



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/35/614
12 November 1980

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty fifth session
Agenda item 12

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

International co-operation in drug abuse control

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In paragraph 12 of its resolution 34/177 of 17 December 1979, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report annually on the progress made in the implementation of that resolution and of Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 8 (XXVIII) of 23 February 1979. In order to respond to that request and to enhance co-ordination among relevant bodies of the United Nations and specialized agencies in the designing and implementation of programmes aimed at the reduction of the illicit supply of and demand for drugs, an ad hoc meeting on co-ordination in matters of international drug control was held at Vienna on 25 and 26 September 1980. The action taken by the various United Nations bodies and agencies is discussed in the report on the meeting (see annex below).
2. Participants at the meeting agreed that, in future, agencies reporting on their activities and proposed projects in drug control in response to paragraph 8 of resolution 34/177 might usefully do so through the Secretary-General's annual report to the General Assembly requested in paragraph 12 of that resolution. This would be without prejudice to the agencies' right to report individually to the Assembly. It was suggested that the Division of Narcotic Drugs of the United Nations Secretariat could request the information called for by the Assembly from the concerned programmes and bodies of the United Nations and specialized agencies with programmes having an impact on international drug control and include it in the Secretary-General's annual report on this subject to the Assembly.
3. With regard to the international strategy and policies for drug control, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Secretariat have taken specific steps since consideration by the General Assembly of Commission resolution 8 (XXVIII), which proposed principles to guide future international drug abuse control activities, and the adoption by the Assembly of resolution 34/177.
4. In response to these resolutions, the Secretariat has prepared a draft programme of action on international drug abuse control (E/CN.7/650 and Rev.1) which

was examined by the Commission at its sixth special session in February 1980. The Commission considered this preliminary work a valuable first step offering one possible framework consistent with the principles laid down in its resolution 8 (XXVIII), and it adopted resolution 5 (S-VI) of 20 February 1980, in which it requested the Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs, inter alia, to continue the preparation of a document on international drug control for submission to the Commission at its next regular session, comprising long-term strategy and a five-year programme of action with cost estimates, defining activities that the Secretary-General would pursue through the Division or other branches of the United Nations, within the framework of the United Nations regular budget, and having as a basis the proposed principles annexed to Commission resolution 8 (XXVIII).

5. The Secretariat has finalized the preliminary draft document entitled "Strategy and policies for drug control" (E/CN.7/658 (Part One) and (Part Two)) and will transmit it to members of the Commission and to observers on or before 15 November 1980 as requested by the Commission. The document presents a possible long-term strategy and a five-year programme of action by the United Nations for 1982-1986 with cost estimates. It also describes the current drug situation in the world. In preparing the document, a questionnaire on the development of an international drug control strategy and policies was sent to all States Members of the United Nations as well as to non-members which are parties to the international drug treaties. A questionnaire similar to that sent to Governments was forwarded to concerned United Nations bodies, agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The document was prepared in close consultation with the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) secretariat, the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) and concerned specialized agencies. A meeting on this subject was held with the responsible officials of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) at Geneva in July 1980.

6. At the ad hoc meeting on co-ordination held at Vienna on 25 and 26 September 1980 the participants were informed of the structure and the contents of the document as well as of the progress achieved in implementing the relevant General Assembly and Commission resolutions in this area. A number of suggestions were made at the meeting for the elaboration of the document. The meeting also afforded an opportunity to update or amend earlier contributions to the document.

7. The document is based on information provided in the replies received from 52 Governments, as well as from United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, international, regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The document incorporates texts prepared by UNFDAC and INCB related to their respective fields of activities. In addition, contributions requested on specific subjects were received from 15 experts in the field of drug control from various regions of the world. The document also presents an analysis of views expressed by Governments on the development of an international drug control strategy and policies. It reproduces in extenso the contributions submitted by ILO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific

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and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and WHO. It also contains a synthesis of replies received from United Nations bodies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the report of the ad hoc meeting on co-ordination in matters of international drug control.

8. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs will consider the preliminary draft document on "Strategy and policies for drug control" at its twenty-ninth session, to be held in February 1981.

ANNEX

Report on the ad hoc meeting on co-ordination
in matters of international drug control

1. An informal meeting on co-ordination in matters of international drug control, convened by the Division of Narcotic Drugs, was held at the Vienna International Centre on 25 and 26 September 1980 in order to examine the best way to co-ordinate the response by United Nations bodies, programmes and specialized agencies to General Assembly resolution 34/177 of 17 December 1979 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/19 of 30 April 1980. The meeting also addressed itself to the relevant paragraphs of Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 8 (XXVIII) of 23 February 1979 and Commission resolution 5 (S-VI) of 20 February 1980 dealing with international drug control strategy and policies.

2. Representatives of the following bodies and organizations of the United Nations system attended the meeting:

Department of International Economic and Social Affairs
Division of Narcotic Drugs
International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)
United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC)
United Nations Social Defence Research Institute (UNSDRI)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
International Labour Organisation (ILO)
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
World Health Organization (WHO)

The following bodies and agencies had been invited but were unable to attend:

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
World Food Programme (WFP)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

3. The meeting was opened by the Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs, who pointed out that, with the discontinuance of the Inter-Agency Advisory Committee on Drug Abuse Control (IAAC), some mechanism for co-ordination was needed in this field. At its session in January 1980, the Organizational Committee of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) had entrusted the Commission on Narcotic Drugs with the responsibility of ensuring the implementation of General Assembly resolution 34/177. Moreover, in March 1980, the Organizational Committee specifically asked the Director to pursue consultations with the organizations concerned relating to various resolutions on international drug control. After contact with various United Nations bodies, programmes and agencies, it was decided to convene the present meeting.

4. In the course of opening statements, the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) drew attention to the fact that although IAAC had been chaired by the Head of the Fund, he felt that it was more appropriate for meetings on co-ordination to be chaired by the Division of Narcotic Drugs.

5. The Chief of the Interorganization Co-operation Section of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs explained that the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Programme), in certain highly technical areas, utilized specialized groups in order to better co-ordinate the work and maximize resources. The present group could bring any policy matters involved to the attention of the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Programme).

6. Before the agenda was adopted for the meeting, additional general statements were made on behalf of INCB, WHO, FAO and UNSDRI.

A. Steps taken or planned to increase activity aimed at reducing illicit production and demand for drugs and measures taken to make international drug abuse control activity a regular item on the agenda of governing bodies a/

7. The representative of WHO stated that its activity in the field of drug abuse control had increased greatly over the last few years and that the question was a regular item on the agenda of the WHO Executive Board. In response to WHO Executive Board resolution EB 65.R7, and in the light of the discussion which had taken place at the Board's sixty-fifth session in January 1980, the Director-General's report was presented to the thirty-third World Health Assembly (WHA). This report described activities in the field of drug dependence undertaken by WHO in response to WHA resolutions 26.52 and 28.80 and General Assembly resolutions 32/124 and 34/177. Following the discussion of the report, WHA resolution 33.27 was adopted.

8. UNSDRI had directed increasing attention to drug-related criminal activity, especially as it concerned young people. There was as yet no governing body for the Institute, but one was in the process of being established. It was considered probable that drug abuse problems would in future be a regular agenda item.

9. While attempting to formulate model approaches to drug-related problems, ILO felt it desirable to integrate these programmes within its vocational rehabilitation and social integration activities, as this proved more effective in the long run. Nevertheless, it could be stated that there was an increase in activities related to drug problems. The governing body had not yet made a separate agenda item for such issues and, considering the relative importance of drug programmes to over-all activities of the organization, it was unlikely that it would be prepared to do so in the near future.

10. The representative of FAO emphasized the potential mutual influence on shaping agencies' policies and cited as an example the effect on FAO programmes of the

a/ See para. 6 of General Assembly resolution 34/177.

position of WHO with respect to tobacco. As of now FAO did not consider narcotics-related problems as a separate agenda item, although its narcotic crop replacement activities had increased. In this connexion an intervention at the governing bodies of the specialized agencies by the Executive Director of UNFDAC and the director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs might prove effective in influencing agencies' policies.

11. UNDP found itself in a rather special situation as it was basically a funding and not an executing agency. Because of the nature of its activities it would not be appropriate for its governing body to have an agenda item on drug-related problems; nevertheless, such an agenda item might usefully be introduced at the level of Resident Representatives' meetings, particularly in those regions where UNFDAC-financed projects were being conducted. Furthermore, UNDP policy was to try to influence Governments to place more emphasis on drug control programmes when general country programmes were being considered.

12. The Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs reported that at present it had no programme related directly to drug abuse control. However, the Centre was prepared to discuss and share its experience with any organization that felt the Centre could make a useful contribution in this field.

13. The Division of Narcotic Drugs reported that its activities had also increased greatly over the previous year. This was due to heavier responsibilities connected with the implementation of the international drug control treaties and to a greatly increased workload to comply with the requests of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. Reference to the report of the sixth special session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs indicated that a larger number of special meetings had had to be convened to fulfil specific mandates. There was every indication that this trend would continue in the foreseeable future. Full details of activities of the Division of Narcotic Drugs were given annually in its report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs which was in turn briefly summarized in the Commission's report to the Economic and Social Council.

14. There was general agreement that flexibility was needed regarding the introduction of a specialized item on drug abuse and control on a regular basis in the agenda of the governing bodies of the specialized agencies. This would be decided upon by each agency in careful consideration of its priorities. Such activity should fit into the larger goals of each organization.

B. Assistance extended to States b/

15. The Executive Director of UNFDAC described the Fund's programmes for 1980, emphasizing that they gave greater priority (approximately 75 per cent) to country programmes which were executed in their various special sectors (agriculture, health, etc.) by the relevant specialized agencies. For general co-ordination at the country level the services of UNDP were utilized.

b/ See para. 7 of resolution 34/177.

16. FAO assisted a number of Governments in crop substitution activities as integral parts of over-all programmes for control of drug abuse funded by UNFDAC. A major expansion of a project in Pakistan was in preparation, while FAO support of the projects in Burma and Thailand continued. FAO had received a request from Yemen to provide assistance in that Government's efforts to eradicate khat.

17. WHO continued to supply technical assistance in the field of drug dependence to countries requesting it, often through its interregional workshops. These workshops had furthered the exchange of experience and information and had created awareness among the participating States of the severity of the problem. They had also stimulated additional requests for technical assistance, including fellowships, training programmes and national seminars in Argentina, Burma, Egypt, Jordan, Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand.

18. ILO had extended assistance to States in the development of both rural and urban vocational and social rehabilitation programmes (including specialized services for female drug dependents) and with special emphasis on direct community participation. Programmes had been developed in collaboration with the Governments of Burma, Pakistan and Thailand and one was being proposed for Ecuador. Special equipment had been provided for drug rehabilitation centres in both Bolivia and Peru. Colombia had recently requested assistance in setting up vocational and social rehabilitation services.

19. UNSDRI had not recently been requested to extend assistance to any State. However, following the meeting of an expert committee convened by UNSDRI, a project proposal was being prepared for study covering some 12 countries, representative of various regions of the world, which reflected different approaches to the problem of drug abuse and related crime.

20. UNDP, through its Resident Representative, had invited Governments to use UNDP country programme funds to finance projects of assistance in the field of drug abuse control, thus supplementing the limited financial resources available from UNFDAC for such purposes. Both Thailand and the Lao People's Democratic Republic had made or were in the process of making use of this possibility. UNDP had further made available funds out of its regional IPF for Africa to finance a regional training seminar concerned with drug abuse control. On the other hand, through its Office of Projects Execution, UNDP had become an important executing agency for UNFDAC.

C. Report to the General Assembly on
activities and proposed projects c/

21. The participants noted that there was a possible duplication of efforts involved in complying separately with the requests formulated in paragraphs 8 and 12 of General Assembly resolution 34/177. There was general agreement that

information regarding activities of specialized agencies in response to paragraph 8 could be done through the Secretary-General's report foreseen in paragraph 12. In this context it was suggested that the report to the Assembly should be a recapitulation of all main events and developments in the drug control field. The Division of Narcotic Drugs could possibly request the data called for under the provisions of the resolution, centralize the information received and include it in the Secretary-General's report. Naturally, agencies which so desired were still free to report individually in greater detail.

D. Follow-up action on Economic and Social
Council resolution 1980/19

22. The group noted some parallels between the requirements of Council resolution 1980/19 and paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 34/177, which had already been covered in the discussion of agenda item 2. It therefore limited its consideration to paragraphs 3 and 5 of the Council resolution.

23. With respect to the activities of WHO in the context of its strategy "Health for all by the year 2000", the representative of WHO stated that in order to achieve these ends in the field of drug dependence it was necessary to expand its role through the primary health care programmes, particularly in rural areas, training various categories of health workers in the field of treatment and prevention. Accordingly, regional workshops had been convened for designing specific models which could be used in rural areas of developing countries which were short of medical staff. There was also the problem of lack of hospital facilities in these countries, which could not provide adequate treatment to drug addicts. An integrated approach was thus needed. In this connexion WHO was preparing a manual on primary health care, which would provide guidelines in the field of drug dependence. It was expected that the manual would be ready for 1982. The WHO representative also referred to other manuals being developed, particularly in the field of prevention, and drew particular attention to WHA resolution 33.27.

24. With respect to the budgetary information requested in paragraph 5 of the Council resolution, the participants agreed that such data would in future be included in the reports which they submit to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs through the Division of Narcotic Drugs.

E. International drug abuse control strategy and policies

25. The participants were informed by the Division of Narcotic Drugs and its consultant of the structure and contents of the draft document on an international programme of drug abuse control strategy and policies as well as of the progress achieved to date in implementing Commission resolutions 8 (XXVIII) and 5 (S-VI). This document was being prepared for consideration by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its twenty-ninth session in February 1981 and for submission thereafter to the General Assembly. The preliminary draft document would be submitted to the agencies for comments prior to its presentation to the Commission.

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26. In the course of the ensuing general discussion, a number of suggestions were made for the elaboration of the document. It was pointed out that it would be desirable in the future to develop a co-ordinated system-wide plan, which would cover the entire field of drug abuse control. The group agreed that such an approach, integrating the relevant contents of medium-term plans and programme budgets, could usefully be introduced at the time of any future revisions of the plan. However, it had not been possible to adopt this approach in the preparation of the document under discussion because of the time constraints involved. The document had to be completed, translated and reproduced before 15 November 1980 to comply with the deadline at which the document should be sent to Governments in accordance with the request of the Commission. The discussion also afforded the opportunity to update or otherwise amend earlier contributions to the document.

F. Future co-ordination activities

27. There was general agreement that the ad hoc meeting on co-ordination had been both productive and useful. The group accordingly considered the possibility of convening similar meetings in the future and whether or not the participation in such meetings should be increased. With respect to the question of additional participation, there was consensus that the meeting had been successful largely because it had been both small and informal. Caution should therefore be exercised to keep the size of such meetings at approximately the same level, although selective invitations could be extended to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for specific agenda items.

28. With respect to periodicity, the group agreed that biennial sessions would be sufficient and recommended that the next such session should be held in 1982. If possible, the sessions should be timed to facilitate system-wide pre-programming of activities for subsequent incorporation in medium-term plans and programme budgets.

29. The group also favoured the possibility of holding limited consultations on specific subjects in alternate years. Such consultations could be designed for review and planning in pre-determined areas, such as preventive measures, rehabilitation, supply questions, etc.

30. The representative of UNSDRI pointed out that organizations might usefully co-ordinate their activities by establishing clear areas of responsibility and there was general consensus that this task should be pursued in the future.
