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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 33rd MEETING

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

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 96: NARCOTIC DRUGS (continued) (A/46/3 (chap. VI, sect. E), A/46/222, 264, 336, 388, 480, 511)

1. Mrs. AHMAD (Brunei Darussalam) said that the issue of narcotic drugs was of great concern to everyone, since the drug problem threatened human values and jeopardized the security and stability of nations, regardless of their level of economic development or political ideology. Narcotic drugs were a common enemy whose eradication required collective effort and close cooperation between States. The United Nations could play a crucial role through a global programme of action designed to eliminate drug abuse and drug trafficking.
2. In Brunei Darussalam, drug abuse was a problem of consumption of controlled narcotic substances rather than hard drugs. Nonetheless, illicit drug trafficking was a matter of great concern in view of Brunei Darussalam's location close to the Golden Triangle.
3. With 67 per cent of the population under the age of 30, Brunei Darussalam was fully aware of the threat posed to its youth by the drug problem. It was therefore applying a strategy of suppressing drug supply and increasing people's awareness of the dangers of addiction. That strategy had four objectives: (a) reduction of supply through the prevention of the entry of drugs and the control of domestic manufacture and production; (b) reduction of demand through programmes of preventive education, treatment and rehabilitation, and supervision; (c) detection of drug abuse by foreign workers through random screening tests; and (d) enhancement of regional and international cooperation. Voluntary organizations also played an active role which was complementary to government efforts in trying to eradicate the drug menace.
4. Brunei Darussalam participated in regional and international activities and had signed the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. Her delegation reiterated its commitment to United Nations efforts in promoting cooperation among all States with a view to alleviating drug problems, particularly those associated with drug trafficking.
5. Mr. HLAING (Myanmar) said that the menace of illicit drugs had assumed such alarming proportions that it was now universally recognized that narcotic drugs constituted a global challenge requiring a global response. That approach must encompass effective national measures and close international cooperation among States. It was therefore encouraging to note that over the past two years there had been a positive response from the international community, under the aegis of the United Nations.

(Mr. Hlaing, Myanmar)

6. The establishment of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNIDCP) was a timely measure. The Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, adopted by the first International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, of 1987, the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session, in 1990, and the Declaration issued at the World Ministerial Summit to Reduce the Demand for Drugs and to Combat the Cocaine Threat, held in London in April 1990, as well as General Assembly resolutions, not only provided useful guidelines but also lent a powerful sense of purpose and urgency in addressing that complex problem.
7. The drug problem must be tackled in all its aspects; it was imperative to make effective efforts to reduce demand and, at the same time, to reduce supply. His delegation felt that, in order to maintain a proper balance in those activities, more attention should be devoted to the demand-reduction aspect.
8. The fight against drugs should not be concerned only with hard drugs, such as opium and heroin; psychotropic substances also presented a serious problem. His delegation therefore felt that firm steps ought to be taken in the psychotropic substance-exporting countries which did not yet have adequate control regimes to put in place the necessary legal framework to regulate the export of those substances.
9. An effective international campaign against drug abuse required an adequate international legal framework. In that regard, the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances was a significant landmark. The number of States parties to that Convention had been increasing rapidly and, since December 1990, 18 more States had become parties to the Convention. States that had not yet done so should consider the possibility of becoming States parties to that important instrument.
10. At the national level, Myanmar in 1991 had publicly destroyed drug refineries, drug-refining paraphernalia and narcotic drugs. The destruction had been witnessed by representatives of the diplomatic corps and United Nations bodies, military attachés and the foreign press. The total value of the installations and materials destroyed in 1991 was \$US 2.511 billion at the prevailing street value in the United States. The total value of materials destroyed in 1990 and 1991, under the programme of drug-supply reduction implemented after the advent to power of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, was \$US 4.33 billion. The magnitude of Myanmar's contribution to the international campaign against narcotic drugs could not be measured in monetary terms alone; in terms of lives saved and social problems averted in other countries, that contribution was immeasurably higher.
11. At the bilateral and subregional levels, Myanmar was actively participating in subregional cooperation strategies with the assistance of

(Mr. Hlaing, Myanmar)

UNIDCP. In that respect, Myanmar and its immediate neighbours - China, Thailand and the Lao People's Democratic Republic - were in various stages of implementing cooperative arrangements which would effectively cover the area known as the Golden Triangle as well as areas contiguous to it.

12. At the international level, Myanmar was continuing to participate actively in various international forums concerned with drug-abuse control. Its accession in 1991 to the 1988 Convention marked a milestone in its participation in the international campaign. Myanmar was currently taking steps to amend the 1974 Narcotic and Dangerous Drugs Law and other relevant laws in order to bring them into line with the 1988 Convention.

13. Mr. WALKER (Jamaica) said that his country had participated in the establishment of the legal framework for international cooperation in the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking and in the organization of a new structure which enabled the United Nations to play a more central role in that fight. Jamaica was particularly pleased to have been able to furnish one of the small groups of experts appointed by the Secretary-General in accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/142.

14. On the basis of the structure outlined in document A/46/480, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNIDCP) would provide valuable assistance to Member States through its various divisions. Those divisions would be of special importance to countries like Jamaica in supplementing their efforts to deal with the drug problem. Furthermore, his delegation agreed that UNIDCP, as well as intergovernmental bodies and Member States, would need timely and relevant information; accordingly, his delegation looked forward to the early establishment of an information resources management service which would define the objectives of an integrated information system.

15. Jamaica also agreed with the elements of a sound and rational strategy stated in paragraph 32 of document A/46/480. It should be recognized, however, that the objectives of UNIDCP remained to be determined. What was clear was that the Programme had been assigned an enormous task, the fulfilment of which would require adequate financial and other support. In that connection, he drew attention to General Assembly resolution 45/179, paragraph 12, which had been referred to in Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/47.

16. In accordance with the Global Programme of Action, Jamaica had established its own programme to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking, including the upgrading of a special narcotics division in the Jamaican constabulary force. The Dangerous Drugs Act had been amended so as to increase the penalties imposed on persons convicted of drug offences, and further legislation authorizing the confiscation of the profits derived from illicit drug trafficking had been proposed.

(Mr. Walker, Jamaica)

17. Jamaica had concluded arrangements for the exchange of information with other members of the Caribbean Community and was seeking to increase manpower capabilities in the region through training. In July 1991, the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community had endorsed a Jamaican proposal for the establishment of a regional training centre for drug law enforcement officers.
18. As called for by the Global Programme of Action, Jamaica had also implemented a demand-reduction strategy which emphasized community involvement and educating the public, especially young people, through school curricula and the rehabilitation of drug users. UNIDCP was providing and coordinating funding for the Jamaica demand-reduction programme. The programme had been very successful and could perhaps be followed in other countries.
19. Mrs. SURAPOLBHICHET (Thailand) said that, although the international community was becoming increasingly aware of drug abuse and illicit trafficking, and although legal instruments had been developed to provide a framework for global efforts to combat the plague of drugs, the situation remained serious. Drug abuse was a matter of grave concern to her country and it reflected the need for the international community to adopt more comprehensive and concerted measures. The United Nations was the best forum for coordinating such efforts.
20. Thailand fully supported the creation of UNIDCP and believed that it would strengthen the United Nations drug abuse control structure. It was to be hoped that the Programme would have sufficient resources for the effective fulfilment of its mandate. Her delegation also commended UNIDCP on having contacted the major funding institutions in order to ensure that drug control became part of the relevant multilateral assistance efforts. In that regard, Thailand had already earmarked funds for increasing its contribution to the Programme.
21. Thailand was a member of the International Narcotics Control Board and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The Government had made its anti-drug policy a national priority, and much of what it had done was in keeping with the strategies outlined in the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control and the Global Programme of Action. Its policy aimed to reduce both supply and demand. On the supply side, the Government had focused on law enforcement and interdiction and had strengthened domestic anti-drug legislation with the approval of a bill authorizing the confiscation of drug traffickers' assets and imposing penalties on conspirators, in accordance with the 1988 Convention. That bill had paved the way for Thailand's future accession to the Convention. The Government also cooperated with foreign anti-drug liaison offices which had enhanced its law-enforcement activities.
22. Crop control was another effective strategy. A number of projects dealing with integrated rural development were under way in order to reduce

(Mrs. Surapolbhichet, Thailand)

the cultivation and the production of narcotics. The goal was to provide incentives for cultivators to stop growing illicit crops and to improve the quality of their lives. With a view to reducing the production of narcotics in the region, Thailand was undertaking a joint project with Myanmar, and was also extending subregional cooperation to other neighbouring countries.

23. However, to tackle the supply problem alone was not sufficient. The Government had launched an education programme and an information campaign to enhance public understanding of the dangers of drug addiction. Attention was focused on coordinating the various prevention projects, which totaled 166 in 1991, and on ensuring optimal utilization of resources and programme efficiency. Lastly, she expressed her delegation's appreciation to those countries which cooperated with Thailand in its efforts and which provided it with technical and financial assistance.

24. Mr. KABIR (Bangladesh) said that, while the drug problem in Bangladesh had not yet reached alarming proportions, it was necessary to adopt urgent measures before it was too late. To that end, countries like Bangladesh should be provided with all necessary international assistance. In his view, the drug problem must be combated on several fronts because of its multidimensional nature. First, the sources of production must be eradicated; accordingly, Governments should increase vigilance against the growers of illegal drugs and should offer them alternative crops. International assistance to supplement national efforts was vital in that regard.

25. Secondly, demand must be reduced, an aspect of the problem which had received greater attention in recent years. Thirdly, illicit trafficking must be controlled; that was a very difficult task, because it was common knowledge that the drug trade was carried on by international networks which unfortunately enjoyed the protection of some unscrupulous quarters. Those quarters, influenced by political or other interests, had managed to frustrate national and international efforts to break up the trafficking networks. Bangladesh and other countries had enacted laws which imposed the death penalty on drug traffickers.

26. Fourthly, it was necessary to solve the problem of money-laundering, which took place mainly through the activities of offshore banks. Vigilance must be increased and undercover agents must be used to control the activities of suspected banks from inside. Lastly, cooperation among customs agents must be fostered. The Customs Cooperation Council should renew its efforts to facilitate the dissemination of information on drug dealers and to make available to the developing countries the latest drug-detection technologies. His delegation accorded the highest priority to training customs and narcotics agents in the detection of drugs and trafficking operations. It also considered that the Technical Services Division of UNIDCP could play an important role in combating drug trafficking and money-laundering activities.

(Mr. Kabir, Bangladesh)

27. The greatest tragedy was that the young were so vulnerable to drug abuse. Efforts to protect them must be coordinated and consistent and education on the subject must be provided in the home and at school. The issue of drug abuse in all its manifestations must be dealt with in school curricula from the elementary level upwards.

28. Bangladesh had always stressed the importance of concerted action at national, regional and international levels, and UNIDCP deserved Bangladesh's fullest support. The Executive Director of UNIDCP had referred in his statement to the inclusion of a "drug-control" dimension in international development assistance. His delegation would like to have clarification of that point since it was concerned that that should not be used as an added conditionality for the disbursement of aid to recipient countries.

29. Programmes for the control of drug abuse in Bangladesh were in line with the Programmes of action adopted by the United Nations and other international organizations. Bangladesh had been among the first countries to ratify the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and was also a party to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and its 1972 Protocol and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. At the regional level, Bangladesh and the other member countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) were addressing the issue on a cooperative basis. Bangladesh was among the countries which had ratified the SAARC Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

30. At the national level, the Government had set up the Narcotic Control Board, which was the focal point for the coordination and implementation of the programmes of action. The duties of the Board were: to frame policies to prevent the injurious effects of narcotics and take measures for their implementation; to undertake research and collect data and information; to frame policies in relation to the manufacture, supply, use and control of narcotics; to frame policies in relation to the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts; to undertake educational and publicity measures aimed at creating public awareness; and to liaise with all ministries and international agencies concerned in order to coordinate activities. As far as curative measures were concerned, Bangladesh had set up a central treatment centre for drug addicts.

31. Mr. Al-Shaali (United Arab Emirates) took the Chair.

32. Mr. RAZALI (Malaysia) commended the Executive Director of UNIDCP on his report dealing with the structure and envisaged functions of the programme which, in his delegation's view, was generally in keeping with the intentions of General Assembly resolution 45/179. He was satisfied that the Executive Director, in integrating the structure, had striven to abide by the guiding principles enshrined in the various international treaties, the resolutions

(Mr. Razali, Malaysia)

and decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and the other related instruments. He hoped that continuity would be maintained throughout the development of the Programme, whose creation his delegation regarded as symbolizing a new resolve to address the drug menace through collective action, with the United Nations playing a coordinating role. However, such an enhanced role for the United Nations must be accompanied by vigorous efforts at the national level.

33. His delegation supported the approach envisaged by UNIDCP of an international strategy which encompassed reduction of supply, curbing of demand through the prevention of drug addiction and the treatment, rehabilitation and social integration of addicts, suppression of manufacture and trafficking, and regulation of the international market in drugs for medical and scientific uses. It was important to reduce both supply and demand, and all countries, in particular those affluent countries where demand was high, must take responsibility for reducing and eliminating drug abuse within their own borders.

34. The Government of Malaysia remained disappointed at what it regarded as the ineffective efforts of the Governments of certain affluent countries of the North, where demand appeared to be inexhaustible. Those Governments could not disclaim their own responsibility by assigning all blame to the areas of supply. His delegation would be watchful to ensure that the operation of UNIDCP would not be influenced in such a way as to upset the balance of concern between production and markets.

35. His delegation had taken note of the allocation of resources for the operational activities of the Programme for 1991 and wished to see future allocations for supply-and-demand reduction activities more commensurate with the equal importance attached to both. It also supported the proposal to strengthen UNIDCP's field network, in order to enable it better to discharge its responsibilities and to monitor its technical cooperation projects. Malaysia was prepared to cooperate and render the necessary assistance in the formulation of strategies and the development of master plans which would serve as a yardstick for all national and international drug-control activities. In developing a programme for any country, it was important for there to be extensive consultations with the country concerned and full respect for its sovereignty.

36. As far back as 1983 Malaysia had declared drug abuse and illicit trafficking a threat to national security. Its national strategy - the National Anti-Narcotic Five-Year Action Plan - emphasized demand reduction while also providing support for supply reduction. The key elements of the strategy were prevention, in particular through education; increased public awareness and the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts; a manpower-development research and evaluation programme; prevention of the entry of drugs into the country and the curtailing of supply within the country, through legislation, interdiction and enforcement; and international

(Mr. Razali, Malaysia)

cooperation and collaboration and strengthened coordination at federal, state and district levels. In addition, Malaysia had set up a National Drug Information System, which was a central database for monitoring and planning the prevention programme, and a Concentrated Integrated Project for the Eradication and Prevention of Drug Abuse, focused on areas identified as being of high risk as far as addiction and distribution were concerned.

37. Mr. RICHARDSON (United Kingdom) said that his delegation fully endorsed the views expressed earlier by the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands, who had also been speaking on behalf of the 12 States members of the European Community, and would therefore limit itself to commenting on the restructuring of the Division of Narcotic Drugs of the Secretariat, the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, designed to enhance the effectiveness of the structure, and culminating in the creation of UNIDCP.

38. The Third Committee had played a major role in the process leading to the creation of UNIDCP, which had included informal consultations and formal international meetings, the adoption of important decisions and resolutions and the preparation of reports by the Secretary-General and an international Group of Experts. All that remained was to bring the process to its conclusion without delay.

39. Nevertheless, putting in place potentially effective machinery was no guarantee of effective action on the ground. If the international community was really serious about reducing and eliminating the problems caused by drug abuse, UNIDCP must have the resources necessary to fulfil its mandate as a focal point. In recent years, his country had increased its contributions to the Programme's operational activities and was also considering the Executive Director's request for more unearmarked contributions. In addition, drug abuse control should continue to be given high priority at the current level of United Nations resources, which should be deployed effectively, avoiding duplication of effort with the work of other agencies.

40. UNIDCP could not fight the drug war alone and the international community must also play its part. National and bilateral measures, such as those taken by the United Kingdom, must continue, including the training of customs officials and other law enforcement personnel, income substitution, demand-reduction programmes, particularly in the field of education; community-based initiatives; needle-exchange schemes and agreements to trace, freeze and confiscate proceeds from drug trafficking.

41. The United Nations conventions, the most recent of which was the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, the Global Programme of Action, the London Summit Declaration and the United Nations System-Wide Plan of Action, in addition to other long-standing agreements, were a sound basis for future cooperation. Positive and effective action must now be taken on that basis and in accordance with the Programme's objectives.

(Mr. Richardson, United Kingdom)

42. At its thirty-fourth session, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had adopted important resolutions aimed at increasing awareness of drug problems. As a result of that growing recognition, Governments had been urged to adopt balanced national strategies to give equal priority to both supply and demand mechanisms. His delegation welcomed the balanced approach taken by UNIDCP.

43. Lastly, he pointed out that, although the Third Committee could feel satisfied with the results achieved thus far, it had still not completed its work and that at the current session the General Assembly must take the necessary decisions to enable the Programme to move forward from the restructuring process. To that end, the United Kingdom remained fully committed to finding the solutions, both nationally and internationally, to all aspects of the drug problem.

44. Mrs. VARGAS (Nicaragua) said that narcotic drugs were an evil which had a strong and far-reaching impact on the economic, social and human development of countries. On the one hand, they generated considerable income for the powerful multinational cartels that controlled illicit trafficking, and, on the other hand, they caused irreparable damage to young people, increased delinquency, destroyed families, reduced productivity and heightened the costs of health care. The drug problem had no geographic boundaries and in most cases the countries affected lacked sufficient financial and institutional resources to combat it in an effective way. In developing countries, the effects of the problem were being compounded by the prevailing deterioration of social and economic conditions.

45. Owing to its geographic situation, Central America had not escaped the impact of drug trafficking. Nicaragua strongly believed that only coordinated and concerted action at the national, regional, subregional, bilateral and multilateral levels could lead to the most effective and appropriate ways to combat drug trafficking. Nicaragua had recently established an anti-drug department within the national police force, which had resulted in an increase in persons arrested for engaging in that illicit business and the confiscation of large quantities of various types of drugs. Furthermore, the department had focused its efforts on guarding Nicaragua's coasts, which were the most frequently used entry points by drug traffickers.

46. Nicaragua had participated in 1991 in the first meeting of the Central American commission for the eradication of the production, traffic, consumption and illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related offences, and had been chosen to carry out the work of the Executive Secretariat of the Commission. In discharging that function, Nicaragua had signed a cooperation agreement with Colombia, which also provided for collaboration on the part of the Group of Three, made up of Mexico and Venezuela in addition to Colombia. In September 1991, her country had also signed a bilateral agreement with the United States, which identified mechanisms and laid down plans for joint efforts to combat narcotic drugs. Furthermore, her Government was in the process of signing a bilateral agreement with the Government of Mexico on cooperation in that field.

(Mrs. Vargas, Nicaragua)

47. Nicaragua had also been supporting and promoting concerted action in the subregion in order to cope with drug trafficking. In that context, it had signed in Managua the declaration of the first joint meeting of authorities responsible for ensuring compliance with the agreement on regional cooperation for the eradication of illicit drug trafficking, which, inter alia, defined subregional priorities in such areas as legal development, prevention through education, community mobilization, information and communication, and police and customs matters.

48. Her delegation wished to express its appreciation for the work of the United Nations in the struggle against drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking. It had supported and continued to support concerted actions and campaigns in that field; accordingly, in 1990, it had supported the recommendations of the Group of Experts which had advised the Secretary-General for the purpose of restructuring existing drug control mechanisms by establishing a single, more efficient, coordinated unit capable of responding to the problems arising from the new dimensions of the drug problem in various parts of the world. Those recommendations had served as the basis for the adoption of General Assembly resolution 45/179 on enhancement of the United Nations structure for drug abuse control. Her delegation considered it particularly important to ensure that the guiding principles used for the restructuring process were those set forth in international drug-control treaties.

49. The United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, which her country had signed and ratified, was one of the most important agreements because it included areas not dealt with in other instruments and contained fundamental concepts for combating narcotic drugs, such as shared responsibility, international cooperation and the adoption of the principles of sovereign equality, the territorial integrity of States and non-intervention in their internal affairs. Of equal importance were the resolutions of the Economic and Social Council, particularly resolution 1991/38, and the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly, which outlined the strategies to be followed in order to combat drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking in all their aspects. Those strategies should be included in the policies which were adopted as part of the new United Nations structure in that field.

50. Her country attached particular importance to the Division for Operational Activities, which was responsible for coordinating technical cooperation strategies worldwide and for which it would be seeking assistance in the near future.

51. She urged the international community to provide the funds necessary for the effective functioning of UNIDCP. She stressed that it was only through a concerted and coordinated effort by all countries that short- and medium-term results could be obtained in the fight against illicit drug trafficking.

52. Mr. AL-SAUD (Saudi Arabia) said that the issue of drugs was related to that of social development, since drug abuse and illicit trafficking represented a major obstacle to the development and progress of societies. In that regard, his delegation welcomed the establishment of UNIDCP. The four substantive components of the Programme would enable it to combat the drug problem and rid society of that threat.

53. According to the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its thirty-fourth session (E/1991/24), there was general agreement that regional approaches should be used in considering the measures for the prevention of drug abuse and illicit trafficking. A regional and balanced approach in that field would contribute to the development of a universal view of drug abuse on an international scale and would foster understanding of the various aspects of the problem. The report mentioned the increasing abuse of opiates, especially heroin, in Africa and the Near and Middle East. That trend, as well as the illegal production of drugs, particularly in south-west Asia, was disturbing.

54. His delegation attached great importance to the two draft resolutions contained in the report of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East on its twenty-seventh session (E/CN.7/1991/6). The draft resolutions concerned, respectively, the establishment of regional drug law enforcement countermeasures in the Near and Middle East in the context of socio-economic and cultural development and the convening of a meeting at the ministerial level in the Near and Middle East to enhance the effectiveness of cooperation in resolving matters related to illicit trafficking and drug abuse. Those draft resolutions should be given serious consideration in relation to the programme of action proposed by the Secretary-General.

55. With respect to his country's efforts to combat drugs, he noted that the Ministry of the Interior, in cooperation with the other authorities concerned, was mandated to combat illicit trafficking in drugs and, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, was responsible for preventing illicit trafficking in legal drugs and substances used for scientific purposes.

56. Under local laws and regulations, Saudi authorities applied harsh punishment to drug smugglers. In addition, religious instruction, by urging people to follow Islamic law, which prohibited the use of substances harmful to health and society and to uphold moral standards, contributed in great measure to reducing the danger of drug use and its effect on society, the family, and individuals.

57. The establishment by the Ministry of Health of three major hospitals in Riyadh, Damman, and Jeddah for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts had yielded benefits. The Narcotics Department of the Ministry of the Interior was responsible for implementing government policies to protect the country and its citizens against drug abuse. Its activities at the national level included taking measures against drug smugglers, traffickers and users and implementing awareness programmes in cooperation with other government authorities. It also carried out information campaigns on the dangers of

(Mr. Al-Saud, Saudi Arabia)

drugs, by showing films, holding competitions and seminars in the universities and schools, and printing and distributing leaflets. As a result of those efforts, drug abuse had decreased by 50 per cent.

58. At the regional level, the General Directorate of Drug Abuse Prevention was strengthening its cooperation and coordination with other prevention networks in the Arab and Islamic countries, with a view to creating a regional system for the exchange of information and, for the extradition of drug traffickers, based on bilateral agreements. The Directorate was also working with the Arab Office of Narcotic Affairs, which was an organ of the League of Arab States and was mandated to implement a unified Arab cooperation programme for narcotic substances and to prevent illicit trafficking.

59. At the international level, the Directorate was cooperating with the agencies concerned in many other countries and with the United Nations and regional organizations. It was cooperating at the bilateral level with drug-enforcement agencies of the United States and its regional offices.

60. Mr. MOR (Israel) said that the region in which Israel was located was one of the world centres of illicit drug trafficking. Lebanon had for years been one of the largest growers of hashish in the world, with an annual production of approximately 800 tons, according to statistics from INTERPOL and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Lebanese drug traffickers had begun in 1985 to cultivate opium poppies in addition to hashish, and to produce opium and heroin. In consequence, the drug industry had in recent years become the mainstay of the Lebanese economy: according to various estimations, it currently represented about 40 per cent of the gross national product (GNP).

61. Syrian intervention in Lebanon further complicated the situation of illicit drug trafficking in the Middle East. It was no secret that elements of the Syrian Government had for several years been involved in the cultivation of drug-producing plants and in drug production and trafficking in Lebanon. According to DEA estimates, the Syrian treasury was enriched every year by a billion dollars in drug profits.

62. There was no production of illegal drugs of any kind in Israel. Nevertheless, intense drug trafficking near its urban centres posed a tremendous threat to Israeli society. Drug use in his country had grown considerably in recent years. According to the police and drug-enforcement authorities in Israel, the number of drug addicts in Israel had grown from less than 5,000 a decade earlier to more than 40,000 currently - nearly 0.8 per cent of the population.

63. "Narcoterrorism" was a word used by those involved in the combat against drugs. The classic definition of that term was the distribution of drugs for the purpose of achieving political ends. The drug industry in Lebanon contributed substantially to the financing of terrorist organizations under

(Mr. Mor, Israel)

Syrian control and of Palestinian terrorist groups. Organizations under Syrian protection maintained a presence in the Bekaa Valley and along the smuggling routes of Lebanon. Among those organizations were the Palestinian splinter group Al-Sa'iqah and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command, under Ahmed Jibril. According to certain sources, Palestinian terrorist organizations were linked to Lebanese narcoterrorist organizations.

64. His Government called upon the Governments of Syria and Lebanon to do their utmost to fight the menace of illicit drug trafficking and terrorism. Needless to say, Israel was doing its best to curb the smuggling and trafficking of drugs from Lebanon across its borders and shores. Still, it could not meet the challenge alone; Israel was therefore ready to cooperate with countries in and outside its region in combating the abuse of and trafficking in illicit drugs and psychotropic substances. It had demonstrated its readiness on numerous occasions. Unfortunately, certain countries in the region, Syria among them, continued to refuse to recognize the State of Israel or to maintain relations with it. That attitude was undermining the current peace process and regional efforts to fight the plague of drugs.

65. At the national level, the Israeli Government had tackled drug abuse and illicit trafficking on several fronts, particularly in the fields of prevention and treatment and education of the public. At the international level, Israel was a party to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and its amending Protocol, and had taken all the steps necessary for implementation. It had also signed the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and had taken steps to bring domestic legislation into line with the Convention, in particular in respect of confiscation of the proceeds of drug trafficking, and money-laundering.

66. In 1987, the Government of Israel had adopted a resolution giving the problem priority and proposing the establishment of a national anti-drug authority. The authority's mandate included formulating nation-wide policies for prevention and suppression of drug abuse and illicit trafficking and for treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts. It also included expanding programmes for disseminating information on the dangers of drug consumption and coordinating the efforts of all Israel's governmental, non-governmental and public agencies dealing with the issue.

67. With the growing prospect of peace in the Middle East, his delegation stressed that there could not be genuine peace between different societies unless obstacles like traffic in drugs and psychotropic substances were tackled on a unified front, and that Israel was prepared to set aside political differences and concert its efforts with other countries to confront the drug scourge. Israel supported the creation of UNIDCP and offered full cooperation in its activities.

68. Mr. TROTTIER (Canada) referred to the work of the Chemical Action Task Force, in which Canada had taken an active part, and whose main function was to prevent the diversion of chemical substances into the manufacture of illicit drugs. The Task Force had been initiated by the Group of Seven industrialized countries, but a number of other countries associated with the Group had taken part in its work. Canada looked forward to discussing the Task Force's recommendations at the next session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

69. With regard to drug-control activities at the national level, Canada's first five-year national drug strategy was nearing its end. The strategy was a multi-faceted effort to reduce the harm caused by alcohol and other drugs to individuals and families. It enjoyed the participation of all levels of government, business, law-enforcement agencies, and professional and voluntary organizations. With a view to better coordination of federal and international activities, the Government had set up a drug-strategy secretariat. There had been a gradual decline in the use of most drugs in Canada, although tempered by the fact that the drugs used today were stronger.

70. At the international level, Canada's active participation in United Nations drug-control activities reflected its recognition that no country could "go it alone".

71. Regarding the Secretary-General's report on measures to implement General Assembly resolution 45/179 (A/46/480), his delegation regretted the late issuance of that document, which did little more than repeat most of what the Executive Director of UNIDCP had made public in Vienna in September 1991. He noted document A/C.5/46/23, which contained specific details on administrative, financial and personnel arrangements and on the draft financial rules for the new Voluntary Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme. In his opinion, while the presentation of information in two separate documents might accord with United Nations rules, it left the Third Committee to review only a limited part of the picture.

72. His delegation was prepared to give the new United Nations drug-control structure general support, but wished to see how it worked out in practice. In his opinion, UNIDCP should be kept as transparent as possible and should try to avoid duplication. It would also like financial information on the working of the Fund, which would be particularly important if there was to be a pledging conference.

73. Mr. SOTO GARCIA (Cuba) referred to paragraph 35 of the Secretary-General's report (A/46/480), which emphasized such concepts as shared responsibility and synchronization of strategies. Shared responsibility meant that each and every member of the international community had the duty to face the problems of cultivation, production, trafficking in and consumption of drugs, as well as money-laundering and trading in precursor chemicals. Synchronization meant simultaneous efforts by all countries to resolve the problem.

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74. Strategies carried out so far had been based primarily on prohibition, enforcement and the military solution. That was a limited approach. Elimination of crops, destruction of laboratories and capture of gangs or cartels would not resolve the problem unless carried out on a broad geographical front. If drugs such as marijuana, cocaine, opium and heroin disappeared but the causes remained, other natural and synthetic drugs would appear in order to satisfy the demand.

75. Publicity campaigns to prevent or reduce illegal demand and to promote rehabilitation of drug addicts would be counter-productive if they entailed reductions in funds for education, medical care and social assistance and, as a result, increased unemployment, hunger and poverty. That showed the need for global strategies: unless the drug problem was linked with underdevelopment, there would be no real progress towards a solution.

76. Also, the problem of illicit drug consumption must be linked with the current world ethical and moral crisis. Any solution must recognize the roots of the problem and understand its nature. His delegation supported the view that the extra funds required to combat drugs should not be taken from development programmes for the poor countries. Rather, the resources generated by demilitarization of the countries possessing large arsenals, which should be possible in the current "mono-polar" world, should be used for that purpose.

77. His delegation considered that the fight against drug production, trafficking and consumption should in no way be used as a pretext for violating the principles of the United Nations Charter or the principles of international law, as in the case of the United States invasion of Panama.

78. Cuba's position at the centre of major drug-trafficking routes between Latin America and the United States placed it in an extremely delicate situation. However, there was no drug cultivation, production, trafficking or consumption on Cuban territory. The Government of Cuba had shown great vigour and efficiency in dealing with the problem. The tons of drugs destroyed, the ships and aircraft seized and the hundreds of drug traffickers detained and punished spoke for themselves. Cuba had recently signed bilateral agreements with most of its neighbours and was studying the possibility of entering into new agreements with other countries.

79. Mr. STOVALL III (Federated States of Micronesia), speaking on behalf of the nine members of the South Pacific Forum which were also Members of the United Nations (Australia, Fiji, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu), said that the Forum shared the sense of urgency that had been evident in other statements on the item. Although, fortunately, the dimensions of the problem in the countries of the Forum was not yet overwhelming, the region, with its great expanse of ocean and its economically vulnerable island States, was prey to drug traffickers who used small island

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nations as staging posts to link the major sources of supply in Asia and Latin America to the big European and American markets. That special vulnerability suggested that international anti-drug efforts should be directed increasingly to the South Pacific region.

80. At the 22nd meeting of the South Pacific Forum, held in July 1991 in Pohnpei (Federated States of Micronesia), Forum Governments had renewed their commitment to cooperate in combating drug abuse and trafficking. They had also expressed support for proposals to increase the resources of regional organizations combating the problem and to develop the capacity of its member States to address law-enforcement problems associated with drugs. A close liaison had been established between the police and customs departments of the Forum countries. Just a week previously a meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA) had been held in Canberra (Australia). There had been annual customs-enforcement conferences and Asian regional conferences of INTERPOL. The annual session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific was another forum where the countries of the region discussed cooperative approaches to combating drugs.

81. International and regional cooperation were both crucial to the success of drug-control efforts. The Forum countries were pleased that the United Nations had been giving increasing attention to the question. They approved the establishment of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNIDCP) and welcomed the increased policy guidance and monitoring role assigned to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. As pointed out by its Executive Director, UNIDCP would have to assert itself through the strength of its ideas.

82. He regretted that the States members of the South Pacific Forum had not had time to study the new ideas contained in document A/46/480; many of the members, particularly the smallest of the Pacific island countries, did not have the resources to consider such documents within 24 hours or even a few days. It was important not to put up barriers to a participation in that important effort of any State, regardless of how small or remote it seemed.

83. One aspect of the global problem that must be taken into account was geographical in nature. It was useless to clamp down on one trafficking route if others were left open. The Forum countries therefore hoped that UNIDCP would address the South Pacific region more actively as it set about establishing itself as a focal point for a world-wide drug-control strategy, and in that context, they were pleased that the Programme would fund a training course on the suppression of illicit drug trafficking, to be held in Pago Pago in February/March 1992 under the auspices of the Conference of the South Pacific Chiefs of Police.

84. With regard to drug consumption, the problem was not confined to narcotic and psychotropic substances. The abuse of solvents, which were not

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necessarily prohibited by law, as well as of tobacco and alcohol, must also be taken into account. The lack of economic well-being was also a major factor in the drug problem. The poor and dispossessed sometimes turned to drugs for comfort or for money. That vicious circle must be dealt with at all levels. For example, efforts had been made to carry out crop-substitution programmes in South America; but without changes at the macroeconomic level, such programmes had little chance for success. Improved returns for agricultural exports would act as a disincentive for illicit drug-crop cultivation.

85. Mr. Jong Moo CHOI (Republic of Korea) said that his delegation had high expectations for the activities of UNIDCP, whose new integrated structure held out the prospect of an effective campaign against the problem. The Programme's intention to strengthen its field network also deserved attention.

86. In the view of his delegation, every State must sustain its drug-control efforts in order to create a continuing process world wide. The natural tendency for a country to ease its drug-control campaign following temporary improvement had adverse results; the threat of drugs could never be fully eradicated. Efforts must be coordinated among all members of the international community, and multilateral and bilateral initiatives should conform to an agreed strategy in which UNIDCP acted as coordinator and sponsor. Such problems as money-laundering should be tackled at the international level.

87. Drug abuse should be considered not solely as a crime, but as a social phenomenon that could be prevented by strengthening the role of the community and religious, educational and family institutions. By involving those segments of society in the campaign against drug abuse, it might be possible to counteract the emotional and psychological forces that prompted the individual to fall into the abyss of drug addiction. Many countries had developed prevention programmes with civic and community groups, and others had incorporated drug education into school curricula with parent participation.

88. The world community must give greater attention to reducing demand. International efforts had mainly targeted drug supply and production, which had proved costly and ineffective. His delegation was therefore encouraged that UNIDCP had given priority to national demand-reduction projects, particularly in the field of preventive education.

89. His Government considered that education and the media constituted two powerful channels for awakening public awareness. In that context, it welcomed Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/46, which encouraged Governments with appropriate expertise to consider establishing mechanisms to share with interested States knowledge on the development and evaluation of demand-reduction strategies. Recognizing the importance of international

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Republic of Korea)

cooperation in that field, the Republic of Korea had strengthened its bilateral and regional contacts with neighbouring countries. Since 1989, the authorities had organized a quarterly meeting of liaison officials of embassies in Seoul and had programmed an annual cooperation meeting with Japan. He was pleased to announce that, in October 1993, the Republic of Korea would host the 18th meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA) for Asia and the Pacific.

90. Mrs. RAOELINA (Madagascar) welcomed the establishment of UNIDCP and took note with interest of the Secretary-General's report on measures taken to implement General Assembly resolution 45/179 on the enhancement of the United Nations structure for drug-abuse control (A/46/480). If the Programme was to carry out its work effectively, the necessary financial and human resources must be made available.

91. Although its drug problems had not yet reached serious proportions, Madagascar had acceded to the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, was a party to earlier agreements on combating drug abuse and was a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. It had also adopted a number of measures with the help of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) and France. It had been a sponsor of three resolutions on demand for and supply of opiates for medical and scientific needs, on the prevention of diversion from international trade into illicit channels of psychotropic substances listed in Schedules III and IV of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, and on implementation of the International Drug Abuse Assessment System.

92. His delegation reaffirmed its support for the meetings of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA) and welcomed the information provided by United Nations organs and specialized agencies in document A/46/511, which highlighted the difficulties that Africa was encountering in connection with the lack of financial resources, the lack of materials and infrastructure and the poor coordination of activities. In that context, Madagascar had requested the assistance of UNFDAC in the area of prevention, particularly with regard to the training of experts and the purchase of various types of equipment.

93. If the world strategy to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking was to be implemented, a concerted world-wide focus must be adopted. The United Nations was an ideal instrument for playing the role of catalyst in those activities.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.