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Draft report

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Addendum

Administrative and budgetary questions

1. At its 1191st meeting, on 14 March 2000, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs considered item 9 of its agenda, entitled "Administrative and budgetary questions". The representative of the Secretariat introduced the item and made an introductory statement summarizing the issues before the Commission as contained in the note by the Secretariat on administrative and budgetary questions (E/CN.7/2000/10). He referred in particular to the request, as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, to the Commission contained in paragraph 4 of the note that it authorize charging up to 13 per cent in programme support charges on all UNDCP projects, irrespective of the execution modality, and for such charges to be authorized as of the beginning of the biennium 2000-2001. Following informal consultations with Member States, it was agreed that more time was required for consideration of the request.

2. One representative referred to the substantial increase in the contribution of his Government to the Fund of UNDCP during 1999, 15 per cent of which consisted of general-purpose contributions. He expressed strong reservations, however, concerning the proposal that UNDCP charge up to 13 per cent in programme support charges regardless of the execution modality and indicated that his Government would be interested to know how any increased support cost charges on nationally executed projects would be used by UNDCP.

3. Another representative supported the proposal to defer consideration of the issue of programme support costs until the forty-fourth session of the Commission in order to allow for a more thorough review, in line with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. Other representatives concurred with that position.

4. In summarizing the discussion, the representative of the Secretariat indicated that there had been no increase in the number of posts financed from the Fund of UNDCP in the approved support budget for the biennium 2000-2001. With regard to the issue of programme support costs, he indicated that the concerns expressed by some members of the Commission led him to believe that there was a need for it to conduct further review. Replying to a question relating to the new financial system being established within UNDCP, he indicated that the Secretariat would endeavour to contain the costs within existing budget limits. Any increase would be reflected in a transparent manner in the revised support budget for the biennium 2000-2001. He drew the attention of the Commission to the medium-term plan for international drug control, which was before it for its consideration and comments.

5. The Commission decided to reconsider the issue of programme support charges in the context of the revised budget for the biennium 2000-2001 at its forty-fourth session, in 2001, to allow for consultations with all interested parties.
