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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 16th MEETING

Chairman: Mrs. ÁLVAREZ (Dominican Republic)
(Vice-Chairman)

later: Mr. TSHERING (Bhutan)
(Chairman)

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

AGENDA ITEM 106: CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (continued) (A/50/345, A/50/373, A/50/375, A/50/432, A/50/254-S/1995/501, A/50/433)

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1. Mr. TRAORÉ (Guinea), speaking on agenda item 108, said that the scale of production, trafficking and consumption of narcotic drugs, and drug-related crimes - delinquency, violence, organized crime and the spread of AIDS - required a concrete and global response from all States Members of the United Nations. Where once they had been free from the scourge of drugs, developing countries, particularly in Africa, had become victims* of the phenomenon, due to lack of financial resources. Developing countries needed the support of the international community, which should work to strengthen international cooperation, making effective use of existing international instruments to deal with drug-related issues.

2. The Guinean Government had enacted legislation to put a stop to trafficking, abuse and the illicit sale of narcotic drugs and had set up three bodies to deal with the phenomenon, the National Commission for the Incineration of Confiscated Substances, set up in 1991, the Central Anti-Drug Office and the National Committee to Combat Drugs (The Drug Problem) set up in 1994. The National Committee, an interministerial body responsible for initiating, coordinating and overseeing all activities connected to the fight against drugs, and for proposing a national anti-drug policy, also focused on prevention and treatment of drug addiction, and the social rehabilitation of drug addicts. Guinea was working in cooperation with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), and greatly appreciated the help it had received from United Nations bodies with implementing its ambitious programme to combat the drug problem.

3. Mr. FERNANDEZ PALACIOS (Cuba), speaking on agenda item 108, said that the drug problems and its pernicious effects had reached truly global proportions, requiring effective and coordinated international action, particularly within the United Nations system, but without prejudice to the sovereignty of States.

* Youth being particularly affected. Statistics from Guinea for the period 1992-1994 showed important seizures of Indian hemp and other substances, and numerous cases of imprisonment of traffickers and hospitalization of drug addicts.

4. General Assembly resolution 48/12 had marked the beginning of a major process of evaluation of international cooperation to combat narcotic drugs production, sales, consumption, trafficking and illegal distribution, which had largely been managed by UNDCP.

5. It was regrettable that the results of the process had not lived up to the original expectations. Millions of drug addicts continued to take drugs, billions of dollars were still finding their way into the hands of drug traffickers only to be reinvested in international financial markets. Drug trafficking led to violence, corruption and the destruction of institutions. There should be a periodic assessment of international strategy designed to tackle the problem, so that new elements could be added.

6. The Fifth Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American Countries, recently held at San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina, had supported a proposal from Mexico to hold an international conference on drug abuse and illicit trafficking, under the auspices of the United Nations to review progress made since the Vienna Conference of 1987. Cuba supported that proposal.

7. Given its geographical position, Cuba felt particularly keenly the consequences of international drug trafficking, particularly since current economic changes made it more vulnerable to that scourge. For that reason, the Government was working to fine-tune national control mechanisms and to provide training for specialized personnel, in addition to signing bilateral agreements with countries in the region and elsewhere.

8. The Seventh Meeting of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin American and Caribbean region, held recently in Havana, had shown that it was essential that countries in the region should strengthen their political will to combat the problem.

9. Cuba believed that the United Nations system had an important role to play in the struggle and hoped that the issue would be considered a priority by the international community.

10. Mrs. ÁBRAHÁM-NAGYI (Hungary) said that drug dependency and drug-related crimes had become matters for alarm, despite efforts made by Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to eliminate the drug threat. Since improving cooperation within the system was vital, as the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) had itself recently acknowledged, a system-wide action plan on drug abuse control was needed, with Governments implementing the Global Programme of Action at the global, regional, national and local levels.

11. The Hungarian Government had been guided by the existing international instruments, such as the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, to which Hungary was a party, and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, which was currently being ratified. The import and export of precursors had been controlled since 1991, laws concerning money-laundering had been passed at the end of 1994, and the Penal Code

provisions on drug control had been modified. Hungary had received assistance from UNDCP, which, while acting as a catalyst within the United Nations system as a whole, had also initiated effective subregional cooperation programmes, such as the Balkan Route regional programme. On 5 October 1994 in Prague, five Central and Eastern European countries (Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Slovenia) had signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation to control drugs and combat drug dependency and trafficking. Other cooperation projects would soon be implemented in the region, under the aegis of UNDCP and with the financial support of donor countries from the European Union. The six projects involved provided for the exchange of information, application of laws and reduction of demand, during the period 1996 to 1997, which should improve the operational capacity of regional institutions.

12. Hungary, which had once been considered as a transit country, had now become a drug producer, with local production of marijuana and laboratory production of synthetic drugs, while it had noted an increase in illicit trafficking and an expansion of the internal market. To strengthen the existing institutional framework, the Hungarian Government had taken a number of measures, creating an interministerial committee responsible for designing a national strategy, setting up an effective network of local committees on prevention, and a national system of data collection, while strengthening the powers of the customs authorities and the national police department which dealt with drug-related crimes. In addition, it had undertaken a number of public awareness exercises which had also been conducted in educational establishments. The initial results of that policy were encouraging as the number of drugs which had been seized had increased.

13. While Hungary was reliant on international cooperation, it was also ready to share its experience with the international community and to provide political and technical assistance on programmes of common concern.

14. Mr. MAMDOT (Pakistan) observed that the magnitude of the financial resources available to the drug industry and its close links with organized crime and political circles made it very difficult for UNDCP, with its very limited budget, to fight alone against the drug scourge. The drug barons were reinvesting their gains abroad and promoting criminality, and their activities were disrupting social and economic development, particularly in the developing countries.

15. The United Nations should strengthen international cooperation in combating money laundering, organized crime, terrorism and arms trafficking, by adopting a coordinated, balanced and multidisciplinary approach system-wide. His delegation fully endorsed UNDCP efforts to form partnerships with the various law enforcement agencies and non-governmental organizations.

16. His Government would continue to pursue a balanced and integrated strategy with emphasis on reduction of both demand and supply, for the two aspects were inseparable. The international community itself should intensify its prevention efforts by mobilizing all actors of civil society, especially the non-governmental organizations. At the same time, national drug plans should be integrated into the social and economic planning of each country.

17. His delegation noted with satisfaction the steps taken within the United Nations system to improve coordination on drug issues, such as the establishment of the Subcommittee on Drug Control by the Advisory Committee on Coordination (ACC), and the close coordination between UNDCP and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch. However, it felt that the drug dimension was not being given sufficient importance by the other United Nations bodies, which should play a more active advocacy role in that respect.

18. As the Executive Director of UNDCP had rightly warned, political instability, transnational crime and weak institutional frameworks made populations more vulnerable and an easy prey for drug traffickers. For it to be effective, there had to be coordination both within the United Nations and at the national level; Pakistan therefore endorsed the UNDCP assistance programmes aimed at strengthening national capacities. Preventive programmes were essential, and donor countries and multilateral financial institutions must contribute more to the education, treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers.

19. The origin of drug problems in Pakistan could be traced to the geopolitical developments resulting from the invasion of Afghanistan by the former USSR. At the national level, his Government had taken measures to eradicate the production of opium and the cultivation of poppy and cannabis, as well as drug processing and trafficking. It had taken action to treat and rehabilitate addicts and activate community awareness. A legislative and administrative framework had also been created to equip the law enforcement agencies to fight the scourge.

20. Pakistan had ratified the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. At the national level, the law governing drug trafficking penalties had been amended to make provision for the death penalty and the confiscation of assets, and the application of the law on dangerous drugs had been extended to tribal areas. The Anti-Narcotics Task Force, under the command of a senior army officer, was cooperating with the Narcotics Control Division. A Narcotics Interdiction Committee reviewed the performance of 12 federal and provincial agencies working to combat drug trafficking. The paramilitary forces had been empowered to establish check posts along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. Trafficking in essential precursor chemicals had been curbed and acetic anhydride and acetone had been placed on the list of controlled substances. Recent seizures indicated, however, that acetic anhydride continued to be smuggled into the country. Pakistan had achieved considerable success, many arrests had been made, including the arrest of some very influential persons, and anyone suspected of drug trafficking was barred from running for office. The Drug Abuse Resource Centre was working closely with non-governmental and religious organizations, and three national campaigns had been launched as part of the preventive measures.

21. In the regional context, Pakistan was actively participating in the efforts initiated by the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). His Government fully supported the subregional approach being followed by UNDCP and had signed a memorandum of

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understanding in 1994 with Iran and UNDCP. Despite political difficulties, Pakistan welcomed UNDCP efforts to sponsor direct consultations between India and Pakistan in the field of drug control.

22. In order to aid the struggle against illicit crops and encourage crop substitution, the United Nations should adopt multisectoral initiatives, including income-generation schemes. It was necessary to provide assistance to farmers in the poppy-growing areas and strengthen support mechanisms by establishing job-creating industrial units and providing better access to international markets for the substitute crops.

23. Ms. SHARFMAN (Israel) underscored the importance of international and regional cooperation in combating drug trafficking. Her delegation welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 49/159 on the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime (A/50/433), and it supported the decisions adopted at the Naples and Cairo conferences.

24. At the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (Cairo, 28 April-8 May 1995), Israel had expressed the view that the promotion of the rule of law and the establishment of democracy would benefit all the peoples of the Middle East and that greater technical cooperation would provide a strong foundation for the peace process in the region.

25. Israel, which supported all measures that would serve to weaken organized crime, was currently considering a draft law on the laundering of money acquired from criminal activity.

26. International terrorism was one of the gravest dangers to peace and security in the world. The international community had a duty to react and to unite its efforts to stop the spread of that evil wherever it existed.

27. Her delegation had learned with dismay that some monies designated for humanitarian projects had been channelled to finance terrorist activities in Israel. Several charitable associations served as fronts for illegal organizations. Consequently, mechanisms must be established to facilitate the sharing of information, to identify such associations and formulate international legislation authorizing a State to ask another to freeze any cash flow from its territory targeted to finance organized crime or international terrorism.

28. Several Mediterranean States were currently organizing preparatory committees to strengthen regional and international cooperation to combat crime. At the Cairo Congress, the Israeli Minister of Police had called for the establishment of regional teams to identify and analyse problems specific to each region. Such teams would then coordinate with other regional planning groups.

29. To that end, Israel, Egypt and several other Middle Eastern States had agreed to establish a regional international training centre in the area of

crime prevention and law enforcement, which would provide training to criminal justice agencies, especially in techniques and methods of combating terrorism. By pooling resources and concentrating on specific areas of expertise, a basis could be provided for future regional technical cooperation in the field. Israel welcomed United Nations participation in regional crime prevention efforts.

30. Mr. WANG Donghua (China) said that over recent years the problem of drug abuse and illicit trafficking had grown in size and complexity, and that drug-related crimes, corruption and money-laundering posed a serious threat, both to the socio-economic development of many countries and to the stability of entire regions. The international community was therefore duty-bound to meet that formidable challenge.

31. In 1994 the implementation of the Global Programme of Action had permitted the strengthening of all forms of cooperation as well as the adoption of a balanced anti-drug strategy aimed at combating the illicit supply, production and trafficking of drugs. For their part, Member States were strengthening their national anti-drug legislation and taking various measures of all kinds. There was, however, still a long way to go, for which reason the international community and the drug-producing, drug-consuming and transit States in particular needed to take more vigorous measures and engage in various forms of international and regional cooperation in accordance with the principles of respect for State sovereignty and territorial integrity enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

32. It should be noted that, in 1994, cooperation between Myanmar, Thailand, Laos and China, as well as between those four countries and the United Nations, had made new headway. Following the signing of a memorandum of understanding on cooperation on drug abuse control by those four States and the United Nations, the region's first ministerial-level meeting on that subject had been held in Beijing in May 1995. The meeting had agreed to admit Viet Nam and Cambodia as new members and had adopted important documents that had laid a foundation for further regional cooperation.

33. His Government's anti-drug policy was aimed at prohibiting the sale, cultivation and consumption of narcotic drugs. Its efforts in fighting transnational trafficking organized by drug cartels had registered notable results. New administrative rules concerning compulsory drug detoxification, together with preventive education and the rehabilitation of drug addicts, had recently been adopted. Measures had also been taken to enhance the management of licit drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors with a view to preventing their diversion. A television documentary film aimed at increasing public awareness of the drug menace by portraying the damage caused by drugs to families and society had been shown on the occasion of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

34. However, China's struggle against drug abuse remained arduous in view of the proximity of the Golden Triangle, a major drug-producing area with which it had a border of several thousand kilometres without any natural barriers. Taking advantage of such geographical conditions, international drug cartels were using China as a transit zone. The situation was critical in certain

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border provinces, which, overburdened by the provision of enormous financial, material and human resources in the fight against such criminal activities, should receive the support of the international community.

35. China would continue to spare no effort in combating drugs and would take an active part in drug abuse control programmes sponsored by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) in the Golden Triangle, as well as in other activities in the field of international drug control.

36. Mr. GUBAVERICH (Belarus) commended the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, of which Belarus had become a member in April 1995, for its activities, particularly in connection with the fight against organized transnational crime, the rapid growth of which demanded a concerted response from the international community. Organized transnational crime threatened the economic development and security of States, particularly in the case of countries in transition, such as Belarus, which were especially vulnerable in that their law enforcement bodies still lacked the requisite experience and financial resources.

37. The recent economic and political changes in Belarus had been accompanied by a significant increase in crime, be it economic crimes or criminal acts as such. Organized crime, corruption, economic crime and counterfeiting were assuming worrying proportions, as were drug trafficking and killings by hired assassins. Almost 200 organized criminal groups were now operating in Belarus, a situation which was further aggravated by the presence of some 300,000 illegal migrants.

38. Belarus had waged an energetic struggle against crime. Several legislative texts amending the definition of crimes had already been adopted and the Parliament was shortly due to consider various bills concerning organized crime, corruption and witness protection in particular. The President of Belarus had also established by decree a permanent body for the coordination of measures against crime, drug trafficking and drug addiction. In addition, being aware of the need for concerted efforts on the part of all States, Belarus was actively developing its bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the fight against crime and had already signed, or was preparing to sign, agreements on the subject with various countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and others in Eastern and Western Europe.

39. Cooperation with the United Nations was of the utmost importance for his country. Belarus was extremely satisfied with the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, under which technical assistance was provided to countries in need. It therefore hoped that the programme would be strengthened. The outcome of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and of the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime was highly encouraging. More particularly, in regard to agenda item 108, he stressed that drug trafficking and drug abuse, which, over the past 20 years, had acquired global proportions, severely damaged the social, economic and political climate and the preservation of order throughout the world. Belarus had also experienced a steady growth in drug trafficking and the number of drug addicts; in the past 10 years, drug-related crime had increased more than tenfold. More than one third of drugs on

the market had been brought in by international drug cartel members, who took advantage of the country's geographical location, loopholes in current legislation and the poorly organized customs service. Given the absence of effective control methods, illegal drug trafficking endangered State security, as well as the health and well-being of the entire nation. For that reason the public authorities were taking extremely vigorous measures. New laws adopted by the Parliament of Belarus provided for the strengthening of prevention measures and the enforcement of heavier penalties against traffickers. A draft outline for a drug control policy had also been formulated and was currently under consideration.

40. His Government had acceded to all international conventions on drugs and had signed numerous bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements on drug control encompassing various measures, notably the establishment of a unified information system. Belarus had also joined the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), which should enable it to form closer partnerships with other members of the international community.

41. His delegation regarded the United Nations as the primary body for the coordination of international activities against drugs, in which connection it welcomed the establishment of UNDCP, whose active role in that respect had already produced positive results, particularly in the context of the Global Programme of Action of the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse 1991-2000. With the assistance of UNDCP experts, Belarus was now strengthening its national legislation aimed at controlling drug trafficking, was improving the qualifications of its specialist personnel, was establishing machinery to monitor the licit supply of narcotic drugs, and was drafting measures against money-laundering as well as on the rehabilitation of drug addicts.

42. Despite the unquestionable successes achieved by the international community in the fight against the drug menace, efforts to improve the international control system should continue. In that respect he believed that a new single convention against illicit drug trafficking and psychotropic substances should be drafted bringing together all the conventions adopted in that field.

43. Mrs. HORIUCHI (Japan) said that crime and drugs were two problems which required an international approach through the United Nations. Moreover, those two scourges often raged together, and the criminal organizations involved in illegal trafficking in narcotics and money laundering were increasingly better financed and more sophisticated and even challenged the authority of the States where they operated. Her delegation strongly supported the strengthening of concerted action by the United Nations to combat the activities of organized crime in drug trafficking.

44. Faced with the rapid internationalization of organized crime and the rise in urban crime, violent crime and juvenile delinquency, every country was concerned with safety, which was essential for the sustained development of society. In some cases, however, the national counterattack required support through international cooperation, which could take the form of technical assistance programmes, extradition treaties or mutual assistance in judicial matters. Her country provided technical assistance through the United Nations

Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. The two international conferences recently held on the subject of crime - the United Nations World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime and the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders - had drawn the attention of the international community to the scope of the problem and to the need for international cooperation to overcome it. At the Ninth Congress, her country had prepared a draft resolution on firearms regulation which had been adopted by consensus.

45. Although the proposal of the Secretary-General to upgrade the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch to a division was acceptable to her delegation, since the activities of the Branch would then be supported by strengthened institutional modalities, the proposed programme of work on crime prevention and criminal justice for the biennium 1996-1997 did not appear fully to reflect the requirements for the follow-up to the World Ministerial Conference and the Ninth United Nations Congress and therefore needed to be discussed further. Her Government also was of the view that insufficient financial and human resources had been allocated to criminal justice and the prevention of crime.

46. The problem of the illicit use of and traffic in narcotic drugs, that other universal scourge, also required global solutions. In that connection, her delegation supported the new multi-dimensional international strategy adopted by the General Assembly in 1993 which was based on a balanced effort to reduce supply and demand and on the promotion of comprehensive national drug control plans integrated in economic and social planning. The implementation of that strategy required the strengthening of international cooperation. Accordingly, at the thirty-eighth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, her country had co-sponsored a draft resolution with the United States and Switzerland (draft resolution V) calling on the international community to strengthen measures against the illicit traffic in and abuse of psychotropic substances, in particular stimulants, and their precursors. The draft resolution had been adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session in 1995 (resolution 1995/20).

47. Her Government assisted the developing countries to combat drug abuse in collaboration with international bodies such as the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and regional organizations such as the Drug Advisory Programme of the Colombo Plan and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission. The Japan International Cooperation Agency had also provided bilateral assistance by organizing training programmes for law enforcement officers and drug control administrators from developing countries.

48. In view of the deteriorating drug control situation, it was important to provide UNDCP with additional funding to enable it to play a more effective role in the formulation and implementation of global policies on drug abuse. To that end, it was necessary to reverse the downward trend in contributions to the Programme: the resources allocated to it in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 were 26.2 per cent below the level for the preceding biennium. Member States therefore should increase their contributions and honour their pledges in a timely manner. For its part, her country had

increased its contribution to UNDCP to \$6 million and it hoped that UNDCP, as a participant in ACC and the Joint Consultative Group on Policy, would play a leading role in coordinating the various existing drug control programmes.

49. At its preceding session, the Economic and Social Council had decided that the issue of international cooperation against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotics and psychotropic substances and related activities should be the theme for the high-level segment of its substantive session of 1996, a decision which her delegation supported.

50. On the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, the Drug Abuse Prevention Centre of Japan and the Japan Sumo Association had donated a peace bell to the United Nations Office at Vienna for the purpose of promoting public awareness of the negative effects of drug abuse.

51. Mrs. MSUYA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that progress towards enhanced human-centred development had not prevented an increase in violence and human suffering. Parallel to internal conflicts and ethnic strife, organized crime had spread its tentacles over most of the globe - fed, inter alia, by corruption, money laundering and terrorist violence - and posed a danger to the rule of law and democratic change.

52. Common criminality generated a profound sense of insecurity in cities throughout the world, but this was particularly true in developing countries. Violence, drug abuse and deprivation created a sense of hopelessness. It was in developing countries, where poverty was on the increase, that urban slums were likely to proliferate. It was estimated that out of a population of 8.5 billion in the year 2025, 6.5 billion persons were likely to be living in urban slums, and two thirds of them would be between 15 and 20 years old, an age group which was particularly crime-prone. Those demographic trends would be compounded by the economic crisis facing the developing countries: even if global wealth increased, the gap between rich and poor, between and within countries, was likely to widen further and foster social unrest, drug abuse and crime.

53. By its resolution 49/158, the General Assembly had linked sustained development, stability, security and improved quality of life to crime prevention and criminal justice. It was not just the gains of development that were being jeopardized by the fact that some developing countries did not have a judicial system reflecting their situation. The developing countries - to mention just them - should be able to count on regional, interregional and international technical cooperation to translate the relevant United Nations guidelines into practice.

54. The Naples Political Declaration and the Global Plan of Action Against Organized Transnational Crime had resulted in encouraging steps towards their implementation, and the results of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders would help to advance international cooperation in those two areas. Nevertheless, she was seriously concerned about the financial situation of the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, whose importance for Africa needed no further proof. The operation of the Institute had been made

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possible largely by the financial assistance provided by UNDP, which had ceased since 1994. The extra funds approved by the General Assembly would only meet administrative costs in 1995. If the Institute were forced to close its doors through lack of funding, it would no longer be able to assist African countries to advance on the path of peace, development, justice and democracy through advisory services to strengthen crime prevention strategies and ensure more humane and effective criminal justice through training programmes, policy-oriented studies and the exchange of information and experience. Given the transnational character of organized crime, the impact of such a set-back would be felt well beyond Africa.

55. Her delegation supported the proposal by the Secretary-General that the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, which had provided very valuable technical assistance to her country and other developing countries, should be upgraded to a division and should be strengthened, which, *inter alia*, would enable it to provide further support to the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

56. Mr. HAMAD (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), speaking on agenda item 108, said that his organization was deeply convinced that enforcement measures were not in themselves sufficient to overcome the widespread problem of drugs. The solution lay above all in sound social and economic approaches to the problem which was caused by marginalization and social exclusion. Efforts to reduce the demand for drugs would have only limited impact if they were not accompanied by measures to curtail supply by encouraging the production of replacement crops. For UNESCO, the most vital tool for social integration was clearly education, and particularly preventive education, which, though less spectacular than other forms of action to combat drug abuse, could make a more lasting contribution to combating drugs at their source.

57. Preventive education to reduce the demand for drugs both illicit and licit, such as tobacco and alcohol, and whether or not confined to the formal or non-formal education sectors, provided children and young people with the skills to reject the use of drugs at a very early age. It should also be recalled that the Copenhagen Programme of Action advocated the elaboration of integrated and multisectoral programmes to prevent and reduce the demand for drugs and emphasized the importance of preventive education and rehabilitation and education programmes for former drug and alcohol addicts to enable them to obtain productive employment and thus to achieve independence.

58. To achieve any meaningful results, action against substance abuse must imperatively benefit from international cooperation, notably through the United Nations system. For its part, UNESCO placed its action within the framework of the recommendations of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and its role in education for the prevention of drug abuse had been clearly underlined at the special session of the General Assembly devoted to the question of international cooperation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (1990), the World Ministerial Summit to Reduce the Demand for Drugs and to Combat the Cocaine Threat (1990), and the 1994 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council.

59. UNESCO was very satisfied with its current cooperation with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and other partners, notably the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as with NGOs active in the field, such as the International Centre for Drug Abuse Prevention in Schools. It also actively participated in the work of the ACC Subcommittee on International Drug Control and cooperated with UNDCP in the implementation of preventive education projects in Ghana, Senegal, Myanmar, the Eastern Caribbean States and Latin America. In the draft programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, which would be examined by the twenty-eighth session of the General Conference, the Director General was submitting a certain number of programme activities to foster, in cooperation with UNDCP, preventive education against drug abuse. UNESCO could only hope that resources would be more equitably distributed between supply reduction and demand reduction activities and that a greater balance between their respective budgets would be achieved.

60. Mrs. LIMJUCO (Philippines) said that the Third Committee must set the tone and pace of the implementation of the decisions taken at the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women, both of which had a bearing on the subject of crime prevention.

61. The Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders had drawn attention to the fact that judicial systems were being overwhelmed by the rising tide of criminality brought on by poverty, unemployment, exploding populations and a seriously depleted environment. The Congress had also revealed the growing menace of transnational crime in such areas as the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Because of its strategic location at the crossroads of trade and transportation in South-East Asia, the Philippines was a significant transit point in the illicit drug trade. Her delegation supported the move to criminalize the practice of luring women abroad with promises of well-paid jobs. It had proposed measures in the Third Committee to address the issues of violence against women migrant workers and the traffic in women and children for purposes of prostitution and clandestine labour, and proposed to continue its actions on those issues during the current session of the General Assembly.

62. The Philippines recognized the importance of international cooperation in crime prevention as a means of promoting sustained development in a climate of security, stability and respect for human rights. It was in that spirit that her Government had hosted the preparatory meeting for the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and the World Conference of the Asia Crime Prevention Foundation (1994), and had adopted comprehensive policies in that field.

63. The Ninth Congress had highlighted the interest of countries all over the world, and particularly the developing countries, in United Nations assistance in that area. The United Nations, however, must have the capacity to provide it. Her delegation therefore supported the Secretary-General's efforts to upgrade the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme. Failure to take effective action against organized transnational crime and violence in all its forms would compound the dangers posed to societies, countries and future generations.

64. The meeting was suspended at 11.55 a.m. and resumed at 12.45 p.m.

65. Mr. Tshering (Bhutan) took the Chair.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

66. The CHAIRMAN said that the Third Committee had thus completed consideration of the first part of its programme of work and that it would not meet during the week of 23 October on account of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations and the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year. At its meeting held in the morning of 20 October, the Bureau had decided to recommend that the General Assembly should approve the inclusion in its agenda of an additional item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women: action for equality, development and peace". The Bureau had proposed, however, that the General Assembly should first adopt directly in plenary meeting a draft proposal to subscribe to the Declaration and Platform for Action which the Conference had adopted at Beijing and, secondly, that the Third Committee, or, as appropriate, the Second Committee, should conduct an in-depth review of the Fourth World Conference on Women and its outcome and should consider any other proposal for action. The Bureau had also recommended the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the General Assembly [112 (e)], entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights" for consideration by the Third Committee. He hoped that the General Assembly would approve the recommendations of the Bureau.

67. He reminded delegations that the General Assembly had already approved the inscription of agenda item 161 and allocated it to the plenary Assembly, which meant that the Third Committee would not meet while the item was being considered; the dates for its consideration had not yet been set, pending the issuance of the Secretary-General's follow-up report.

68. The Secretariat had circulated an updated document on the status of documentation for the Third Committee (A/C.3/50/L.1/Add.1/Rev.2), indicating that documentation would be seriously delayed. The delay might jeopardize the work of the Committee, especially as the Secretariat services normally available to it had been considerably reduced as a result of the critical financial situation facing the Organization.

69. Following intensive consultations with delegations and the Secretariat, he said that the Committee would begin its consideration of item 107 on 30 October 1995. By that date the Committee would have the majority of the documentation it required; however, the actual report of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the follow-up report of the Secretary-General would not be available until 10 November at the earliest. Neither would the Committee have the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed merger of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) or the recommendations thereon of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and the Economic and Social Council. Delays were also to be expected in the circulation of documentation on human rights.

70. He therefore made the following suggestions. First, the Committee should reconvene, as agreed, on Monday, 30 October, to conclude its debate on items 106 and 108. Second, the Committee should meet again on Tuesday, 2 November, to hear the introduction of draft proposals on items 105, 106 and 108 and to take action on any proposal on which it was ready to take a decision. Third, the Commission should not meet during the rest of that week since it would not have the documentation needed to consider item 107. Fourth, the Committee should consider item 109, as originally scheduled, from 6 to 9 November. Fifth, the Committee should begin its consideration of item 107 on Friday, 10 November. Sixth, it should continue its consideration of that item in the week beginning 13 November, by which time it was anticipated that the report of the Beijing Conference and perhaps the Secretary-General's report on the follow-up to the Conference would be available. Lastly, the other items before the Committee, items 110 and 111 and all the sub-items on human rights, should be considered by the Committee in mid-November, which would give the Centre for Human Rights time to provide the Committee with the rest of the necessary documentation.

71. He stressed that the impact of the financial constraints on the Organization was being felt deeply by the plenary Assembly and all the Main Committees, but particularly by the Third Committee. If the Committee agreed to the revised programme of work, he intended to send a letter to the President of the General Assembly to so inform him and to express, in the strongest possible terms, the serious concerns of the Third Committee about the lateness of documentation and the impact it would have on the Committee's work. He also intended to ask the President of the General Assembly if the Committee could expect some degree of flexibility with regard to the 1 December deadline for completion of its work. The Third Committee secretariat would continue to work closely with the plenary officers to find suitable dates for the consideration of item 161 by the two bodies.

72. Mr. FERNANDEZ PALACIOS (Cuba) asked the Committee secretariat to keep members of the Committee informed of revisions to the programme of work.

73. Ms. WONG (Australia), supported by Mr. TELLES RIBERO (Brazil), said that the conference services freed by delaying consideration of item 107 until November could be used to allow the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to meet to consider the request by organizations of indigenous people wishing to participate in the work of the Working Group of the Human Rights Committee in November, as well as in the work of the Economic and Social Council, which had to adopt the recommendations of the Committee.

74. Ms. LIMJUCO (Philippines) pointed out the Group of 77 and China had proposed that item 107 should be considered in plenary Assembly before the Third Committee began to consider it. She wondered whether that would be feasible if the Committee began to consider the item on 9 November.

75. Mr. SAHRAOUI (Algeria) supported the proposal of the Australian delegation and, with regard to the comment made by the Philippine delegation, said that the Committee could limit itself to holding one meeting to approve the document on the follow-up to the Beijing Conference, which had been adopted by the Conference and which all delegations were aware of, and to adopting a procedural draft resolution on the matter during the week beginning 2 November.

76. The CHAIRMAN confirmed that the Philippines, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, had indeed mentioned, at the meeting of the General Committee on the morning of 20 October, the need to hold the plenary meeting on item 107 before the Committee began its consideration of the item. The President of the General Assembly had indicated that the General Committee had agreed to that, but without specifying the date for the plenary meeting. The Group of 77 and other interested delegations should continue to discuss the matter with the office of the President of the General Assembly. He would raise the request of the Group of 77 at a meeting with the President of the Assembly in the following week.

77. He took it that the Third Committee wished to adopt the revised programme of work.

78. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.
