



## Economic and Social Council

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### Commission on Narcotic Drugs

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### Draft report

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#### Addendum

1. At its 1191st meeting, on 14 March 2000, the Commission began consideration of the operational segment of its agenda. The Chairman indicated that the Council, in its resolution 1999/30, had decided that the Commission, during the operational segment of its sessions, should exercise its role as the governing body of UNDCP and consider issues related to the provision of policy guidance to the Programme. The Commission accordingly began consideration of item 7 of its agenda, entitled "Policy directives to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme". For the consideration of the item, the Commission had before it the report of the Executive Director on the activities of UNDCP (E/CN.7/2000/9). The Executive Director made a statement introducing his report and setting out the strategic orientations followed by UNDCP in assisting Member States in implementing the action plans and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session.

2. The Executive Director of UNDCP was commended for his strong leadership in guiding and supporting Member States in their efforts to achieve the goals and targets agreed upon at the twentieth special session. The Executive Director was also commended for his efforts to improve the efficiency and management of UNDCP and for achieving, through his fund-raising initiatives, an increase of over 35 per cent in the income of the Fund of UNDCP for the biennium 2000-2001. UNDCP was called upon to continue to assist Governments in the implementation of the goals and targets agreed upon at the twentieth special session. In view of the shared responsibility for the implementation of those commitments, all Member States were called upon to provide UNDCP with increased financial resources to enable it to deliver the programmes required to support government efforts to achieve the agreed objectives.

3. Several representatives commended the Executive Director for his comprehensive report on the activities undertaken by UNDCP in 1999. One representative suggested that the Executive Director should consider setting out in his annual report to the Commission

the planned activities for the coming year to enable the Commission to provide the necessary input. Strong support was expressed for the initiatives undertaken by UNDCP in developing programmes to eliminate illicit crops, one of the important goals of the special session. UNDCP was called upon to continue to play an active role in developing programmes to assist Governments in their efforts to meet the target date of 2008 for the eradication or the significant reduction of illicit crops.

4. The expanded regional approach pursued by UNDCP had assisted Governments in countering the world drug problem. By launching new projects in various sectors, UNDCP played a catalytic role in promoting government action to counter the drug problem at the national and regional levels. It was indicated that the subregional programmes for cooperation in drug control in south-east Asia, covering activities in the field of institution-building, cross-border cooperation, training and elimination of illicit cultivation of the opium poppy, had played a critical role in stimulating regional cooperation in drug control. Governments were invited to build on the support provided by UNDCP at the regional level and to enhance the effectiveness of their programmes to tackle the world drug problem.

5. Strong support was expressed for the initiatives taken by UNDCP in strengthening its operational capacity and its backstopping capability as a centre of expertise. UNDCP was commended for the balanced approach that it had pursued in addressing the world drug problem, as reflected in its programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 covering four thematic areas that included policy support, prevention and reduction of drug abuse, the elimination of illicit crops and the suppression of illicit drug trafficking. Such consolidation, however, should not affect transparency.

6. Programmes to assist Governments in the implementation of the international drug control treaties should continue to be a priority activity for UNDCP. The programmes of legislative assistance provided by UNDCP had led to increased adherence to the conventions and improvement in their implementation. The new initiative to develop a database of national drug control legislation would further assist Governments in drafting and implementing their national legislation. UNDCP should continue to play an important role in providing expertise, legal advice and training to assist Governments in meeting their treaty obligations.

7. The support that UNDCP was providing to the International Narcotics Control Board in discharging its functions should continue as a matter of priority. Projects implemented by UNDCP in the field of precursor control had contributed to preventing the diversion of precursors for the manufacture of illicit drugs.

8. The initiative of UNDCP to consolidate its programmes into four thematic groups could enhance its capacity to deliver technical assistance in drug control. The donor base of UNDCP remained limited and a significant number of projects currently lacked funding from donors, in particular for some large programmes initiated during the past year. Concerns were raised about the geographical spread of UNDCP and the need for programmes to be developed to match the foreseeable funding by donors. Appreciation was expressed for recent UNDCP initiatives in developing plans for human resources management, including, in particular, the implementation of a training programme for staff of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat.

9. UNDCP should continue to focus on areas where it could play an effective role. Its current budget did not allow it to meet every government request for assistance in combating the world drug problem. Accordingly, UNDCP should give priority to assisting those Governments that had clearly demonstrated their commitment to countering the drug

problem and were undertaking programmes and activities to fulfil their treaty obligations and implement the action plans and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session.

10. One representative expressed the view that there was an imbalance between demand reduction and supply reduction programmes in the overall activities of UNDCP, despite the increase in demand reduction initiatives during the past year, as reflected in the report of the Executive Director. He pointed out that expenditures for demand reduction accounted for 25 per cent of the budget of UNDCP, and called on donors to the Fund of UNDCP to take into account the need to pursue a balanced approach in making their contributions to the Fund. He also considered that UNDCP should allocate more resources to improve its capacity to undertake demand reduction programmes.

11. The capacity of UNDCP to evaluate its own programmes should continue to be strengthened through the establishment of specific goals and with the participation of outside experts in the evaluation process. UNDCP should assist Governments in clearly defining their drug control objectives and in working towards the achievement of those objectives. An effective process of evaluation would facilitate identification of the achievements and draw attention to the obstacles to be overcome in meeting national drug control objectives.

12. The activities pursued jointly by UNDCP with other intergovernmental organizations, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system had contributed to strengthening support to Governments in countering the drug problem. In that regard, the joint data-sharing project involving UNDCP, the International Criminal Police Organization and the Customs Cooperation Council (also known as the World Customs Organization), launched in 1999, should provide in-depth analysis of drug-trafficking trends to be made available to Governments to assist them in assessing the drug-trafficking situation and adopting countermeasures.

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