

UNITED NATIONS
General Assembly
FORTY-FOURTH SESSION
Official Records

THIRD COMMITTEE
30th meeting
held on
Thursday, 2 November 1989
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 30th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KABORE (Burkina Faso)

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.3/44/SR.30
13 November 1989

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

89-56846 1872S (E)

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10P.

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 111: INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFIC IN DRUGS (continued)
(A/44/119, A/44/235-S/20600, A/44/321, A/44/380, A/44/409-S/20743 and Corr.1 and 2,
A/44/415-S/20749, A/44/477, A/44/551, A/44/572, A/44/578, A/44/598, A/44/601,
A/44/607 and A/C.3/44/6)

1. Mr. LEVITSKY (United States of America) said that the United States had serious drug use and drug trafficking problems and was committed to solving them by strengthening its law enforcement and prevention efforts. It also had a responsibility to help other countries fighting against drug production and trafficking; to that end, more than \$US 2 billion over the next five years had been pledged to help the Andean Governments confront their massive cocaine problem.

2. The National Drug Control Strategy launched in September 1989 called for strong and co-ordinated international co-operation and, in that connection, the United Nations system could provide essential assistance. The international community was at a critical period in its effort to eliminate the narcotics threat. The global commitment to that effort was stronger than ever before; what was needed was to use the tools at hand in an effective manner. The international community needed to make more effective use of the drug agencies of the United Nations system and the existing drug control treaties. In that spirit, the United States supported the proposal to amend article 12 of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances to include an import-export authorization system for substances contained in schedules III and IV of that instrument. Furthermore, his Government had designated as a priority the ratification of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

3. The United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) had substantial financial resources available to assist countries in their attempts to reduce drug production and trafficking. He welcomed that body's initiation of a judicial assistance project to establish protection mechanisms for officials adjudicating drug cases. The Division of Narcotic Drugs and the International Narcotics Control Board required more financial support so that they could make their expertise available to Member States. Indeed, many other United Nations bodies with drug control mandates were under-utilized.

4. In order for the United Nations to wage an effective battle against drugs, Member States needed to define short- and long-term goals and to consider ways in which existing drug control bodies could be strengthened. The Administrative Committee on Co-ordination had recently expressed a willingness to undertake a programme of action for co-ordinating efforts on narcotics control throughout the United Nations system. The proposed programme, which should to be based on realistic cost estimates, could complement efforts already under way for system-wide co-ordination. The United States had therefore put forward a resolution requesting the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to develop it.

(Mr. Levitsky, United States)

5. The United Nations drug agencies were plagued by the recurring problem of inadequate resources. His delegation, together with several others, had made repeated attempts to have the Secretariat provide more financial and personnel resources to the Division of Narcotic Drugs and the International Narcotics Control Board. Those efforts had unfortunately met with relatively little success because not enough countries were asking for a more intense focus on drug control.

6. The proposed special session of the General Assembly on narcotics should give further impetus to international co-operation on drug issues. The special session should consider inter alia: early ratification of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances; identification of how that treaty could be used to facilitate co-operation in the areas of asset forfeiture, law enforcement, exchange of information and elimination of money laundering; adoption of drug control as a high priority within the United Nations system; and economic assistance to drug production and trafficking countries aimed at strengthening their own systems for coping with those problems.

7. The traditional reluctance of the United Nations to use funds for law enforcement activities, including judicial assistance, was counterproductive. It was essential to develop and strengthen judicial and legal institutions in drug producing countries to enable them to deal on their own with drug producers and traffickers. Without that capability, development assistance would be meaningless. In that connection, he wished to express his disagreement with recent remarks made by the Administrator of UNDP in which he had expressed concern about UNFDAC's role in strengthening judicial and legal systems and had indicated that UNDP might review its collaboration with UNFDAC. That lack of understanding and support for what was required in the fight against drugs must be overcome.

8. Mrs. SYLLA-LINGAYA (Madagascar) said that the effectiveness of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances would depend on the legislative, administrative and financial measures taken by States to ensure its implementation. Each State had the responsibility to draw up policies and programmes to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

9. The effectiveness of national efforts depended largely on support for the United Nations and its subsidiary bodies such as the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Division of Narcotic Drugs, the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC). The role of the Organization must be strengthened by ensuring better co-ordination of drug control activities and providing adequate financial and other resources. Specifically, the international community must solve the problem of financing the international campaign against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. In a world where enormous resources were invested in the manufacture and purchase of weapons of destruction, it was time to reorder priorities and undertake joint action to fight that common enemy.

(Mrs. Sylla-Lingaya, Madagascar)

10. Notwithstanding national efforts and those of the United Nations system, attempts to reduce the supply of drugs had not been very successful; a widening of the scope of anti-drug activities was indicated. In that regard, she stressed the need to provide effective alternative crop development programmes as an economic base for drug-producing countries, with particular attention to primary commodity prices and access to the markets of countries seeking to eliminate drug dependency.
11. A greater effort must be made to reduce illicit demand for drugs. Each State must do more to prevent drug abuse and drug addiction, and to treat and rehabilitate drug addicts. International and regional co-operation should also enhance the effectiveness of prevention and treatment. Her delegation supported the efforts by the United Nations, particularly the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and UNFDAC, to heighten the focus activities for reducing the demand for illicit drugs.
12. Mr. LUNA (Peru) said that the convening of a special session of the General Assembly to consider the question of international co-operation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs was of vital importance to his country because it would determine whether Peru could continue to fight drug trafficking with any possibility of success. That battle had long been a priority of his Government. Drug trafficking as a political and social phenomenon had acquired very dangerous characteristics and recent events had showed that it affected all societies without exception.
13. The illicit production of the coca leaf in Peru had never been a matter of free choice by Peruvian farmers. The boom in the illicit production had resulted from the interplay of external economic stimuli and Peru's geography and climate. Those last two factors accounted for the fact that the species of coca leaf richest in cocaine grew in Peru.
14. Owing to the increased demand for cocaine and reduced prices for traditional agricultural products, coca leaf was replacing food crops in areas where it could be cultivated. Farmers in the Alce Huallaga region of Peru could earn a net profit of \$100 per metric ton of corn, bananas or rice or \$5,300 for the same amount of coca leaf. It was easy to understand why 65 per cent of the coca leaf used for the global production of cocaine was harvested in Peru.
15. It was a mistake, however, to think that the production of coca leaf enriched farmers and revitalized the Peruvian economy. Although the leaf was grown in Peru, cocaine was not refined in that country. The largest added value of drug trafficking lay in refining and marketing basic cocaine paste. Those processes as well as street sales of cocaine took place outside Peru. The amount of money that remained in Peru was insignificant compared to the millions of dollars lost because the resources needed for the production of other agricultural exports were being absorbed by the drug traffic.

(Mr. Luna, Peru)

16. Peru was simultaneously experiencing a serious economic crisis and was being besieged by drug traffickers. Drug trafficking had disrupted the peaceful life of rural communities and had violently altered patterns of living. Farmers had been forced to harvest coca leaf in order to survive. Drug trafficking and the resultant violence and corruption affected all levels of Peruvian society and placed the lives of its judicial law enforcement and army personnel in jeopardy. Drug traffickers had devastated large forest areas to clear the land for the growing of coca leaf and their refinement methods had caused extensive environmental pollution.

17. In 1988, Peru had received less than \$20 million in international co-operation resources to fight drug trafficking, while at the same time allocating \$300 million from its national budget for that purpose. Peru could not continue the brutal war against drug traffickers indefinitely; it needed the co-operation of all States affected by the drug menace. His Government had been fighting almost unarmed against armies of drug traffickers that had enormous resources and were capable of disrupting democratically elected Governments.

18. The convening of a special session of the General Assembly reflected the urgent need for the adoption of specific emergency measures to ensure real co-operation in efforts to combat illicit drug trafficking. As a first step, it was necessary to determine the real level of current international co-operation and the status of projects being implemented. A programme and an emergency fund should then be set up in order to launch a global effort aimed at extensive crop-substitution programmes in the areas concerned. Those programmes should be reinforced through an international agreement that gave preferential treatment to farmers enabling them to obtain competitive and profitable prices for substitute agricultural products.

19. The adoption of an international agreement for the control and monitoring of the chemical products used in the production of narcotic drugs was also necessary. It was the responsibility of the countries producing those chemicals to take immediate steps in that regard. Such international instruments and strong international legislation to prevent the laundering of illicit drug profits would complement the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

20. He stressed the need to study new ways of tackling the problem, such as the purchase of the entire coca leaf crop as a way of encouraging crop-substitution programmes. Such measures should take into account the need for strict respect for national sovereignty.

21. The United Nations played a vital role in that process and the efforts made by the Division of Narcotic Drugs were commendable. Peru called upon all delegations to support the allocation of the necessary financial resources to enable the Division to continue to carry out its important duties.

(Mr. Luna, Peru)

22. Under its global plan of action to combat trafficking, Peru was taking steps to halt coca-leaf production, prevent drug abuse, rehabilitate drug addicts, and carry out effective drug-trafficking control measures. At the regional level, the Presidents of Bolivia, Colombia and Peru had met in October in order to co-ordinate joint action against drug trafficking and had agreed to convene a summit conference with the President of the United States to develop a common strategy in that field.

23. Mr. GALAL (Egypt) said that the international scourge of illicit narcotic drugs had dire political, social and human consequences. As Egypt was both a consumer of narcotic drugs and a transit area, Egypt's anti-narcotics law had been amended to reflect local and international developments, and more stringent punishments, including the death penalty, had been instituted for drug-related crimes. In the area of law enforcement, the Ministry of the Interior monitored sea and land borders for illicit drug trafficking. With respect to treatment, government out-patient clinics, in-patient hospitals and rehabilitation centres had been established and were funded from fines and confiscated assets. In addition, the National Council to Combat Drug Addiction served as a focal point for efforts to grapple with addiction problems.

24. Illicit drug trafficking was an international business, and regional and international co-operation was indispensable in fighting it. At the regional level, Egypt had participated in the work of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East and was, at that very moment, hosting a regional symposium on narcotic drugs at Cairo University. At the international level, it maintained close ties with the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC). It was also a regular participant in the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and one of its experts was a member of the International Narcotics Control Board. Moreover, Egypt had attended the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and had participated in the preparation of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. As one of its first signatories, it was currently in the process of ratifying the Convention.

25. With respect to the special session on narcotic drugs under consideration by the General Assembly, his delegation stressed the tremendous importance of guaranteeing the success of that session by careful and detailed preparatory activities. It wished to make three suggestions in that regard. First, States and regions should engage in broad consultations in order to be able to contribute effectively in their particular areas of expertise. Second, owing to their practical expertise, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the International Narcotics Control Board and UNFDAC should also make significant contributions. Third, for the session to succeed, it should be attended by high-level participants, including both political decision-makers and experts in addiction and drug control. In the interests of proper preparation, Egypt also appealed to the General Assembly to take practical considerations into account in setting the dates for the session. Finally, with respect to the preparation of draft resolutions, it enjoined the members of the Committee to show team spirit and to remember that what was really important was the effectiveness, not the number, of the resolutions.

26. Mr. MEHNAT (Afghanistan) said that the illicit production and demand for narcotic drugs and the pernicious effects of drug abuse constituted a threat to human dignity and the legitimate aspirations of peoples for a decent life. Drug trafficking was a crime against humanity and a violation of fundamental human rights.

27. The recent tragic events in a number of Latin American countries and the devastating situation in his own region served as a warning that drug trafficking and drug abuse was a global danger and called for co-operation at national, regional and international levels. His delegation had therefore joined in co-sponsoring the resolution now before the General Assembly, calling for a special session of the General Assembly on narcotic drugs. In that same spirit, his Government reaffirmed its solidarity with the peoples and Governments of Colombia, Peru and other nations in their legitimate fight against illicit drug production and trafficking.

28. The political will of Governments to co-operate at the regional and international levels was needed to make the battle against drugs effective. States and international organizations must address all aspects of the drug problem by adopting measures, within the context of overall Government policies, which took into consideration the relevant social, economic and cultural factors. There was a growing connection in many parts of the world between drug trafficking and other forms of international and regional organized crime and his own region was no exception.

29. It was vital to create widespread public awareness of the destructive effects of drug abuse, to enhance the role of the mass media and to disseminate information on all aspects of the drug problem. In that connection, he supported the idea of strengthening national and international mechanisms for exchanging information.

30. The sources of raw materials for drug production could only be eradicated by a comprehensive programme of integrated rural development, the promotion of alternative ways of earning a living, re-education of law enforcement officials and crop substitution. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the International Narcotics Control Board, and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) could provide assistance in those efforts. His delegation greatly appreciated the timely support provided by UNFDAC, in particular its three-year project aimed at reducing opium and heroine abuse in the Kabul area through epidemiological surveys and the treatment of addicts. He wished to reiterate his Government's view that political pressures aimed at limiting the financial assistance provided by the drug agencies to countries battling drug problems was counterproductive to the goal of eradicating drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

31. The Afghan Government had established the National Commission to Combat Drug Trafficking and Abuse in 1982 to monitor, control and direct the nation-wide campaign against drug trafficking and abuse. The Commission had further expanded its operations and was now receiving assistance from voluntary brigades.

(Mr. Mehnat, Afghanistan)

32. Lastly, Afghanistan's Criminal Code, in particular the law on the prevention of opium cultivation and the anti-smuggling law, provided severe penalties for drug producers, traffickers and dealers.

AGENDA ITEM 90: WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.13

33. Mrs. NIKOLIC (Yugoslavia), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.13, said that the draft resolution was procedural in nature and was based on previous resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights. She briefly summarized the contents of the resolution and expressed the hope of the sponsors that it would be adopted by consensus.

34. The CHAIRMAN announced that Costa Rica wished to join in sponsoring draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.13.

Draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.14

35. Ms. SAELZLER (German Democratic Republic), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.14, said that the document reflected the discussions in the Commission for Social Development and contained, by and large, the wording adopted by consensus in the Commission and later endorsed by the Economic and Social Council. Operative paragraph 4 was a new paragraph, introduced to ensure that the social consequences of scientific and technological development were assessed in terms of their humanistic, moral and social content. The sponsors of the draft hoped that the General Assembly would follow the lead of the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council and would adopt the resolution by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.16

36. Mr. POLISHTCHOUK (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.16, said that, on the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, the draft resolution was intended to set forth the ideas contained in that Declaration and other relevant documents. After briefly reviewing the contents of the draft resolution, he expressed the hope of the sponsors that it would be adopted by consensus as in the previous years.

Draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.24

37. Mr. RASHAM (Malaysia), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.24 on behalf of the Group of 77, said that the draft resolution emphasized the importance of the report on the world social situation, especially in light of the worsening economic situation of the developing countries. He briefly reviewed the contents of the draft, which was based on earlier resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. On the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration of Social Progress and Development, it was important to reaffirm and renew efforts to

(Mr. Rasham, Malaysia)

achieve its objectives, and the Group of 77 hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM 92: NATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN ACHIEVING FAR-REACHING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGES FOR THE PURPOSE OF SOCIAL PROGRESS (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.23

38. Mr. ERDENECHULUUN (Mongolia), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.23, said that the sponsors of the draft resolution had been joined by Myanmar, Nicaragua and Viet Nam. The draft resolution had been prepared in response to recent new trends in co-operative development and to the increasing importance of co-operatives in the economic and social development of countries. After briefly outlining the contents of the draft, he expressed the hope of the sponsors that it would enjoy wide support in the Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 93: POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES INVOLVING YOUTH (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.17

39. Mr. PULZ (Czechoslovakia), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.17, said that the authors of the draft had co-operated closely in preparing the text and therefore wished to remain the sole sponsors. They had followed the usual practice of submitting as single omnibus resolution on policies and programmes involving youth.

40. In operative paragraph 17, the words "the report of the Secretary-General" should be replaced by "a report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the present resolution".

41. After briefly reviewing the contents, he expressed the hope that draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.17, as amended, would be adopted without a vote.

AGENDA ITEM 97: INTERREGIONAL CONSULTATION ON DEVELOPMENTAL SOCIAL WELFARE POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.21

42. Ms. ARGUILLAS (Philippines), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.21, drew attention to the preamble and to operative paragraphs 5 and 6 and said that she hoped that the resolution would be adopted by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM 99: QUESTION OF AGING (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.15/Rev.1

43. Mrs. TAVARES de ALVAREZ (Dominican Republic), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.15/Rev.1, said that the modifications in the revised version were designed to meet the concerns expressed by some delegations. She hoped it would be adopted by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM 102: CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.19

44. Mr. MALGINOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.19, drew attention to the preamble and said that operative paragraph 1 had been amended and that the words "through the Economic and Social Council" should be inserted after the word "Control". He hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.22

45. Mr. COTTAFVI (Italy) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.22 and said that he hoped it would be adopted without a vote.

AGENDA ITEM 113: FAMILIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.18

46. Mr. ZAWACKI (Poland), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.18, drew attention to operative paragraphs 2, 3, 5 and 7 and said he hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM 101: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD PROGRAMME OF ACTION CONCERNING DISABLED PERSONS AND THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF DISABLED PERSONS (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.20

47. Ms. ARGUILLAS (Philippines), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.20, said that paragraph 13 had been reworded to read "... the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, especially organizations of disabled persons, to assist in a global information and fund-raising campaign, to publicize the decade ..." She drew attention to operative paragraphs 8 and 18 and said she hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.