



Chronology: 100 years of drug control

The first international conference about drugs, the Opium Commission, meets in Shanghai.

1909



The world's first international drug control treaty, the International Opium Convention, is passed in the Hague.

1912

World War I leads to rapidly rising levels of drug use in several countries.

1914

The International Opium Convention becomes part of the World War I peace treaties, spurring its ratification by many countries.

1919/20

The League of Nations is established. The League becomes the custodian of the Opium Convention.

1920



An upgraded International Opium Convention is passed, extending its scope to cannabis.

1925



The Convention for Limiting the Manufacture and Regulating the Distribution of Narcotic Drugs aims to restrict the supply of narcotic drugs to amounts needed for medical and scientific purposes.

1931

The Convention for the Suppression of the Illicit Traffic in Dangerous Drugs becomes the first international instrument to make certain drug offences international crimes.

1936



International drug control transferred from the League of Nations to the newly created United Nations (UN). The UN Economic and Social Council establishes the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) as the central policy-making body of the UN in drug-related matters.

1946



UNITED NATIONS Office on Drugs and Crime

The Synthetic Narcotics Protocol comes into force, placing a series of new substances under international control.

1948



The Opium Protocol is signed, limiting opium production and trade to medical and scientific needs.

1953

The cornerstone of today's international drug control regime, the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs is adopted, merging existing drug control agreements. The Single Convention lists all controlled substances and creates the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB).

1961

The Convention on Psychotropic Substances is passed in response to increased use of these drugs in several countries.

1971



The Single Convention is amended by a Protocol to underscore the need to provide adequate prevention, treatment and rehabilitation services.

1972

The Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances is passed to cope with the security threat posed by drug trafficking in a number of regions.

1988



The United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) is established in Vienna.

1991

Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGASS) to strengthen Member States' efforts to reduce demand and supply of drugs.

1998



The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) adopts its current name.

2002

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime comes into force, strengthening international capacity to counter organized crime, including drug trafficking.

2003

Review of the progress made towards meeting UNGASS objectives.

2008