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Draft report

Rapporteur: Jaroslav **Stepanek** (Czech Republic)

Addendum

Policy directives to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme

A. Structure of the debate

1. At its 1218th meeting, on 13 March 2002, the Commission began consideration of item 9 of its agenda, entitled "Policy directives to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme", the first item in its operational segment. For its consideration of the item, the Commission had before it the report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (E/CN.7/2002/8 and Corr.1).

2. The Officer-in-Charge of ODCCP made a statement introducing the report and outlining the strategic orientation of UNDCP, its priorities in supporting Member States in implementing the action plans and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, and the management reforms that had been put in place.

3. Statements were made by the representatives of Spain (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members, or that are candidates for membership, of the European Union), Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Italy, Belgium, Nigeria, Australia, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Canada, Mexico and Brazil. Statements were also made by the observers for the Organization of African Unity and the Organization of American States.



B. Deliberations

4. The Executive Director was commended for his comprehensive report on the activities of UNDCP, which provided an overview of the strategic direction of the Programme and the activities undertaken in supporting the efforts of Governments and civil society in countering the world drug problem. Several representatives emphasized that UNDCP had a central role to play as a catalyst in global efforts to deal with the drug problem, in raising awareness of the threat posed by that problem and in galvanizing the political commitment to address the problem. The drug problem remained a serious threat to Governments and societies, and the capacity of UNDCP had to be strengthened in order to enable it to implement its mandate as effectively as possible.

5. The new and emerging operational challenges facing UNDCP and the international community included the rapid expansion of the illicit manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants, the exploitation of new developments in technology, such as the Internet, for drug trafficking and the resumption of large-scale illicit opium poppy cultivation and the production of heroin in Afghanistan.

6. As a global centre of expertise in drug control, UNDCP was invited to assist Governments in designing national drug control policies with an appropriate balance of drug demand and supply reduction. The Programme was commended for the activities that it had undertaken during the past year in supporting Governments in their efforts to counter the drug problem, particularly through its network of field offices.

7. It was noted that, as the drug problem in many countries was linked to poverty, drug control policies should be integrated into a wider framework of economic development. UNDCP was commended for its increased involvement in programmes linking initiatives to reduce drug abuse with efforts to reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS infection. UNDCP was invited to work more closely with Governments of countries where drug injection was the driving force behind the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

8. Several representatives welcomed the increased resources allocated to Africa by the Commission, as reflected in the initial budget for the biennium 2002-2003 approved at its reconvened forty-fourth session. The Commission supported the UNDCP strategy to address the problem of illicit drugs in Africa, which was intricately linked with poverty eradication. It was agreed that drug control policies in several African countries should be further integrated into a broader economic development framework, in particular programmes aimed at supporting rural communities in their efforts to reduce the illicit cultivation of cannabis and promoting alternative development. Several representatives of African countries referred to the drug abuse and trafficking problem related to cannabis and the efforts of their Governments to deal with that problem.

9. Several representatives referred to the alarming increase in the illicit manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of synthetic drugs, in particular amphetamine-type stimulants. UNDCP was called upon to give a higher priority to support Governments in their efforts to counter the problem posed by those substances. UNDCP was commended for some of the initiatives taken to combat the

problem of amphetamine-type stimulants, such as a meeting held in Brussels on 19 November 2001 in cooperation with the European Union.

10. UNDCP was commended for its continuous efforts to address the issue of opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan, and for its strategy to support the Interim Administration of Afghanistan in drug control. The new strategy, the objective of which was to ensure that the drug issue is mainstreamed in the reconstruction of Afghanistan, was strongly supported. The difficulties posed by the extensive war damage and the fragile political and security situation in Afghanistan made it imperative for UNDCP to seek close cooperation with the Interim Administration and the organizations operating in Afghanistan. It was considered that the role of UNDCP should be to provide short-term and long-term assistance to farmers, for example by offering them a good alternative livelihood, to monitor opium poppy cultivation and to build capacities for drug control activities. UNDCP and the international community were requested to enhance their support for the Interim Administration; at the same time, several representatives considered that support for neighbouring countries should continue to be provided. There was agreement that the “security belt” approach, whereby assistance was provided to the neighbouring countries of Afghanistan, should be maintained to complement the direct support being provided to the Interim Administration.

Management

11. Several representatives called for a broadening of the donor base of UNDCP in order for the Programme to better support the international community in facing the challenges posed by the drug problem. The attention of the Commission was drawn to the vulnerable situation of UNDCP resulting from a decrease in general-purpose contributions. Even more alarming was the fact that the bulk of the general-purpose contributions were provided by only three or four donors. An increase in voluntary contributions would be a reflection of member States’ political commitment to and ownership of UNDCP and would ensure a solid and predictable financial base for its operational activities. Governments were invited to support UNDCP activities through cost-sharing arrangements.

12. Several representatives commended UNDCP for its improved overall management and strengthened dialogue with Member States. Intersessional meetings of the Commission and meetings of joint donor and recipient countries had played a critical role in enhancing that dialogue. Recently adopted measures had strengthened administrative, project and financial management of UNDCP and improved its transparency and efficiency. Those measures had also enhanced its internal working methods and led to the establishment of a financial management information system, which included open, transparent and impartial evaluation of projects with the involvement of independent experts. Several representatives commended UNDCP for its initiative to establish the Programme and Project Committee and the adoption of guidelines for the use of general-purpose funds.

13. Several representatives welcomed the introduction by UNDCP of result-based budgeting, to which they attached great importance. The view was expressed that the establishment of the Planning and Evaluation Unit would help to increase the support provided to ODCCP in developing result-oriented technical cooperation programmes and establishing close links between mandates and project activities. Since 1 March 2002, access to basic financial data was being provided by the

Programme and Financial Information System (ProFi); thus, Member States were able to obtain more detailed information on the operational activities of UNDCP.
