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**Round-table discussions of the ministerial segment:
strengthening international cooperation in countering the world
drug problem, based on the principle of shared responsibility**

Outcome of the round table on strengthening international cooperation in countering the world drug problem, based on the principle of shared responsibility, submitted by the Chairman of the round table, Achmad Sujudi (Indonesia)

1. In 1998, the Member States represented at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly recognized that the world drug problem was a common and shared responsibility requiring an integrated and balanced approach in full conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and international law.¹ No single State should act alone without the assistance of the others. States are interlinked by the world drug problem.
2. The United Nations offers the best, if not the only, answer to the drug predicament. Therefore, it is essential to provide unwavering support to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Narcotics Control Board. Those two bodies have to increase their efforts by improving coordination and focusing their work bearing in mind their comparative advantages. It is also essential to improve the synergy of the Vienna-based international bodies and other entities for drug control, crime prevention and terrorism prevention, as well as the other international and regional bodies active in those fields.
3. Therefore, the United Nations should be maintaining its leading role in promoting multilateral, regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation among law enforcement agencies and judicial bodies. States must spare no effort to prevent and combat at all levels the spread of the drug scourge.
4. The practice of exchanging liaison officers in the field of law enforcement is commendable, as it serves to facilitate and strengthen cooperation even further. In

¹ General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex, para. 2.



addition, there is a need for a strong mechanism for sharing experiences, intelligence and best practices so that new developments may be dealt with.

5. Promotion of sustainable and alternative development programmes is a prerequisite for achieving the long-term objective of countering the world drug problem. Social problems arising from urban criminality related to drug trafficking and abuse should be dealt with on the same basic level as any other serious type of crime.

6. Numerous views have emerged on the links of drug trafficking with other serious crimes, including money-laundering, terrorism, trafficking in human beings, arms trafficking, diversion of chemical precursors and other types of transnational organized crime. Experience has shown that such serious crimes have an impact not only on political and economic stability, but also on society. A comprehensive international approach must be taken. Relevant international instruments have been developed, but there is still an urgent need to better coordinate their implementation.

7. The draft United Nations convention against corruption is nearing completion and will be adopted at the end of 2003. A similar United Nations convention against money-laundering would complement the existing regime against the various forms of international organized crime, including drug trafficking and corruption.

8. Cross-border cooperation activities, communication and transportation equipment, support in upgrading technical skills and training in best practices in law enforcement are all essential in tackling the problems of States affected by the transit of illicit drugs.

9. There is a need for increased cooperation in tackling the problems of States most affected by the transit of illicit drugs. Further attention should be given to capacity-building and institution-building of judicial and law enforcement systems.
