bridges that connect **commitment to concrete action**. They are a public declaration of intent, signifying a Member State's readiness to invest efforts, expertise, and resources into making a difference. Pledges have the potential to result in tangible projects and programs designed to address specific challenges. By committing to a pledge, Member States move from policy **articulation** to policy **implementation**, turning words into deeds.

Member States are invited to make actionable pledges across three thematic areas:

- **National, Regional, or Global Initiatives:** Member States are invited to pledge their commitment to initiate or support projects and programs that contribute to the implementation of specific commitments related to the challenges.
- **Collaboration with Stakeholders:** Pledges may entail cooperative efforts to engage partners and stakeholders in joint initiatives to facilitate holistic responses to the challenges.
- **Budget Allocations and Financial Contributions:** Member States are encouraged to increase budget allocations for the implementation of drug policy programmes or pledge financial support to partners, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), with a view to enable the realization of specific projects addressing the challenges.

6. What actions need to be taken?

We encourage **MPs to suggest actionable actions for their countries to take**, as realistic and needed in their **national contexts**, and amplify the call for these actions on social media as part of the campaign.

Specific examples include:

- I call on [COUNTRY] to pledge to **set up a national coordination task force comprising different Ministries and stakeholders, including Parliamentarians**, to work on a **new national drug policy** within the next **12 months**.
- I call on [COUNTRY] to pledge to allocate [XX amount] of funding for the **scaling up of harm reduction programs** within the next **12 months**.
- I call on [COUNTRY] to pledge to allocate [XX amount] of funding for **expanding the provision of evidence-based drug treatment services** within the next **12 months**.
- I call on [COUNTRY] to pledge to allocate [XX amount] of funding **to increase the availability of naloxone in communities to prevent unnecessary deaths**.

We also encourage sharing messages to **inform the broader focus of actions** that need to be taken at the **international level**.

Specific examples include:

- I call on Member States of the CND to pledge to **reform drug laws** with a focus on prioritizing **public health, harm reduction, and human rights over punitive measures**
- I call on Member States of the CND to pledge to implement **evidence-based drug policies** grounded in **scientific research, public health principles, and harm reduction strategies**
- I call on Member States of the CND to pledge to **protect the human rights of individuals who use drugs**, including their **right to health, dignity, privacy, and non-discrimination**

- I call on Member States of the CND to pledge to **collaborate with international partners, organizations, and experts** to advocate for a **global shift** towards **drug policies** centered on **human rights, public health, and harm reduction**
- I call on Member States of the CND to pledge to support efforts to **evaluate and review international drug control conventions** to align with scientific evidence, human rights commitments and the **Sustainable Development Goals**.

7. How to engage with the #JoinYourDelegation and #Pledge4Action campaigns

Below are some resources that can be used to join the campaign:

Use our suggested tweets

- [Click here](#) to access suggested messaging for posts, including click-to-tweet links.

If you share any content, make sure to use hashtags **#JoinYourDelegation**, **#CND67**, and **#Pledge4Action**, and to tag UNITE:

[X \(formerly known as Twitter\)](#) @UNITE_MPNetwork

[LinkedIn](#) UNITE Parliamentarians Network for Global Health

[Facebook](#) @UNITE.Parliamentarians.Network.for.Global.Health

[Instagram](#) @unite_mpnetwork

Check if your country is a CND Member

[Click here](#)

Engage with governments

- to advocate for **your inclusion in the delegation to the 67th CND** with this downloadable letter template ([Click here](#))
- to advocate for **your country to make a pledge** ahead of the High-Level Segment with this downloadable letter template ([Click here](#))

Resources will also be available at UNITE's linktree account, that you can access [clicking here](#).