



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.7/1996/14
22 February 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS
Thirty-ninth session
Vienna, 16-25 April 1996
Item 10 of the provisional agenda*

**MONITORING OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM-WIDE ACTION PLAN ON DRUG
ABUSE CONTROL AND OTHER COORDINATION MATTERS**

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

At its first regular session of 1995, the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) included international drug control as an agenda item for the first time. At that session, ACC made a recommendation to its Subcommittee on Drug Control to prepare a more operational United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control based on multi-agency sectoral and/or subsectoral plans of action. At its 1995 annual meeting, the Subcommittee identified 12 initial themes and established multi-agency task forces charged with the preparation of plans of action. Task force managers were chosen to coordinate the work of the other participating agencies for the preparation of the initial round of plans of action. These will form the basis for the new United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control, which will be revised continuously as new plans of action are incorporated into it, to be submitted to the General Assembly. Concurrently, emphasis has been laid on the importance of inter-agency cooperation at the field level, as well as cooperation with the international financial institutions. It is important to place drug abuse control in a wider social and economic context against the background of action taken by the United Nations system against global problems.

*E/CN.7/1996/1.

CONTENTS

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
INTRODUCTION	1-2	2
I. INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION	3-14	2
A. Administrative Committee on Coordination	3-5	2
B. Subcommittee on Drug Control of the Administrative Committee on Coordination	6-7	3
C. Follow-up to major international conferences	8-11	3
D. Coordination of drug control activities in the field	12-14	4
II. OPERATIONAL COORDINATION	15-55	5
A. United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control	15-18	5
B. Overview of United Nations drug control activities	19-55	6
III. INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS	56-63	12
A. World Bank	58-60	12
B. Asian Development Bank	61	13
C. Inter-American Development Bank	62-63	13
IV. CONCLUSION	64	13

INTRODUCTION

1. In accordance with the recommendation of the coordination segment of the 1994 session of the Economic and Social Council, the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) included in its agenda an item on international drug abuse control at its first regular session of 1995, held at Vienna on 27 and 28 February 1995. At its thirty-eighth session, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs subsequently took the conclusions and recommendations of ACC into account when it adopted its resolution 11 (XXXVIII).

2. The present report is submitted in response to that resolution and to General Assembly resolution 48/112 mandating periodic updates of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control.

I. INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION

A. Administrative Committee on Coordination

3. ACC, comprising the executive heads of all the programmes, organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General, currently holds two sessions a year to discuss matters of common interest. At its first regular session of 1995, ACC included in its agenda for the first time a specific item on drug abuse control. The participants noted the growing importance of drug control and emphasized the many linkages that existed between drug abuse and various aspects of socio-economic development. They agreed on the necessity of coordinating efforts and including drug control activities in the work of their own organizations where appropriate and in line with their mandates.

4. The recommendations emanating from ACC with regard to drug control included the following (ACC/1995/4, para. 6):

"Concerned organizations should consult regularly at the global, regional and field levels. At the country level, resident coordinators should be invited to create informal inter-agency groups, especially in countries where UNDCP has activities, to ensure that drug abuse control needs are assigned the necessary priority and addressed in a coordinated manner, particularly in the preparation of country strategy notes.

"The ACC Subcommittee on Drug Control should act to review, strengthen and render operational the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control through the elaboration of specific multi-agency sectoral and/or subsectoral plans of action for drug abuse control at global, regional and subregional levels. Each of these joint plans of action should bring together those agencies whose own work touches on the particular issues concerned.

"At the same time, the plans of action should form the basis for the coordinated or joint fund-raising efforts that will be required to implement the plans.

"Taken together, the plans of action should constitute a truly multisectoral and system-wide approach to the drug abuse problem, as requested by Member States, and should permit the system to do its part in implementing the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly on 23 February 1990, at its seventeenth special session."

5. By designating its own Subcommittee on Drug Control to be responsible for the preparation of a revitalized System-Wide Action Plan, ACC empowered the United Nations system as a whole to undertake planning in a joint, consolidated manner.

B. Subcommittee on Drug Control of the Administrative Committee on Coordination

6. The ACC Subcommittee on Drug Control held its third session at Geneva from 31 July to 2 August 1995. The session was attended by representatives of 15 United Nations entities. The terms of reference of the Subcommittee, prepared in line with the requirements of the revised ACC machinery, were subsequently approved by ACC at its second regular session of 1995.

7. In order to spearhead discussions on active means of cooperation between the agencies in the fight against drug abuse, the Subcommittee decided to consider together the agenda items on the strategic orientation of the System-Wide Action Plan, the conclusions and decisions of ACC and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and the status of progress in the development and implementation of umbrella projects and frameworks for inter-organizational cooperation in drug abuse and control. The Subcommittee welcomed the decisions of ACC and the Commission to develop a strategy for the revitalization of the System-Wide Action Plan. The main focus of the meeting was the identification of the initial plans of action to be prepared according to the ACC recommendations and the determination of the methodology to be used in preparing them. An initial set of 12 plans were chosen, on the basis of criteria described in section II below. Multi-agency task forces, each with a task force manager, were identified and charged with the preparation of the first plans of action by 1996. This process is described in section II below, while the results will be made available to the Commission in a conference room paper (E/CN.7/1996/CRP.1).

C. Follow-up to major international conferences

8. One major recent development in the nature of coordination efforts in the United Nations system has resulted from the recognition that the international community has been receiving increasing mandates from global conferences such as the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 3 to 14 June 1992, the International Conference on Population and Development, held at Cairo from 3 to 13

September 1994, the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, held at Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995. Such mandates come in addition to existing and new mandates emanating from the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the governing bodies of individual United Nations entities at a time of declining available resources for a great part of the United Nations system. It is of absolute necessity, therefore, that the system as a whole should act in harmony to meet those challenges.

9. The greater role of conferences that focus on select issues reflects in part an acknowledgement of the changing nature of world economic structures and relations, as well as the ever-increasing consolidation of the response of the international community to global problems. In this context, drug abuse is recognized as a growing challenge worldwide, with numerous linkages to high-priority social and economic development issues. For this reason, it is incumbent upon the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) to take an interest in and act in concert with measures directed at achieving the goals of agencies active in the alleviation of poverty and social problems in order to reduce future proliferation of drug abuse. Particular importance is being attached to the results achieved and to the use of cost-effective methods. A number of new system-wide joint initiatives and coordination mechanisms have emerged, covering such areas as the eradication of poverty; African economic recovery and development; and sustainable development. It is essential for UNDCP, as it is for the whole system, while not spreading itself too thin, to support those initiatives.

10. Recent deliberations of ACC have underscored this tendency. At its second regular session of 1995, ACC adopted an initiative addressing the support of the United Nations system for the implementation of and follow-up to the recommendations of recent conferences in countries receiving United Nations development assistance. The purpose of the initiative is to galvanize the United Nations system around priority goals and objectives emerging from recent conferences and to rationalize and strengthen the system's follow-up mechanisms for the delivery of coordinated assistance at the country and regional levels.

11. As part of the initiative, the already existing inter-agency task force for the International Conference on Population and Development, under the chairmanship of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is being expanded as an inter-agency task force on basic social services for all. Two new inter-agency task forces have also been created within the ACC machinery: the first will address full employment and sustainable livelihoods for all, under the initial leadership of the International Labour Organization (ILO); the second, under the initial leadership of the World Bank, will focus on the enabling environment for people-centred sustainable development. A new inter-agency committee, on the advancement of women, is also envisaged. UNDCP will participate in the inter-agency task force on the enabling environment, the mandate of which covers such areas as macro-policy frameworks; capacity-building for governance; judicial, legal and regulatory frameworks; and social integration. It will also participate in the inter-agency task force on basic social services, which will deal with issues related to reduction of illicit drug demand.

D. Coordination of drug control activities in the field

12. Among agencies within the United Nations system, particular emphasis is being laid on coordination in the field. Guidelines on the role and functioning of the resident coordinator system, which are constantly under review, were approved by ACC at its first session in 1995. UNDCP supports the system and has provided further recommendations to strengthen it. Under the working arrangement with UNDP, the resident representatives are automatically UNDCP representatives.

13. Following the first session of ACC in 1995, in order to enhance and spearhead joint activities in the field, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) wrote to all resident coordinators and resident representatives encouraging them to establish inter-agency thematic groups aimed at identifying areas of collaboration in the field of drug abuse control and at coordinating the relevant work of the various agencies concerned. The Executive Director of UNFPA also wrote to all her country directors requesting them to investigate the possibility of introducing a drug abuse control aspect into ongoing and planned projects, and several other

executive directors brought the matter to the attention of their governing bodies. The Executive Director of UNDCP has encouraged resident coordinators and resident representatives, as well as the directors of UNDCP regional and country offices, to pursue closely all channels to enhance an integrated approach to problems touching on the mandates of several agencies, thus consolidating scarce resources in an effective manner by eliminating overlap and proliferation of parallel interventions.

14. As an immediate target, UNDCP has concentrated on instituting inter-agency thematic groups in countries where UNDCP regional and country directors are based. UNDCP directors have been encouraged to develop a formula adapted to fit the situation in each country. In some countries a full-fledged inter-agency group has been established, while in others a subgroup of existing coordination mechanisms has been created. UNDCP directors have, at the same time, pursued direct relations with other agencies present in the countries they cover. This has led to a noticeable increase in the number of integrated or joint activities, some of which are described in section II below.

II. OPERATIONAL COORDINATION

A. United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control

15. Conventions and resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and of governing bodies, including the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, provide the United Nations system with a wide and relatively complete range of mandates in international drug control. As a result of ACC deliberations and of meetings between the Executive Director of UNDCP and other executive heads, there is a clear commitment at the highest level of management. The improved model of the System-Wide Action Plan that is being prepared is intended to convert the mandates and commitment into day-to-day action. Equally important, the System-Wide Action Plan is the tool used to bring together the decentralized action of the United Nations system to form a coherent whole.

16. On the recommendation of ACC, its Subcommittee on Drug Control initiated the process of redesigning the System-Wide Action Plan from the ground up, based on subsectoral plans of action to be compiled by short-term multi-agency task forces. This new approach, which is receiving enthusiastic support, is designed to produce the System-Wide Action Plan as a document that will continuously be evolving in order to be able to adjust to changes in priorities and to develop new approaches and partnerships. As each plan of action is approved by the Subcommittee it will automatically become part of the System-Wide Action Plan. The plans of action will initially include activities that individual agencies have planned for a period of 3-5 years. The process will be open-ended and ongoing, with individual plans of action being updated or replaced as required. This incremental approach will ultimately cover the entire drug control subject-matter. By structuring the material around an agreed conceptual framework, the process will permit the identification of undesirable overlap and of areas where multi-agency approaches are called for.

17. The selection of themes for individual plans of action is the responsibility of the Subcommittee. At its third annual session, the Subcommittee established an initial set of 12 themes, of which 5-8 would be prepared in a first round, to be completed prior to the convening of the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Criteria for the selection included feasibility (themes lending themselves well to multi-agency approaches); existing cooperation (themes for which existing inter-agency cooperation could serve as a base on which to build); workload and cost implications (themes that could be developed into plans of action without placing an excessive burden on staff time and financial resources); and timing (themes that could be converted rather quickly into plans of action so as to permit the launching of the new System-Wide Action Plan as early as possible). In the longer term, the plans of action will also address themes that are more problematic or for which major new initiatives will be required.

18. Multi-agency task forces, each with a task force manager, were identified by the Subcommittee for the preparation of the initial plans of action. By mid-January 1996, five such plans of action had been drafted. In the light of a decision by the Subcommittee to avoid supplementary expenses, that was achieved by the individual task

forces relying entirely on electronic communication, without holding any meetings. The five plans of action have become the first components of the new System-Wide Action Plan document and the beginning of the incremental process that will lead, in time, to a comprehensive document. (For the text of the new System-Wide Action Plan, which is to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session, see document E/CN.7/1996/CRP.1.) The remaining plans of action identified by the Subcommittee will be prepared during 1996 and will be incorporated into the System-Wide Action Plan. Additional themes will be identified by the Subcommittee during 1996. The Subcommittee will review the progress made to date at its fourth session, which is to be held at Vienna in September 1996.

B. Overview of United Nations drug control activities

1. Agency-by-agency breakdown of drug control activities

19. The present document is not an attempt to provide detailed information on cooperation between UNDCP and other United Nations entities, nor is it an attempt to provide a complete catalogue of activities related to drug control in the United Nations system. It is rather an effort to reflect the considerable range of drug control work within the system, including both activities undertaken by agencies on their own and activities with which UNDCP is associated.

20. The involvement of UNDCP varies. In some cases it is involved as funding agency. In others a drug control element is introduced into activities of other agencies or other agencies take on aspects of drug control activities that are directly related to their own fields of specialization. In yet other cases, agencies contribute expertise in their own areas of specialization to activities predominantly related to drug control.

21. There are also various levels of hierarchical collaboration, ranging from formalized agreements such as memoranda of understanding between the executive heads of organizations to informal working-level exchanges of information, usually in the field.

22. Many of the activities are described in detail elsewhere in documentation provided to the Commission and are thus referred to only briefly in the present document. An effort has been made to identify activities that are indicative of the many different forms of cooperation that are elements of a coordinated system-wide approach. For this reason, some activities have been included that are still at the discussion or planning stage.

23. The revised approach to the System-Wide Action Plan, described above, will in time provide a useful framework for the necessary overview of the drug control work in the United Nations system.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

24. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific is involved in a number of activities for reducing illicit drug demand. It is executing a UNDCP project in reduction in the demand for and consumption of narcotics and prevention of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection in border areas of Myanmar and Thailand. It has undertaken several independent initiatives, including the publication of a fact sheet on drug demand reduction and prevention of HIV and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) for Asia and the Pacific and a report on five demonstration projects on community-based drug demand reduction.

Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division of the Secretariat

25. In response to a number of directives from both the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, UNDCP and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division of the Secretariat, which have cooperated on several projects, notably in Belarus and Ukraine, will participate in a seminar in Kyrgyzstan in May 1996 on drug trafficking and criminal matters in central Asia. A regional project in Europe

on coordination of drug control and criminal justice was undertaken in 1995 by UNDCP in collaboration with both the Division and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute. The Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division also provides substantive support to a joint project involving UNDCP, the Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), based in Costa Rica, for the harmonization of drug control legislation in all Central American countries. A fact-finding mission on organized crime in Pakistan was undertaken jointly by UNDCP and the Division in 1995. The report of this mission is being submitted to the Government of Pakistan and a joint meeting is anticipated in April 1996 to initiate implementation of the recommendations. Discussions are taking place between UNDCP and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division on assistance to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and a joint global project on action against money-laundering is being submitted for approval.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

26. Drug abuse problems associated with refugees are becoming more apparent, and the need for measures to counter such problems has led to increased collaboration between UNDCP and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). UNDCP has provided input on a manual on the mental health of refugees. The inclusion of a treatment and rehabilitation component within a repatriation programme for people returning to the Lao People's Democratic Republic from Thai camps is planned, and a survey of drug abuse among returnees is being discussed by UNDCP and UNHCR. Also planned is drug abuse input for a returnee programme in Liberia.

United Nations Children's Fund

27. The activities of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in targeting children and development issues make it an essential partner for UNDCP and cooperation is steadily increasing, primarily at the operational level in the field.

28. UNICEF is executing a jointly funded UNDCP project on the development and implementation of a night-school curriculum for working children and street children in Bolivia. UNICEF participates in the substantive monitoring of a UNDCP project in Ecuador aimed at training educators of street children. A drug component is being included in a project on the non-formal education of nomadic children and slum dwellers in Kenya. UNICEF has offered to include a drug element in a pro-social marketing campaign (multi-media soap opera) in South Africa. Discussions are under way for UNDCP to introduce a drug component in a UNICEF project on children in prison in Bolivia, as well as in a project on street children and working children in Senegal. UNICEF helped to design the UNDCP newsletter *Focus on Drugs* for the Caribbean subregion, while UNDCP is providing advice to UNICEF on a project on street children in Brazil. Based on contact with the UNICEF International Child Development Centre at Florence, Italy, possibilities are being explored for collaboration on a research project in central and eastern Europe. Elements on substance abuse and demand reduction have been included in the 1995 health strategy for UNICEF project.

29. UNICEF participated in the task forces for the plans of action on drug abuse prevention in the school environment and on children and youth in especially difficult circumstances.

United Nations Development Programme

30. The whole operation of UNDCP field activities is inexorably linked to cooperation with UNDP through the working arrangement between the two entities that was signed in 1993. According to the arrangement, the UNDP Resident Representative is automatically the Representative of UNDCP in the country in question. A great deal of coordination activity has been undertaken by the resident representatives, who are for the most part also the resident coordinators of the United Nations system, to implement the recommendations of ACC. In many field duty stations, theme groups have been established and drug abuse control has been placed firmly on the agenda of the international community. Especially in duty stations where UNDCP does not have an office, the role of the Resident Representative is crucial in advocacy, trouble-shooting and coordination.

31. UNDP is financing a demand reduction project in south-east Asia, master-plan preparation in Zambia and an institution-building project in Malawi. Preventive measures against both drug trafficking and illicit cultivation are included in a proposed joint poverty alleviation project in Kyrgyzstan. UNDP is contributing to one of the UNDCP alternative development projects in the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

United Nations Population Fund

32. UNFPA has shown itself at all levels to be open to the inclusion of a drug abuse prevention component in ongoing projects. This is taking place in two projects in Kenya, one with scouts and guides and the other on community health in slums, in which training is given on ways to deliver a drug abuse prevention message. Similar possibilities are being discussed in the areas of primary education and with out-of-school youth in Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal and, together with ILO, in a family planning programme in enterprises in Senegal. UNFPA has inserted a family planning component in several UNDCP alternative development projects in Peru. UNFPA is currently considering how it can benefit from and contribute to an alternative development project in Viet Nam. It is also contributing financially to the preparation of a drug control master plan in Zambia.

Joint United Nations Programme HIV/AIDS

33. Official contact has been made with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, which comprises UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank. Modalities of cooperation between the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and UNDCP are to be formalized in the near future.

International Labour Organization

34. ILO is another long-standing partner of UNDCP in matters dealing with the prevention and treatment of substance abuse in the workplace. There are currently several joint projects, funded by UNDCP and implemented by ILO, that deal with such matters: the development, together with the WHO Programme on Substance Abuse, of model programmes of drug and alcohol abuse prevention among workers and their families; the development, together with the International Maritime Organization, of measures to reduce drug and alcohol problems in the maritime industry; mobilizing enterprises and workers to prevent substance abuse in central and eastern Europe; and training in the non-governmental sector in Asia. ILO has executed a project in Zimbabwe to set up a national resource centre on problems related to drug and alcohol and discussions are under way regarding possibilities to replicate this initiative in Mozambique, South Africa and Swaziland. ILO is participating in the UNDCP drug demand reduction programme in Pakistan, is executing a demand reduction project for non-governmental organizations in India and is providing expertise for UNDCP projects in Jamaica and Mexico. ILO co-sponsored a major programme, funded by the private sector, on drug abuse prevention in the workplace in southern Brazil, involving the major employers' federation as the executing agency.

35. ILO has also undertaken a number of related initiatives on its own, including the publication of the *Code of Practice on the Management of Alcohol- and Drug-related Issues in the Workplace* and a manual on drug-related issues for ILO multidisciplinary teams and field offices. Both initiatives are excellent examples of efforts by United Nations entities to integrate drug control issues into their own work programmes.

36. The ILO Turin Training Centre offers an opportunity for heightened and streamlined cooperation at field duty stations through its series of workshops on the management of field coordination for senior United Nations system representatives. UNDCP regularly sends selected field officers to those workshops.

37. Cooperation between ILO and UNDCP is taking place within the framework of a memorandum of understanding signed in August 1994.

38. ILO has been task force manager for the plan of action on drug abuse prevention in the workplace and has actively participated in the preparation of the plan of action on children and youth in especially difficult circumstances and the plan of action on drug abuse prevention in the school environment.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

39. Collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is primarily in the area of alternative development, including illicit crop identification through remote sensing, research and agriculture programmes. Specific collaborative activities include the monitoring of illicit cultivation in the Beqa'a valley in Lebanon, and the identification of agro-forestry cash crops to replace coca bush in parts of the Chapare area in Bolivia. Further to a proposal from UNDCP, FAO has indicated its readiness to assume a leading role in the finalization and execution of a preparatory assistance project for the identification and programming of actions to rehabilitate areas affected by poppy cultivation in Colombia.

40. FAO involvement in demand reduction activities is increasing. Discussions have taken place regarding the inclusion of a drug component in the training of agricultural extension workers in eastern Africa and in rural education in Central America.

41. FAO has participated in the task force for the plan of action on women and drug abuse.

42. A memorandum of understanding between UNDCP and FAO was signed in 1993.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

43. UNESCO, with its mandate in education and curriculum development, is another traditional partner of UNDCP. In resolution 0.12, paragraph 22, adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its twenty-eighth session in 1995, the General Conference reaffirmed the need to develop a "united thrust" of multilateral cooperation for development and, at the highest decision-making levels in the United Nations system, to frame coordinated policies and strategies, and to establish frameworks for joint action at regional and national levels, based on regard for the responsibilities of the various institutions concerned. In addition, in its resolution 1.1, the General Conference invited the Director-General of UNESCO to give a strong impetus to preventive education against drug abuse and AIDS.¹

44. At the field level, UNESCO has requested UNDCP to provide input for information leaflets for schools in the Caribbean. Discussions are under way regarding the insertion of a drug component in projects for youth at risk in Ecuador, Guyana and Venezuela, and a project on training for journalists in Kyrgyzstan. UNESCO also provides training for teachers in non-formal education within the framework of alternative development projects in the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

45. Jointly with the European Commission, UNESCO publishes *Peddro*, a quarterly information networking publication on the prevention of drug abuse through education. The September 1995 issue dealt with the World Forum on the Role of NGOs in Drug Demand Reduction, held, with UNDCP support, at Bangkok from 12 to 16 December 1994.

46. UNESCO was the task force manager for the plan of action on drug abuse prevention in the school environment and contributed to the plan of action on children and youth in especially difficult circumstances and the plan of action on women and drug abuse.

47. A memorandum of understanding was signed by the executive heads of UNESCO and UNDCP in 1994.

World Health Organization

48. WHO is a long-standing partner of UNDCP, as its mandate coincides with that of UNDCP in the broad area of demand reduction; furthermore, WHO is the only other United Nations entity specifically given a role under the international drug control treaties. WHO regards drug control as an important part of its Programme on Substance Abuse, which includes elements on alcohol, tobacco and volatile solvents, as well as narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The information and expertise available in WHO constitute a vital part of the response of the United Nations system to drug abuse and provide a substantial foundation for cooperation, both at headquarters and in the field. UNDCP and WHO are currently formalizing terms for future strengthened cooperation.

49. Joint activities involving WHO currently include a project to set up referral systems for children at high risk in Bolivia; improvement of domestic control of licit drugs and psychotropic substances in eastern Europe, the Baltic States and the Commonwealth of Independent States; and a rapid assessment study of the extent of drug abuse in central Africa. A joint project with UNHCR on substance abuse among Vietnamese refugees in Hong Kong has recently been completed. WHO provides technical assistance on AIDS prevention to UNDCP in Brazil and has agreed to add a drug component to a subregional project on family and youth in the English-speaking Caribbean countries. Negotiations are currently under way regarding possible collaboration in a large primary-prevention initiative to be carried out in southern Africa, south-east Asia and central and eastern Europe. WHO is also collaborating in the preparation of an article on health and cannabis for the UNDCP world drug report.

50. WHO has acted as task force manager for the plan of action on children and youth in especially difficult circumstances and as co-manager for the plan of action on the assessment of drug abuse. It has actively participated in the preparation of the plan of action on drug abuse prevention in the workplace, the plan of action on drug abuse prevention in the school environment and the plan of action on women and drug abuse.

World Bank

51. Drug control activities of the World Bank are presented in section III below.

Universal Postal Union

52. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the executive heads of UNDCP and the Universal Postal Union in October 1995, outlining the framework for cooperation in matters related to stopping the illicit traffic in drugs through the mails.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

53. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has provided technical support to several UNDCP projects. Cooperation between UNDCP and UNIDO has led to the upgrading of several agro-industries in the context of alternative development in the Chapare area in Bolivia.

Other United Nations entities

54. A number of other United Nations entities are also working in cooperation with UNDCP in their specific areas of competence. These include the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the United Nations Interregional Crime and Research Institute, the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the International Telecommunication Union and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

2. Multi-agency activities in drug control

55. An increasing number of operational activities involve several agencies. Among those initiatives are the following:

(a) UNDCP, UNDP, United Nations Volunteers and FAO collaborated in the first phase of the Baalbeck-Hermel integrated rural development programme targeting the reduction of illicit drug supply through a multisectoral approach. UNFPA, WHO and IFAD have expressed interest in joining the second phase of the project;

(b) UNDCP activities in the prevention of drug abuse and its harmful consequences among high-risk groups are part of a programme of external assistance on HIV/AIDS prevention developed jointly by the Government of Viet Nam, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and non-governmental organizations;

(c) UNDCP has incorporated a drug abuse prevention element into an existing women's health research project (a joint project of UNDP, the World Bank and the WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases), which will culminate in the publication of a healthy women's counselling guide and a health workers' guide;

(d) UNDCP, together with UNICEF and WHO, has participated in an inter-agency initiative in India on reducing risk behaviour related to HIV/AIDS, other sexually transmitted infections and drug abuse among street children;

(e) UNDCP is considering developing a project in India on the establishment of network and training programmes for non-governmental organizations and institutions working with intravenous drug users. It is envisaged that the project will become part of the programme of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS in India;

(f) UNICEF and UNESCO have agreed to monitor an integral drug prevention programme in primary education and teachers' training in drug abuse prevention in Peru, subject to the identification by UNDCP of funding for drug-related activities;

(g) The United Nations University and the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development jointly published *Unintended Consequences: Illegal Drugs and Drug Policies in Nine Countries*, a synthesis of findings from a research project on the socio-economic and political impact of the production of, trade in and use of illicit narcotic drugs. UNDCP funded the mid-term meeting of the researchers during the data collection phase;

(h) UNDCP, UNHCR and UNDP participate in the multilateral task force to support democracy, governance and participation in central and eastern Europe and in the Commonwealth of Independent States;

(i) UNDCP, UNHCR and the WHO Programme on Substance Abuse collaborate in a project on substance abuse among Vietnamese refugees in Hong Kong;

(j) UNDCP, together with UNHCR and ILO, is planning a drug component to be included in a joint project in Guinea involving refugees from Liberia and Sierra Leone;

(k) UNDCP is collaborating with WFP and FAO in the field of reduction of illicit drug supply in Afghanistan.

III. INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

56. UNDCP attaches priority to the strengthening of its links with the international financial institutions. In full recognition of the complexities involved, a step-by-step process is being followed, with considerable effort being devoted in the initial period to discussing the nature of the linkages between drug control and economic development issues and encouraging the financial institutions to recognize and help address those linkages.

57. At the general level, UNDCP has provided input to the work of a United Nations working group on strengthening cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions, which has been established under the chairmanship of UNDP, with the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis of the Secretariat, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, UNICEF and UNFPA as members.

A. World Bank

58. Contacts with the World Bank at the senior and working levels have been intensified and streamlined. The World Bank has created a focal point on drug-related matters and has invited UNDCP to contribute to its next issue of the *World Development Report*. The World Bank has formally confirmed its interest in working with UNDCP on supply-related issues and is preparing an internal concept paper to articulate its position on the matter, with specific reference to Latin America.

59. A research initiative under way in Latin America has involved UNDP and the World Bank in a study of the economic impact on the Andean countries of illicit cultivation, production, trafficking and abuse. In Brazil, the Ministry of Health and UNDCP have incorporated a demand reduction component into a major HIV/AIDS prevention programme funded in part by a World Bank loan. A similar approach is being followed in India, where the World Bank funds a large AIDS prevention programme. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, UNDCP is planning to assist in an assessment survey on HIV and drug abuse as part of a World Bank primary health-care project. Drug control elements can also be introduced in World Bank projects in the area of poverty alleviation, and possible initiatives in that respect are being examined in Haiti, Jamaica and Senegal.

60. At the institutional level, UNDCP is invited to participate in consultative group meetings led by the World Bank on countries of particular interest. The World Bank participates regularly in meetings of the ACC Subcommittee on Drug Control and has indicated its interest in participating in three plans of action of the System-Wide Action Plan that are expected to be launched during 1996.

B. Asian Development Bank

61. A UNDCP mission visited the headquarters of the Asian Development Bank during 1995 for initial discussions on ways to develop cooperation in drug control matters. In a subsequent exchange of correspondence, ways to increase information exchange and coordination have been identified.

C. Inter-American Development Bank

62. In the first case of direct cooperation with Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) activities, the Government of Bolivia and UNDCP worked together to insert a curriculum development project stressing drug abuse prevention into an IDB-financed programme for national education reform.

63. Negotiations are under way between the Government of Colombia and IDB for a major loan to finance alternative development activities. If the outcome is successful, it will represent the first time that a Government has used an IDB loan for activities directly related to drug control.

IV. CONCLUSION

64. A wide variety of collaborative efforts to deal with drug abuse are under way, and they are expected to increase with the implementation of the recommendations made by ACC at its first regular session of 1995. Those activities will eventually be brought together within the framework of the System-Wide Action Plan, which will facilitate greater coordination in planning (thereby minimizing duplication) and in addressing neglected areas of concern. The

movement towards the pooling of resources in joint ventures is expected to increase cost-effectiveness. The increased cooperation within the ACC machinery is also expected to tie international drug control in with the broader subject of sustainable development.

Notes

¹See *Records of the General Conference, Twenty-eighth Session, Paris, 25 October to 16 November 1995; Volume 1: Resolutions* (Paris, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 1996).