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Chairman: Mr. RITTER (Panama)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 104: INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFIC IN DRUGS (continued)

- (a) INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)**
- (b) DRAFT CONVENTION AGAINST ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)**
- (c) IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 41/127: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)**

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 104: INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFIC IN DRUGS (continued)
(A/42/3; A/42/357-S/18935; A/42/407, A/42/417; A/42/477-S/19048; A/42/489,
A/42/490, A/42/549, A/42/594; A/CONF.133/12; A/C.3/42/2)

- (a) INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)
- (b) DRAFT CONVENTION AGAINST ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)
- (c) IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 41/127: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

1. Mrs. NIKOLIC (Yugoslavia) said that although narcotic drug abuse continued to spread in Yugoslavia, the extent was less than might be expected in view of the country's geographical situation, which opened it to illicit transit channels and of its climate, which was favourable to cultivation of the opium poppy.

2. Yugoslav legislation, particularly the law on the production and distribution of narcotic drugs, the criminal law and customs law, reflected the spirit of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances; it was encouraging to find that 115 States had become parties to the former and that 88 had ratified or acceded to the latter.

3. Yugoslavia was committed to a comprehensive approach in the battle against drug abuse, involving social, educational, customs and domestic affairs agencies. In February 1985 the Government had adopted programme principles as a basis for long-term action in drug abuse prevention and control.

4. But efforts at the national level were not enough; awareness of the magnitude of the problem and its urgency had facilitated consensus on the need for concerted international action. The success of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking proved again that, given good preparation and close co-operation between United Nations bodies and Member States, important issues could be discussed constructively. The Declaration adopted unanimously at the Conference reflected the growing political will to adopt effective measures to eliminate drug abuse. Her delegation agreed that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should examine appropriate modalities for following up the activities mentioned in the Declaration and in the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline. The latter contained recommendations concerning all important drug issues, the major task was to translate those recommendations into action. The follow-up proposals outlined by the Secretary-General in document A/42/594 deserved careful consideration by the Commission at its next session.

5. Her delegation supported the Commission's work in preparing a draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and hoped

(Mrs. Nikolic, Yugoslavia)

that, despite the complexity of the issues, which involved different national legal systems, the intergovernmental expert group would be able to finish its work by 1988 and that the new text would be accepted and ratified by as many States as possible.

6. Her country was particularly interested in legal regulation of the question of the transit countries, particularly the developing States, which should enjoy the international co-operation of countries having experience and technical expertise in matters such as training of personnel, special equipment and standards for drug abuse. Of particular importance was the need to regulate so-called controlled deliveries until final destination, a matter necessarily linked to police and customs co-operation between neighbouring States, recruitment of experts, and technical and financial means. The use of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control to fund projects in developing countries was also of particular importance.

7. Mr. COOPER (Canada) said that in the past year, there had been a revitalization of collective efforts - which appeared to have had little impact - nurturing the hope that drug abuse and illicit trafficking could be reduced by international action. The highlight had been the success of the International Conference, due in no small measure to the organizers' efforts and determination, and the two texts it had produced: the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline and the Declaration, which provided the necessary tools for future action.

8. The question was whether the necessary commitment existed. Although the Secretary-General's report on the Conference (A/42/594) contained many suggestions, the implications of each must be considered carefully. For example, although much information was already shared on an ad hoc basis, the proposal for a co-ordinated data system would be of benefit to all countries; reporting systems pursuant to treaties could provide a good basis for further work in that area, while more rationalized reporting procedures would assist the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and other intergovernmental bodies concerned. In addition, many opportunities existed for further exchanges between the drug units and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. But the activities of CSDHA and the drug units were quite different; therefore, his delegation did not favour action to consolidate them or to establish a new budget chapter to cover the so-called nucleus for social affairs at Vienna.

9. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs must examine the proposal to use special rapporteurs very carefully, particularly the aspect of defining their mandate and the financial implications of appointing them.

10. Follow-up action to the Conference should be channelled through the Division of Narcotic Drugs, the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control rather than through a new unit established in the Co-ordinator's office. Although the Director-General needed an executive assistant whose duty station would be Vienna, the creation of a new unit would further complicate the work of the drug units.

(Mr. Cooper, Canada)

11. The Division of Narcotic Drugs must remain the lynch-pin of follow-up activities, and the Secretary-General should consider how the resources of the Division and the International Narcotics Control Board could be restored. The role of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control should also be strengthened; the increased resources made available for its work offered a welcome opportunity for further accomplishment. Since proposals for further activities must be weighed in the light of existing financial constraints, the General Assembly should stress the priority status of drug control and request the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to examine the Secretary-General's report carefully at its tenth special session and recommend a course of action.

12. The draft convention against illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances should provide law enforcement agencies with the tools to fight traffickers on equal terms; its completion must be given priority. Canada hoped however that the text would be ready for signature at a plenipotentiary meeting in late 1988 or early 1989.

13. Canada had long been active in the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking; its national police force was a leader in international law enforcement efforts for that purpose. In May 1987 the Minister of National Health and Welfare had announced a renewed national drug strategy; the Government was committed to spending more than \$US 210 million over the next five years to implement it. The strategy called not only for increased efforts to warn about the dangers of drug abuse and expand support for community-based prevention and treatment initiatives, but also for a strengthening of law enforcement measures, as well as legislation recently introduced in order to trace and seize the proceeds of illicit trafficking.

14. But national efforts must be backed by international co-operation. In June 1987 Canada had adhered to the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances and had increased and regularized its contribution to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control; and its national police force was broadening its technical and operational exchanges with other countries.

15. Mr. SATHIAH (Malaysia) said that the recent Conference on Drug Trafficking had marshalled the global awareness of the world-wide drug problem and the determination, at the highest political level, to take action pursuant to the Outline and the Declaration. But the success of the Conference marked only a beginning. The Outline, although not a legal text, was a morally binding document, requiring nations to work sincerely towards the targets it established. Therefore, his delegation urged the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to identify specific proposals and targets and indicate the specific measures to be taken by the United Nations system and Member States. As the President of the Conference had said, the outcome would be a success only if the spirit of co-operation it had generated was translated into sustained action at the national level.

(Mr. Sathiah, Malaysia)

16. The follow-up of the Conference presupposed adequate resources; while Governments and national non-governmental organizations would doubtless spare no effort to help implement national programmes, additional allocations were needed at the international level. All countries should increase proportionately their contributions to the United Nations system, particularly to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control; although bilateral assistance was invaluable, it was the United Nations system that would give greater effect to sustained multidisciplinary approaches. His country had accordingly taken steps aimed at increasing its future contributions to the Fund.

17. As in any major enterprise, the value of exchanging national information and experience, for example in such matters as crop substitution, preventive education, rehabilitation and training, could not be over-emphasized as an aid to the optimum use of resources. Although an elaborate information system was not suggested, perhaps resources could be centralized, using data already available to existing bodies like the International Narcotics Control Board and the Division of Narcotic Drugs; contact points at the national level could be designated and made known to other countries through the United Nations system. His country was prepared to co-operate with the Organization and other Member States for that purpose, as it had done within its own region.

18. Regional organizations could play an important part in the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. The ASEAN countries had greatly benefited from such common endeavours, having recently waged a successful six-month campaign with the support of Australia. The campaign had included the exchange of drug liaison officers, establishment of a highly effective communications network against trafficking, and co-operation in matters such as abuse prevention centres, rehabilitation programmes and legal training, including the involvement of the ASEAN Women's Programme. Co-operation between ASEAN and the European Community had been rewarding, especially in matters of training and crop substitution. Interregional co-operation was a fruitful field; for example in measures to rehabilitate addicts, his country had initiated the exchange of extension workers within the region and beyond.

19. Preventive education was essential in the fight against drug abuse on the national level. To deal with the supply problem, however, was usually impossible without outside help. Producer countries should take steps such as providing alternative occupations for drug producers. The requisite restructuring, however, required the allocation or reallocation of adequate resources, which must be sustained and unconditional. His delegation had emphasized, from the outset, the need for additional funding, particularly from the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control.

20. The traffickers who made illegal profits from matching supply to demand presented the most difficult problem because of their many guises and manifestations, against which existing international enforcement means were no longer effective. The effective legal instruments were needed to supplement national efforts to prevent traffickers from enjoying their ill-gotten gains. A

(Mr. Sathiah, Malaysia)

growing number of countries are enacting legislative measures for that purpose. Conclusion of the draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances must be given the fullest support.

21. The message of the recent Conference must be acted upon as a matter of urgency in all parts of the world. Steps must be taken to give effect, at national, regional and United Nations levels, to the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline, for which resources must be made available nationally and internationally. The General Assembly should endorse the political will it reflected.

22. Dame Nita BARROW (Barbados) said that the adoption by consensus of the Declaration and the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline was an outstanding achievement which augured well for increased and concerted international action to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking. Although no legal obligations had been assumed by the participants, Governments were morally committed to apply the provisions of those texts at the national level and to work with other Governments to strengthen the efforts of United Nations drug control bodies. For that purpose, co-ordination on policy and implementation was vital in order to reduce the risk of duplication. At the same time, mandates must be clearly demarcated. The designation of the Director General of the United Nations Office at Vienna as the focal point for follow-up action to the Conference would surely have that effect.

23. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the Organization's key policy-making body for drug control, would review the Secretary-General's report relating to the Conference (A/42/594) and make appropriate recommendations. Her delegation, while complimenting the Commission on its past work and the enhanced significance of its role, was rather disappointed that the sole candidate from the Caribbean subregion of the Latin American and Caribbean Group had not been elected during the Council's first regular session of 1987. It would have been more equitable had that substantial segment of the region been represented in the Commission at the present crucial stage of its work.

24. Barbados supported the idea of strengthening the activities of the United Nations in the prevention of drug abuse, and treatment and rehabilitation of addicts. Barbados had a high proportion of young people, the group most vulnerable to drug abuse, and therefore stressed prevention and had undertaken specific action to keep drugs out of the nation's schools. It supported in principle the Secretary-General's proposal to work closely with non-governmental organizations, since they had an important role to play in complementing Government efforts in prevention and rehabilitation.

25. Increased publicity about the drug problem was essential as many people remained unaware of the extent of the problem and the work which was being done by the United Nations. Barbados therefore supported the Secretary-General's proposal to issue the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control as a United Nations publication, and felt that the preparation of an index need not be a priority.

(Dame Nita Barrow, Barbados)

26. Her delegation was not sure that special rapporteurs should be used to carry out specifically assigned functions, especially as occasional consultancy services would be required to support them. It might be preferable to strengthen existing machinery with persons competent and experienced in the field, thus promoting greater commitment and continuity in the work of the United Nations as a whole.

27. As a developing country with limited resources, Barbados welcomed the increasingly important role of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, and hoped that it would receive continued financial and other support. It supported the idea of requesting the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to study reporting procedures and propose a rationalized system. In some cases annual reporting was burdensome to States, in particular developing States. Moreover, annual reports were not necessary in all cases. In order to encourage compliance with recording obligations, and the provision of substantive reports, practical time periods for reporting could be set, both for States and for organizations.

28. Her delegation was heartened by the accession of new States to the existing drug control instruments and the progress made on the draft convention by the open-ended intergovernmental expert group.

29. Ms. PULIDO (Venezuela) said that Venezuela had not merely publicly condemned drug trafficking and introduced legislative and executive measures to control it, it also supported the implementation of international action to review the existing policy for combating drug trafficking and strengthen its effectiveness, including the formulation of a new treaty dealing exclusively with problems relating to illicit drug trafficking, since the provisions of the existing conventions were ineffective in stopping the new trends in illicit drug trafficking and in preventing the formation of well-organized drug rings.

30. It had become clear during the consideration of the draft Convention by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in February 1987 that the international community was fully aware of the seriousness of the situation created by drug trafficking and of the need for States to undertake concerted and co-ordinated action at the national and international levels on the basis of commonly agreed principles. Venezuela had participated actively in the meetings of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group and hoped that the group would be able to meet again in early 1988 before the tenth special session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs; the Commission would then be able to decide on the procedures to be followed for completing the draft convention, including the possibility of convening a plenipotentiary conference in 1988. Adequate financial resources must be made available to enable work to continue on the draft convention. Careful preparation would ensure broad acceptance and effective implementation.

31. The International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking had demonstrated the very serious threat facing the international community. The Declaration it had produced was a sound, well-balanced, eminently political instrument and, although it was not legally binding, it reflected a consensus concerning the main aspects of the problem and the action that both States and

(Ms. Pulido, Venezuela)

organizations should take. It had a binding effect in the sphere of political relations among States and reflected their solemn commitment to a collective struggle involving the responsibility of the entire international community.

32. The outline was a valuable set of recommendations for States and international organizations aimed at co-ordinating their activities at the national, regional and international levels. Adequate follow-up was needed on the Declaration and the Outline. The activities of the United Nations must be enhanced through an allocation of adequate financial resources and optimum utilization of existing structures to assist States and international organizations in establishing and co-ordinating strategies on certain aspects requiring immediate attention. The Outline, as an indicative instrument, allowed States to determine their own priorities in the light of their particular circumstances. Both the Declaration and the Outline contained important references to the need to complete the draft convention in order to provide the international legal framework for drug control. Venezuela supported the activities of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control and, despite its adverse budget situation, had agreed to increase its contribution to the Fund as of 1986.

33. Mr. ZAWACKI (Poland) said that drug abuse was spreading at an unprecedented rate, and there had been a resurgence in countries like Poland where it had previously been eradicated. Over the past decade there had been a serious problem in Poland of poppy straw used for narcotic purposes, and numerous cases of abuse of psychotropic substances, mainly among young people. There were about 8,000 registered addicts and from 15,000 to 30,000 unregistered addicts. The reaction of the Polish authorities had been firm. An inter-ministerial committee on drug abuse prevention had been established to co-ordinate all drug abuse prevention activities. Measures had been taken to curb the supply of addictive substances and materials by requiring licences for the cultivation of the poppy plant and restricting it to large plantations, developing low-morphine or morphine-free varieties of poppy plant and placing additional restrictions on the prescription of medicinal products that were liable to misuse.

34. Steps to curb the demand for abuse-producing substances were just as important as steps to restrict their supply. In Poland various activities to diminish demand were being pursued with the aim of convincing young people that drug abuse was not an innocent amusement but entailed extremely grave dangers. Educational institutions at various levels were involved in that task, and were widely supported by less formal activities of youth organizations. Non-governmental organizations, including youth movements, therapeutic communities, parents' associations and religious groups, were active in the area of drug abuse prevention and rehabilitation. Although poppy plant extracts produced in Poland were used only domestically, Poland fully supported international efforts to control the spread of drug abuse.

35. Poland had participated actively in the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The Conference had confirmed once again that international activities were essential for the successful outcome of the fight against drug abuse. The International Narcotics Control Board and the United

(Mr. Zawacki, Poland)

Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control played an important role; Poland had recently decided to start pledging its contributions to the Fund.

36. The International Conference had taken up the basic question of the causes of drug abuse, whether it started with the availability of narcotic substances or whether the demand itself activated the vicious circle. The Conference documents had reconfirmed the importance of curbing demand, stressing that countries that were the main sources of illicit supply and those that were the main sources of demand must share responsibility in the fight against illicit production and illicit trafficking. However, until the demand could be effectively reduced, it was the suppression of supply, first illicit trafficking, that had to be achieved, and in that respect international co-operation was a critical factor. Poland believed that the completion of the draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances was urgent and would help step up effective collaboration in combating illicit traffic; it had participated actively in the intergovernmental expert group.

37. Poland was ready to share its experience in drug abuse control with the international community and was therefore glad to be returning in 1988 as a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

38. Ms. CLARK (New Zealand) said that although the drug abuse problem in New Zealand was not widespread the only opiate of any magnitude seized in New Zealand being heroin, the human and social cost of drug addiction was immense.

39. Drug abuse was an international problem transcending borders and must be dealt with at the international level. The United Nations had a crucial role to play in drug control, and New Zealand fully supported its efforts. It contributed financially to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control and co-operated in its projects and those of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. It participated in the annual meetings for the Asian region of Heads of Narcotic Drug Law Enforcement Agencies and had sent a high-level delegation to the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The greatest achievement of the Conference had been the clear statement of an international commitment to fighting drug abuse and illicit trafficking and to co-operating to that end. The Conference had also provided a useful opportunity to discuss work being done in various countries and the latest technical innovations for controlling trafficking. The Conference should stimulate the earliest possible conclusion of work on the draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

40. The convention should help substantially in promoting international co-operation and developing new forms of legal technology to combat the international drug trade. It was disappointing that some delegations appeared to adopt a narrow approach to the issues dealt with in the draft convention, viewing them merely on the basis of their existing criminal law and procedures. Unless the draft convention was treated as a vehicle for significantly developing international co-operation, and not just codifying existing domestic law, a major opportunity to counter the international drug menace would be lost.

41. Mrs. KABA (Côte d'Ivoire) said that the increasing number of accessions to the international instruments designed to combat drug abuse demonstrated the importance States attached to international efforts. In that connection her delegation welcomed the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control and the Declaration produced by the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. She also urged early adoption of the draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and the provision of adequate resources for the United Nations bodies working in the drug control field.

42. Her own country had become an important transshipment centre for drugs and had an increasing number of addicts. It was taking strong preventive measures, however, in the form of efforts to educate the population, control and penalize the distribution of illicit drugs and promote international co-operation, including support of all United Nations efforts to eradicate drug abuse.

43. Côte d'Ivoire favoured efforts to heighten public awareness of the drug problem and the proclamation of an international day and an international year to publicize the problem. An appropriate rural development policy must also be pursued to give peasants an incentive to grow alternative crops, and demand must also be reduced through educational efforts. Many specialized agencies could play an important role and they must co-ordinate their efforts in the struggle against drugs.

44. Mr. KITTIKHOUN (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that in pursuing the international campaign against drug abuse, not only must efforts be made to reduce the supply but further action had to be taken to stem the increasing demand. Special emphasis must be placed on the establishment of a social environment that was hostile to drug abuse. His country had eliminated drug abuse through the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers and by encouraging poppy growers to replace poppies with other crops.

45. His delegation welcomed the results of the useful and constructive International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, which reflected the determination of the international community to combat the drug problem. He stressed, however, that the struggle against drugs must be fair, realistic and based upon mutual respect and understanding among States, and never be used as a pretext for interfering in the internal affairs of sovereign States.

46. Mr. MITREV (Bulgaria) said that the United Nations had an important role to play in co-ordinating efforts to combat drug abuse and he particularly welcomed the results of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Elimination of drug abuse required not only legislative and administrative measures but also national and international strategies to deal with the underlying social causes. International co-operation must be based, however, on the accepted norms of international law and on freely undertaken obligations, with no attempt at political interference in the internal affairs of States.

47. His own country's efforts to combat drugs were aimed not only at protecting Bulgarian society from the drug menace but also at assisting other countries. Drug

(Mr. Mitrev, Bulgaria)

abuse was not an important social problem in Bulgaria, which had very few addicts, but its strategic location and potential as a transshipment centre had led to extremely effective efforts by the Bulgarian authorities to intercept and penalize illicit traffic.

48. Existing international legal instruments to combat drugs had demonstrated their effectiveness, and the forthcoming draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances could not depart significantly from the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 if it was to become a really effective instrument for promoting co-operation between countries with different legal and other systems. Given the importance of international co-operation, his country would continue to participate in the drug control system established under existing international legal instruments and would co-operate with other countries and share its experience in the field.

49. Mr. GALAL (Egypt) said that the drug problem was equally serious for producer, consumer and transit countries. His own country had participated actively in the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and commended its results and the positive spirit which had produced them, as well as the excellent work being done by United Nations specialized bodies.

50. Production, consumption and trafficking in drugs was a profitable but destructive business. The Islamic religion had always advocated an integrated approach to drug control and had a long standing injunction against alcohol, which, in effect, could be interpreted to include drugs. For many years Egypt had been pursuing efforts to combat the drug problem and had hosted an important meeting on the problem of drugs in Africa. He welcomed the help being provided by the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control and urged the United Nations to co-ordinate efforts to combat the use and distribution of drugs. Penalties must be instituted against growers and producers and an integrated and gradual attack on the problem must include increasing sensitization of the public through the mass media, greater efforts by the customs authorities, education and rehabilitation. His delegation would therefore support the draft resolutions on the subject to be submitted by Venezuela and Malaysia and looked forward to the completion of the draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. His country was also contributing \$US 2,000 to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control.

51. Mrs. MSUYA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that elimination of the problem of drug abuse and illicit trafficking, with its grave social consequences for society, should rally the full efforts of the international community. Her Government had supported and participated in the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (ICDAIT) as an expression of its national commitment to action to that end. The International Conference, through its adoption of the Declaration and the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, had provided the framework for global concerted action. Her delegation wished to commend the United Nations system, in particular, the Division of Narcotic Drugs and the Secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board, the Board itself, and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, for the success of ICDAIT.

(Mrs. Msuya, United Republic of Tanzania)

52 Despite the fact that the problem had not reached alarming proportions in her country, her Government was taking preventive measures against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. Existing legislation provided for strict control of production, distribution, importation and dispensing of all pharmaceutical and chemical substances. The Cultivation of Noxious Plants Ordinance of 1926, and as amended in 1987, prohibited cultivation, possession and trafficking of all noxious plants. Legislation was currently being reviewed with a view to developing more efficient approaches to the drug problem.

53. Co-operation was vital in the anti-drug campaign, especially for countries, like her own, where the appropriate infrastructures had not yet been fully developed. In Tanzania enforcement of drug abuse and trafficking laws was hampered due to insufficient and inadequately trained personnel, and lack of equipment and other facilities. There was also a need for rehabilitation centres and trained personnel to staff those centres.

54. The problem of drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking transcended national boundaries, ideological or religious differences, and differences in level of economic development. It had to be approached through international co-operation. Consequently, her delegation reiterated its call for the international community to co-operate in drug control, and it looked forward to the convening of the proposed plenipotentiary conference on the convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

55. Mr. BROWNE (Fiji) said that greater purpose and resolve appeared to be galvanizing the campaign against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. The International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was the climax of over 40 years of efforts by the international community to combat drug abuse, and its recommendations and decisions provided an important platform from which the international community could launch a more vigorous and co-ordinated campaign. The proposals regarding the roles of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Secretary-General in facilitating that campaign were positive steps in the development of a strategy to combat the drug problem.

56. The significant upsurge in drug abuse, which began in the 1960s, was a result of the increasing affluence of some countries coupled with the greater availability of cheaper and more potent substances. The leisure-time use of drugs eventually led to widespread addiction and abuse, spreading from the wealthy classes to every sector of society, including youth. Drug abuse had become a major issue of our time, and a more realistic and factual approach to the problem was essential.

57. Weighing the relative significance of the producer, the distributor and the consumer, his country found that consumer countries were the primary cause of the escalation of the illicit drug industry. Developed economies provided a lucrative outlet for drug-producing farmers in developing countries, who were barred by protectionist policies abroad from marketing other commodities. Those who were mainly responsible for the problem, then, should shoulder the major financial costs of drug control measures. At the same time, he wished to acknowledge the extent to

(Mr. Browne, Fiji)

which some developed nations had already gone to in providing assistance for the control and eradication of drugs in producer countries. However, those efforts would not be of lasting significance if farmers in third world countries were not provided with markets for alternative crops at acceptable prices. He commended the efforts in preventing the spread of drugs of the United Nations bodies, including the Division of Narcotics, the International Narcotic Control Board and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control.

58. Over the past few years there had been an increase in drug abuse in the South Pacific region, as well as in the use of that region as a transit point between producer areas and consumer countries. Consequently, regional co-operation played an important role and should be developed further, with due regard for the requirements of each region. To date, regional efforts had resulted in the establishment of a surveillance and detection infrastructure, including a comprehensive liaison system on drug trafficking, regular exchange of information and views between law enforcement officials, and exchange of intelligence at operational levels within the region. In addition, countries of the region were in close contact with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).

59. One method of controlling the problem of drug abuse was through proper parental control of young people combined with education about the dangers of drugs. The extended family system, typical of his country and others in the region, could be a strong force in combating the spread of drugs, and that system should be supported and reinforced.

60. The momentum of current anti-drug activities must be maintained. Valuable energy must not be wasted setting up more bureaucracies; those that existed were more than adequate, as long as they received the necessary financial support. The collective goal of the international community should be concrete progress, free of any political compromise.

61. Mr. TOBAR-ZALDUMBIDE (Ecuador) expressed his delegation's satisfaction at the success of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, which had achieved the dual aim of generating global action to combat drugs and serving as a focal point for the useful exchange of information and experience. By the adoption of the Declaration and the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, the Conference had established clear guidelines for the work of the United Nations in that area. Those documents provided a reaffirmation of the international community's decision to strengthen co-operation, through the contribution of resources and techniques, in the areas of prevention and reduction of demand, control of supply, elimination of illicit trafficking, and treatment and rehabilitation of addicts. Within the framework of collective action, each State had the right to establish its own priorities in accordance with national policies and available resources. In the opinion of his delegation, those priorities should be based on an examination of the fundamental causes of drug dependency and, when necessary, the use of crop substitution.

(Mr. Tobar-Zaldumbide, Ecuador)

62. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the main policy-making body in the field of drug control, should execute the proposals contained in the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline on the international level. His delegation appreciated the innovative ideas for follow-up action found in the Secretary-General's report (A/42/594) on the International Conference. While some of the proposals required further study, others could be applied in the immediate future, such as those included in items 6 to 10, chapter V of the report. Among the proposals requiring further consideration were those regarding new bureaucratic mechanisms. His delegation believed that the existing system must be strengthened by providing resources and assigning personnel to vacancies in the Secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board and the Division of Narcotic Drugs, which would then be responsible for co-ordination within the United Nations system of follow-up activities. It was also necessary to evaluate further the proposals for new systems of data collection and centralization and a new reporting system in order to avoid mistakes in the administration, dissemination and use of the relevant information.

63. In the context of the international campaign against traffick in drugs, it was important for States which had not already done so to accede to the existing international instruments on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. In that same broad context, the progress already achieved on the draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances justified the holding of a third session of intergovernmental experts with a view to concluding the preparation of that instrument. His delegation supported the convening in 1988 of a plenipotentiary conference, if circumstances allowed.

64. During 1987, his country had continued its offensive against drug abuse, which had included the destroying of plantations, detection of clandestine drug laboratories, imposition of sanctions against drug traffickers, the training of personnel to prevent drug abuse in young people, and a campaign to promote awareness of the harmful effects of drug addiction. Those and other activities were being implemented in compliance with the national plan to combat drug abuse. Some of the projects in that plan had been financed with the assistance of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. The Fund had become a major source of multilateral assistance to developing countries in the region, and the efficiency of its work was reflected in the generous contributions of the majority of Member States.

65. His delegation reaffirmed its determination to provide decisive and active support in the international campaign against drug trafficking, and favoured priority treatment for that campaign in United Nations budget programmes.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.