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Addendum

Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly: examination of the single biennial report of the Executive Director on the progress achieved by Governments in meeting the goals and targets for the years 2003 and 2008 set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session

A. Structure of the debate

1. The Commission considered item 2 of its agenda, entitled “Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly: examination of the single biennial report of the Executive Director on the progress achieved by Governments in meeting the goals and targets for the years 2003 and 2008 set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session”, at its 1210th [and ...] meetings on 12 [and ...] December 2001. The Commission had before it the following documents:

(a) Consolidated first biennial report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, devoted to countering the world drug problem together (E/CN.7/2001/16);

(b) Note by the Executive Director on proposals to amend the biennial questionnaire, including an approved layout and supporting notes for guidance (E/CN.7/2001/17).



2. At the 1210th meeting, on 12 December, the Secretariat made an introductory multimedia presentation summarizing the main findings contained in the consolidated report under the respective subject areas. Statements were made by the representatives of Belgium, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union, Turkey, Australia, Canada, Mexico and Colombia. At the [...] meeting, on [...] December, statements were made by the representatives of [...].

B. Deliberations

3. It was recalled that, at its forty-fourth regular session, in March 2001, the Commission had considered an initial biennial report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, based on replies to a questionnaire submitted by 80 Governments (E/CN.7/2001/2). The consolidated biennial report (E/CN.7/2001/16) contained replies to the biennial questionnaires received after 8 November 2000, in addition to those contained in the initial report. The report thus included all the 109 replies received from Governments for the first reporting cycle. A revised biennial questionnaire, prepared by UNDCP in compliance with Commission resolution 44/2, was also before the Commission.

4. The Commission welcomed the inclusion in the consolidated biennial report of all the replies received from Member States to the first biennial questionnaire. Several representatives commended UNDCP for the high quality of the report, which was a useful tool. The need for the Commission to conduct regular reviews of progress was a critical part of the process of ensuring that the goals of the twentieth special session were achieved by the target dates. The consolidated report would support the Commission in fulfilling its mandates in that regard by reflecting developments over a wider geographical area. Furthermore, the report served as an information-sharing base to which States could refer for information and data collection. The importance of amphetamine-type stimulants was highlighted. It was emphasized that States had a responsibility to complete their questionnaires on time, so that a full analysis could be undertaken.

5. Several representatives expressed support for the revised biennial questionnaire, which had taken into account the recommendations contained in Commission resolution 44/2. The Secretariat should continue to assist Governments in completing the questionnaire, as appropriate. The approval of the revised questionnaire, which eliminated some of the difficulties previously encountered by States in replying fully and in a timely manner, would improve the rate of return of completed questionnaires to UNDCP and assist the Executive Director in preparing the next biennial report. It was important to improve the performance of the biennial questionnaire in order to encourage greater compliance with reporting requirements, while minimizing the burden on Member States. The standard of reporting and the usefulness of the data collected should also be improved.

6. The next reporting cycle in 2003 would be of critical importance, since it reflected the timeframe for the first set of objectives to be achieved in accordance with the Political Declaration adopted at the twentieth special session (General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex). Some representatives considered that the

revised biennial questionnaire did not provide for the substantive analysis of the objectives to be achieved in 2003. It was suggested that future biennial reports should focus on new information provided by Member States, changes in policy and the implementation of new programmes and strategies. This would encourage greater reporting compliance by States by reducing the duplication of information found in previous reports and would also facilitate comparisons with earlier years. The Commission adopted the revised biennial questionnaire, on the understanding that the Secretariat would take note of any drafting suggestions of a technical nature made by delegates.
