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Agenda item 103INTERNATIONAL **CAMPAIGN** AGAINST TRAFFIC IN DRUGS**Draft convention against illicit traffic in
narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances****Report of the Secretary-General**

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By its resolution 39/141 of 14 December 1984, the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, requested the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to prepare, as a matter of priority, a draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The Commission began this work at its thirty-first session, held from 11 to 20 February 1985.
2. In furtherance of that request, and the follow-up action by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Economic and Social Council, the Division of Narcotic Drugs prepared the initial text of a draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances on the basis of 14 elements identified by the Commission. The Division later prepared a consolidated working document which included that initial draft, the comments made thereon by Governments, the deliberations of the Commission on that draft at its thirty-second session in 1987, a draft preambular part, a motion on the implementation mechanism and draft final clauses. That working document, which was circulated to all Governments in April 1987, was considered at two sessions of an open-ended intergovernmental expert group. The final report of the expert group was distributed to all States.
3. On 7 December 1987, the General Assembly adopted resolution 42/111, entitled "Preparation of a draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances", which gave further instructions for advancing the preparation of the convention.
4. As the time available to the expert group did not permit thorough consideration of all the articles, including the preamble, the implementation measures and the final clauses, before submission to the Commission at its tenth special session, from 8 to 19 February 1988, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to consider convening a further intergovernmental expert group meeting for two weeks, immediately prior to that session, to continue revision of the working paper on the draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and, if possible, to reach agreement on the convention.
5. In paragraph 5 of the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, through the Economic and Social Council, "to consider and, if possible, approve, at its tenth special session, the draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and to prepare recommendations on the next measures to be taken with a view to concluding the preparation of the convention, including the possibility of convening a plenipotentiary conference in 1988 for its adoption".
6. In paragraph 6 of the resolution, the Secretary-General was requested "to make the necessary administrative arrangements for the convening of any agreed plenipotentiary conference in 1988 for the signing of the convention".
7. In paragraph 8, the General Assembly further requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its forty-third session on the implementation of the resolution. The present report has been prepared in compliance with that request,

II. ACTION BY **THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL** AND **THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS**

8. At its **organizational session of 1988**, the **Economic and Social Council**, in its **decision 1988/120 of 5 February 1988**, requested the **Commission on Narcotic Drugs**, at its **tenth special session**, to **proceed along the lines set forth in General Assembly resolution 42/111**. The Council further requested the **Commission to report to it at its first regular session of 1988 on the results achieved**.

9. At its **tenth special session**, from 8 to 19 February 1988, the **Commission on Narcotic Drugs had before it**:

(a) A **consolidated working document that included the initial draft convention prepared by the Division of Narcotic Drugs (including a draft preamble, implementation articles and final clauses), the comments received from Governments on that draft, and the deliberations of the Commission at its thirty-second session**;

(b) The **report of the three sessions of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group, from 29 June to 10 July 1987, from 5 to 16 October 1987 and from 25 January to 5 February 1988, and the revised text of the articles that the expert group had completed at those sessions**;

(c) A **summary of comments received from Governments on the expert group's revised draft texts**;

(d) A **background note by the Secretariat describing progress in the preparation of the new convention**.

Following **consideration of the draft convention**, the **Commission approved draft resolution I, which recommended measures to further the preparation of the draft convention, for submission to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1988**.

10. On 25 May 1988, the **Economic and Social Council adopted the draft resolution as resolution 1988/8, entitled "Preparation of an international convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances". The Council requested the Secretary-General to transmit the relevant parts of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its tenth special session, "with any relevant annexes and such background documentation considered pertinent, to all States, the specialized agencies, the International Narcotics Control Board and the International Criminal Police Organization and other interested intergovernmental organizations". The Council also decided to convene "a conference of plenipotentiaries for the adoption of a convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances". In decision 1988/120 of 25 May 1988, the Council decided that the conference should be held at Vienna from 25 November to 20 December 1988.**

11. In its resolution 1988/8, the Economic and Social Council further decided to convene "a review group for the conference to meet for a period of up to two weeks, preferably at Vienna, not later than mid-June 1988". The review group was instructed to review the draft texts of articles 1 to 6 referred to it by the Commission with a view to submitting them to the plenipotentiary conference. In addition, the group might review the remaining articles and related draft texts with a view to making those changes necessary to achieve overall consistency in the draft text of the convention to be submitted to the plenipotentiary conference. The review group was also "to consider organisational matters relating to the conference and the draft provisional rules of procedure to be prepared by the Secretary-General".

12. The Economic and Social Council also requested the Secretary-General:

(a) To invite to participate in the conference and the meeting of the review group:

(i) All States;

(ii) Specialised agencies and intergovernmental organisations interested in the matter, with the same rights as they have in the work of the Economic and Social Council;

(iii) The International Narcotics Control Board, with the same rights as it has at the work of the Economic and Social Council)

(b) To transmit immediately after the meeting of the review group the draft text of the convention and related documents to all States and other interested parties;

(c) To prepare provisional rules of procedure for the conference;

(d) To provide summary records for the conference and its committees.

III. ACTION BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

13. The Secretary-General convened a third meeting of the *open-ended* intergovernmental expert group immediately prior to the tenth special session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs held at Vienna from 25 January to 5 February 1988.

14. Further to paragraph 5 of resolution 42/111, which had given rise to specific instructions from the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General organised the meeting of a review group at Vienna from 27 June to 8 July 1988. The revised draft text of the convention and related documents, contained in its report, ¹ was transmitted to all States and other interested parties under cover of a note dated 16 August 1988.

15. Following **consideration** of organiaational **matters** relating to the **conferrence** on the **baaia** of documents prepared by the **Secretary-General**, the review group decided to transmit to the **conference** the draft **provisional** agenda, **2/** the draft **proviaional rules** of procedure, **3/** and a *note* on the organisation of the **conf errnce**. **4/**

16. The **Secretary-General** has made the **necooaary** administrative arrangements *for* convening **thr conference** *for* the signing of the **convention**, to **be** held from 25 November to 20 December 1988 at the Hofburg **Congress** Centre, Vienna, As requirated in paragraph 10 of Economic and Social Council **resolution 1988/8** and its **decision 1988/120** of 25 May 1988, **invitationa were issued** on 26 August 1988.

17. In accordance with Economic and Social Council **decision 1988/159** of 26 July 1988, **the** conference will be preceded by one day of pre-conference **conaultationa** at the Vienna International Centre, on 23 November 1988,

18. **The** Secretary-General has designated the Director-General of **thr** United Nations Office at Vienna and Co-ordinator of all **United Nations Drug Control-related** Activities as his **repreaentative** **for the** plenipotentiary **conference** and the Director of the Division of Narcotic **Drugs** an executive **secretary of** the conference.

Notes

1/ E/CONF.82/3.

2/ E/CONF.82/1.

3/ E/CONF.82/2.

4/ E/CONF.82/4.