



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 31st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. RITTER (Panama)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 104: INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFIC IN DRUGS

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

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 104: INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFIC IN DRUGS (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
- (b) DRAFT CONVENTION AGAINST ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
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1. Miss ANSTEE (Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna) said that she was honoured to address the Third Committee for the first time in her capacity as Co-ordinator of all United Nations drug control programmes and wished to pay a warm tribute to the work of her predecessor, Mr. Buffum. She was assuming her responsibilities at a time which was particularly critical in the evolution of the global drug problem and the United Nations system's response to it. The decisions taken by the General Assembly at its forty-second session and by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs next February would be crucial in determining the nature and effectiveness of that response.

2. During 1987, the drug abuse situation had continued to deteriorate, the most striking feature being the escalation of heroin and cocaine abuse. The abuse of other substances continued to spread and, in general, patterns of abuse were becoming more complex. Drug abuse was also regularly associated with other problems including, inter alia, personal and social dysfunction, crime, accidents and impairments of health and death from overdose or attendant causes. A particularly disturbing recent development was the relationship established between drug abuse and the upsurge of AIDS and of a severe form of hepatitis.

3. Since the beginning of the twentieth century, the international community, including the United Nations system, had been gradually evolving global control mechanisms designed to limit the availability of drugs for abuse. New mechanisms, therefore, were not needed. The challenge today at the national and international levels, was to strengthen measures designed to control supply and to suppress illicit trafficking; to develop activities preventing illicit demand for drugs; to ensure appropriate treatment and eventual social reintegration of drug addicts; and to ensure that the minimum resources in terms of money, staffing, and managerial capacity were in place and functioning at maximum effectiveness. Those efforts required a steadfast and sustained political will, and there had been overwhelming evidence of that will at the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking held in Vienna in June 1987.

(Miss Anstee)

4. Commenting on the work of the Division of Narcotic Drugs, she drew attention to the three documents prepared by that Division for consideration by the General Assembly - documents A/42/490, A/42/488 and A/42/658. The Division had also been engaged in the preparatory work on the new draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, that task having been entrusted to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 39/141. The dedicated effort by the members of the intergovernmental expert group to reach general agreement on the draft text boded well for the next round of discussions which would take place in early 1988.

5. The special campaign conducted by the Division of Narcotic Drugs to increase adherence to international drug control treaties had greatly benefited from the momentum created by the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. From October 1986 to October 1987, there had been a 6 per cent increase in the States parties to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, bringing the total to 125 States. During that same period, States parties to the Convention on Psychotropic Substances had increased by almost 5 per cent and stood at 88. Additional efforts by the Division of Narcotic Drugs had included providing advice and support to various international meetings on drug abuse control and an increase in scientific and technical assistance to Member States.

6. She wished to recognize the invaluable work being done by the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) in helping Governments to prevent the diversion of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances from the legitimate trade into illicit traffic, assisting States parties to the international drug control treaties to implement those treaties fully and carrying out voluntary activities aimed at preventing undue increases in the supply of psychotropic substances.

7. She was deeply concerned about the resource situation of both the Division of Narcotic Drugs and the secretariat of the INCB. In order to strengthen the role of those key units and enlarge their scope, they could require a minimum of financial and human resources. Unfortunately, the trend in recent years had been in the opposite direction. She had attempted, in her first months in charge of the United Nations Office at Vienna, to reverse that trend by applying a three-pronged strategy which involved filling vacancies by using internal vacancy management and staff redeployment schemes, protecting the units against further cuts and searching for additional resources.

8. Her emphasis on the Division of Narcotics Drugs and the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board should in no way be construed as indicating that she attached less importance to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC). That agency's role in funding operational activities in the field was of incalculable importance. The international community's broad-based support for UNFDAC's policy emphasizing national and regional master plans had led to an increase of 300 per cent in the Fund's annual budget since 1984. While that most welcome increase in resources had permitted expansion of the Fund's technical assistance programmes to developing countries, the task at hand was still immense and she called on all States to contribute even more generously.

(Miss Anstee)

9. Referring to the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (ICDAIT), she paid tribute to Mrs. Tamar Oppenheimer, Secretary-General of ICDAIT, for her able preparation and organization of that Conference. The success of the Conference, based mainly on the willingness of the 138 delegates to set aside political considerations and reach consensus on a wide range of issues, must not remain an isolated event; it should become the corner-stone of vigorous and world-wide action. Member States must continue the activities undertaken in connection with Conference preparation, among them, the development of focal points, ratifications and accessions to treaties and development of national policies.

10. In view of the fact that the Secretary-General's report on the Conference, A/42/594, took an activist stance and thus risked being misunderstood, she wished to clarify the following points: (a) decisions clearly rested with Member States; (b) none of the proposals in the report were cast in stone; (c) nothing in that report should be construed as undermining the key role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the policy-making body of the United Nations on drug control matters; and (d) action at all levels must be directed equally towards prevention and reduction of the demand for drugs, control of supply, suppression of illicit trafficking and treatment and rehabilitation. The suggestion regarding the use of Special Rapporteurs, which had aroused great interest and even concern, was intended only to point to a possible mechanism for sustaining the impetus of ICDAIT. That suggestion, if adopted, would be implemented by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and would be a means of facilitating and expediting the work of that Commission. Similarly, the proposals for a co-ordinated data system and the provision of timely, relevant and regular reports were aimed at strengthening the function of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as policy-maker and monitor.

11. With regard to structural and managerial arrangements, neither new mechanisms nor new bureaucracies were being proposed. The emphasis must be on strengthening the existing mechanisms. Her main concern was to ensure that the secretariat, within the constraints imposed by available resources, fulfilled its responsibility for ensuring an effective follow-up to the Conference. To achieve that goal, her office required the minimum tools - in terms of staffing and finances. It was not her intention to divert resources already allocated for specific purposes; priorities would have to be addressed either through a realignment of resources or by the provision of additional extra-budgetary resources.

12. Finally, she hoped that the same fixity of purpose and collective will demonstrated at the Vienna Conference would inform the current debate relating to drug abuse.

13. Mr. DI GENNARO (Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control) said that, in the course of recent years, the role and tasks of UNFDAC had assumed unprecedented dimensions due to increasing demands and the correspondingly increased capacity of the Fund to respond. Active world-wide, UNFDAC was in a unique position because of its first-hand practical experience to measure the gravity of the situation, assess what assistance was required and predict the

(Mr. Di Gennaro)

positive changes which would occur. It was clear that in order to make more progress, an even stronger mobilization of energies in individual countries and in the international community as a whole was needed. The decision to convene the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking had been most appropriate because it was by creating awareness of the problems that programmes of action could be initiated. It was time, then, to translate the international community's increased awareness into action, through the mechanism of UNFDAC.

14. In keeping with the mandates of UNFDAC, he wished to pay particular attention to those third world countries where illicit drug trafficking was suffocating legitimate economic activities, distorting social structures and increasing the misery of poverty. In some countries, traditional values were being undermined and even replaced by negative drug-related cultural patterns. In the international fight against drugs, UNFDAC was the crucial link between those countries in need and those which could devote part of their resources to help the others. However, the distinction between countries in need and potential donors was not an absolute one, and many developing countries were contributing sizeable amounts to the battle against drugs.

15. The United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) believed strongly that because of the transnational character of drug abuse a strategy based primarily on the multilateral approach was required for international assistance effectively to combat it. Such a strategy allowed UNFDAC to operate in a way that was highly responsive to the need for a maximum of harmonization and integration and a minimum of political complications. Positive signs of the international community's confidence in UNFDAC's activities had appeared in the first months of 1987 and had continued. In that period, one country had pledged over \$US 300 million with a view to beginning a new era of stronger international commitment, and others were expected to follow that important initiative. In the mean time, UNFDAC continued to work steadily within its existing resources.

16. Offers of assistance from UNFDAC and its presence in the field often triggered a dynamic process in the recipient countries that was in itself an important result. When the international community demonstrated through UNFDAC its willingness to provide assistance for the purpose of eliminating sources of drug production and cutting trafficking routes, and when negotiations were initiated with countries to identify the most practical arrangements for involving local authorities and experts in the design of projects, there was a shift from abstract declarations of intent by the authorities to concrete actions. The very fact of accepting UNFDAC's assistance brought a country and its problems to the attention of the United Nations and of the international community. The country then became aware that it was under scrutiny and its sense of international responsibility was strengthened. As a result, the effort to combat drug abuse became one of its priorities and a process was generated that could bring about the necessary commitment and the cultural changes needed for significant and durable results.

17. Financing all the operations needed to achieve the cultural, economic and socio-political changes that would ensure the disappearance of activities connected

(Mr. Di Gennaro)

with illicit drugs would require enormous amounts of resources that UNFODAC could not realistically expect to mobilize. A level of resources that would permit it to initiate and support such a process could realistically be contemplated, but even that went beyond its current financial resources. UNFODAC was confident, however, that an increasingly generous manifestation of international solidarity would continue in support of its activities. It was clear that fighting drug abuse in poor countries meant working for development and for the improvement of the quality of life of all mankind.

18. Mr. KHAN (President, International Narcotics Control Board) said that the unprecedented spread of drug abuse during the last 20 years to previously unaffected social strata and geographical areas, as well as more harmful patterns of consumption, had called for new and stronger counter-measures.

19. The General Assembly's decision to convene the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking had come none too soon and the Conference's success bore witness to the wisdom of that decision. The Conference had generated not only the necessary political will to combat the growing menace of drug abuse and trafficking but a universal awakening of conscience. It constituted a conceptual landmark in the long endeavour to tackle the problem of drug abuse. The Conference had added a global and humanitarian perspective to the struggle by extending the international community's field of activity to aspects hitherto left to national initiatives: namely, the prevention and reduction of demand and the treatment and rehabilitation of addicts. The Board welcomed those new perspectives and would support them fully within the framework of its terms of reference and resources. Much had already been achieved by the system first set up by the League of Nations which could serve as a basis for the future expansion of activities in accordance with the Multidisciplinary Outline.

20. The fact that no change was envisaged in the Board's terms of reference and its functions did not mean that its work was static. Long before the Conference, the Board had taken various initiatives to improve drug control and its proposals for action were more often than not extensions of those initiatives. The Board proposed to examine those elements of the Multidisciplinary Outline which fell within its competence, with a view to elaborating specific measures and establishing target dates and priorities.

21. The Board had frequently responded to requests from competent organs of the United Nations to reinforce control measures. In response to the request of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, it had been preparing studies and surveys on the demand for and supply of opiates world-wide since 1973. It had also monitored voluntary control measures on psychotropic substances at the request of the Economic and Social Council, endeavouring to prevent the diversion of those substances into the illicit traffic. Both requests had been additional tasks not specified under its treaty mandate. However, the Board could not continue to absorb such additional tasks indefinitely and any future expansion of its work, including the activities proposed in the Multidisciplinary Outline, would have to be considered together with the financial implications. The Board had not been in

(Mr. Khan)

a position to carry out its responsibilities under the treaties fully in 1987, and additional tasks would result in the neglect of other existing control measures.

22. The Board's attention had been increasingly drawn to countries recently affected by drug abuse and trafficking. Many of them had weak administrative structures, as well as other priorities competing for very limited resources. With the current heightened awareness of the drug problem, those Governments would have greater expectations of guidance by the Board in implementing the Conventions.

23. In considering the follow-up to the Conference, it was of the utmost importance that the measures adopted should build on the impressive body of legislation already established. The core of the control system was embodied in the 1961 and 1971 Conventions and the 1972 Protocol, and any follow-up action recommended by the Conference should, in the Board's opinion, be built on that structure.

24. The Board was well aware of the United Nations financial crisis. It believed, however, that resources should not be diverted from existing bodies carrying out measures of control which were treaty obligations and other voluntary control measures which had been tested and found to be effective. The existing measures were intertwined and the neglect of one would weaken the whole system. The way to incorporate new tasks into the workload was by reinforcing the substantive units already engaged in various aspects of drug control.

25. Mr. ALDERETE ROSALES (Bolivia) said that the Government of Bolivia attached the highest priority to combating drug abuse and illicit trafficking and was pursuing that struggle energetically despite the serious economic crisis Bolivia was experiencing. Bolivia considered that the United Nations had a key role to play in the struggle because the problems of drug abuse and trafficking were a collective responsibility which must be shared by all the countries concerned. Both producer and consumer countries had a common enemy in the illicit traffic because its financial and logistical networks extended beyond national boundaries and endangered the sovereignty and security of States.

26. Bolivia's national strategy was based on bilateral and multilateral co-operation and its institutional and operational machinery was being steadily improved as a counterpart to the important assistance it was receiving at the bilateral and multilateral level. The two basic components of its campaign against illicit trafficking were prohibition and alternative development. Without effective action to suppress the traffic and the dealer organizations coca crop substitution would not be feasible because of the correlation between production and prices. On the other hand, without sustained action to launch alternative development project, it would be impossible to guarantee that coca producers would eliminate their surplus crops.

27. Because of the social complexity of coca production in Bolivia, any action by the State must be based on a national consensus and collective action: by the coca producers to suppress the cocaine dealers and resist the blandishments of the

(Mr. Alderete Rosales, Bolivia)

illicit capital they offered and by the Government, to provide medium- and long-term assistance to the growers in changing the pattern of coca production. An overall strategy, consisting of a combination of policies for crop diversification, regional development and prevention and rehabilitation through wide-ranging low-cost measures directed above all to the high-risk areas, had been formulated in the Plan Integral de Desarrollo Alternativo y Sustitucion de Cultivos de Coca.

28. The basic aim of national policy was to protect the environment and national human resources from the harm caused by drug production and trafficking. The Government regarded it as vital to prevent and avoid ecological erosion as well as the moral and social deterioration that resulted from the drug traffic. Its determination to fight illicit trafficking and drug abuse had found expression in the drafting and progressive implementation of a Bolivian Doctrine to Combat Drug Trafficking, based on the special nature of the problem given the political, economic, social and cultural circumstances of Bolivia. At the same time, it did not isolate the problem from the world context and the position of the international community.

29. Successful steps had been taken in regard both to prohibition and alternative development. The confiscation of cocaine in various stages of processing, the detention of traffickers, the destruction of laboratories and the seizure of vehicles and weapons had all been stepped up substantially. These activities were part of the strategy of containing the traffic in the zones of origin where the operators were concentrated with a view to affecting the raw material price and breaking the links between the dealer organizations and their marketing systems.

30. Advances had also been made in alternative development by reducing the area under coca and executing a programme of crop reconversion involving 4,000 farmers. Studies were also under way to identify export prospects of the replacement crops. Plans had been made to support local and regional economies dependent on coca through labour-intensive regional projects.

31. New institutional machinery had also been set up with the establishment of a National Council to Combat Drug Abuse and Trafficking presided over by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. A special anti-drug force had been established, consisting of members of the armed forces and the national police. The new institutional arrangements had not only corrected flaws in drug control but had also substantially improved the country's image, enhancing its internal and external credibility as well as making the struggle against drug abuse and illicit trafficking more efficient.

32. The Bolivian Chamber of Deputies was shortly expected to adopt a bill on narcotic drugs already approved by the National Senate. Under the new law, a maximum volume of coca production for traditional use would be established, of the order of 10,000 tons a year. An exclusive zone would be set up for coca production. Private storage facilities would be prohibited and new courts would be established to deal with drug-related cases. The National Council would be given wider powers and full responsibility, and the Executive Branch would be encouraged

(Mr. Alderete Rosales, Bolivia)

to seek agreements at the multilateral and bilateral level with a view to securing maximum international support in carrying out national drug policies.

33. Commenting on the results of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, he said that the spirit of harmony and co-operation displayed there was a tribute to all the participating States. The Conference had adopted a Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline which provided a strategy for the international co-ordination of drug control activities. It offered guidelines for dealing with the drug traffic from the interrelated aspects of demand, supply and illicit trafficking, as well as the treatment and rehabilitation of addicts. The Declaration that had also been adopted at Vienna was an authentic demonstration of the political will of States. The commitment made by the Latin American and Caribbean Group was a faithful reflection of the situation in the region. The two documents were a conceptual and operational restatement of the commitment of States to redouble their efforts in a collective struggle and of the recognition by Governments of their collective responsibility for attacking the problem at every link in the criminal chain.

34. His delegation welcomed the wide range of recommendations and suggestions offered by the Secretary-General in his report on the Conference (A/42/594). The report offered some interesting and imaginative alternatives but more time would be needed to analyze them and even more to adopt programmes and budgets for putting them into practice. The report was, however, a good basis for discussion by the Third Committee and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which would be required to study it from a technical point of view.

35. Some of the points made in the report were of particular importance to the Bolivian Government. With regard to paragraph 18, he recalled that at Vienna the Bolivian delegation had entered a reservation to target 15 because in the interests of environmental protection and the safety of farmers it could not accept the use of herbicides and chemical sprays. The measures proposed by the Secretary-General in paragraph 18 would have to be carried out in consultation with States, and Bolivia would be unable to accept any activity involving the use of herbicides or chemical sprays because there were as yet no safe methods for protecting the environment. Furthermore, Bolivia already possessed adequate machinery and techniques for supervising and certifying the process of crop substitution.

36. Careful analysis would be needed to determine the role and terms of reference of the special rapporteurs (paras. 35, 37 and 38) in order to avoid creating an expanded bureaucracy or entrusting international officials with responsibilities which were the prerogative of States. Paragraphs 19 and 30 referred to the workload and capacities of the United Nations Secretariat and the problem created by the recruitment freeze imposed by General Assembly resolution 41/213. His delegation believed it was essential to restore and as far as possible increase resources, including the recruitment or reassignment of staff, so that the Narcotics Control Board and the Division of Narcotic Drugs could carry out the mandates conferred upon them by Member States.

(Mr. Alderete Rosales, Bolivia)

37. His Government's view on the compiling and centralization of information (paras. 45 to 51, 57 and 61) was that the United Nations system should use only official information voluntarily supplied by Governments. The participation of non-governmental organizations in the provision of data was a delicate topic that required further analysis. If new data collection arrangements were to be made, the system would have to be rationalized and specific standards established.
38. The Office of the Co-ordinator at Vienna should be asked to provide more information on the suggested combined data system. The participation of non-governmental organizations in the fight against drug traffic was important, but their activities were complementary to those of Governments and must be governed by national policies. Non-governmental organizations could not replace or usurp the functions of the State in programmes of development and crop substitution.
39. Since the Commission on Narcotic Drugs already had a heavy agenda, which would be increased with the new activities provided for in the Outline and the Declaration, his delegation suggested that the Commission's tenth special session in 1988 should be extended to provide an opportunity for a constructive dialogue on the various recommendations.
40. Turning to the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/127 (A/42/490), he said that his delegation had noted with satisfaction the recent meeting of the heads of national drug law enforcement agencies of the Latin American region and urged that its recommendations be considered by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. In connection with the preparation of a draft convention, his delegation thought that another meeting of the intergovernmental expert group would be needed to continue the revision of the draft document and secure the necessary consensus on the articles still requiring analysis.
41. Bolivia appreciated the work of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control on behalf of developing countries affected by the drug traffic. The Fund had become the sole multilateral source of financing for co-operation programmes and its highly professional conduct was outstanding in the United Nations system. His Government was particularly appreciative of the priority accorded to Bolivia by the Fund, and of the bilateral co-operation extended by the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States.
42. The campaign against illicit trafficking and drug abuse must be a shared, permanent and sustained effort evaluated periodically so that States and the international community could strengthen or reorient their activities. He repeated his Government's offer to serve as host of a second international conference on the illicit trafficking and abuse of drugs and psychotropic substances. The destructive and oppressive power of drugs must be destroyed in order to free mankind from the scourge which was corroding society's moral and spiritual values as well as distorting its economic structures.

43. Miss WROBLESKI (United States of America) said that no country, regardless of ideology, could escape the drug problem and that the international community must fight to eliminate it with decisive action rather than rhetoric. There was no easy solution. The problem had been exacerbated by long neglect, and it was important to capitalize on the heightened awareness of the universality of the problem reflected at the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking by programming tangible measures based on clear priorities to ensure optimal utilization of limited resources.

44. The competent agencies of the United Nations had served well in the battle against drugs, but were increasingly overburdened. They should be strengthened to meet the new challenges, including the drafting of a convention, but the United States delegation urged that no new machinery should be established requiring additional resources or the redeployment of resources from the Division of Narcotic Drugs or the INCB secretariat. Her Government was prepared to make a special contribution of \$US 1 million to those bodies. It also supported the proposals in document A/42/594, with their challenge to build on what already existed.

45. Her Government supported additional meetings of experts and a plenipotentiary conference with a view to completing negotiations on the draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. It also felt that the role of UNFDAC was very important and it was eager to help develop effective programmes in areas where the United States had expertise, and supported an expanded role for the Fund. The Fund must expand its staff as well as its expertise, and all donors must devote more time to understanding its many initiatives.

46. The United Nations had a moral obligation to combat the illicit drug traffic and mobilize opinion against drugs, focusing on action rather than rhetoric. Countries that acted with impunity to permit or encourage drug trafficking should be identified and appropriate action should be taken to prevent them from undercutting the work of the international community to eliminate that scourge.

47. Mr. FISCHER (Austria) said that the scope and complexity of the drug problem, to which no country was immune, required international action to prevent its further spread and reduce the human and economic costs to both producer and consumer countries. He welcomed in that connection the heightened awareness of the problem in the international community demonstrated at the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and the Declaration and recommendations adopted by the Conference calling for vigorous international action through a balanced, comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach to the problem.

48. His delegation hoped that the draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances would be accepted and enforced by as many States as possible and that strong national and international support would be forthcoming for the three United Nations narcotic drugs organs which assisted Governments in dealing with the drug problem. Close co-operation between those organs and the specialized agencies should be intensified by an inter-agency mechanism to maximize output and avoid duplication.

(Mr. Fischer, Austria)

49. The expansion of United Nations responsibilities in the area of drug abuse and illicit trafficking must be reflected in proper follow-up. Countries with experience and expertise should co-operate and assist those that wished to improve their national capacity to cope with the problem and Austria was prepared to share its own know-how in that field. The mass media and the non-governmental organizations also had an important role to play, and their co-operation should be welcomed.

50. He welcomed the decision to entrust the Director-General of UNOV with the co-ordination of all United Nations activities relating to illicit drugs and agreed that the mandate of existing drug control units should be fully respected. A small unit should be established in the office of the Director-General to enable her to exercise those co-ordinating responsibilities.

51. Mr. OVERVAD (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the member States of the European Community, said that the main responsibility for combating the increasingly serious drug problem rested with individual countries, but that international co-operation was also required because drugs did not stop at borders. The European Community therefore welcomed the new draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, which rightly emphasized those areas where increased efforts were most needed. The convention required careful drafting, however, because it could be effective only if accepted by a large number of countries. He welcomed the progress made by the drafting group, for example, the agreement on the provisions which would oblige States parties to make the receiving of proceeds from drug trafficking a criminal offence but felt that since the convention would affect the different national legal systems another meeting should be held, using existing resources, at the beginning of 1988 to complete work on the preliminary draft. A timetable for completion of the final text should be left to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its 1988 session.

52. The member States of the European Community were pleased with the outcome of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, and he drew particular attention to paragraph 9 of the Declaration (A/CONF.133/12, chap. I (B)). He further welcomed the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline which had emerged from the Conference (ibid., chap. I (A)) and hoped those guidelines would produce concrete results. United Nations activities relating to narcotic drugs required further co-ordination bearing in mind the specialist functions in the field and Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/29, and member States should also rationalize their own efforts in the light of the ideas emerging from the Conference.

53. In preparing new activities, due account should be taken of important work being accomplished in existing bodies dealing with drug problems, such as the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, the International Narcotics Control Board and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

54. Regional co-operation to combat drugs was also important, and the European Community belonged to the Pompidou Group, established under the Council of Europe,

(Mr. Overvad, Denmark)

that attached high priority to the implementation of legislation, the co-ordination of controls, the role of the media and the exchange of information and the effects of methadone treatment. The member States had also established a group of top officials known as the Trevi Group responsible for the police in their respective countries. At their initiative, a convention to promote co-operation among the Twelve to fight drug-related crime was in preparation. The European Community had also initiated a dialogue with developing countries that were producers or consumers of drugs, and was co-operating with the developing countries most concerned in conformity with a policy on development aid that was designed with the drug problem in mind. The community had also allocated \$US 6 million for programmes to reduce illegal drug production and it co-operated with such donors as the UNFDAC. The Community also welcomed the efforts to combat drugs being made by certain producer countries, often in very difficult circumstances, and the increasingly firm commitment of Governments to attack the problem of illicit trafficking in drugs.

55. Mr. ORTEGA PADILLA (Mexico) observed that drug production, trafficking and abuse affected all countries and that drug trafficking, in particular, was an international criminal activity, which transcended national boundaries and for which no single country or group of countries could be stigmatized.

56. Until the complex causes of the drug problem were addressed systematically and from a broad perspective, efforts would be wasted and the battle to eliminate abuse and trafficking would not be won. No doubt that was a long-term endeavour of historic proportions. Drug abuse and illicit trafficking would never be eradicated simply by branding them as crimes or law enforcement by immigration or customs authorities. Any penalties applied must of course be strict, but police or court actions were not sufficiently effective; vigorous, informed action by parents and teachers against drug consumption would have more positive results.

57. Drug production, trafficking and addiction were deeply rooted in economic want and a lack of morals, education and culture, which encouraged that particular form of escape from a hostile and unwanted reality. Economic problems required economic solutions, just as cultural problems required cultural solutions. Rather than placing all hope in the police, the major focus in the battle against drug should be on improving the life of the people, building the hope of the young, and making the family stable. Mexico maintained that a resolute community effort based on a broad social and cultural national policy was the best means of combating drug abuse and trafficking; no government agency would be an effective substitute for it.

58. Mexico would shortly be submitting a proposal to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) for supplementary funds for a crop-replacement programme in specific areas in the states of Guerrero, Michoacán and Oaxaca; at the same time his Government planned to attack the underlying economic and social problems in those areas that had led to the cultivation of marijuana and the opium poppy.

(Mr. Ortega Padilla, Mexico)

59. The Mexican proposition that each State must develop a policy for attacking the root causes of the drug problem had been reflected in the Declaration of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking of June 1987, which had also recognize that it was the collective responsibility of States to provide appropriate resources for dealing with the drug problem, thus rejecting the degrading concept of aid to any one country in combating an evil which afflicted all countries.

60. In Mexico's own campaign against that world-wide scourge, over 25,000 military personnel had been assigned full-time to combat the drug trade. The results had been impressive: Mexico, which was neither the country of origin nor the country of destination for cocaine, had increased its seizures of that drug more than seven-fold in the past three years, and it had destroyed approximately 130,000 poppy or marijuana fields covering over 14,000 hectares. It had also begun to build up a vast, organized body of civilians engaged in a valiant community effort against drug trafficking and addiction. In the process, his Government had diverted badly needed resources to the battle against drugs, thus safeguarding the health of the people of other nations as well as that of its own people. Indeed, all nations should band together in the common fight against drug-related crime and disease.

61. Mr. QUINN (Australia) said that the highly successful International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking had mobilized international political will and technical expertise to tackle the drug scourge and had once again proven the relevance of the United Nations in dealing with a major contemporary social issue. Divisive political issues had not been permitted to undermine the international consensus that had emerged on the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control as well as on the Declaration adopted by the Conference. Those key documents gave welcome emphasis to reducing the demand for drugs. His Government was particularly pleased that the Conference had recognized the need to develop better methods of comparing drug abuse trends between and within countries, had called for the introduction of adequate prevention, treatment and rehabilitation programmes, and had endorsed strategies to deal with alcohol and tobacco abuse, another large-scale problem. The stimulating programme of seminars conducted by the non-governmental organizations in conjunction with the Conference had facilitated important contacts between experts, which should be sustained.

62. Australia was also pleased that the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline had emphasized the tracing, seizure and forfeiture of illegally obtained assets, as well as extradition and mutual assistance in law enforcement. The Conference had also done well to focus on practical strategies at the national level, since the prime responsibility for tackling the drug problem must rest with Member States themselves, whose competent authorities should give due attention to the valuable guidelines provided in the Outline.

63. The challenge was now to develop an effective follow-up to the Conference; the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should consider that question at its next session. The Secretary-General was to be commended for moving so quickly to present innovative and activist proposals on the follow-up.

(Mr. Quinn, Australia)

64. Despite resource constraints, the drug problem should remain a United Nations priority and resources should be redeployed to strengthen the Division of Narcotic Drugs and the International Narcotics Control Board. Individual Member States should endeavour to increase resources at the national level as well. Australia had allocated 100 million Australian dollars to a national drug campaign for the triennium 1985-1988 and channelled 24 million Australian dollars to the various law enforcement agencies active in the drug field.

65. Australia had yet to be convinced that the appointment of special rapporteurs to deal with aspects of the drug problem, as proposed by the Secretary-General in his report (A/42/594) would be more cost-effective than existing mechanisms such as the Division of Narcotic Drugs, although it agreed that the new focus on the demand for drugs might require adjustments in existing programmes and agendas. Australia also felt that it might be preferable to strengthen the staff of the Division of Narcotic Drugs and make it responsible for co-ordinating the follow-up action throughout the United Nations system, rather than establish a new unit at the United Nations Office at Vienna. His delegation urged caution in developing new data systems in the field of drugs. Such systems must take account of the practical needs of Member States and their capacity to provide information, and should not be developed at the expense of improved staffing of the Division of Narcotic Drugs, or of existing programmes. No final decision should be taken on the convening of further world conferences until firm proposals have been developed on objectives, agenda and costs. The accession of States to the existing drug treaties should be given high priority.

66. States should adopt a less conservative approach to the new draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The convention should represent a progressive development of international law, particularly of the law enforcement aspects, rather than merely reflect existing national laws.

67. The commitment to combat the drug problem should be measured in concrete action, and the high level of contributions to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control was encouraging. Australia itself had committed 400,000 Australian dollars to UNFDAC.

68. Mr. AKYOL (Turkey), noting that his Government was very satisfied with the results of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, said that the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline provided a valuable framework for future efforts by the international community. Whereas the focus had long been on the need to control the supply of drugs and combat illicit trafficking, the Conference had gone on to examine all aspects of the drug problem and had proposed a balanced consideration of both supply and demand issues.

69. The system of international narcotics control was based on a balance between supply and demand for narcotics for licit purposes, which alone could prevent narcotics from being channelled into illicit circuits. Turkey therefore felt that the number of drug producers should not increase. Having itself at great sacrifice

(A . Akyol, Turkey)

controlled the supply of drugs, Turkey believed that economic and commercial interests should not override the basic prerequisite, namely, international co-operation.

70. The Declaration adopted by the Conference recognized the determination of Member States to combat the drug problem and the key role of the United Nations specialized bodies and the Secretary-General in the follow-up activities.

71. Turkey shared the concerns expressed by the Secretary-General in his report (A/42/594) regarding the difficulty of reconciling the expanded activities called for by the Conference with the Organization's financial constraints. Yet in view of the high priority which the drug problem must be given, it seemed essential to increase substantially the funds needed to carry out the additional activities envisaged in the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline. The staff reductions mandated by the General Assembly would make the task of the institutions concerned with narcotic drugs particularly difficult and austerity measures should not be applied to them.

72. Turkey agreed that the central role in the follow-up to the Conference should be assigned to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and it favoured the proposals made by the Secretary-General in paragraphs 43, 56, 59 and 63 of his report. Turkey also supported the pragmatic approach to the expanded responsibilities of the United Nations Office at Vienna, given the new directions to be taken by the United Nations in combating the drug problem.

73. His Government particularly appreciated the effective work done by the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control within the framework of the master plans involving active participation by donor and beneficiary countries. The Division of Narcotic Drugs and the International Narcotics Control Board were also to be commended for their competence.

74. Turkey was taking an active part in the drafting of the convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and hoped that it could be adopted in 1988.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.