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### REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

#### International co-operation in drug abuse control

##### Report of the Secretary-General

1. In General Assembly resolution 38/93 of 16 December 1983, entitled "Measures to improve co-ordination and co-operation in the international struggle against illegal production of drugs, illicit drug traffic and drug abuse", the Secretary-General was requested, in paragraph 8, to report to the General Assembly at its fortieth session, through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Economic and Social Council, on the drug control activities carried out by the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes concerned, pursuant to that resolution.

2. It may be recalled that, under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 34/177 of 17 December 1979 on international co-operation in drug abuse control, a new reporting system was instituted concerning programmes relating to international drug control undertaken by United Nations bodies and specialized agencies. In paragraph 8 of that resolution, the General Assembly requested the United Nations and the specialized agencies with programmes having an impact on narcotics, as a means of expediting a concerted international effort substantially to reduce illicit drug activities, to report annually to the General Assembly on their activities and proposed projects in this field. In paragraph 12, the Secretary-General was requested "to report annually to the General Assembly on the progress being made in the implementation of the present resolution and Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 8 (XXVIII)" and to transmit resolution 34/177 to Governments and concerned international agencies. In pursuance of this request, the Secretary-General has prepared annual reports to the General Assembly describing the drug abuse control activities carried out within the United Nations system. 1/

3. At its thirty-first session in February 1985, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/39/193) as well as a paper updating the information contained in the report.

4. Concerning the request in paragraph 8 of resolution 38/93, the attention of the General Assembly is drawn to the fact that, in view of the timing of the 1985 sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and of the Economic and Social Council, the report on 1985 activities could not be submitted through the Commission or through the Council. Consequently, information on activities undertaken during 1985 which is included in the Secretary-General's report entitled "International co-operation in drug abuse control" (A/40/771) is being submitted direct to the General Assembly.

5. In paragraph 7 of resolution 38/93, the General Assembly urged the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to identify special drug control activities in their respective fields and to accord higher priority to drug control activities in their programme budgets. Details on activities undertaken in response to that request are also included in the overall report referred to in paragraph 4 above.

6. In paragraph 10 of resolution 38/93, the Secretary-General was asked to report to the General Assembly at its fortieth session on measures to improve co-operation and co-ordination of drug control activities within the United Nations system, in the light of the intergovernmental review of drug control to be undertaken by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its twenty-fifth session. The in-depth review (E/AC.51/1985/8 and Corr.1 and Add.1) which covered the period from 1978 to 1983, was designed to assess and improve the relevance, effectiveness and impact of activities in the light of their objectives. The Committee for Programme and Co-ordination considered that the alarming global dimension of the drug abuse problem and the need for optimal utilization of the limited resources available to curb the problem required effective co-ordination of all the efforts being made, not only in the organizations of the United Nations system but also among Member States and at the regional and national levels. The Committee also considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Drug abuse control activities in the United Nations system" (A/39/646) as well as comments thereon by the Secretary-General and by the Executive Heads of organizations concerned within the United Nations system (A/40/260, annexes I and II, respectively). 2/

7. Action taken by the Secretary-General in 1984-1985 to improve the co-ordination of drug control activities within the United Nations system so as to avoid duplication of efforts is outlined in an addendum to the in-depth evaluation of the drug control programme (E/AC.51/1985/8 and Corr.1 and Add.1). In particular, under the provisions of ST/SGB/203 of 24 May 1984, entitled "Co-ordination of United Nations drug control programmes", the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs has been entrusted with the overall co-ordination of all United Nations activities related to drug control including those of the Division of Narcotic Drugs, the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control and the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board.

8. On the initiative of the Secretary-General, the question of increasing the system-wide effort in the area of drug abuse control was included in the agenda of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for its second regular session in October 1985.

9. In pursuance of the recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, adopted at its twenty-fifth session, that the Secretary-General should implement recommendations 1 and 3 of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (A/39/646), the Secretary-General (a) is drawing the attention of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to the need to consider drug abuse control at a high and responsible level in the inter-secretariat machinery and intends to propose to the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination at regular intervals positive concerted measures that could be taken on drug abuse control; and (b) will ensure that inter-agency co-ordination meetings are continued and held in different organizations from time to time with emphasis on constructive discussions concerning what can be done on a concerted basis and how each organization can help the others in this field.

10. As indicated in the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination <sup>3/</sup> and pursuant to recommendation 2 of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit with reference to requests contained in General Assembly resolutions 34/177 and 38/93, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination recommended that the General Assembly should again request the specialized agencies that had not already done so to develop specific drug control programmes and activities to be undertaken by member Governments. The Assembly may accordingly wish to consider taking action along these lines at the fortieth session.

11. Additional impetus and opportunities for co-ordination of drug abuse control activities within the United Nations system may be provided by the proposed ministerial-level world conference on drug abuse. In proposing the convening of such a conference, the Secretary-General in his speech to the Economic and Social Council on 24 May 1985 stated that:

"The conference should serve to raise the level of world awareness of the dangers we face, mobilize the full potential of the United Nations system, reinforce other intergovernmental, non-governmental and regional initiatives, and encourage Governments to concert their efforts and to devote greater resources to combat drug abuse and trafficking."

#### Notes

<sup>1/</sup> For 1980, see A/35/614; for 1981, see A/C.3/36/7; for 1982, see A/37/556; for 1983, see A/38/522; for 1984, see A/39/193.

<sup>2/</sup> For the action and recommendations of the Committee on Programme and Co-ordination at its twenty-fifth session, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/40/38), paras. 339-346, 471-485, 671-672 and 735-742.

<sup>3/</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/40/38).