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INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFIC IN DRUGS

International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. BACKGROUND

1. The International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was convened by the General Assembly by its resolution 40/122 of 13 December 1985, in response to the initiative of the Secretary-General, with the mandate to generate universal action, as an expression of the political will of nations to combat the drug menace and as a means of tackling the serious and complex drug problem in all its forms.
2. The Conference was held at Vienna from 17 to 26 June 1987; its report is before the General Assembly in document A/CONF.133/12.
3. The General Assembly, in paragraph 6 of its resolution 41/125 of 4 December 1986, requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its forty-second session on the implementation of the resolution, particularly with regard to the results of the Conference.
4. The present report is submitted in compliance with that request and includes the proposals prepared by the Secretary-General in response to the request included in paragraph 9 of the Declaration adopted by the Conference on 26 June 1987.
5. In connection with the preparations for the Conference itself, the General Assembly also has before it the report of the Economic and Social Council, 1/ in which reference is made to Council decision 1987/127 of 26 May 1987, 2/ taken following consideration of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs acting as the Preparatory Body for the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. 3/ The latter report was submitted to the Council in accordance with the request made in paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 41/125.

II. ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE

A. Participation

6. In its resolution 41/125, the General Assembly requested all States to give the highest priority to the holding of the Conference and to participate actively in the Conference. It had also, in its resolution 40/122, called upon the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to give the highest attention and priority possible to international measures to combat illicit production of, trafficking in and demand for drugs.
7. In this connection, it may be noted that 138 States attended the Conference, most of them being represented by ministers or by persons of cabinet rank. Approximately 3,400 persons participated in the Conference, representing Governments as well as a wide range of intergovernmental organizations, specialized agencies of the United Nations system and United Nations bodies and programmes. A total of 178 non-governmental organizations also attended the Conference, and 45 Governments and organizations contributed to the exhibit component of the Conference programme. The list of participants was issued as A/CONF.133/INF.1.

B. Proceedings of the Conference

8. Planning of the Conference proceedings was undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the Secretary-General's bulletin on the planning, preparation and servicing of special conferences (S/18GB/160) and was guided to a large extent by the observations and recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) made in its 1982 report on Secretariat organization and procedures for preparation of United Nations special conferences (see A/37/112), prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 35/10 C of 3 November 1986, and by the comments of the Secretary-General on that report (A/37/112/Add.1, annex). Several of these observations could not be fully taken into account in view of the exceptionally short lead time of 18 months and of the limited staff and financial resources made available for the preparatory process. Nevertheless, the early submission of a plan for the overall substantive approach to the stated objectives of the Conference for the approval of the Preparatory Body made it possible to prepare the basic document in sufficient time to elicit comments on the draft both from Governments and other entities and from the Preparatory Body itself at its second and final session in February 1987. The Main Committee of the Conference was therefore in a position to complete its discussion of the revised text in good time and to consider the draft declaration that emerged from the informal working group of the Main Committee. The Conference was thus able to consider and adopt the report of its Main Committee well within the time schedule, and it completed its work at the close of the morning meeting of 26 June 1987.

9. The International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was the first United Nations conference to be held in the new Austria Centre, Vienna. The structure of the Conference, which included a parallel forum organized by the non-governmental organizations and the mounting of an exhibit of techniques and materials used in combating drug abuse and illicit trafficking, required careful advance arrangements to ensure timely delivery of the Conference proceedings. The Conference Management Committee, established in accordance with the JIU recommendations, worked closely with the Austrian authorities and with the management of the Austria Centre throughout the preparatory period and during the Conference itself. In accordance with JIU recommendation 2 (f) (see A/37/112, para. 110) concerning the evaluation of conferences, the Conference Management Committee is preparing an assessment report to the Committee on Conferences on conference preparation successes and problems as a basis for improving future conferences.

10. The subject-matter of the Conference and the large number of high-level participants gave rise to particular concern for the safety of participants and for the security of the premises. The measures taken in this connection by the United Nations in co-operation with the Austrian authorities served to ensure the smooth functioning of the Conference.

11. While the substantive and management preparations outlined above constituted significant contributions to the functioning of the Conference, the commitment and concern of the participants themselves reflected their determination to ensure successful completion of the proceedings. The seriousness with which Governments view the impact of drug abuse and drug trafficking on their societies resulted in

close concentration on the subject-matter of the Conference and made it possible to avoid political problems and procedural difficulties. The decisions taken at the Conference were, without exception, adopted by consensus in accordance with the principles adopted by the Preparatory Body at its first session and subsequently approved by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

12. The proceedings of the Conference, both in the general debate in plenary and in the detailed discussions in the Main Committee, gave ample evidence of the sense of immediacy with which Governments approach the problem of drug abuse control. Many participants outlined the comprehensive national policies recently adopted in their countries, stressing the need to balance measures for supply control and against illicit trafficking with programmes for prevention of drug abuse and for appropriate treatment methodology. A total of 12 forthcoming ratifications or accessions to the existing drug control treaties were announced during the general debate, and one Government deposited its instrument of accession to the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 during the Conference. As further evidence of their commitment to pursue international co-operation in controlling drug abuse and illicit trafficking, a number of Governments announced significant contributions to the activities of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control.

13. A similar commitment to action characterized the contributions of the regional and intergovernmental organizations and of the specialized agencies, bodies and programmes of the United Nations, which reaffirmed their support for the approach to future activities developed in the Outline. These organizations had made significant contributions throughout the preparatory period to the preparation of the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control and participated actively in the Conference discussions.

14. Of particular interest as regards the evolution of the United Nations system has been the development of drug control activities by the community of non-governmental organizations. The pre-conference activities and the innovative tripartite pattern of co-operation developed between the United Nations, Governments and non-governmental organizations have been described in previous reports, 4/ and this pattern was further elaborated during the Conference. The non-governmental organizations reported on a wide variety of activities at the community and national levels, many of which concerned prevention of the first use of drugs and the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers. The Conference thus served to familiarize all participants with practical initiatives and programmes that are not included in existing reporting procedures and hence are not readily available to government agencies and community organizations in Member States.

C. Output of the Conference

15. The principal outcome of the Conference was the adoption by consensus of two texts: the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control (the Outline) and a Declaration. Both texts are reproduced in chapter I of the Conference report (A/CONF.133/12).

16. The Outline contains, grouped under 35 targets, a wide range of suggestions and recommendations concerning actions that could be taken by Governments, intergovernmental bodies, organizations and entities of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations to strengthen the system of controls applicable to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and to intensify the fight against the illicit traffic in these drugs and substances. The preface of the Outline and numerous passages in the Outline draw attention to the harmful effects and the alarming extent of drug abuse and to the nefarious activities of illicit traffickers and their effects on society.

17. The targets include recommendations and suggestions for action and are grouped under four broad headings: prevention and reduction of the illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; control of supply; suppression of illicit trafficking; and treatment and rehabilitation (of drug addicts). Their object is to offer to national authorities, international bodies and non-governmental organizations a compendium of practical measures that they might wish to take - within the limits of their competence - to ensure the effective control of drug abuse and to fight illicit trafficking. The Outline is not a binding legal instrument; rather, it is intended to reflect the collective will of States to take such effective action and to co-operate with one another and with the international bodies concerned in achieving the 35 targets included in the Outline. Attention is drawn, inter alia, to the urgent need for States that are not yet parties to the international conventions governing the control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances to ratify or accede to these instruments. The continuing control functions of the International Narcotics Control Board and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the activities of the Division of Narcotic Drugs and their programmes receive special mention. The significant contribution of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control is referred to in several contexts. The specialized agencies, programmes and funds of the United Nations system are specifically invited to co-operate with a view to achieving the purposes of the Outline and, where appropriate and on request, to support government action to that end.

18. Each target sets forth suggested courses of action at the national level, indicating action that could usefully be undertaken by national legislatures, judicial and law enforcement authorities, ministries, other government agencies and community and non-governmental organizations. In addition, each target includes action that could be taken at the regional and international levels by Governments, regional and intergovernmental organizations, specialized agencies and bodies and programmes of the United Nations. Two such suggestions, concerning initiatives to be taken by the Secretary-General of the United Nations himself, with regard to high-resolution satellite imagery and aerial photography and to environmentally safe methods of eradicating illicit plants, have already been reviewed and work plans are being formulated.

19. The other document adopted by the Conference, the Declaration, embodies the expression of the political will of the participating States to take vigorous national and international action against drug abuse and illicit trafficking and recognition of the important role of the United Nations system in that respect, with specific reference to the important role of the Secretary-General. The respective roles of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Division of Narcotic

Drugs, the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control are emphasized. Also mentioned in the Declaration are eight concepts - two for each of the four broad headings covered by the Outline - that should guide development of the actions of the international community. In the final paragraph, the Secretary-General is requested to keep under constant review the activities referred to in the Declaration and in the Outline and "to propose, in the context of the United Nations programme and budget and within available resources, how the priority attached to the field of drug abuse control can best be carried out". Finally, the Declaration provides that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should examine the most suitable modalities for following up these activities, as appropriate, at the international level.

20. In addition, the Conference approved a suggestion that the General Assembly might wish to decide on the observance of an annual day on the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. The Conference observed that the date should be chosen in the light of the existing calendar of international events and days of commemoration.

21. During the general debate, further suggestions were made concerning the establishment of an international reference centre and the convening of a second international conference on drug abuse and illicit trafficking in five years.

22. In response to the request made in paragraph 9 of the Declaration, the proposals of the Secretary-General are set forth below so that the Assembly can take them into account before requesting the Economic and Social Council to provide for examination, by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its tenth special session in February 1988, of appropriate follow-up at the international level. The Secretary-General's proposals also take into account the recommendation adopted by the Conference and include observations on the suggestions made during the general debate.

III. CONSIDERATION OF MODALITIES AND PROCEDURES FOR CARRYING OUT THE PRIORITY ATTACHED TO THE FIELD OF DRUG ABUSE CONTROL

23. The Secretary-General is requested in paragraph 9 of the Declaration "to propose, in the context of the United Nations programme and budget and within available resources, how the priority attached to the field of drug abuse control can best be carried out".

24. In the same paragraph, the Secretary-General is requested to keep under constant review the activities referred to in the Declaration and the Outline.

25. The Declaration further provides in paragraph 9 that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs "should examine the most suitable modalities for following up these activities, as appropriate, at the international level".

26. In addition to these elements, the Outline itself includes a range of suggested courses of action at the regional and international levels to be undertaken by the Secretary-General himself and by the entities of the United

Nations Secretariat, and a further set of suggestions has been addressed to specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations system.

27. In formulating his response to these requests, the Secretary-General has borne in mind the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the policy-making body of the United Nations on drug control matters. Particular attention has been paid to the working patterns of the Commission at its regular and special sessions, to the development of the policy guidance given by the Commission in each of the four main areas covered by the Outline and the Declaration and to the range of existing reporting procedures on activities undertaken in the field of drug abuse control at the national, regional and international levels.

28. In his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, the Secretary-General has also reviewed the role of the ad hoc inter-agency meeting on co-ordination on drug control, which reports to a subsidiary body of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination with a view to maximizing the full range of possibilities for co-ordination and interaction with the United Nations system.

29. Similarly, the role of the Secretary-General in relation to the community of non-governmental organizations has been analysed to enhance opportunities for mutual co-operation and interaction in matters related to drug abuse control, especially in the prevention of drug abuse and the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers.

30. Finally, the Secretary-General has taken into consideration the work-load and capacities of the existing entities of the United Nations Secretariat and has endeavoured to formulate proposals in the context of the United Nations programme and budget in response to the wishes of Member States as expressed in the Declaration adopted by the Conference. The Secretary-General nevertheless wishes to observe that the combined effect of financial constraints and the recruitment freeze has impaired the capacity of both the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board and the Division of Narcotic Drugs to carry out their respective work programmes. The further staff reductions required under General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, by which the Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations would aggravate this already difficult situation. To enable both entities to fulfil their present tasks, restoration of the resources to their former level would appear essential, as would allocation of further resources at levels commensurate with the requirements of the additional activities envisaged in the Outline. These concerns were clearly shared by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination when it discussed section 20 of the proposed programme budget for 1988-1989 in May 1987.

31. To assist the General Assembly in its consideration of the elements arising from the Declaration and the Outline (see paras. 24-27 above), specific elements that have entered into the formulation of the Secretary-General's proposal are set forth under the following headings: role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as policy-making body on drug control matters; role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in following up activities referred to in the Declaration and the Outline;

role of the Secretary-General in facilitating co-ordination and interaction among Member States; role of the Secretary-General in facilitating co-ordination and interaction within the United Nations system; and procedures for following up activities suggested in the Outline.

A. Role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as policy-making body on drug control matters

32. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs has, as a functional commission, performed a policy-making role since its establishment in 1946, carrying forward the role of its predecessor organ, the Advisory Committee on Traffic in Opium and Other Dangerous Drugs, established in 1920 by the League of Nations. Over the past 40 years, the Commission has steadily built up a body of basic policies that provide guidance for the international community and particularly for the Secretariat in carrying out activities authorized by the General Assembly in the programme budget. The evolution of basic policy has centred primarily on the areas of control of supply and suppression of illicit trafficking. The growing menace of drug abuse in recent years resulted in the adoption in 1981 of the International Drug Abuse Control Strategy, 5/ which includes elements related to activity by the international community regarding the prevention and reduction of demand and to treatment and rehabilitation.

33. As a consequence of the decision of the Preparatory Body that the Outline should be prepared on a balanced, comprehensive and multidisciplinary basis, the areas of demand reduction and treatment and rehabilitation have now assumed equal importance with the more traditional areas of international activity and can therefore be expected to attract a greater proportion of the interest and policy concern of the Commission and to figure more prominently on the agenda of its regular sessions. It may be noted that special sessions of the Commission authorized as required in years between its regular, biennial sessions, are primarily convened to deal with treaty-related matters and therefore would not normally include items concerning prevention, treatment and rehabilitation.

34. The number of mandatory recurrent items on the agenda of regular sessions of the Commission, held for a maximum of eight working days, makes it unlikely that the Commission would be able to undertake in-depth consideration of these two relatively untouched areas of policy formulation. This is a matter of greater concern since the four concepts relating to these two areas of activity would appear to require careful consideration by the Commission in order to provide necessary policy guidance to the international community.

35. To resolve this difficulty, the Secretary-General wishes to draw the attention of the General Assembly to the technique of appointing a special rapporteur to review a specific problem, survey possible lines of action and make appropriate recommendations on his or her personal responsibility to the policy-making organ concerned. This modality has been effectively used, for example, by the International Law Commission, the Commission on Human Rights and its subsidiary organ, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. In the case of drug abuse control, which involves the mandates of a

wide range of United Nations specialized agencies and programmes and regional and intergovernmental bodies, the status of a special rapporteur as adviser to the policy-making body would contribute to acceptance of the objectivity of his or her observations and recommendations.

36. The General Assembly may accordingly wish to recommend, through the Economic and Social Council, that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs identify, on the basis of the directives given in the Declaration, those areas of policy concern and formulation that it would wish to develop, and appoint a special rapporteur or rapporteurs to report to it at specified future sessions.

37. The selection of special rapporteurs would be at the discretion of the Commission and in view of the financial situation, particular attention would need to be paid to the scope of the mandate, the duration of the appointment and the resources to be put at the disposal of each special rapporteur. In view of the various jurisdictions likely to be involved, the Co-ordinator of United Nations Drug Control-related Activities should be responsible for organizing necessary substantive and administrative support. Substantive support would need to be augmented by consultant services to ensure flexible use of available resources and timely availability of expertise.

38. Topics could be selected from the eight concepts included in paragraph 8 of the Declaration. Well-defined assignments of fixed duration would enable the Secretary-General to prepare detailed statements of programme budget implications and would also make it possible for interested Governments, organizations and agencies to pool their resources to provide support for the work of a special rapporteur and to ensure regional participation to reflect a variety of culture patterns. Funding for special rapporteurs and supporting services would thus be identified prior to appointment by the Commission, which would select special rapporteurs on the basis of experience, familiarity with the problem to be analysed and knowledge of the resources of the international community.

B. Role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in following up activities referred to in the Declaration and the Outline

39. Both the Declaration adopted by the Conference and the Outline build to a large extent on activities carried out at various levels of organization in response to policies formulated by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which in a number of instances have also been embodied in their provisions. The Commission receives, in addition to reports from the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control on its activities, reports from the International Narcotics Control Board and information provided through the reporting mechanisms established under the terms of the drug control treaties. Information on illicit trafficking and responses to the annual questionnaire established under the guidance of the Commission are regularly summarized and presented to the Commission in report form.

40. Similarly, a range of data and statistics is provided by States parties to the International Narcotics Control Board under several treaty provisions. Although some of this material is confidential owing to its sensitivity or political nature,

a good part of the information is made available in annual publications of the Board.

41. In addition, information on the activities and proposed projects of the entities and programmes of the United Nations in matters of drug abuse control, as well as those of the specialized agencies and of several other organizations, is annually reported directly to the General Assembly in accordance with paragraph 8 of its resolution 34/177 of 17 December 1979. Thus, the report on international co-operation in drug abuse control prepared for the forty-second session of the General Assembly will outline drug control activities carried out by the various entities of the United Nations system: the material will be set forth consecutively by reporting agency and entity and presented in linear form and not by subject-matter.

42. A major portion of the information required to respond to the request to follow up on the activities referred to in the Declaration and the Outline is presented in reports for consideration by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the International Narcotics Control Board and the General Assembly under a variety of mandates. However, this information is presented in a variety of formats and provides neither a coherent nor a comprehensive overview of the activities undertaken by Governments and regional and international organizations.

43. The Secretary-General therefore proposes that, as a first step, the General Assembly may wish to decide that the subject-matters included in the Outline should be indexed, and that both the Outline and the accompanying index should be issued as a United Nations publication. The Assembly may also wish to address a specific request to intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations that they provide similar information on activities undertaken in pursuit of the 35 targets of the Outline, on an annual basis and in a format compatible with other reports prepared for the Organization.

44. The General Assembly may also find it appropriate to request that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs review reporting procedures in the United Nations, propose a rationalized system for reporting procedures and establish a comprehensive pattern of reporting to the General Assembly, including existing reporting procedures. To facilitate consideration of this proposal, the Secretary-General could be asked to summarize existing procedures and to indicate which of the existing mandates and resolutions could usefully be eliminated or combined. In addition the Commission could be requested to propose consequential action on this matter to the General Assembly at its forty-third session.

C. Role of the Secretary-General in facilitating co-ordination and interaction among Member States

45. In paragraph 4 of the Declaration, the participants recognize the important role of the United Nations system in the efforts to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking, "and in particular the role of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in facilitating co-ordination and interaction among Member States ...".

46. The role of the Secretary-General in this regard was recently the subject of discussions by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in May 1987, which the Chairman summarized by noting that the United Nations Office at Vienna, in the exercise of its responsibility for the overall co-ordination of United Nations activities related to drug control, should intensify its efforts to make available to all Member States the technical information at its disposal and to facilitate the wider participation of Member States in all activities in the field of international drug control.

47. The Secretary-General has taken these suggestions into account in his consideration of proposals as to how the priority attached to the field of drug abuse control can best be carried out. In order to make technical information available to all Member States and to facilitate their wider participation in all activities in the field of international drug control, it is proposed that technical information provided from all sources, whether governmental or non-governmental, to the United Nations family be made readily available for retrieval from a combined data system, to be organized in Vienna under the guidance of the Co-ordinator of United Nations Drug Control-related Activities.

48. In this connection, over the past several years some progress has been made in establishing computerized systems for recording information in the United Nations entities, and several systems have been established or are being initiated in various organs in the United Nations family. There have been only sporadic attempts to co-ordinate and combine the reporting systems so as to enable comparisons of data and projects in the four prime areas of activity by subject-matter or by country and region.

49. A co-ordinated data system, combined with the proposed rationalization of reporting procedures and with enlargement of the sources of information to include intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations, could place at the disposal of Member States the full range of available technical information, including information on action taken to carry out the suggestions under each target of the Outline and initiatives taken at the local and regional levels.

50. Should the General Assembly approve this suggestion to co-ordinate and expand existing systems and request the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to provide guidelines for this purpose, the Secretary-General would begin by studying the necessary course of action in the framework of the ad hoc inter-agency meeting for co-ordination and preparing a programme of implementation for the consideration of the Commission. As the provision of such an information system was raised during the general debate of the Conference, the Secretary-General would at the same time explore with interested Member States whether this initiative would be supported either by direct contributions or by provision of the services of trained personnel to establish and develop this resource for the use of the international community.

51. With regard to promoting interaction among Member States, the Secretary-General would continue to urge Member States to provide strong national support for activities of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, in pursuance of the objective set forth in paragraph 4 of the Declaration. Many of the suggested courses of action identified under the various targets of the Outline

entail activities beyond the scope of resources available under the regular budgets of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. In a number of instances, specific mention is made of the possibility of requesting the assistance of the international community in carrying out these activities through appropriate requests to the Fund. The Secretary-General therefore suggests that the General Assembly may wish to recommend that Member States should provide additional resources for the drug control activities of the Organization and the United Nations family to enable the Organization and Member States to follow through on the specific courses of action indicated in the Outline.

D. Role of the Secretary-General in facilitating co-ordination and interaction within the United Nations system

52. Two areas of the Secretary-General's responsibilities in facilitating co-ordination and interaction within the United Nations system are of particular concern and relevance to the follow-up of the Conference: the agencies, programmes and entities of the system itself and the non-governmental organizations in consultative status, particularly those concerned with drug abuse control.

53. In his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, the Secretary-General meets with representatives of the agencies, entities and programmes to develop a system-wide approach to a wide range of matters falling within the purview of the United Nations system. In the case of drug abuse control, this function is carried out by the ad hoc inter-agency meetings on drug abuse control, which are convened by the Co-ordinator of United Nations Drug Control-related Activities. In recent years, an ad hoc meeting of one or two days' duration has been convened annually in September, and a one-day meeting has also been held in the context of the regular and special sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The reports of these meetings are brought to the attention of a subsidiary body of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination.

54. During the preparatory period for the Conference, the number of agencies and programmes participating in these meetings increased, as did the scope of their programmes and the interest taken in drug abuse control matters by their legislative bodies. The regional commissions also joined in the preparatory process, making proposals for inclusion in the draft Outline of a range of activities to be carried out at the regional level.

55. At the ad hoc inter-agency meeting convened by the Co-ordinator at Vienna on 16 and 17 September 1987, participants reviewed the outcome of the Conference, devoting particular attention to action required both individually and collectively to achieve the targets set forth in the Outline. The question of resources was a matter of considerable concern, and the potential for redeployment from other programmes was considered to be very limited in view of actions already taken, which had resulted in cut-backs in existing programmes. The particular need of regional commissions for resources to carry out suggested courses of action received special attention, and in this connection it was considered advisable to explore the possibility of funding an interregional adviser on drug abuse control

from the resources of the United Nations regular budget programme for technical co-operation. It was agreed that targets should be reviewed in terms of their feasibility within existing legislative mandates, so that the necessary authorizations could be requested from legislative organs if necessary. The preparation of an index to the Outline, which would provide agencies, entities and programmes with access to available data by keywords compatible with existing systems, was discussed. The meeting thus reflected the commitment and concern of the system to ensure that the Conference results were followed up in a co-ordinated fashion.

56. The Secretary-General intends to continue to develop this pattern of inter-agency co-operation and to supplement the larger meetings through informal and more detailed discussions with the agencies and entities concerned on specific targets and programmes in the Outline. He will also explore the possibilities of developing a data bank in consultation with all participants in the United Nations system (see paras. 47-50 above).

57. In the United Nations system, the Secretary-General carries out a range of activities related to the community of those non-governmental organizations whose concerns and programmes coincide with those of the United Nations. From the organizational point of view, a special unit of the Secretariat is concerned with procedures for according consultative status, in various categories, to international organizations whose programmes are related to those of the United Nations, with handling communications from such organizations and with the formalities for their representation at United Nations meetings and conferences. In addition, the Secretary-General has made special arrangements to respond to the interest of international and national organizations that are not necessarily in consultative status in several substantive areas of the work of the Organization. These arrangements vary at the principal duty stations and have been more extensively developed in New York.

58. Representatives of non-governmental organizations have banded together on their own initiative to share their concerns and experience in a number of specific programme areas, and since 1983, non-governmental organization committees on drug abuse control have been formed both in New York and at Vienna. The combined efforts of these committees resulted in successful collaboration with the Government of Sweden and the United Nations Secretariat in the organization in September 1986 of the Stockholm Interregional Conference on the Involvement of Non-Governmental Organizations in Prevention and Reduction of the Demand for Drugs. 6/ The work of these committees was then carried forward in the organization of the non-governmental organization forum and of non-governmental organization exhibits at the Conference itself. The innovative contribution of the non-governmental community of organizations was recognized during the Conference discussions. 7/ Several international non-governmental organizations have undertaken to organize meetings at the regional and international levels to pursue activities suggested in the Outline in the context of the interests and responsibilities of their specific occupational and professional constituencies. 3/

59. Throughout the preparatory period, support and advice was provided to non-governmental organizations participating in this combined effort by a skilled

consultant whose services were placed at the disposal of the Conference secretariat as a voluntary contribution from a Member State. In view of the great importance attached by the Conference to enabling non-governmental organizations to develop their programmes and activities, particularly in relation to prevention of the demand for drugs and to treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers, the Secretary-General considers it both advisable and necessary to continue to provide support and advice to the community of non-governmental organizations. In order to provide such support in as flexible and economical a manner as possible, he wishes to be able to have recourse to consultant services as required and expresses the hope that Governments especially interested in demand reduction and treatment and rehabilitation will find it possible to make earmarked contributions to enable him to develop this promising area of programme activity.

E. Procedures for following up activities suggested in the Outline

60. In the preceding paragraphs of the present report, the Secretary-General has endeavoured to respond to the request put to him in paragraph 9 of the Declaration, analysing the responsibilities of the Commission and the various modalities that could be used to carry out the priority attached to the field of drug abuse control. In addition to the Declaration, the Outline adopted by the Conference includes under its 35 targets a wide range of suggested courses of action that could be taken at the national, regional and international levels.

61. While the proposals concerning changes in the reporting system (paras. 43 and 44) and the establishment of a combined data system (paras. 47 and 50) are designed to respond to the request in the Declaration that the Secretary-General keep under constant review the activities referred to in the Outline, the Secretary-General has also given thought to the question of initiating or carrying forward the specific actions suggested in the Outline. This consideration assumes added importance since many suggestions are addressed directly to the Secretary-General, to programmes and entities of the United Nations, including the regional commissions, to specialized agencies and to programmes of the United Nations system. A further range of suggestions is addressed to intergovernmental, regional non-governmental organizations. In addition, while courses of action suggested for implementation at the national level fall within the responsibility of the national government authorities, several such suggestions are addressed to the national focal points established as part of the preparatory process for the Conference, with which the Secretary-General has been dealing directly. Several of these bodies and categories of organizations have been asked to take joint or co-operative action to achieve the objectives of specific targets.

62. It would thus appear necessary to consider how to bring these suggestions to the attention of the bodies and authorities concerned and to inquire as to the prospects for taking action under existing mandates and with available staffing and financial resources.

63. The Secretary-General therefore suggests that the General Assembly may wish to request him to explore over the coming year the situation with regard to each target and to present to the Assembly at its forty-third session a report on the

results of his findings together with such observations as he may consider pertinent in synoptic form. The General Assembly would then be in a position to review at the same time the recommendations on modalities made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the observations thereon of the Economic and Social Council and to consider whether any further action would be needed to facilitate the implementation of the suggested courses of action by the various bodies concerned.

IV. SPECIFIC PROPOSALS MADE BY MEMBER STATES DURING THE CONFERENCE

64. During the Conference, several Member States made proposals for activities that could be developed to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations programme on drug abuse control. These suggestions include the establishment of an international drug abuse prevention resource centre within the United Nations; the designation of an international day on drug abuse control; the celebration of an international year for combating drug abuse; and the organization, in five years, of a second international conference on drug abuse and illicit trafficking. To assist the General Assembly in its consideration of these suggestions, the following observations have been prepared in the light of existing commitments, legislative decisions and the previous experience of the Organization with related activities.

Establishment of an international drug abuse prevention resource centre

65. The representative of Pakistan proposed the establishment of an international drug abuse prevention resource centre within the United Nations to develop and sustain the awareness of national Governments and to develop programmes on reduction of demand, promotion of the rational use of psychoactive medicines, preventive education, community participation, treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration. Such a centre could also be the base for practical international co-operation. It was further suggested that it should be located in one of the developing countries facing serious problems of drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

66. The proposals set forth in paragraphs 47 to 50 above to comply with the request of the Conference that the Secretary-General keep under constant review the activities included in the Declaration and the Outline, if approved by the General Assembly, would largely conform to the intent of the proposal made by the representative of Pakistan. For reasons of economy and ready access to source material, it would appear advantageous to locate such a resource facility at Vienna at the site of the United Nations drug entities. The proposal outlined envisages the development of existing computerized systems so as to generate both reports required by the legislative organs and information on programmes and projects carried out in pursuance of the targets included in the Outline. Government agencies in developed and developing countries and international, regional and non-governmental organizations could make appropriate arrangements to have access to the information or to obtain print-outs in accordance with their requirements for programme development, thus making full use of the information provided to the United Nations under the various reporting procedures.

International day on drug abuse control

67. A number of delegations joined in a suggestion to designate 17 June of every year a world day against narcotics and drug abuse. ^{9/} In subsequent discussions, it was suggested that 26 June, which was the date of adoption of both the Outline and the Declaration, could also be considered as an appropriate day for such an annual commemoration. The President of the Conference suggested that the Conference might recommend to the General Assembly that an international day should be observed to mark the importance of the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking, since it would be for the General Assembly to decide, in the light of the existing calendar of international events and days of commemoration, which date should be chosen for such an observance.

68. At the closing meeting of the Conference on 26 June 1987, the Conference approved a recommendation to the effect that the General Assembly might wish to decide on the observance of an international day of the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking; the date should be chosen in the light of the existing calendar of international events and days of commemoration. ^{10/}

69. To assist the Assembly in its consideration of the designation of an appropriate day, attention is drawn to the following days, which are observed annually in June:

- 4 June International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
- 5 June World Environment Day
- 16 June International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa

70. Arrangements for the observance of commemorative days include public information activities carried out at United Nations Headquarters and the other principal duty stations and by United Nations information centres. In addition, special events are organized by the substantive office concerned to further the development of the programme and awareness of the objectives for the particular purpose of the day. For example, it may be appropriate to consider arranging for the recognition of outstanding achievements in the area of prevention of drug abuse by an individual, a non-governmental organization or a government agency. Such awards could be made on a regional basis and could be selected from among achievements reported to the Secretary-General in the context of the review procedure for the activities envisaged in the Outline. Retrievals from the data base described above could be placed at the disposal of a selection committee and the activities so selected could be given recognition and the content of their programmes widely disseminated so as to stimulate the initiation of similar projects in the various regions.

International year for the fight against drug abuse

71. Also during the general debate, the representative of Senegal, supported by the representative of Kuwait, suggested that an international year dedicated to the fight against drug abuse should be designated in the near future. A review of the current calendar of international decades and years indicates that, apart from the

designation of the current year as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, no further years have been designated by the General Assembly. However, the following decades have been designated covering the years up to and including 1997:

- 1981-1990 International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade
- 1981-1990 Third United Nations Development Decade
- 1983-1992 United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons
- 1983-1992 Second Decade to Combat Racism And Racial Discrimination
- 1985-1994 Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific
- 1988-1997 World Decade for Cultural Development

72. The General Assembly may wish to take these existing commitments into account in considering this suggestion.

Second international conference on drug abuse and illicit trafficking

73. A further suggestion was made to convene, at an appropriate time, another conference on drug abuse and illicit trafficking so as to maintain awareness of drug abuse and to take stock of developments and progress in achieving the objectives set forth in the Declaration and the Outline. The representative of Bolivia proposed that such a conference should be held in five years and offered his country as the site for the second international conference on drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

74. In this connection, the General Assembly will recall its resolution 35/10 C, concerning special conferences of the United Nations, the JIU report on Secretariat organization and procedures for preparation of United Nations special conferences (see A/37/112) prepared in response to that resolution and the Secretary-General's comments thereon (A/37/112/Add.1, annex). Should the General Assembly decide that it would be appropriate to convene a follow-up conference in 1992, it would be necessary to include provision for the preparatory process and for the conference itself in the programme budgets for the bienniums 1990-1991 and 1992-1993. As preparations for the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 will be undertaken during 1988, a decision in principle concerning the desirability of including such a conference in the work programme would enable the Secretariat to make maximum use of available lead time, a consideration that assumes added importance in view of the difficulties posed by the short lead time allotted for the preparation of the 1987 conference.

75. Should the General Assembly decide to explore further the desirability of holding such a conference, the Secretary-General would consider it appropriate to follow through at an early stage on systematic preparations. In view of the proposal by Bolivia that it should act as host, the Secretary-General, in accordance with recommendation 2 (c) in the JIU report and the Secretary-General's comments thereon, would envisage organizing a Secretariat planning and review mission to prepare cost and servicing estimates and to discuss them with the Government of Bolivia before an invitation to host the conference is formally made and accepted. Guidance given by the General Assembly during its forty-second session would greatly assist the Secretariat in formulating budget submissions for

the forthcoming bienniums and in making appropriate arrangements for such a conference should the Assembly consider it desirable.

V. SUMMARY OF ACTIONS PROPOSED FOR CONSIDERATION
BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

76. In summary, the General Assembly may wish to act on the following proposals:

(a) With respect to the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as a policy-making body on drug control matters

- (1) Recommend that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its tenth special session consider the technique of appointing a special rapporteur or rapporteurs to advise the Commission on matters of policy concern and formulation (paras. 35-38).

(b) With respect to the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in following up activities referred to in the Declaration and the Outline

- (2) Request intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations to provide information on activities undertaken in pursuit of the 35 targets of the Outline, on an annual basis and in a format compatible with other reports prepared for the Organization (para. 43).
- (3) Request the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its tenth special session to review reporting procedures in the international drug control programme and to report to the Assembly at its forty-third session, on the basis of a report to be prepared by the Secretary-General (para. 44).

(c) With respect to the role of the Secretary-General in facilitating co-ordination and interaction among Member States

- (4) Request the Secretary-General to establish, at the United Nations Office at Vienna and under the guidance of the Co-ordinator of the United Nations Drug Control-related Activities, a co-ordinated data system containing technical information provided from all sources and to be placed at the disposal of the United Nations system and Member States (paras. 47-50 and 66).
- (5) Recommend that Member States provide additional resources to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control to enable the Organization to follow through on specific courses of action indicated in the Outline (para. 51).

(d) With respect to the role of the Secretary-General in facilitating co-ordination and interaction within the United Nations system

- (6) Decide that the Outline be issued and widely disseminated as a United Nations publication, together with an index of the subject-matters dealt with in the Outline (para. 43).

(7) Request the Secretary-General to develop inter-agency co-operation with respect to implementation of the 35 targets of the Outline (para. 56).

(8) Request the Secretary-General to provide support and advice to non-governmental organizations through consultant services (para. 59).

(e) With respect to procedures for follow-up activities suggested in the Outline

(9) Request the Secretary-General to review the suggested courses of action under each target of the Outline and to present a report on his findings in synoptic form, together with such observations as he may consider pertinent to the Assembly at its forty-third session (para. 63).

(f) With respect to specific proposals made by Member States during the Conference

(10) Decide on the observance of an annual day on the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking (paras. 20 and 67-70).

(11) Consider the desirability of designating an international year dedicated to the fight against drug abuse (para. 72).

(12) Consider convening a second international conference on drug abuse and illicit trafficking in five years (paras. 21 and 73-75).

77. In order to enable the Secretary-General to keep under constant review the activities referred to in the Declaration and the Outline and to implement the action recommended above, the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna, in the exercise of her responsibility for overall co-ordination of United Nations activities related to drug control, will be the focal point for follow-up co-ordination. This will require a minimal allocation of resources to complement the work being done by the Division of Narcotic Drugs and the Secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board. The small Conference secretariat is being maintained in the Office of the Director-General until the end of 1987 when funding for the Conference itself is scheduled to lapse. The Secretary-General considers it necessary to constitute, on 1 January 1988, a small unit consisting of no more than three professional staff, which could be supported through flexible use of consultant resources, as was done in preparations for the Conference. This small unit will support the concerted system-wide follow-up to the Conference and will assist the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna in the tasks carried out until 30 June 1987 in New York by the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs.

78. During the Third Committee's consideration of the proposals set forth above, the Secretary-General will prepare a statement of programme budget implications to respond to elements proposed to be undertaken as follow-up to the Conference.

79. In his report on the work of the Organization, 11/ the Secretary-General, in describing the Conference as "both a negotiation and a market-place of ideas and

technology", observed that it had "afforded a glimpse of a workable future in which nations set aside fundamental differences and polemics to face squarely a common threat". He emphasized that "there needs now to be a sustained and well-co-ordinated follow-up, nationally, internationally, and in the United Nations system, imbued with this same dedication and realism". The Secretary-General has accordingly prepared his follow-up proposals to respond in programme terms to the priority attached in the Declaration to the field of drug abuse control by the Conference and by the international community. He expresses the hope that the dedication and realism demonstrated at the Conference will be carried forward by the General Assembly in its action at its forty-second session.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/42/3).

2/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1987, Supplement No. 1 (E/1987/87).

3/ A/CONF.133/PC/10 and Corr.1.

4/ See A/CONF.133/PC/9, A/41/665 and Add.1 and A/C.3/41/7.

5/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1981, Supplement No. 4 (E/1981/24), annex II.

6/ For the report of the Conference, see A/C.3/41/7, annex.

7/ See A/CONF.133/12, paras. 40, 54, 91, 95, 97 and 125.

8/ See A/CONF.133/NGO/1-18.

9/ Algeria, Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. See A/CONF.133/MC/CRP.2.

10/ See A/CONF.133/12, chap. I, sect. D.

11/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 1 (A/42/1).
