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INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFIC IN DRUGS

International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

Report of the Secretary-General

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was convened at Vienna from 17 to 26 June 1987. Two main documents emerged: the Declaration 1/ and the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, 2/ both adopted unanimously by the Conference. The Declaration reaffirms the political will of the participating States to fight the drug problem and to commit themselves to vigorous international action against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. The Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline is a repertory of recommendations setting forth practical measures which can contribute to the fight against drug abuse and to the suppression of illicit trafficking; 35 action targets are set, existing problems are defined, and a course of action designed to attain these objectives is suggested.

2. In its resolution 42/112 of 7 December 1987, the General Assembly welcomed the successful conclusion of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and affirmed its commitment to the Declaration. The Assembly also urged Governments and organizations to take due account, in the formulation of their programmes, of recommendations contained in the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline on practical measures that can contribute to the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

3. The General Assembly requested the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the principal United Nations policy-making body on drug control, to identify suitable measures for follow-up to the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and, in this context, to give appropriate consideration to the report of the Secretary-General on the Conference.

4. The present report is submitted in pursuance of the request of the General Assembly for a report on the implementation of its resolution 42/112.

## II. ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS AND THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

5. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its tenth special session (8-19 February 1988), 3/ approved by consensus a draft resolution on the "International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking". In considering action to give effect to the relevant recommendations of the Conference, the need to strengthen the Division of Narcotic Drugs and the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board so as to enable both entities to fulfil their present tasks, as well as to carry out additional activities envisaged in the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, was unanimously stressed. In that connection, most speakers reiterated their call for restoration of the resources available to those two units to their former level. 4/

6. The Commission's draft resolution was subsequently adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 25 May 1988 as Council resolution 1988/9. In 13 operative

paragraphs, the Council outlined a series of steps for future action. The resolution also contained an annex listing suggested activities for immediate follow-up to the Conference by organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations, relating to prevention and reduction of demand, control of supply, suppression of illicit trafficking and treatment and rehabilitation.

### III. ACTION TAKEN BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

7. As requested by the General Assembly, the Declaration and the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control has been issued in all official languages. 5/ In its resolution 42/112, the Assembly had also decided to observe 26 June each year as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. In 1988, the first such annual observance was celebrated in many parts of the world, with almost 50 countries reporting on special activities. A message by the Secretary-General, which he read personally, was distributed worldwide. Commemorative ceremonies were held in New York, Vienna and elsewhere. Political and religious leaders, as well as non-governmental organizations, called for the enlistment of all members of society in efforts towards combating drug abuse. Special messages included presidential proclamations, ministerial statements and commemorative remarks by other officials.

8. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/9, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs will consider, at its thirty-third session, a note by the Secretary-General concerning the submission of written reports on drug matters and a note on the current information systems in the United Nations drug control units and the development of an information strategy.

9. The text of Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/9 was transmitted on 29 July 1988 to the United Nations drug control bodies, specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations, so that, in developing activities to implement the guiding principles contained in the Declaration of the Conference and the targets of the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline, they may give particular emphasis to those activities identified in the annex to that resolution.

10. The Inter-agency Meeting on Co-ordination in Matters of International Drug Abuse Control, convened at the headquarters of the World Health Organization at Geneva on 1 and 2 September 1988, considered, among other items, major developments and decisions (since February 1988) relating to co-ordination of drug abuse control activities within the United Nations system and to the follow-up to the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. In this context, representatives of the participating entities discussed recommendations in the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline that directly pertain to the United Nations system and outlined their intended response, focusing on what each agency could do to make their related activities more effective. Particular attention was given to the immediate steps recommended by the Economic and Social Council and a report thereon will be presented to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its next session. The Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline and the directions subsequently provided by the Commission have given a new thrust and purpose to these

inter-agency co-ordination meetings, of which the follow-up to the International Conference has become the centrepiece. Inevitably, the discussions at the two inter-agency meetings held this year reflected the wide gap between the resources available to the United Nations system as a whole and the actions required of it by the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline (indeed, in some cases, for example, the regional commissions, financial constraints are so acute as to prevent attendance at these meetings). It was agreed, on an experimental basis, to attempt to quantify the level of resources now allocated by two of the main specialised agencies for drug abuse control programmes and that which would be needed in order to carry out the expanded activities recommended by the International Conference, in order to give Member States a clearer idea of the financial implications of effective follow-up to the Conference by the United Nations system.

11. Moreover, the three 1988 regional meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies have been invited to take the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline into account in their discussions, with a view to enhancing regional co-operation. In pursuance of the Council's recommendation that a second interregional meeting of heads of national law enforcement agencies should be convened following the adoption of the convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, the necessary arrangements are being made to convene a Second Interregional Meeting of Heads of National Law Enforcement Agencies at Vienna from 11 to 15 September 1989.

#### Notes

1/ Report of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, Vienna, 17-26 June 1987 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.I.18), chap. I, sect. B.

2/ Ibid., chap. I, sect. A.

3/ E/1988/13.

4/ Ibid., para. 167.

5/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.88.XI.1.

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