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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 32nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. AL-SHAALI (United Arab Emirates)

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AGENDA ITEM 96: NARCOTIC DRUGS (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 96: NARCOTIC DRUGS (continued) (A/46/3 (chap. VI, sect. E), A/46/222, 264, 336, 338, 480, 511; A/C.5/46/23)

1. Ms. TOBJI (Tunisia) said that although her country was not an illicit drug producer, consumer or transit route, it was greatly concerned about the spread of drug trafficking, particularly in Africa. Drug abuse threatened the very fabric of society by fostering crime and terrorism, hindering socio-economic development and endangering human lives, especially those of young people.

2. In confronting the problem, it was essential to consider its root causes, which lay in poverty, unemployment, ignorance and all the other components of a deteriorating social environment. Undoubtedly, Governments had primary responsibility for correcting such situations through appropriate legislation and arrangements for the prevention and treatment of drug addiction. However, the results of such actions would not be lasting unless standards of living were improved through the creation of a favourable socio-economic environment.

3. Tunisia, which had ratified the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, had taken preventive legislative action to avoid becoming a route for the transport of illicit drugs. A new law against drug production and trafficking amended existing penalties, distinguishing between occasional users and addicts and between isolated and organized traffickers, and providing for longer prison sentences. In addition, the Ministry of Public Health was considering regulations on the import of raw materials for psychotropic substances, and was tightening controls on prescriptions for psychotropic drugs. Customs authorities had also strengthened their operations and were conducting systematic inspections to prevent illicit trafficking.

4. Since national efforts must be complemented by international action, her delegation welcomed the establishment of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNIDCP), which would support regional and subregional technical cooperation projects to combat illicit drug production, trafficking and addiction and to ensure the treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of addicts.

5. Mr. QUNPHATHAI (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that States were not in a position to deal with the growing drug problem individually. He therefore welcomed such United Nations initiatives as the Global Programme of Action and the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session, and the establishment of UNIDCP under resolution 45/179.

Mr. Ounphathai, Lao People's Democratic Republic)

6. Laos, a developing country, gave highest priority to eliminating the cultivation of opium poppies by ethnic minorities in remote areas of its territory. Its two-pronged strategy consisted, first, of an energetic campaign promoting alternative crops, in the context of which it had concluded cooperation agreements with the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) for an integrated rural development project, as well as a cooperation agreement with the United States. The project aimed to provide alternative means of livelihood for the highlanders who cultivated opium poppies by creating the necessary economic, social and technical conditions for crop-substitution activities in the highlands and rice cultivation in the lowlands.
7. The second component of the strategy consisted of strengthening laws against illicit drug trafficking. A new penal code imposed severe penalties against drug traffickers, and drug seminars for customs agents and police officers had been held. The Lao Government's cooperative efforts included participation in United States and Japanese training seminars for customs and law-enforcement personnel and in the 1990 meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA). It had also introduced arrangements for close cooperation with such neighbouring countries as Myanmar and Thailand in the areas of training and information exchange on the suppression of illicit drug production and trafficking.
8. Only an international network set up by the United Nations and other international organizations could lead to effective implementation of General Assembly resolution S-17/2, which had proclaimed the period from 1991 to 2000 the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse. His Government was committed to continuing its cooperation with the international community in that area.
9. Mr. DE MARCHANT ET D'ANSEBOURG (Netherlands), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its twelve member States, said that the effects of the drug problem ranged from distorting economic development and destabilizing Governments to destroying the lives of individuals and families, and even the very fabric of society. The escalation of the problem in recent years was a side-effect of global social and economic evolution. Its complexity required an integrated approach which gave equal priority to law enforcement, prevention and demand reduction, and which involved public health and social services as well as the criminal-justice system.
10. It was imperative, on both moral and practical grounds, for all States to cooperate in combating the drug problem. The United Nations, which was the focal point for such cooperation, had adopted three important conventions on the subject, the latest of which was the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. The European Community and all its member States had signed that Convention and had either begun or completed the ratification process, and urged all other States to do likewise. Other milestones in the legal area included the Global Programme of

(Mr. De Marchant et d'Ansembourg,
Netherlands)

Action and the Political Declaration adopted at the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly, the 1987 Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control and the London Declaration adopted at the World Ministerial Summit to Reduce the Demand for Drugs and Combat the Cocaine Threat. His delegation was pleased at the considerable progress made in implementing those plans and strategies.

11. His delegation regretted that the necessary information on the enhancement of the United Nations structure for drug-abuse control had not been available earlier. The information should have been presented in a single report well in advance of the Third Committee's debate.

12. He fully supported the strategic directions of the Executive Director of UNIDCP. The European Community and its member States would continue to provide financial support to UNIDCP, and invited all other States to increase their voluntary contributions to the Programme, which must also receive an adequate share of funds from the regular budget. The proposed UNIDCP Fund would also be useful.

13. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/179 and the Global Programme of Action, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had improved its functioning as a policy-making body and had given valuable guidance to UNIDCP and other United Nations drug-control bodies. Subsequently, the Economic and Social Council had adopted resolution 1991/49 by consensus, which had been joined by the twelve States members of the European Community. Such a spirit of cooperation and consensus was important for the Commission's effectiveness.

14. The Twelve looked forward to the Executive Director's report on regional approaches to the drug problem and hoped that it would take due account of the demand-reduction aspect. Regional meetings dealing with demand reduction should take place in the HONLEA framework. Although existing mechanisms should be strengthened, resources must be allocated effectively to avoid duplication and to ensure adequate financial, technical and human resources for all drug-control structures, including UNIDCP.

15. The European Community had established a High-level Intergovernmental Group of Coordinators, which had elaborated a comprehensive European Plan to combat drug abuse. The Plan, which emphasized demand reduction, provided for the establishment of a European Drug Monitoring Centre focusing on the social and health aspects of drug abuse. Regional cooperation was also pursued through the Pompidou Group, which had acquired considerable expertise in the field.

16. To curb illicit drug trafficking in the prospective single European market, the States Members of the Community were strengthening controls at their external borders and intensifying customs cooperation. The fight

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Netherlands)

against drug-related crime would continue through the Trevi Group, consisting of Ministers of Justice and of the Interior, and through the Mutual Assistance Group, consisting of customs authorities. The forthcoming establishment of a European Drugs Intelligence Unit and of Europol would bolster those efforts.

17. The European Community and its Member States cooperated with developing countries in combating all aspects of the drug problem by taking due account of its social and economic dimension. They provided assistance through integrated rural development programmes, crop-substitution projects and assistance in law enforcement, treatment and prevention. However, a subregional approach was also necessary to prevent drug-related activities from spreading to new areas. The Community was therefore supporting the economic restructuring efforts of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru by granting them the same preferences it extended to least developed countries.

18. To prevent the diversion of chemicals used for drug manufacturing the Community's Council of Ministers had adopted regulations on the control of external trade with third countries, and was considering a similar mechanism for intra-European trade. In addition, the Community had developed rules concerning money-laundering, and recommended that countries should cooperate to trace, freeze and confiscate the proceeds of drug trafficking.

19. In fighting drug abuse, the international community should take a flexible and pragmatic approach, devoid of ideology, in order to ensure the health and social welfare of all.

20. Mr. BURCUOGLU (Turkey) said that his delegation supported the arrangements set forth in the Secretary-General's report on United Nations structure for drug-abuse control (A/46/480). The new United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNIDCP) must have adequate financial and human resources. It was essential to strengthen the Programme by increasing its share of the regular budget and seeking more generous voluntary contributions. An increased allocation would make it more autonomous and flexible in management and ensure optimal use of funds and sound long-term planning. With regard to the Programme's personnel arrangements, Turkey stressed the importance of recruitment on the basis of the broadest possible geographical representation.

21. His delegation firmly supported the proposals put forward by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which would play an essential coordinating role. Through the establishment of the subsidiary committee, the Commission would be able to rationalize its work, restructure its agenda, cope with an expanded workload and deal more efficiently with general policy questions in all major areas of operations. A balanced approach to drug control was essential. His delegation was firmly opposed to the proliferation of sources of opiates and, in that context, supported Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/43.

(Mr. Burcuoglu, Turkey)

22. Turkey, a traditional producer, had achieved remarkable results in its struggle against illicit drug production and drug abuse. Situated on the "Balkan Route", it faced a growing challenge with regard to illicit transit and was mobilizing considerable resources to meet that challenge. Thanks to his Government's efforts, enormous quantities of narcotic drugs had been seized both in Turkey and in other countries along the route. His country had concluded numerous bilateral cooperation agreements in that field and actively participated in various forms of regional cooperation. Turkey collaborated effectively with the Programme and was determined to expand that cooperation and work with the main donor countries. In that connection, he supported the Programme's subregional strategy for the Balkans. Turkey, one of the countries least affected by drug abuse, had undertaken, in cooperation with UNIDCP, a scientific study to determine the causes of that phenomenon. His country had signed the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and, as a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, would actively seek to enhance the Commission's effectiveness.

23. Mr. COSTA (Brazil) said that the United Nations could and should play a key role in fostering concerted action on the drug problem and that the growing spirit of consensus was reassuring. His Government was ready to contribute its efforts and available resources in the common endeavour, within the framework of the Charter, international law and the relevant treaties. A sound legal basis, both domestic and international was essential for combating illicit drug trafficking. Brazil had recently ratified the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, but even before ratification, the Brazilian authorities had taken broad measures to strengthen action against illicit drug trafficking in accordance with that Convention. His Government attached particular importance to the implementation of an international system for the control of precursors and chemicals used in drug production.

24. As to the social and economic aspects of the problem, he regretted that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had not yet been able to review the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Expert Group to Study the Economic and Social Consequences of Illicit Traffic in Drugs, as requested in General Assembly resolution 45/149. He looked forward to the views of the Executive Director of UNIDCP on these recommendations.

25. With regard to the Secretary-General's report on the enhancement of the United Nations structure for drug-abuse control (A/46/480), his delegation was satisfied with the pace of setting up UNIDCP. In connection with policy guidance (ibid., para. 10) - which should be based on the wishes of all Member States on an equal footing - he stressed the importance of the Council's discussions on expanding the membership of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Regarding the Commission's terms of reference, set forth in Council resolution 1991/38, it would be useful if the Secretariat could clarify the implications of the interpretation of the words "legislative overview" raised by the Secretary-General in paragraph 10 of his report.

(Mr. Costa, Brazil)

26. The Programme had already achieved significant goals, and the structure proposed by its Executive Director should enable it to live up to expectations. The Executive Director's participation in meetings of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) would enable him to ensure coordination, complementarity and non-duplication of drug-control activities throughout the United Nations system. Brazil shared the concern over the volume of resources available to the Programme, 92 per cent of which would come from voluntary funds. The growing challenge of the drug problem must spur Governments to continue increasing their contributions to drug-control activities. Brazil fully supported the Programme's endeavour to diversify its sources of funds for operational activities and to mobilize complementary funding from other multilateral and bilateral sources, as well as Commission resolution 3 (XXXIV) which urged Governments to provide the fullest possible support, particularly by increasing general-purpose extrabudgetary contributions to the Programme.

27. Mr. KOUNCOU (Congo) welcomed the creation of UNIDCP and commended its Executive Director. The Congo supported the idea of a global approach, but the success of the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session would depend on effective action, especially at national and regional levels. Today, owing to action in the priority areas - the Andes and South-East and South-West Asia - Africa had become an important drug transit route to North America and Europe. In addition, there was an alarming increase in hard drug consumption in Africa, and areas of poverty harboured high-risk groups. There was an urgent need for the international community to consider increasing its programmes for Africa, to include the reduction of illicit supplies, prevention of drug addiction, and treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts.

28. Subregional cooperation was still in its early stages in Central Africa. In 1990 a seminar on policy coordination and preparation of subregional programmes for Central African countries had been held at Libreville with the assistance of France. The Economic Community of Central African States had set up a permanent drug committee to coordinate national action. Many African countries were concerned about the inadequacy of prevention and suppression laws to cope with drug-related crime.

29. His delegation wished to thank France, with which the Congo cooperated closely in the training of its experts, for setting up a laboratory for drug analysis and detection and for providing matériel and communications for anti-drug units.

30. Mr. SEZAKI (Japan) welcomed the creation of the UNIDCP and commended its Executive Director. He was disappointed, however, over the delay in submitting the report of the Secretary-General on administrative and financial arrangements regarding the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (A/C.5/46/23), which his delegation regarded as of critical importance. Since the Programme was to serve as a model for reforming United Nations organs, an

(Mr. Sezaki, Japan)

early decision was needed on its framework and arrangements so that it could assume its full mandate as soon as possible. His delegation hoped that the Fifth Committee would study the report carefully and attempt to arrive at a conclusion as to the best structure and resource level. Japan had contributed every year since 1973 to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control and in the current year would contribute \$3 million to the new Fund.

31. With the coming into force of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, the world had acquired a powerful weapon. Japan was in the process of becoming a party to the Convention and would participate fully in international cooperation based on the Convention as soon as possible.

32. He commended the work of the Financial Action Task Force and the Chemical Action Task Force initiated respectively at the Summit of the Arch and the Houston Economic Summit, in which Japan had played an active part. The alleged involvement of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International in laundering drug money on a vast scale was a typical instance of such criminal activity and pinpointed the need for adequate machinery for international cooperation to bring it to an end. Existing measures for regulating international trade in chemicals clearly did not prevent their diversion to illicit drug manufacture. The achievements of the two Task Forces in combating money laundering and the diversion of chemicals deserved the warmest praise, but the crucial question was how many countries would implement their recommendations and how effectively. It was vital for all nations to become parties to the 1988 Convention as soon as possible.

33. Japan welcomed the development of the regional cooperation urged by the Global Programme of Action. His country had placed special emphasis on cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region, where two of the world's three major drug-producing areas were located, and in February 1991 his Government had hosted a Meeting of Senior Officials on Drug Abuse Issues in Asia and the Pacific, held in Tokyo, with the cooperation of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). The meeting had been attended by representatives of 46 countries, including the drug-producing countries of the Golden Triangle and the Golden Crescent and 13 international organizations, and had adopted the Tokyo Declaration on Enhanced Regional Cooperation for Drug Abuse Control in Asia and the Pacific, which included a proposal for the establishment of a coordinating centre to promote and develop subregional strategies. The centre would be created within the framework of the Programme, using existing facilities as far as possible and bearing in mind the need to avoid duplication.

34. With regard to drug problems in Japan, there had been a sharp increase in the volume of cocaine seized in 1990 - five times as much as in the preceding year - and in drug-related crime. Almost all the illegal narcotics circulating in Japan were smuggled in from abroad. Japan would continue its policy of cooperation both to combat the global narcotics problem and to prevent drugs from being smuggled into the country.

(Mr. Sezaki, Japan)

35. Since 1962, Japan had held annual seminars on the control of drug-related offences for drug enforcement officials from South-East Asia, Latin America, the Republic of Korea and the Middle East, the aim being to familiarize others with investigative techniques and promote the sharing of information and experience. Since 1987 it had also made contributions in that field within the framework of the Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific.

36. Mr. SKIBSTED (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the five Nordic countries, said that the creation of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNIDCP) had been an essential step forward. It was particularly important that both normative functions and operational activities should be coordinated within a single secretariat. There was, however, a need for greater efforts by the United Nations. The production of illicit drugs was growing and illegal trafficking was becoming more organized. Addiction was on the increase and abusers were spreading the HIV virus on a world-wide scale.

37. Many people were questioning whether the fight against illicit drugs could be won: whether the problem had grown too big to be solved and whether effective resistance could be offered to the drug traffickers' ruthless profiteering in human suffering. The answer must be yes. The United Nations was in a unique position to take on the task and there was world-wide agreement, demonstrated at a number of important international meetings, that the United Nations must play an active part. The new Programme would enable it to do so.

38. The Nordic countries would be contributing more than \$10 million to the UNIDCP budget in 1991, but they stressed that all Member States must share the financial responsibility and that a greater proportion of its resources should come from the regular budget. The financial regulations of the UNIDCP Fund should, however, be flexible enough to attract non-earmarked contributions from donors.

39. If the United Nations was to play a more active role, an integrated secretariat would not be enough: the entire United Nations system must become involved, and United Nations action must be coordinated with regional and national efforts and with programmes initiated by non-governmental organizations. There was no lack of mandate - for example the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline for Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control (CMO), the Global Programme of Action, the London Declaration, and resolutions of the General Assembly - and the Programme must now translate its mandate into concrete action and to set priorities.

40. The Nordic countries welcomed the Secretary-General's report on the United Nations structure for drug-abuse control (A/46/480) but regretted that it had been issued at such a late stage and that the related report to be discussed in the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/46/23) had been issued only a few days earlier. That had made it difficult for Member States to analyse the Secretary-General's proposals before they were taken up.

(Mr. Skibsted, Denmark)

41. The Nordic countries agreed that the Programme should be the focal point for a comprehensive world-wide drug-control strategy and that it would have to work out plans for activities to be carried out either nationally or by the Programme, by other United Nations organs, or by intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations. They also emphasized the importance of developing new and complementary strategies as the drug programme assumed new dimensions. Hitherto, little attention had been given to the economic and political dimensions which were becoming increasingly interrelated with the drug problem. They welcomed the intention to develop closer cooperation with the World Bank and other financial institutions and would comment on financial and administrative issues in the Fifth Committee.

42. Mrs. SYAHRUDDIN (Indonesia) said that the international community was moving forward from the stage of defining the scenario for combating drug abuse to the action stage, characterized by the establishment of UNIDCP. Its broad mandate should strengthen United Nations capacity to take a comprehensive approach to international drug control and to employ available resources more efficiently.

43. In view of the UNIDCP Executive Director's responsibility for coordination of all drug-control activities, the decision to invite him to participate in the work of the Administrative Committee on Coordination was a positive step. Identification of focal points for drug-abuse control and compilation of a directory should further support coordination within the United Nations system. Her delegation looked forward to learning more about regional and country master plans designed to serve as a yardstick for all national and international drug-control activities.

44. Her delegation supported the enlargement of the membership of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1991/38 and 39 intended to improve its functioning. It was regrettable that the Commission had been unable to consider the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Expert Group to Study the Economic and Social Consequences of Illicit Traffic in Drugs, but the summary contained in the Secretary-General's report (A/46/338) was useful. The technical and administrative independence of the International Narcotics Control Board had been preserved within the UNIDCP structure, and her delegation commended it as an effective force for the control of drugs for medical and scientific purposes.

45. In addition to law-enforcement activities to prevent its use as a transit country, Indonesia continued to emphasize education and prevention, with the goal of creating a socio-cultural attitude that rejected drug abuse. It was committed to active partnership in the cause of international drug control.

46. Mr. SEGER (Observer for Switzerland) said that his country, as a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, participated actively in the efforts of the international community against drug trafficking and abuse and was among the major donors to UNIDCP.

47. Switzerland, being directly concerned by drug trafficking and abuse, had strengthened its criminal legislation, and its authorities cooperated freely with their counterparts in other countries. Some success in combating money laundering and control of precursors had already been achieved. His Government had undertaken procedures for ratifying the three major drug Conventions, which should be completed the following year.

48. Mr. MONTALVO (Ecuador) said that the global campaign to eradicate drug trafficking and abuse should be based on the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter and on the shared responsibility of the entire international community. Both narcotics producers and consumers should have an equal commitment to a solution, which would never be found through paternalism and authoritarianism. A truly humane and just response would arise only from dialogue based on respect, understanding and equality.

49. Possible solutions should be considered in their socio-economic context, since drug abuse and its terrible consequences were a result of unjust social and economic structures. Since the disease attacked those structures as a whole, the response should also be structural and global. In Latin America, any anti-drug campaign that did not address the economic crisis and the grinding poverty would be futile. The new international order being established, subtly but inexorably, should apply the same market principles to that evil, since the demand stimulated the supply. Prevention, rather than repression or rehabilitation, should be given priority. Without supplementary measures such as crop substitution, fair commodity prices, guarantees of equitable international trade, investment in the production sector and external debt relief, any proposal would be utopian.

50. Ecuador had assumed its portion of the shared responsibility for the drug problem and had strengthened its legal structures to that end. His Government had ratified the Vienna Convention in 1990 as a legal framework for its relations with other States. It supported all joint programming initiatives and efforts by the international community to combat drug abuse and trafficking.

51. With respect to the Secretary-General's reports (A/46/480 and 511), some of the efforts already made by UNIDCP were commendable and gave reason for hope. However, the Programme was still involved in administrative and organizational matters, and little progress had been made in rationalizing its operations. It appeared that there remained much duplication and lack of coordination among the drug-control agencies, which was far from the spirit of General Assembly resolution 45/179. Nevertheless, his delegation fully supported the objectives of UNIDCP in the hope that, with the necessary adjustments and adequate funding, it could become effective.

(Mr. Montalvo, Ecuador)

52. In document A/46/480, paragraph 29, the statement that "the Programme must act in accordance with the wishes and requirements of Member States and major donors" could give rise to misunderstandings incompatible with the principles of solidarity and cooperation among nations. His delegation understood the great importance of the contributions of the major donors and expressed its gratitude. However, they should not be permitted to have unilateral influence on policy. The fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking involved every member of the international community, without distinctions according to economic capacity. UNIDCP must take care to base its actions on that humanistic principle, not financial criteria.

53. Mr. TRAXLER (Italy) said that, while his Government maintained severe criminal penalties against drug abuse and related crime, it was increasing its treatment and rehabilitation efforts. The drug chain could be broken, mainly through action to reduce demand. A world-wide information campaign aimed particularly at youth remained one of the most effective means to counter the spread of drug abuse.

54. Although there were many options, as yet there was no decisive weapon with which to win the war against drugs. Comprehensive strategies were required, since the drug problem was deeply interrelated and every element of the drug chain - production, trafficking and abuse - must be addressed simultaneously. Since no country was immune from the threat of drugs, the entire international community should be joined in a web of mutual commitment of resources.

55. Italy was convinced that the United Nations was the best forum for such action, and had been among the first to ratify the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. It was also among the major donors, and stressed the importance of increased voluntary contributions to UNIDCP. His delegation fully endorsed the recommendations in the Secretary-General's report (A/46/480) and also urged that UNIDCP staffing requirements should be met.

56. Mr. MONTAÑO (Mexico) commended the work carried out by the International Narcotics Control Board, which was very valuable for considering objectively the international situation in the field of drug trafficking. The international campaign against illicit drug trafficking should be based on strict adherence to the principles of the Charter and international law, particularly respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs. In that connection, he was concerned about certain references in the Secretary-General's report (A/46/480) to evaluating national drug-control activities or directing actions taken by countries in that field. His Government viewed the new United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNIDCP) as a vital instrument for international cooperation based on respect for the sovereign decisions taken by each country.

(Mr. Montaña, Mexico)

57. The international drug-control strategy should include consideration of the economic and social consequences of illicit drug trafficking, money laundering, use of precursor chemicals and the demand for drugs. The Programme should follow a balanced approach, taking into account all aspects of the drug problem in accordance with the Charter and the principle of shared responsibility, with balanced attention given to both supply and demand.

58. Mexico attached particular importance to the Programme's operational and technical cooperation activities, which were essential in helping Governments comply with the relevant international Conventions and carry out the recommendations of the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control. The resources available for those activities should be used in a more rational and effective manner than in the past. Accordingly, it was essential to ensure that States in all the geographical regions participated in the decisions on the mobilization and use of voluntary contributions for operational and technical cooperation activities. That aspect should be given particular attention, especially by the countries which could benefit from such cooperation. Subsequent reports on the Programme's activities should provide information on projects aimed at preventing drug abuse and drug trafficking in the industrialized countries.

59. Mexico supported the Programme's efforts to provide technical and scientific assistance and felt that those activities should be stepped up. Given the alarming growth of the drug problem, there was an urgent need for a comparative analysis of UNIDCP activities and of their efficiency and effectiveness.

60. His Government had carried out an enormous effort to set up more effective mechanisms for eradicating illicit drug trafficking. Enormous quantities of drugs, vehicles and weapons had been confiscated and more than 45,000 persons had been arrested. Mexico was aware of the need to adapt its drug-control policies in order to ensure their effectiveness. It planned to lay down a new strategy for combating the cultivation of drug crops and for using up-to-date technology against criminal organizations involved in drug production. Mexico had developed a more effective policy to fight drug trafficking in all areas and had stepped up its efforts to eradicate illicit plantations and to intercept aircraft used to transport illicit drugs.

61. His delegation supported the work of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission and was encouraged by regional cooperation combining the domestic activities of each country with efforts at the continental level. The elaboration by the United Nations of an international convention on reduction of the illicit demand for drugs would supplement the programmes undertaken to date. The establishment of an international system for evaluating the scale of drug abuse and reducing demand was essential in order to gain a clear picture of progress made and obstacles encountered. As a demonstration of its commitment to multilateral cooperation within the United Nations system, his country, in spite of the economic situation facing it, had decided to increase its contribution to UNIDCP by \$50,000 for 1992.

62. Mrs. SAMONTE-LIMJUCO (Philippines) said that UNIDCP represented the first step towards establishing a single world-wide drug-control programme. The new dimensions of the drug problem required a more comprehensive and rational approach towards drug control and a more efficient United Nations structure, which should play a central role in that effort. Action by Governments must be coordinated to prevent drug traffickers from shifting their bases of operation to countries where controls were inadequate.

63. The Philippines was firmly committed to international efforts to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking. Owing to its geographical situation, foreign-based drug syndicates used the country as a transshipment point for illicit drugs. Her country's eradication activities had markedly decreased in 1990 as a result of political and economic problems and natural disasters. Large-scale marijuana cultivation was expected to increase, and criminal organizations controlled the production of marijuana and its shipment to international markets. Her delegation hoped that, through the United Nations, appropriate technology for the detection of illicit drug cultivation and effective and environmentally safe herbicides for eradication would be provided to the Philippines.

64. Marketing opportunities must be made available to producer countries in order to promote alternative economic activities. In 1990, her country had carried out more concerted efforts in the field of preventive education and information. Its comprehensive school-based drug-abuse prevention programme sought to introduce drug-education concepts into school curricula in order to develop positive attitudes and behaviour patterns. The drug-abuse prevention programme for street children was designed to provide such children with alternatives to make their lives meaningful and integrate them into the mainstream.

65. The consistent implementation of the national strategy against drug abuse, initiated in 1972, remained the focal point for government programmes for drug-abuse prevention and control. The strategy involved the simultaneous implementation of programmes for drug-supply reduction and drug-demand reduction.

66. International anti-drug efforts should focus on research into environmentally safe crop-eradication methods, aerial photography and tracking to locate areas of illicit cultivation, and establishing legal authority for attacking drug trafficking between supplier and consumer countries. Consideration should also be given to setting up a pilot programme consisting of a drug-enforcement unit organized by the United Nations with personnel from various countries, and to devising strategies to reduce demand on the basis of broad public education, expanded treatment and rehabilitation measures and appropriate social reform programmes.

67. Mrs. AGUILERA (Mexico), speaking also on behalf of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela, recalled that her delegation had recently requested postponement of the consideration of item 96 because of the delay in submitting the relevant documentation, and had asked that the time-limit for submitting draft resolutions on the item should be extended. Accordingly, she proposed that the time-limit should be extended until 11 November and that the consideration of the draft resolutions should be completed as soon as possible.

68. Mr. TRAXLER (Italy) supported that proposal.

69. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to extend the deadline for submitting draft resolutions on the item under consideration until 11 November.

70. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.