



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 35th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. LABERGE (Canada)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 104: INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFIC IN DRUGS (continued)

- (a) INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)
- (b) DRAFT CONVENTION AGAINST ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)
- (c) IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 41/127: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

*This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2 750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate fascicle for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.3/42/SR.35
16 November 1987
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 104: INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFIC IN DRUGS (continued)
(A/42/3, A/42/357-S/18935, A/42/407, A/42/417, A/42/477-S/19048, A/42/489, 490, 549
and 594; A/CONF.133/12; A/C.3/42/2)

- (a) INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)
- (b) DRAFT CONVENTION AGAINST ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)
- (c) IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 41/127: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

1. Mr. BARNETT (Jamaica) said he was gratified that, faced with growing drug abuse, particularly among young people, and the appearance of new low-priced products such as crack, States had mobilized under the auspices of the United Nations to convene the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and at that Conference had adopted by consensus a Declaration geared to four objectives: prevention and reduction of the illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; control of supply; suppression of illicit trafficking; and treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts. That Declaration, together with the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, provided a set of guidelines to be followed in the systematic implementation of concrete, global and effective measures in that field.

2. With regard to the United Nations bodies responsible for drug control, the Conference had envisaged strengthening the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Division of Narcotic Drugs, the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. The Fund's expanding involvement in the area of operational activities in the campaign against illicit trafficking and abuse had given an impetus to national programmes, including that of Jamaica. In that connection, Jamaica was grateful to the Fund, and the countries contributing to it, for support in its efforts to intensify public awareness, establish drug abuse prevention information centres and formulate a national plan for drug abuse prevention and control. Jamaica reaffirmed its support of the International Narcotics Control Board. As far as the Commission on Narcotic Drugs was concerned, the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and the Multidisciplinary Outline could well result in an increased workload. While his delegation was not opposed to the idea of appointing a special rapporteur to assist the Commission in carrying out its task, as the Secretary-General suggested in paragraphs 35 and 36 of his report (A/42/594), it would, in its opinion, be better to call on the technical personnel of the Division of Narcotic Drugs or authorize the Commission to hold additional meetings. The Secretary-General's other proposals - the establishment of a data bank at the United Nations Office at Vienna, the observance of an annual day of the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking, and the convening of a second international conference - would require further study. Jamaica also paid a

(Mr Barnett, Jamaica)

tribute to the Division of Narcotic Drugs, whose training programmes for chemists and law enforcement personnel in the detection of dangerous drugs were particularly useful. Lastly, his delegation was in favour of holding another session of the intergovernmental expert group engaged in preparing the draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances so that it might complete its work, which was apparently progressing well.

3. In response to the calls for the adoption of strong national measures, Jamaica had decided, despite its limited resources, to intensify the campaign against drugs. The Government was planning to acquire additional equipment to counter the use of Jamaica as a transshipment point for drugs, to close clandestine airstrips, confiscate the assets of drug traffickers and increase fines for drug traders and users. It had also increased the intelligence-gathering capabilities of the Narcotics Branch of the police force. The National Council on Drug Abuse had continued its preventive education programme, aimed primarily at youth. Jamaica was thus investing substantial resources in the fight against drug trafficking and drug abuse and stood ready to co-operate in all the international, regional and bilateral programmes undertaken in that connection.

4. Mr. ALVES (Brazil) said that International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was one of the major success stories of recent years because it had emphasized the omnipresent nature of the drug problem throughout the world and demonstrated the political will of all States to set aside their differences of opinion and close ranks to fight against that scourge.

5. The Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, adopted by consensus at that Conference, was the first document of universal scope to tackle the drug problem in all its aspects. The Vienna Declaration embodied the principle of shared responsibility and in so doing ended years of sterile controversy. By looking at the drug problem in its social, economic and political aspects, those documents gave the lie to the simplistic theory that punitive measures alone could eliminate that scourge.

6. Those documents were of course only a first step in establishing the international legal framework within which efforts to eliminate drug abuse and illicit trafficking must operate. The draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances was, because of its binding nature, much more difficult to bring to completion. In that connection, his delegation expressed its appreciation of the work of the intergovernmental expert group responsible for the drafting. However, it had some reservations regarding the current wording of article 12 (3) of the draft convention, which it felt absolutely must include a clause on civil responsibility, similar to that in article 110 of the Convention on the Law of the Sea. Without such a clause, any third State would feel entitled to board, inspect, and seize a vessel sailing in the contiguous zone or exclusive economic zone of another State, unless some specific limits were placed on it.

(Mr. Alves, Brazil)

7. Brazil had participated in all the activities - meetings and conferences - organized within the United Nations system and by the Organization of American States to fight drug abuse and illicit trafficking. At the bilateral level, it had signed a new co-operation agreement with Venezuela on the repression and prevention of drug addiction, the rehabilitation of addicts and the control of precursors and other chemical substances used in drug production.

8. On the domestic plane, Brazil had promoted in a wide ranging dialogue among all segments of society with a view to defining the principles that must be respected in prevention campaigns. The Brazilian Government had made successful efforts to destroy illicit crops in the Amazonian region and the north-eastern part of the country. It had intensified surveillance at airports and other points of entry and, above all, it had worked to control the precursors and specific chemicals used in the manufacture of drugs.

9. Encouraged by its experience in that field, Brazil was anxious to see similar measures to control chemical substances taken at the international level and was disappointed to note that some States refused to do so. It was essential that the draft Convention should deal seriously with that problem.

10. His delegation had read the report of the Secretary-General (A/42/594) with interest. It was doubtful, however, that new organizational units needed to be set up to follow up the Vienna Conference and believed that it would be better to support and strengthen the existing bodies. The Division of Narcotic Drugs, in particular, had demonstrated that it was perfectly capable of ensuring, together with the other relevant bodies, the implementation of the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control.

11. He paid a tribute to the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control on his success in securing fresh contributions to the Fund. Under his direction, the Fund had provided strong support for the efforts of third world countries in the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. The agreement which Brazil was preparing to sign with the Fund would undoubtedly contribute to the success of its domestic programmes.

12. During the negotiations on the Vienna Declaration, his delegation had stressed the need to refer to the fundamental causes of drug abuse. It had emphasized at that time that the fact that so many human beings, young and not so young, rich and poor alike, were turning to drugs showed that their deepest aspirations were not being fulfilled. His delegation was glad to see that fact recognized in the preamble and in paragraph 2 of the Declaration.

13. Mrs. ALVAREZ (France) said that the fight against drug abuse must be multifaceted and in that connection her delegation whole-heartedly endorsed the statement to that effect made by Denmark on behalf of the 12 States members of the European Community.

(Mrs. Alvarez, France)

14. The report of the Secretary-General on the Vienna International Conference (A/42/594) contained a number of interesting suggestions concerning, inter alia, the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as a policy-making body on drug control matters.
15. Since the primary responsibility for co-ordination in that field had been transferred to the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV), her delegation fully supported the recommendation in paragraph 77 of the report, that a small unit should be set up at UNCV to support the follow-up to the Conference. It would, of course, be a matter of redeploying existing staff, not of duplicating the activities of existing structures.
16. Her delegation regarded the considerable increase in the resources available to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, thanks to the voluntary contributions of States, including France, as a manifest sign of their interest in the Fund's activities. The activities of the International Narcotics Control Board were also of capital importance, making it possible to evaluate production trends and providing information on the measures taken by countries to prevent drug use at the national level. Her delegation strongly hoped that the financial difficulties currently besetting the United Nations would not result in weakening the efforts of that Board.
17. France gave its unreserved support to international co-operation in the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. In that connection, it welcomed the preparation of a new instrument to supplement the existing legal provisions in that field. However, the complexity of the subject should encourage the experts to be very precise in their drafting, ruling out any haste or precipitation.
18. With a view to waging a genuine war on drugs, the French Government had recently decided to set aside 250 million francs for the campaign against drug abuse. The money was to be spent on special activities in research, prevention, repression, treatment and rehabilitation. France was convinced that all Governments must take determined steps to combat the physical and moral degradation of drug abuse.
19. In conclusion, her delegation wished to reiterate France's confidence in United Nations efforts to maintain and develop the international co-operation essential for the success of national programmes against drugs.
20. Mrs. BOOTO (Zaire) said that the spread of drug abuse throughout the world and all strata of society compelled all countries, whether they were consumers or producers or simply points for the transshipment of drugs, to adopt domestic legislative measures and establish strategies for bilateral, regional and international co-operation to fight that scourge. The discussions which had taken place at the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking bore witness to the feeling of urgency that had overtaken Governments in that field and the determination of regional, intergovernmental and international organizations to take tangible, concerted and global steps to fight drugs while at the same time avoiding politicizing the question.

(Mrs. Booto, Zaire)

21. Zaire welcomed the adoption by consensus of the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, which contained recommendations for strengthening drug control systems and intensifying the fight against illicit drug trafficking. It was important that a link should have been established between all the aspects of the drug problem, namely preventive education, the reduction of illicit demand, the elimination of illicit drug sources, control of production, distribution and consumption, the harmonization of national legislation with the international instruments, and the social rehabilitation of drug addicts. The Declaration adopted by the Conference also recognized the important role of the United Nations in the fight against drug abuse, in particular that of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control.

22. Zaire was in favour of the preparation of a new international convention against the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. It was advisable that the scope of the existing international instruments should be widened. However, the new convention would be of value only to the extent that countries incorporated its provisions in their own legislation. In that connection, the countries of transshipment in particular needed assistance from the international community in the form of personnel training and equipment, so that they could take action as part of the international campaign against drug trafficking.

23. Mr. MOTSIK (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking had shown that States were determined to join forces to fight effectively against drug addiction. The Declaration and the Multidisciplinary Outline adopted by the Conference were important documents for future work in that field and it was heartening that the Secretary-General had taken part personally in the preparation and conduct of the Conference.

24. The outrageous profits that accrued to the criminals engaged in illicit drug trafficking were undoubtedly one of the main reasons why those substances were manufactured and sold. It was therefore essential to take the severest possible measures, at the national level, to unmask and punish the big drug dealers. However, repressive measures were not enough. Drug addiction was a social evil and emphasis must be placed on the prevention of drug addiction and the elimination of its causes as well as on the treatment and rehabilitation of addicts. Conditions must be created in society which would eliminate the illicit demand for drugs altogether.

25. While not as acute as in many other countries, the problem of drug addiction did exist in the Ukrainian SSR. Many social programmes designed to raise the standard of living, promote physical education and sports and improve public health and recreation were helping to keep that phenomenon from spreading. The major efforts undertaken by the public authorities were directed towards prevention. A system of education through the mass media had been developed which emphasized the dangers of drug addiction in enterprises, universities, schools and colleges.

(Mr. Motsik, Ukrainian SSR)

Measures had been taken to identify, treat and rehabilitate drug addicts through a network of hospitals and specialized institutions that provided free care.

26. Under the law, drug suppliers were liable to stiff penalties involving loss of liberty. Prisoners' constitutional rights were scrupulously respected, however, and the sole purpose of such punishment was to re-educate delinquents.

27. With regard to document A/42/594, his delegation agreed with others that the set of measures to implement the decisions of the Vienna Conference at the international level must be considered by the Third Committee at its next session. His delegation also believed that, in view of the current financial difficulties of the United Nations, Secretariat activities to combat drug abuse should be strengthened by enhancing the effectiveness of existing mechanisms within the limits of existing resources.

28. The Ukrainian SSR, which was party to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, believed it was imperative that existing international legal instruments in that area should be respected and that effective complementary measures should be elaborated. The adoption of the draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances prepared by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs would open up new avenues in that field. It would also be worthwhile to consider drafting a universal convention that would synthesize all existing legal instruments in that area. Naturally, that was a long-term proposal which must in no way detract from work on the draft convention prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/141.

29. Miss TAN (Singapore) expressed her satisfaction of the holding of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking at Vienna; the Conference had been the culmination of two years of hard work, and its success had been due in part to the skilful guidance of the Prime Minister of Malaysia. The Declaration and Multidisciplinary Outline adopted at the Conference constituted a useful source of ideas and recommendations for the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. However, the success of the Conference did not signal the end of efforts by Member States but constituted a reaffirmation of their political will to eradicate the drug problem. The time had come for that commitment to be translated into concrete measures and for individual countries to implement national programmes adapted to their own situation.

30. In Singapore, anti-drug legislation had been strengthened. Drug traffickers could now receive the death penalty, which had served as a deterrent to those who sought to use the country as a transshipment point. In addition, drug addicts were required by law to undergo treatment and rehabilitation. Preventive measures were also being implemented and consisted largely of educating youth about the problems and dangers of drugs.

(Miss Tan, Singapore)

31. Because of Singapore's proximity to the drug-producing areas of South-East Asia, the country was particularly vulnerable. That was why it had joined the other members of ASEAN in concerted efforts at the regional level. The ASEAN countries had co-operated closely in the preparation of the Vienna Conference, and their officials who dealt with drug matters met regularly to recommend drug law enforcement measures. The chiefs of police of ASEAN countries had also discussed the possibility of co-operating to combat drug trafficking in the region.

32. She concluded by noting that efforts to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking should not suffer as a result of the attention currently focused on AIDS and urged all Member States to take advantage of the impetus created by the Vienna Conference to take all the necessary steps.

33. Mrs. KUMI (Ghana) drew attention to the general worsening of the situation with regard to drug abuse and illicit trafficking, which posed a threat that left no region of the world untouched. As the Secretary-General had pointed out at the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, it was time for Governments and the media to give more attention to the security of human dignity instead of concentrating solely on the security of nations.

34. Her delegation commended the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Division of Narcotic Drugs and the International Narcotics Control Board and of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. It was important that the new draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances being prepared by the Division should emphasize search, seizure and confiscation not only of drugs, but also of the profits derived from illicit trade in drugs. The Ghanaian Government was in the process of enacting a law to that end. Her delegation welcomed the new terms of the draft convention which provided for the prosecution of drug traffickers regardless of where the crime was committed and for greater co-operation between judicial and law enforcement authorities. She noted the success of the special campaign undertaken by the Division of Narcotic Drugs to encourage States to become parties to the relevant international instruments. Her delegation also wished to commend the scientific and technical assistance provided to Member States by the Division of Narcotic Drugs. Through that assistance, chemists from Ghana's Forensic Department had obtained equipment and fellowships for training in laboratory techniques at the Vienna International Centre.

35. The International Narcotics Control Board also helped Governments prevent psychotropic substances from being diverted to illicit traffic. The efficiency of that body must not be compromised by its financial difficulties.

36. Ghana supported the crop-substitution programmes of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. The Fund currently supported some 115 multisectoral programmes and was in the process of expanding its activities in all regions of the world.

(Mrs. Kumi, Ghana)

37. The International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, which had been the culmination of the United Nations system's efforts, had elicited a spontaneous response from countries, testifying to their awareness of the dangers of drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

38. She noted the usefulness of the Multidisciplinary Outline and said her country placed great emphasis on preventive measures - public information, youth education, parental involvement and counselling by non-governmental organizations - as a means of reducing the demand for drugs. Research was also of great importance. Adequate attention must also be paid to the rehabilitation of drug addicts.

39. The Ghanaian Government favoured the adoption of severe punishments for traffickers and international co-operation to facilitate such matters as their extradition. Drug traffickers did seem to possess an unlimited imagination and immense financial and material resources and often chose countries which lacked the modern equipment needed for effective control as their transit points. International assistance to the developing countries was indispensable in that regard. Her delegation also hoped that the preparation of the new draft convention would progress swiftly and thus facilitate the harmonization of efforts to combat drug problems.

40. Mrs. GORDON (Philippines) described the destructive effects of the monstrous, multidimensional plague that was the drug problem. That problem affected people all over the world and was particularly severe in certain parts of the Philippines, hence the importance of the Declaration adopted at the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and of the Multidisciplinary Outline, with its 35 targets, both of which the Philippine Government fully supported. The Philippines had unstintingly devoted its efforts and resources to trying to eradicate or prevent drug abuse, curtailing trafficking and treating and rehabilitating victims of drug abuse.

41. In 1972, the Philippines had enacted the Dangerous Drug Act, which incorporated provisions of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances. The Dangerous Drugs Board was the focal point for the formulation and implementation of national programmes and international and regional co-operation. The Philippine Medium-Term Development Plan (1987-1992) called for the creation in every town of a drug abuse prevention and control unit under the supervision of the mayor. The Plan contained a section on youth and development which called for a relentless campaign against drug abuse and trafficking.

42. Her delegation wished to pay tribute to the active involvement and dedicated efforts of the non-governmental organizations which had created several rehabilitation centres in the Philippines that were involved in facilitating the reintegration of drug addicts in society.

(Mrs. Gordon, Philippines)

43. The drug problem imposed a heavy burden on the fragile economies of the least developed and developing countries. Like most of those countries, the Philippines needed support and assistance from the United Nations system and the international community in the form of technical advice, equipment, training assistance and financial resources. The activities of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, which had benefited many developing countries, were extremely important, and it was heartening to note that the Fund's resources had increased. In spite of its own economic difficulties, the Philippines contributed regularly to the Fund. Moreover, the Government had pledged a contribution of 40,000 Philippine pesos for 1988.

44. Her delegation had noted with interest the proposals submitted by the Secretary-General in document A/42/594. Particularly relevant were the proposals to request intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations to report annually on their activities undertaken in pursuit of the targets of the Outline, to review reporting procedures in the international drug control programme, to disseminate the Outline as a United Nations publication, to observe an annual day on the fight against the drug problem and to designate an international year dedicated to that theme. Her delegation likewise welcomed the Secretary-General's report on the new draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances which was currently being prepared. Finally, she looked forward to the convening of a plenipotentiary conference in 1988 to adopt the convention.

45. All those measures supported the efforts being made everywhere in response to the cry of alarm set up as a result of the terrible menace of drugs.

46. Mr. BISTA (Nepal) said that the problem of drug abuse was an obstacle to the basic aspirations of every society, which were to live in peace and dignity in a sound environment in order to provide future generations with decent living conditions. Society must eliminate that common enemy if it was not to succumb to its devastating effects.

47. While the problem was not as serious in Nepal as it was in some other countries, the Government had taken a number of preventive measures none the less.

48. His delegation was particularly concerned at the destructive effect of drugs on youth and at the direct link between drug abuse and the spreading of the most frightening of diseases, AIDS. Nepal had taken stringent legal measures to penalize traffickers severely. On the social plane, the country had adopted several preventive and curative measures. A rehabilitation centre for drug addicts run by the Drug Abuse Prevention Association of Nepal provided assistance to those who needed it. Several official and non-governmental agencies were also engaged in combating drug abuse.

49. Given the international nature of the drug problem, collective efforts were required to eradicate it worldwide. It was on the basis of that conviction that Nepal had acceded to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs as amended by the

(Mr. Bista, Nepal)

1972 Protocol and had participated in the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

50. His delegation was convinced that national efforts must be supported by regional and international action. At the regional level, he wished to draw attention to the effectiveness of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) and of the technical committee established by the Association to combat the drug problem in that part of the world.

51. At the international level, the importance of the role played by the United Nations system in that area could not be overemphasized. His delegation was pleased by the success of the Vienna Conference and reaffirmed its support for the Multidisciplinary Outline, the Declaration and the Recommendation adopted there. He urged the international community to spare no effort in achieving the objectives set at the Conference.

52. Nepal would continue to work closely with the United Nations and other agencies of the system which dealt with the drug problem. He commended the pioneering role played by the Division of Narcotic Drugs, which was preparing the new draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, the activities of the International Narcotics Control Board and its secretariat, which was providing Governments with invaluable advice and support, and the contribution of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, which provided particularly valuable financial and technical assistance.

53. Mr. ALZAMORA (Peru) said that the international community's efforts to deal with the drug problem in recent years had consisted primarily of working towards a convergence of positions on that question. The Vienna Conference had been positive in that regard because it had shown how wrong it was to classify countries as either producers or consumers; that was almost the same as saying that the fault lay with the developing countries, which had to face the problem of illicit production directly. The merit of the Vienna Declaration had been its acknowledgement of the existence of a market dynamic which, while dependent on supply, was also dependent on widespread drug consumption in developed societies. The Vienna Declaration recognized, for the first time, the collective responsibility of States for mobilizing the resources needed to eliminate transnational drug traffic.

54. The merit of the Vienna Declaration also lay in its having highlighted the need to consider all aspects of the problem. What was involved was not just the adoption of repressive measures to rid the twentieth century of that social epidemic or the destruction of drugs by chemical means or random campaigns; structural and permanent solutions must be found. Specifically, comprehensive agricultural development programmes must be launched that would allow farmers to concentrate on profitable substitute crops.

(Mr. Alzamora, Peru)

55. In his statement before the General Assembly, the President of Peru had spoken of the cruel paradox which lay in the fact that, while the raw materials produced by developing countries were devalued on the industrialized countries' markets and encountered all sorts of restrictive measures, drugs had no difficulty in gaining access to those markets. Such flagrant injustice created by the much touted laws of the market which favoured vice in preference to meaningful labour was a sign that the moral order had collapsed. That downfall must be denounced as one of the aberrations characterizing the current international economic order. That acknowledgement must also force all countries to rethink their social models and conceptualize a form of development that was based not on enslavement to consumption but on an ethic of solidarity that was life-affirming and made it possible to overcome the death wish represented by drugs.

56. At the international level, the Peruvian delegation was convinced of the need to strengthen the institutions and organs of the United Nations system, in particular the Division of Narcotic Drugs and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, which led the crusade against that scourge. The recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the International Conference in Vienna, in particular those related to the designation of special rapporteurs and the setting up of a data bank, must be analysed very carefully at the next meeting of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs; above all, efforts must be made to consolidate and strengthen existing structures.

57. His Government had fully assumed its responsibilities in the fight against drugs. The national campaign against trafficking in narcotic drugs provided for a set of actions aimed simultaneously at production, consumption and illicit trade. Agro-industrial development projects had been undertaken to give the peasant population a dignified and profitable means of existence. A state of emergency had been declared in those areas in which there were large numbers of traffickers. More than 1,000 persons had been arrested during the sixth Condor operation, and large quantities of cocaine extract had been seized. The vast programme to eliminate illicit coca crops which had been carried out in the area of Alto Huallaga had cost many policemen their lives.

58. His Government had also expanded its programmes for the prevention of drug addiction and the rehabilitation of drug addicts, in keeping with the declaration and plan of action adopted in Vienna.

59. Despite the restrictions imposed upon the country's economy by an unjust international economic order, Peru, mindful of its duty to participate in the international fight against the tyranny of drugs, was continuing its actions in the area.

60. Mr. KHYBERI (Afghanistan) said that it was imperative to adopt immediately stronger national and international measures and to join efforts to combat illegal drug trafficking, as matters affecting world peace and security. Only effective multilateral co-operation could bring about a solution to the problem, because no single country could succeed in preventing drug abuse and illicit trafficking, a

(Mr. Khyber, Afghanistan)

scourge which was a threat to human dignity and the just aspirations of peoples to live a decent life. States must attack all causes of the problem, taking into consideration economic, social and cultural factors and overall national policies. There was a growing link between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime.

61. If drug abuse and illicit trafficking were to be combated effectively, political goodwill between Governments was required at bilateral and multilateral levels. His Government welcomed agreements to promote co-operation at all levels.

62. It was of vital importance to start information campaigns on the pernicious effects of drug abuse. His delegation supported the strengthening of national and international machinery for exchanging information on drugs.

63. An eradication of the illicit sources of raw materials used for drug manufacture could be achieved through a comprehensive programme of integrated rural development that provided for crop substitution. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control could assist in that regard. Political pressure on such institutions aimed at curbing their financial assistance to countries combating drug problems certainly would not help in eradicating drug abuse and illicit trafficking, a problem threatening the peoples of all countries.

64. Illicit trafficking in drugs was a crime against humanity. It was the obligation of every State, including Afghanistan's neighbours, to fight all traffickers and avoid double standards. His Government once again proposed inter-State or interregional co-operation in fighting that threat.

65. The Afghan National Commission to Combat Drug Trafficking and Abuse, established in 1982, had expanded its work, and several mass organizations, in particular youth groups, participated in its activities on a voluntary basis. The Afghan Criminal Code, the Law on Prevention of Opium Cultivation and the Anti-Smuggling Law provided severe penalties for drug producers, traffickers and dealers.

66. His delegation hoped that the adoption of a new convention would provide a strong foundation for international co-operation against drugs.

67. Mr. KAM (Panama) said that his country was participating in the debate on the item with all the authority conferred upon it by the persistent and determined fight it was leading against that social scourge. Panamanian laws punished with particular severity all those involved in the trafficking of narcotic drugs. His Government was conducting a continuous information campaign on the dangers awaiting those who succumbed to drug abuse.

68. It was, however, undeniable that, despite the millions of dollars spent annually on a publicity campaign to inform the public of the dangers of drug abuse, that evil continued to spread, particularly among young people. Only by transforming individual efforts into co-ordinated action could the monstrous

(Mr. Kam, Panama)

phenomenon of trafficking in narcotic drugs be overcome. The time for incriminations had passed. As the International Conference in Vienna had shown, countries must now act in concert and with determination. In particular, it was essential to dissociate the question from all political elements and to put an end to the debate on the degree of guilt of the drug-selling and drug-consuming countries.

69. His delegation welcomed the co-ordinating and harmonizing role played by the United Nations in the fight against drug use and illicit trafficking. The various bodies that dealt with that question must be reinforced so that they could carry out their task more effectively.

70. Panama also supported the idea of convening, in Bolivia, the second International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Bolivia was facing the problem of drug trafficking with determination and was devoting a large part of its budget to the fight against drugs, despite problems in other areas.

71. Panama was neither a drug-producing nor a drug-consuming country, but did serve as a transit point for such criminal trafficking. His Government was conducting an energetic campaign to curb such activities, as seen by the seizure of large quantities of drugs and the numerous arrests by Panamanian defence forces. His Government had facilitated procedures for extraditing traffickers and punished with increasing severity offences related to drugs and the transfer of funds derived from drug trafficking. Regardless of the actions it undertook in that crucial area, Panama did not consider itself authorized to criticize other countries. The problem of drug trafficking should not be allowed to serve as a pretext for interfering in the internal affairs of other countries. If the universal nature of the problem were lost from view, it would impede and delay the finding of a solution.

72. Mrs. OLENDE (Kenya) said that the International Conference at Vienna and, in particular, the adoption of the Outline, had underlined the need for everyone to discharge his responsibilities with respect to the drug problem. It was not only Governments and non-governmental organizations that had to take measures. The responsibility started with the individual, the family, the community and the school. The media also had a very important role to play in publicizing the objectives which had been adopted with respect to combating drug abuse and illicit trafficking. Her delegation therefore supported the suggestion made in the Secretary-General's report (A/42/594) that the Outline should be issued as a United Nations publication. It also hoped that the document could be translated into other languages. In conclusion, her delegation welcomed the progress achieved in the preparation of a new convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, which was designed to fill the gaps in existing instruments.

73. Ms. MAKNOON (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the drug problem was an international calamity which threatened equally rich and poor countries, advanced and developing countries. The drug phenomenon, which affected young people in

(Ms. Maknoon, Islamic Republic of Iran)

particular, was related to social problems such as the disintegration of family ties.

74. In her country drug addiction had been a serious problem before the revolution, for the royal family of the Shah had had a monopoly of opium cultivation. It had exported a part of the production and sold the rest illegally to local consumers. Thanks to the revolution and the spiritual and moral renewal that it had produced, many social problems, including drug addiction, had been considerably reduced. Since 1980 opium cultivation had been forbidden by law. However, the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran was still crossed by smugglers carrying drugs to Europe from South Asia and Iran's eastern neighbours. The alien forces did not hesitate to resort to drug trafficking in order to addict Iranian youth. That was why the Government was carrying out large-scale measures to fight the drug smugglers and traffickers, who were condemned to death in extreme cases. Border controls had also been strengthened, and many Iranian combatants had lost their lives fighting the traffickers.

75. Experience nevertheless showed that while the national struggle was essential, it was still not enough to save the world's youth from the danger of drugs. A concerted international effort was therefore necessary. The establishment of an international system of control to prevent drug trafficking should be studied seriously. Her Government was in favour of an international police force, similar to the Red Cross, which would be responsible for fighting the drug traffic. It was ready to co-operate at the international, regional and national level to combat drug addiction and trafficking, and it sincerely hoped that international organizations such as WHO and other competent bodies would join hands to suppress that global danger.

76. Mr. FAROUQUE (Sri Lanka) said that the International Conference had established a historic landmark. At the Conference all nations had individually and collectively recognized the danger which drugs represented for the civilized world. The health of nations was at stake, for, as the Director-General of the Division of Narcotic Drugs had pointed out, new threats such as AIDS were directly connected with drug use. In that connection, great importance attached to the recommendations made in the Outline that Governments and international organizations should generally conduct their activities in the field in close liaison with the Division of Narcotic Drugs, and that Member States should establish appropriate national machinery to co-ordinate and implement the activities envisaged in the Outline. It would be useful, in particular, for the Declaration and the Outline to be published in local languages and widely disseminated, so that public authorities and non-governmental organizations would be able to use them for mass mobilization of awareness of the drug menace.

77. His delegation recognized the important role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the United Nations policy-making body in the field and it reaffirmed the co-operation of the Sri Lankan Government in the follow-up activities arising from the Vienna Conference.

(Mr. Farouque, Sri Lanka)

78. His delegation also noted with satisfaction the progress achieved so far on the draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and it earnestly hoped that the Commission would receive the co-operation of the international community.

79. Sri Lanka was a party to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1953 and it intended to accede shortly to the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances. The Government had adopted national legislation to strengthen penalties for drug offences. In particular, Sri Lanka attached great importance to the fact that drug trafficking was a major source of funding for terrorist groups. In his delegation's view, it was imperative for Governments to monitor closely the two closely linked phenomena of illicit drug trafficking and arms smuggling and to take appropriate steps at all levels to co-ordinate their actions, particularly in areas such as extradition of traffickers, surveillance of frontiers and exchange of information among law-enforcement agencies.

80. In the regional context Sri Lanka continued to participate in the fight against illicit drug trafficking within the framework of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) and in the meetings of the heads of national narcotic law-enforcement agencies.

81. His delegation sincerely hoped that the deteriorating world economy and the financial constraints faced by the United Nations would not hamper the efforts of the international community to implement its programme to combat drug abuse and trafficking.

82. Mrs. OPPENHEIMER (Secretary-General of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking) noted with pleasure the reception given to the report of the International Conference by delegations, some 60 of which had taken part in the general debate on agenda item 104. The success of the Conference was due to the sustained support of all Member States, in particular those which had made staff and other resources available to the Conference's secretariat.

83. The debates at the Conference had been characterized by an identity of views, as could be seen from the adoption by consensus of the main documents that had emerged from it. The political will of the participants had been manifested, in particular, in the Declaration and the Outline. By endorsing the latter document, the Conference had approved the idea put forward by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Preparatory Body for the Conference, that the fight against drug abuse and the future activities of the United Nations and the international community should be centred on four basic themes. Delegations seemed to have been particularly interested in the technique of establishing national liaison centres. That technique, which had been developed in the area of crime prevention, was a useful means of keeping Governments informed of new development in the fight against drug abuse.

(Mrs. Oppenheimer)

84. The Commission was the right body to take charge of the follow-up to the Conference and greatest confidence could be placed in the skill with which it would perform that difficult task.

85. The CHAIRMAN declared that the consideration of agenda item 104 was completed.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.