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at 3 p.m.  
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 33rd MEETING

**Chairman:** Ms. ZINDOGA (Zimbabwe)  
(Vice-Chairman)  
**later:** Ms. COOMBS (New Zealand)  
(Vice-Chairman)

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(continued)

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In the absence of the Chairman, Ms. Zindoga (Zimbabwe),  
Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

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

AGENDA ITEM 108: INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO COMBAT DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING  
(continued) (A/45/3, chap. V, sect. D, A/45/301, A/45/303, A/45/329, A/45/495,  
A/45/535, A/45/536, A/45/542, A/45/652 and Add.1; E/1990/39/Add.1; A/C.3/45/41)

1. Mr. KALITA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that international co-operation in drug abuse control had greatly increased in recent years, and mentioned the following landmarks: the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, held in 1987, at which the Declaration and Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control had been adopted; the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, adopted in 1988; and the holding, in February 1990, of the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly, at which the Political Declaration and the Global Programme of Action on international co-operation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances had been adopted. The international community must now ensure that the provisions contained in those instruments were implemented. The International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control must play a more important role in that regard.

2. His delegation welcomed the work of the Group of Experts appointed by the Secretary-General to assist him in enhancing the efficiency of the United Nations structure for drug abuse control. The Secretary-General had based the recommendations contained in document A/45/652 on the Group's work. The proposal for a unified United Nations drug control structure merited attention, without prejudice to the autonomy of the International Narcotics Control Board or to the voluntary nature of contributions to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. Similarly, his delegation welcomed the recommendation that the head of the new unit should discharge that function alone and not as part of work in other bodies. His delegation also agreed that the head of the new unit should report directly to the Secretary-General and that the unit should have its headquarters at Vienna, so as to make use of the infrastructure already existing there and avoid unnecessary expenditure.

3. One of the most important measures which could be adopted related to strengthening the legal foundation for the campaign against the monster of drugs. The Ukrainian SSR, which had acceded to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, was discharging the obligations incumbent upon it under those important international instruments. His delegation also attached great weight to the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, which must become an effective instrument in the fight against drug trafficking. His Government had recently participated in the drafting of the Convention, had signed it and was currently concluding the process of ratification. Moreover, the Ukrainian SSR was

(Mr. Kalita, Ukrainian SSR)

incorporating in its national legislation the requisite measures for the implementation of the Convention within its territory, in addition to establishing the administrative structures needed for that purpose.

4. His delegation looked forward with interest to the convening, in 1990, of the regional meeting for Europe of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, which could be a major factor in reducing illicit drug trafficking.

5. It was obvious that the effectiveness of international measures to combat drug abuse was closely linked to that of national measures. The Ukrainian SSR had begun an anti-drug campaign throughout the country, and had helped more than 27,000 drug addicts. In the summer of 1990 it had begun a country-wide programme to combat drug abuse. At the same time, in order to complement the work of the agencies already operating in that sphere it had established an interregional drug abuse control unit. Control of the production, transport and storage of and traffic in drugs had significantly improved. Strict penalties were imposed, including heavy fines and prison terms of up to 15 years.

6. In the light of international experience, it was obvious that the Ukrainian SSR could not resolve the problem by means of sanctions alone. It was also necessary to apply preventive measures to eliminate the conditions which led to drug consumption and to promote the rehabilitation of drug addicts.

7. The United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse, to begin in 1991, would need a good start in order to be a success. In that connection his delegation supported the establishment of a new unified structure entrusted with drug control programmes. In addition, support should be given to implementation of the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session, which stipulated the measures to be adopted during the Decade. His delegation had requested the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to formulate a programme for the Decade and to devote particular attention to international measures to guarantee attainment of the objectives of the Decade. Further, particular attention must be paid to assessing the implementation of measures under the Decade and to the bilateral and multilateral exchange of information. In that connection his Government offered to host a seminar on the problems of controlling drug abuse, with participation by the United Nations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. His Government, which attached great importance to national measures, hoped that, in connection with the Decade, it would soon prove possible to establish national committees in order to mobilize public opinion in Member States.

8. Mr. AWOONOR (Ghana) said that national, regional and international efforts to combat the menace of drugs and their devastating effects on socio-economic and cultural development had not so far yielded the desired results. Given the multifaceted nature of the problem, it could be eliminated only through a comprehensive, long-term programme for which the international community as a whole assumed responsibility. His delegation thus welcomed the general consensus in that regard that had emerged over the years.

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(Mr. Awoonor, Ghana)

9. The important accomplishments of the United Nations in drug control - for example, the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, amended by the 1972 Protocol, and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances - were commendable. The lack of appreciable success in the war against drugs had led to the need for further programmes to strengthen international co-operation. In that connection he mentioned the adoption by 138 States, at the 1987 International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, of the Declaration and Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline, which were still valid today.

10. Ghana welcomed the entry into force on 11 November 1990 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, adopted at Vienna in December 1988. The provisions of the Convention represented a far-reaching effort by the international community to attack the root of the drug problem. Ghana, which had ratified the Convention, urged all States that had not yet done so to ratify it as soon as possible. His country had enacted several laws to implement the Convention. In May 1990, it had promulgated the narcotic drug law, designed to reduce the incidence of drug offences and provide deterrent punishment for drug-related crimes. The law provided for the seizure and forfeiture of equipment used to commit such offences and the confiscation of income and property acquired through illicit drug trafficking. The law also provided for international co-operation and mutual assistance to States parties to the Convention.

11. Ghana attached great importance to the Political Declaration and Global Programme of Action adopted at the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly.

12. His delegation commended the Group of Experts appointed by the Secretary-General to enhance the efficiency of the United Nations structure for drug abuse control and welcomed the Group's recommendation that the three existing drug-related bodies operating in Vienna should be unified into a single executive structure under one head. Its work would greatly improve the performance of the United Nations in the field of drug control and eliminate some of the problems relating to duplication of duties by the three existing bodies. He hoped that the new structure would be provided with the necessary funds to carry out its mandate.

13. Suppressing the demand for drugs was essential to the success of any international effort aimed at eradicating illicit drugs. The major drug consumer countries should tackle the problem vigorously within their own borders; otherwise the efforts to combat drugs by transit countries and even producer countries would not be successful. It was not enough to give moral lessons to producer countries when there did not seem to be any comprehensive programme to eliminate drug consumption in the industrialized countries. It was time for the consumer countries to set aside rhetoric and carry out a serious and radical programme of action since the producer countries were poor, needed resources for development and could not afford the costly expenditures which national drug control programmes entailed.

(Mr. Awoonor, Ghana)

14. Since the major consumer countries were also the main sources of chemical precursors used in the manufacture of illicit drugs, programmes aimed at suppressing demand should include the establishment of an effective monitoring mechanism that could prevent the export of chemical products for use by drug producers. The producers of precursor chemicals could, with a little more effort, ensure that their exports were not used for the illicit production of drugs. Ghana welcomed the initiative taken by the International Narcotics Control Board to set up a unit to monitor implementation of article 12 of the 1988 Convention concerning the control of substances frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

15. A realistic international programme to suppress supply sources should combine anti-drug efforts with a fair global economic system aimed at providing an equitable world market for the legitimate products of the developing countries. It was necessary to consider the fate of hundreds of thousands of rural farmers who depended on the crops for their livelihood instead of simply proclaiming the destruction of coca or marijuana fields as the objective, without any effort to replace those crops with a new production system. The efforts to establish viable crop-substitution programmes should be complemented not only by creating the necessary markets for the crops to be produced, but also by guaranteeing fair prices for them.

16. West African ports were increasingly being used for the transit of drugs. In addition to seizing drugs arriving in its ports, Ghana was making every effort to improve its methods of detecting drug traffickers sought in other regions. Nevertheless, it was necessary to establish a comprehensive regional and international drug control mechanism that would ensure that gains in one region did not negatively affect other regions. Strict implementation the principles of the 1988 Convention would be useful in that regard.

17. Traffickers who were successfully detected in some regions had chosen other developing regions because there was a lack of sophisticated equipment for effective detection and control of their activities in those regions. Such countries would welcome regional and bilateral co-operation. The fragile economies of the countries through which illicit drugs passed needed the appropriate equipment for detecting traffickers who used their ports. It was also necessary to train customs and law enforcement officials and provide appropriate laboratory facilities. Ghana welcomed the efforts of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control in those areas.

18. Mr. MONTALVO (Ecuador) underscored his country's complete and absolute faith in the fundamental principles of international co-operation and solidarity, which were the only possible response by the world community to the unusual increase in all forms of drug trafficking and the international spread of that evil, which was unprecedented in history. No society in the world was sheltered from the drug problem. Nevertheless, although that problem had grown in Ecuador in recent years, drug trafficking had always been marginal in that country. In Ecuador, marijuana was not produced, cocaine was not refined and barely 1 per cent of the total amount

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(Mr. Montalvo, Ecuador)

of coca from the Andean region was produced there. Ecuador's peasant farmers were not accustomed to the consumption of coca and its economy did not depend on the cultivation of that plant.

19. The impact of money from the drug trade was not significant in Ecuador, where cases of corruption in the bodies that combated drug trafficking and administered justice had occurred only as exceptions and where the violence caused by large drug trafficking mafias did not exist.

20. For that reason, observers from all nations considered Ecuador an island of peace in a region beset with violence. Nevertheless, since that community was based on more than geography, Ecuador supported the other Andean countries in their efforts to combat drug trafficking. Because of that feeling of unconditional solidarity, Ecuador was participating in the "Initiative of the Americas for the Andean Countries".

21. His country knew that the only possibility was a concerted response based on joint efforts and policies. Accordingly, it had co-operated very closely with neighbouring countries, using regional legal mechanisms, exchanging information and participating in the reciprocal monitoring of the movement of property, capital and persons. Ecuador had defended the principle of "shared responsibility", which, on the basis of a comprehensive approach, took into account the social, economic and cultural causes of the drug problem. Ecuador had also strongly stressed the need for absolute respect for the sovereignty and integrity of States in combatting drug trafficking.

22. Drug trafficking was a clear violation of human rights and an offence against peace, democratic life and relations between peoples. For that reason, Ecuador had ratified the 1988 Convention on 23 March 1990 and in June 1990 had hosted an inter-American meeting on "Education to Combat Drug Abuse".

23. Pursuant to the relevant General Assembly resolutions and in particular to the Political Declaration and Global Programme of Action, Ecuador had established a national council for the control of narcotic substances and a number of "integrated service controls". It had also promulgated a national plan for the integral prevention of drug production, traffic and consumption and a law on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, which was a real innovation in Ecuadorian legislation and introduced original juridical devices for the persecution, prevention, categorization and penalization of crimes related to drug trafficking.

24. Co-operation and shared responsibility was also required at international level to cope with the drug problem, which, because of its structural ramifications, required that special attention should be paid to socio-economic injustice. In the case of the Andean region, it was essential to tackle the problem through a viable system of crop substitution, the application of guarantees to the marketing of commodities, investment substitution and attempts to solve the external debt problem.

(Mr. Montalvo, Ecuador)

25. In conclusion of his statement, the representative referred to the reports contained in documents A/45/535 and A/45/652 and Add.1, expressing, in particular, support for two of the suggestions contained in the latter document - one calling for the integration of all United Nations activities related to drug-abuse control under the direction of a high-level official, together with the appointment of an advisory group, and the second referring to the urgent need for all United Nations functions to be carried out more effectively and realistically.

26. Mr. ARCILLA (Philippines) said the magnitude of drug abuse and illicit trafficking was such that the problem must be dealt with at all times and at all levels since no one country or international organization could cope with it satisfactorily on its own in view of the transnational groupings and consortia which were engaged in illicit drug trafficking.

27. In spite of the meagre resources of the Philippines, its Government was fighting the scourge of drugs on the basis of a multi-pronged strategy encompassing law enforcement; preventive education, training and information and the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts and had recently adopted a programme of action for the prevention and control of drug abuse. It had also conducted nation-wide operations leading to the arrest of traffickers and the eradication of marijuana crops, primarily in rural areas, where drug traffickers took advantage of the poverty of the populace. At the international level, joint operations were being conducted, and intelligence information was being exchanged with drug authorities in other countries, and specifically with other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Australia and the United States of America.

28. The relative ease with which drugs were smuggled across the country's coastlines, due to its geographical location, accounted for its Government's involvement in co-operative activities on a bilateral and multilateral basis. It was for that reason that the Philippine delegation welcomed the entry into force of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, to which it was a signatory. The Philippines intended to ratify the Convention and had incorporated its provisions concerning sanctions for offences related to drug trafficking into its national legislation. With regard to the role of the United Nations as the focal point of international efforts to eradicate drug abuse and illicit trafficking, he mentioned the Political Declaration enunciated during the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking held at Vienna in 1987, the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly and the World Ministerial Summit to Reduce the Demand for Drugs and to Combat the Cocaine Threat, held in London in April 1990. However, one critical area in which efforts by the United Nations were not so visible was that of co-ordination in enhancing the efficiency of the United Nations structure for drug abuse control. Significant progress had been achieved as a result of the transfer of functions to a single unit, and the Philippines noted with keen interest the modified format of the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/45/542, which was structured around the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control and the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control.

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(Mr. Arcilla, Philippines)

29. The report of the Group of Experts contained in document A/45/652/Add.1, was also commendable, and the Philippines agreed in principle with its recommendation; however, in view of the managerial and financial implications of the restructuring exercise, the Philippine delegation was prepared to exchange views with other delegations on the best way of implementing the new unified structure. It noted some divergence between the report of the experts and that of the Secretary-General (A/45/652) but expected that it would be quickly resolved in the light of the universal support of the comprehensive approach and co-ordinated structure. His delegation also noted with interest the preliminary report contained in document A/45/535 on the economic and social consequences of illicit traffic in drugs, which regrettably did not comprise an in-depth study owing to the limited time and empirical data available. There was need for such a study to deal with the quantification of economic transactions, such as money laundering, confiscation and the activities of organized crime, and their impact on national economies.

30. Mr. WISNUMURTI (Indonesia) noted that the international community had reached a consensus in favour of the adoption of balanced co-operative measures at all levels to address the problem of the supply of and demand for illicit drugs and that that consensus had become clear at the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking held at Vienna in 1987. One of the results of that conference had been the adoption of the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, which provided an overall framework for action and was later re-enforced by other instruments, including the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. The delegation of Indonesia noted that in his report contained in document A/45/495, the Secretary-General reported the entry into force of that convention, it having been ratified by the requisite number of States. Indonesia had signed the Convention, had established a national committee with a view to its ratification and had begun to apply it provisionally within the parameters of its national legal principles.

31. Another important event which had occurred in 1990 in connection with the drive against illicit trafficking in narcotics and drug abuse was the convening of the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly, at which an important declaration had been adopted, recognition had been given to the linkage between illicit drugs and socio-economic and cultural conditions and a global programme of action had also been adopted. His delegation welcomed the measures taken to implement the plan derived from that programme, which was described in document A/45/536. The World Ministerial Summit to Reduce the Demand for Drugs and to Combat the Cocaine Threat, held in London in April 1990, also constituted an important contribution to future action and global strategy in that connection.

32. After reviewing the steps which had led up to the establishment of the Group of Experts selected to advise and assist the Secretary-General in order to enhance the efficiency of the United Nations structure for drug abuse control, he said that the report of the Group (A/45/652/Add.1) presented clear choices concerning the structure required to fulfil the mandates of the various United Nations bodies concerned. He also noted the changes being made by the Secretary-General on the

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(Mr. Wisnumurti, Indonesia)

basis of the conclusions reached by the Group of Experts, some of which would become effective at the beginning of the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse proclaimed at the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly. His delegation also acknowledged the efforts made by the Co-ordinator of all United Nations activities related to drug control, who had achieved considerable progress since that post had been transferred to the United Nations Office at Vienna, and recognized the contribution made by the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control in avoiding duplication and rationalizing the use of the resources of the United Nations. It looked forward to the annual update of that action plan.

33. Mr. RICHEV (Bulgaria) said that during the past year the international community had overcome political, ideological and other obstacles and made remarkable progress in the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. The Political Declaration and Global Programme of Action adopted at the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly, with its balanced methodology and its combination of economic, social, legal and prevention proposals, constituted an ideal basis for all Member States to adopt measures for the eradication of the drug scourge. Also noteworthy were the results of the World Ministerial Summit to Reduce the Demand for Drugs and to Combat the Cocaine Threat, held at the initiative of the United Kingdom.

34. His delegation attached particular importance to the early entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and the compliance of national legislation with its norms. That first phase of the establishment of a legal framework for international co-operation world wide would be followed by a series of co-operation agreements at the regional and bilateral levels. The delegation of Bulgaria supported the recommendation in the report of the Group of Experts to advise and assist the Secretary-General on the enhancement of the efficiency of the United Nations structure for drug abuse control that a United Nations centre should be set up to co-ordinate the work of all United Nations bodies in that field, but that the autonomy of the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board should be guaranteed.

35. Despite the economic and political difficulties which it was encountering in its transition to a market economy, Bulgaria was prepared to co-operate more closely with all the States concerned to put an end to the intensive illicit drug traffic along the so-called Balkan route. In the past 12 months, and at the initiative and with the assistance of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC), specific measures had been adopted to increase vigilance along that route. Furthermore, at the meetings of law enforcement officials held at Rome and Sofia, measures had been adopted to broaden co-operation between the countries of that region and those of Western Europe.

36. Ms. LISSIDINI (Uruguay) said that in recent years significant legal gains had been made in the international fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking, namely the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug

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(Ms. Lissidini, Uruguay)

Abuse Control, adopted in 1987; the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, adopted in 1988; and the Political Declaration and Global Programme of Action adopted at the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly, in February 1990. In addition to those instruments, in future the proposal that a United Nations programme should be set up in that area, made by the Group of Experts to advise and assist the Secretary-General, had Uruguay's support. The illicit consumption and trafficking of drugs had been increasing and consequently, international co-operation was necessary, in accordance with the principle of shared responsibility. Since acceptance of that principle, it had been possible to go beyond the polemics between consumer and producer countries, reduce illicit cultivation by substituting profitable crops and reduce the demand for drugs.

37. Drug abuse and illicit trafficking in drugs had disastrous consequences for society, the family and the individual. They wrecked the economy of countries, which were then forced to divert resources to the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts and the suppression and punishment of related crimes. Consequently, her delegation felt that the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Expert Group to Study the Economic and Social Consequences of Illicit Traffic in Drugs were very useful, in particular the recommendation that surveys should be carried out to determine the social and economic effects of drug trafficking in various regions of the world.

38. In Uruguay, while there was no illegal drug production, there was drug abuse and illicit trafficking and a national plan had been established to tackle the problem. An inter-ministerial agency had been set up to formulate policies, draft reports and studies, promote international, regional and subregional co-operation and adopt measures in areas such as security, preventive education, assistance and rehabilitation. In addition, despite acceptance of banking secrecy, current legislation allowed the courts in certain circumstances to request information from the banks to combat the laundering of money obtained through illicit drug trafficking.

39. Mr.INDERJIT (India) said that, during the year that had elapsed since the previous session of the General Assembly, the United Nations system had made considerable progress in the battle against drug abuse and illicit trafficking, thanks to the convening of the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly and the completion of all the studies requested at that session: the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control, the report of the Intergovernmental Expert Group to Study the Economic and Social Consequences of Illicit Traffic in Drugs and the report of the Group of Experts to advise and assist the Secretary-General on the enhancement of the efficiency of the United Nations structure for drug abuse control, all of which recognized that not only the supply of, but also the demand for, illicit drugs must be halted.

40. Even though the drug problem crossed national boundaries, affecting producer countries, transit countries, like India, and consumer countries, the fight against drug abuse was being waged primarily at the national level. Accordingly, the

(Mr. Inderjit, India)

countries which were fighting to exterminate the drug scourge should receive every assistance.

41. India produced legal drugs, in particular from the opium poppy, primarily for medical purposes and strictly monitored them in terms of their distribution and sale. Its record in that area had been commended by various international agencies including the International Narcotics Control Board, which had reported that the system of control set up under the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs was still operating satisfactorily. Even so, measures had been adopted to reduce the area under opium poppy cultivation, with the attendant negative social and economic consequences.

42. His delegation was surprised and disappointed by the proposal for the insertion in the Plan of a new paragraph after paragraph 42, to the effect that the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control should pay special attention to the formulation and execution of programmes to reduce the availability of drugs and psychotropic substances subjected to international control and intended for legal medical purposes, because that proposal contradicted a report on the supply of and demand for opiates for medical purposes drafted by the International Narcotics Control Board, which stated that the legitimate need for opiates was not being fully met, particularly in developing countries. At issue was a regrettable lack of co-ordination between the different agencies of the United Nations system.

43. Even though the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control (E/1990/39) had established a balance between the need to solve the problems and the need to protect legitimate interests, the attitude adopted in document E/1990/39/Add.1 towards the producers of legal opiates was quite unsatisfactory. Even more serious was the fact that the document made absolutely no mention of the problems of the transit States. His delegation therefore hoped that the Secretariat would take note of those concerns and reflect them in the next revised version of the Action Plan. His Government welcomed the forthcoming entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances which had received the 20 ratifications required, including that of India.

44. Mr. SOTO (Cuba) said that he wished to reiterate Cuba's firm political resolve to do everything possible to eliminate the illicit production, traffic and use of drugs and psychotropic substances. Although drugs did not constitute a social problem in Cuba, because of the geographical location of the country, situated as it was between the production centres of South America and the largest consumer in the world, traffickers were encouraged to violate its territorial waters and air space and some drug cargo had reached its coasts. Those acts, however, did not go unpunished. Between 1985 and 1989, Cuba had confiscated and destroyed 128 tons of various kinds of drugs, all intended for the United States. According to information from INTERPOL, in 1989 Cuba had ranked tenth among the countries confiscating cocaine. In the past 20 years, Cuba had seized 73 vessels and 70 aircraft, 84 of which had been of United States registration; it had also detained 422 drug traffickers, 200 of whom were Americans or Cubans residing in the United States.

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(Mr. Soto, Cuba)

45. Cuba had been one of the first countries to accede to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and was a party to the other international instruments in that area. It was reviewing its laws to establish more severe penalties for drug offences, although it had always vigorously enforced existing legislation, and had signed bilateral agreements with several countries in the past year. The absolute masters of the largest consumer market in the world had rejected, without giving any reasons, Cuba's repeated proposals to establish co-operation in that area.

46. Cuba had suffered the scourge of illicit drug trafficking and drug abuse. Some had called it the "paradise of the Caribbean", but that was a very strange idea of paradise, more like Sodom and Gomorrah. In the midst of hunger and poverty, the foreign mafia had thrived in collusion with the corrupt rulers of the time. In January 1959, the triumph of the revolution and the flight of the dictators, venal and corrupt politicians, war criminals and torturers who had protected criminals of every kind had made it possible to suppress the drug mafias, prostitution and gambling. The country had experienced profound changes, which had put an end to hunger and unemployment, illiteracy and backwardness, deprivation and lack of medical care, making way for a society where citizens were able to live in dignity and enjoy true freedom.

47. His delegation associated itself with those speakers who had favoured the establishment of a unified United Nations structure to deal with problems relating to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Such a unit would have to play a major role in action to combat drug trafficking and abuse and its success would clearly depend on the political will of States.

48. He welcomed some major advances in activities to combat the problem of the production of, traffic in and illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and pointed out that a political solution, while necessary, was not enough in and of itself. In Latin America, the enormous costs of that huge effort were burdening countries' impoverished and suffocating economies. Their sacrifice was not being matched by results. When the war on drugs was used, or allowed to be used, to stir up racial and ethnic prejudice, xenophobia and hatred between peoples and minorities, the problem was not resolved but exacerbated.

49. Furthermore, to assume that peasants or poor people in Latin America became involved in drug production and trafficking because people were intrinsically evil was a total aberration. The countries of the so-called third world had always insisted on the crucial importance of substituting fruit, vegetable and coffee crops for coca, marijuana and opiates. Along with raising rural living standards, such crop substitution was essential. There was now some talk of formulas for reducing the heavy external debt burden on countries where anti-drug efforts were of vital importance to mankind. Regrettably, such an approach had yet to be generally accepted and did not enjoy all necessary support.

(Mr. Soto, Cuba)

50. The international community must realize that the seriousness of the problem of the production of, traffic in and illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances was paralleled by worsening living standards in underdeveloped and backward countries, increasingly gaping inequalities between rich and poor countries, trade imbalances, external debt and the perpetual, growing and endemic economic crisis in the so-called third world. There could be no partial solutions; a global solution must be found to the problem of the poverty, backwardness and underdevelopment afflicting many of the world's peoples, and effective action must be taken in the developed countries, which were the major drug consumers, to put an end to the growing demand for drugs.

Ms. Coombs (New Zealand) took the Chair.

51. Ms. ROMULUS (Haiti) said that the drug problem was as old as the world. No country, industrialized or underdeveloped, was safe from that scourge, which did not discriminate between social classes, occupations or educational levels. War was being declared on it everywhere, yet despite some real progress, the total elimination of illicit trafficking so far seemed a dream. Its ramifications were so far-reaching and complex that there was reason to wonder whether international trade, terrorism and economic development might not be dependent on the financial capacities of drug traffickers.

52. Haiti was aware of the serious danger which drugs represented and had resolutely supported all initiatives designed to combat that scourge. Despite its financial difficulties, it was contributing to global efforts to eradicate drugs. Its geographical location in the Caribbean basin made it extremely vulnerable. There had been an extraordinary exchange of information between Haiti, the United States and the Dominican Republic. Haiti supported the initiatives of the CARICOM countries and wished to strengthen its ties with them with a view to waging a massive regional campaign.

53. Her delegation believed that to solve the drug problem, increased public funding would have to be allocated for anti-drug projects. The specialized agencies of the United Nations system should attach more importance to the needs of developing countries, particularly to the training of experts and the establishment and strengthening of administrative and legal structures for combating drugs. The United Nations should play a greater role in the co-ordination of efforts to ensure the cohesion of the structures established.

54. Mr. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh) said that a problem of such universal dimensions as drug abuse required a co-ordinated and innovative international response. With the phenomenal increase in illicit production, trafficking and abuse of drugs, international co-operation to combat that scourge must be strengthened. Important international meetings had been held, such as the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly at which a Political Declaration and a Global Programme of Action had been adopted. Under United Nations auspices, important legal instruments had been drawn up in that field, the most significant being the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic

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(Mr. Chowdhury, Bangladesh)

Substances, adopted in 1988, whose provisions on money-laundering, monitoring of international trade in the so-called precursor chemicals used in illicit drug production, and asset seizure and forfeiture were of special significance. His delegation believed that the Convention was a powerful tool for international co-operation to combat drugs. It urged all States to ratify or accede to the Convention as soon as possible.

55. Bangladesh considered the system-wide action plan, as approved by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Economic and Social Council, crucial to the full implementation of all existing drug abuse control mandates. The plan would allow Member States to evaluate the progress made by the United Nations system in fulfilling its mandates under the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline and the Global Programme of Action.

56. His delegation had considered in detail the report of the Secretary-General on enhancement of the efficiency of the United Nations structure for drug abuse control (A/45/652). Regarding the expert recommendations, Bangladesh agreed that responsibility for (a) treaty implementation, (b) policy implementation and research and (c) operational activities should be undertaken by the proposed United Nations International Drug Control Programme. His delegation hoped that the new organizational unit would give priority to occupational activities, which were of crucial importance for developing countries. The experts' recommendations were balanced and pragmatic and his delegation shared their view that the functioning of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs needed to be improved. It might be appropriate to request the Economic and Social Council to undertake an urgent review of the Commission's work.

57. While Bangladesh did not produce drugs or psychotropic substances, in recent years drug abuse had taken on alarming proportions. His country was being used for transit traffic in drugs. The Government had launched a vigorous campaign to combat the drug menace on two fronts: (a) reduction of the supply of illicit drugs through strong enforcement measures, and (b) demand reduction through, inter alia, preventive educational programmes, plans to enhance the overall development of young people, job creation and the provision of recreational facilities. The mass media were informing and educating the population and maintaining constant vigilance, and those activities had been supplemented by seminars and symposia throughout the country.

58. His Government had set up a Department of Narcotics Control, and a Narcotics Control Board chaired by the First Lady of Bangladesh. In 1988, Parliament had adopted a new law which prohibited the cultivation, production, processing, sale and consumption and trafficking of all narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The law provided for seizure and confiscation of the assets of convicted traffickers. The Government had also taken measures for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts. However, international efforts must be further intensified to face the challenge.

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59. Mr. MATELA (Poland) said that in the past decade, drug abuse and illicit trafficking in narcotics had become a global problem of alarming proportions. The social effects of the problem and the role of transnational criminal organisations called for an appropriate international response.

60. The international community had responded to the challenge at the eleventh special session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and at the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly, which had adopted a Political Declaration and a Global Programme of Action. Those instruments would be the principal directives for international efforts during the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse. The activities of deliberative bodies had been supplemented by the continuous work of international administrative units, in particular, the International Narcotics Control Board which was now being given responsibility for the control of precursors and essential chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of narcotics. The Board was to be commended for having organized a seminar in June on practical means of implementing the necessary measures related to that type of control.

61. The Intergovernmental Expert Group to Study the Economic and Social Consequences of Illicit Trafficking in Drugs had produced a set of important recommendations on ways of preventing the use of legitimate banking and financial services for illicit transactions related to drug trafficking. The implementation of those recommendations would support the efforts of the international community to combat drug trafficking. The best solution among the various proposals made by the Group of Experts to advise and assist the Secretary-General on the enhancement of the efficiency of the United Nations structure for drug abuse control was the creation of a unified structure for drug abuse control, located at Vienna and financed from budgetary and extrabudgetary resources.

62. Poland, as a member of the Commission on narcotic drugs, had offered the expertise of its specialists as advisers. It had taken preventive measures aimed at reducing demand by addicts and was carrying out activities to curb illicit supply. Drug abuse prevention activities were carried out mainly by educational institutions, religious institutions - primarily the Catholic Church - and specialized voluntary institutions. Those activities had helped to curb the growth in the number of drug addicts in Poland.

63. The main drug used by Polish addicts was a home-made brew derived from poppy straw. Measures introduced since 1985 to restrict poppy cultivation had considerably reduced unauthorized access to poppy straw by opiate addicts, who were estimated to number between 10,000 and 20,000 in Poland - a disturbing, although not dangerous, figure in a population of over 38 million. Unfortunately, the drug was administered intravenously. As a result, HIV infection had spread rapidly in 1989 among addicts, who had become the principal group infected by the HIV virus in Poland.

64. The opiates produced domestically in Poland were used solely within the country. Poland was not a source of narcotic substances for other countries. The illicit production of amphetamines for traffickers was a greater problem abroad in terms of its international ramifications. Customs authorities were co-operating

(Mr. Matela, Poland)

with the police in vigorous attempts to interdict such traffic. To support those efforts, the precursor for illicit amphetamine synthesis had been placed on the list of psychotropic substances, putting greater obstacles in the way of illicit procurement from abroad.

65. Poland had signed the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in March 1989 and had taken various steps to implement it. Those steps included the extension of control over the chemical already mentioned, which was included in Schedule I of the Convention. Various governmental departments were currently studying the implications of the Convention for existing civil and criminal law, with a view to Poland's ratification of the Convention.

66. The fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking was an obligation for all Governments. Poland was participating in that fight to the extent permitted by its limited resources and its serious financial difficulties, and looked forward to the success of concerted action by all countries.

Ms. Zindoga (Zimbabwe), Vice-Chairman, resumed the Chair.

67. Ms. FRANKEL (Israel) said that the complex problem of drugs could not be solved overnight and required the co-operation of all countries. However, primary responsibility lay with individual States. Drug abuse and crime went hand in hand. In many cases, drug users resorted to criminal activity to obtain the drugs they needed. Trafficking in narcotics was in itself a criminal activity and often culminated in violence. Many crimes were committed under the influence of drugs.

68. A strategy for prevention was fundamental to long-term success in conquering drug abuse and drug-related crime. Educational programmes played a critical role in that respect by increasing the user's awareness of the dangers of drug addiction. They also helped to explain to parents and educators the nature of the problem and how best to combat it.

69. Israel was a party to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and its amendments and had taken the necessary steps to implement it. It had also taken decisive steps since the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, held in June 1987, to increase the effect of its national policy in controlling drug abuse and illicit trafficking. Israel had signed the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in December 1988. Since then, it had taken a number of steps aimed at bringing its domestic legislation into line with the Convention.

70. In June 1988, the Knesset had created the Anti-Drug Authority mandated to develop a comprehensive nation-wide strategy against drug abuse and co-ordinate the efforts of all governmental and non-governmental agencies. The Authority was empowered to set policy, propose legislation, initiate research, raise funds and design and implement programmes to diminish or prevent drug abuse in Israel. There was no doubt that great strides had been made in drug control through the



(Ms. Frankel, Israel)

Authority's efforts, but much remained to be done, in particular to curb the yearly growth in demand for drugs. As part of its commitment to international co-operation, the Authority was gaining insight into the policies of other countries and was encouraging the Knesset to ratify the 1988 Convention.

71. As with many countries, the supply of illicit drugs in Israel originated in neighbouring countries. There was no production of illegal drugs in Israel itself. Historically, Israel had been a crossroads for trade between countries to its north and to its south. Its northern neighbour was widely acknowledged to be a country in which large areas were exploited for the production of hashish and heroin. Israel called on all its neighbours to co-operate in drug control, despite the political constraints in the region, and was eager to participate in programmes to reduce demand and supply. It was only by co-ordinating the efforts of all countries that the conditions essential to the eradication of the global scourge of drugs could be created. She urged countries to set aside their political differences and to mobilize together, regardless of political or other extraneous considerations, in the fight against drugs.

72. Mr. AL-BADI (Oman) said that his delegation had studied carefully the documents relating to agenda item 108, especially the reports of the Secretary-General and of the Group of Experts appointed to advise and assist him in order to enhance the efficiency of the United Nations structure for drug abuse control. He commended the efforts to improve the work of the United Nations in combating drug abuse. The problem was of concern to the Organization because of its negative impact on the economic and social situation of peoples throughout the world, especially of young people, and because of the threat it posed to the development strategies of all countries as well as to international peace and security. The international community had indicated its determination to combat drug abuse in the Political Declaration adopted during the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly.

73. Oman had participated actively in international and regional efforts to eradicate drug abuse, particularly illicit drug trafficking, and its policy was consistent with international drug abuse control policies. The legislation of Oman provided for serious penalties against drug traffickers. Oman was a party to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, and planned to accede to the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. The Sultanate had established special units to control drug abuse, as well as coast guard units to prevent the illegal entry of drugs into the country. A national plan to strengthen those units was being implemented, and a data base on drug control matters would soon be set up as part of the policy aimed at halting the spread of drugs. Those efforts were being carried out both at the national level and at the regional and Arab State-wide level. In the context of that co-operation, information was provided at the regional and international levels; at the same time, the advances of modern science and the experiences of other countries in the area of drug abuse control were being applied. Oman was prepared to do its utmost to improve international co-operation in drug control within the framework of the United Nations and the competent specialized agencies.

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74. Mrs. SEMAFUMU (Uganda) reviewed the history of drug abuse and illicit trafficking control in the framework of the United Nations. Those activities had begun in 1946, with the establishment of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Nevertheless, the last decade had witnessed an alarming escalation of the drug problem, as well as an extraordinary increase in the monetary value of drug trafficking, which was now second only to the arms trade. The damage caused by the drug problem had cut across the board, transcending national boundaries and making it imperative that decisive action be taken at all levels. Her delegation commended the international community for its decision to take concerted action. That was evident in the adoption by consensus of the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, which would enter into force during the current month and which provided inter alia for the extradition of drug traffickers.

75. Another example was the adoption by the General Assembly of the Political Declaration and the Global Programme of Action on International Co-operation against Illicit Production, Supply, Demand, Trafficking and Distribution of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. It was also worth mentioning the reports of the Secretary-General (A/45/542 and A/45/652 and Add.1) on the efforts being made within the United Nations system to address the drug problem from a number of different angles. The consolidation of the functions of the Division of Narcotic Drugs, the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control into a unified programme would certainly go a long way towards strengthening the role of the United Nations in the field of narcotic drugs. Nevertheless, her delegation was of the view that the establishment of the new programme should take into account United Nations administrative and budgetary rules and procedures in order to ensure effective system-wide co-operation.

76. Her delegation welcomed the recognition that the reduction and suppression of demand was a major factor in reducing the dimensions of the drug problem in general and, in particular, the inclusion in the Global Programme of Action of comprehensive strategies and measures for the prevention and reduction of illicit demand, as well as the treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug addicts.

77. She also noted that at the special session of the General Assembly on the question, the Secretary-General had recommended enhanced co-operation for development, measures for debt relief, guaranteed markets and reasonable prices for legal export commodities. The extremely profitable alternative offered by drug-related activities could be an overwhelming temptation for poor peasants as well as for economically troubled Governments, under pressure to continue servicing their debts, and for underpaid Government officials, who were easy targets for bribery and corruption. Moreover, transit countries, like Uganda, were often too preoccupied with economic problems and too strapped for human and financial resources to detect or combat illicit drug trafficking.

78. Although Uganda was just a transit State, it had long been committed to the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. In 1970, the Government had passed the Pharmaceuticals and Drugs Act against drug trafficking and abuse. In

(Mrs. Semafumu, Uganda)

September 1986, an anti-narcotics drug unit had been established under INTERPOL in the Criminal Investigation Division. A number of arrests and prosecutions of drug traffickers had been made as a result of the activities of that section. In 1989, the National Narcotics Control Committee had been created under the Ministry of Internal Affairs; in June 1990, Uganda had acceded to the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

79. Her delegation appealed to Member States to pay up their contributions and provide technical support to enable the African Institute for Crime Prevention and the Treatment of Offenders, established in Kampala in October 1989, to effectively take off and positively contribute to the ongoing world-wide fight against drugs. Her delegation commended the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, for the rural anti-poverty programmes they had undertaken in a number of Latin American and Asian countries. The international community must strengthen the campaign to bring about a drastic and rapid reduction in illicit demand for drugs in order to have an impact on the huge profits that currently made illicit drug trafficking a serious threat.

80. Mr. VAN LIEROP (Vanuatu), speaking on behalf of Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and the Solomon Islands, said that the South Pacific, like other regions of the world, was not immune to the problems of drug abuse and drug trafficking. Those phenomena persisted despite the profound moral indignation they inspired and the huge sums that had been spent in the search for solutions. It was ironic that as the twentieth century came to an end and mankind appeared to be on the verge of resolving some of the recent threats to its survival, it was now confronted by a new challenge to civilization, posed by those who were obsessed by drugs or by the immoral profits gained from the traffic of those instruments of degradation and death of other human beings.

81. For that reason, Vanuatu had welcomed the holding of the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly, which had afforded an opportunity to make drug abuse and drug trafficking the focus of a concerted international effort. His delegation hoped that the words of the Political Declaration and the Global Programme of Action adopted at the special session would be translated into practical collective action.

82. His delegation commended the proposal of the Group of Experts appointed to advise and assist the Secretary-General for the creation in the United Nations of a single executive structure for drug abuse control, to be headed by a senior official and for the establishment, on the basis of equitable geographic distribution, of an advisory group or committee to assist and advise the head of the new structure on how to use and mobilize voluntary contributions for operational and technical co-operation activities.

83. For many years, the countries of the South Pacific had co-operated in the field of law enforcement, and they were now working diligently to develop effective regional responses to the drug programme in accordance with the Global Programme of

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(Mr. Van Lierop, Vanuatu)

Action. The United Nations should include the South Pacific in its sphere of activities to combat drug abuse and drug trafficking. Proposals such as the one put forth at a recent meeting of Pacific island law officers in Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea) to provide legal assistance to South Pacific Governments in the area of drug control continued to generate considerable interest in the region.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.