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International Drug Control Programme

Activities of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme

Report of the Executive Director**

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** The present document takes into consideration recent developments and consultations.



Summary

Since 1998, when the General Assembly held its twentieth special session, devoted to countering the world drug problem together, the efforts of Governments to respond to an aggressively evolving illicit drug situation have gained new momentum. Best practices aimed at reducing illicit drug demand and improving the treatment of drug abusers were fortified and more widely adopted. International cooperation, notably the sharing of information on, and action against, illegal drug sources and drug trafficking routes, has expanded. Areas of illicit drug crop cultivation and production have kept changing, often in response to successes in interdiction efforts and new programmes to promote alternative livelihoods. In several regions the related impact of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) has gained dramatically in momentum, adding the suffering of terminal illness to the pains of chronic drug abuse.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime—through the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP)—has persevered in its role as the ultimate depository of policy consensus among Member States on drug control issues and as a leading provider of technical assistance for the implementation of such consensus. The present report reviews the main activities of UNDCP during 2002, with special emphasis on the support provided to Governments in their efforts to implement the mandates agreed upon at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, held in June 1998. The Programme has acted as the secretariat of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and has assisted the Commission in assessing Governments' efforts to implement the action plans adopted at the special session. It has also helped the International Narcotics Control Board in monitoring the implementation of the international drug control treaties.

In the operational areas, UNDCP, supported by 21 field offices, has broadly served as facilitator of and catalyst for Governments' actions in countering the drug problem. It has launched operations and has promoted cooperation between and among Governments. It has mobilized specialized agencies of the United Nations system, counting as well on the private sector and institutions of civil society.

I. Overview of the activities of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in 2002

1. In 2002, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) supported Member States' efforts to implement the action plans and measures contained in the Political Declaration adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly (resolution S-20/2, annex). The Programme also helped States comply with the provisions of the international drug control treaties, which are now almost universally adhered to.
2. Regarding drug demand reduction, the Programme assisted Member States in:
 - (a) establishing national information systems on abuse;
 - (b) promoting best practices in drug abuse prevention and the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers; and
 - (c) implementing projects leading to lower drug dependence. In pursuing those

objectives, the Programme worked closely with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, the Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system. Cooperation with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) also increased as regards prevention of, but at times as a reaction to, the spreading of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) through drug injection.

3. At the twentieth special session, Member States mandated UNDCP to develop strategies for the elimination, or significant reduction, of the illicit cultivation of drug crops (coca, opium and cannabis) by the year 2008. Progress has been undeniable, though uneven. Most Governments in the Andean subregion and in South-East and South-West Asia have indeed stepped up national plans aimed at reducing the supply of raw material used for the manufacture of illicit drugs. The approaches pursued include the promotion of commercially viable agro-industry and agroforestry, as well as the rational use of woodland resources and soil conservation. UNDCP has also continued to encourage donor nations and development institutions to support countries affected by illicit crops: the instrument of alternative rural development has proved most effective, though it is obviously costly and it may take a long time for the results to be apparent.

4. Over the past five years, efforts to counter the illicit cultivation of opium poppy and coca bush have produced noteworthy results. Several Governments, such as Bolivia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Pakistan and Peru, have made significant progress in that regard. By contrast, the situation in Afghanistan was unstable. In its publication entitled *Afghanistan: Opium Survey 2002*,¹ the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (now called the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) confirmed that considerable opium poppy cultivation had taken place as a result of the replanting of illicit opium poppy during the regime change and related military operations in the second half of 2001. In order to assist the country in coping with that national security threat, in mid-2002 the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime reopened its office in Kabul, launching a broad range of projects. There have been noteworthy efforts to strengthen the Counter-Narcotics Department of the National Security Council of Afghanistan, assist in the law enforcement and criminal justice sectors, support the coordination of drug control efforts with neighbouring States and engage the agencies involved in post-conflict reconstruction to ensure that the elimination of illicit drug crops remained a priority.

5. Member States have given priority to combating the threat of an epidemic of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS). In support of those efforts, UNDCP has provided scientific support to track systematically, that is, to profile and catalogue, the contents of seized ATS tablets and powder as a way to trace their origin. Furthermore, UNDCP has initiated options for the development of a global clearing house to disseminate information on various aspects of the ATS problem. Another notable development to curb illicit drug manufacture was the launching of Project Prism by the International Narcotics Control Board to monitor the main chemical precursors used for the manufacture of ATS.

6. Drug trafficking is becoming increasingly linked with organized crime and international terrorism, crossing political and cultural borders. Therefore drug trafficking must be combated where it interacts with other manifestations of

organized crime. In order to cope with these new trends, UNDCP is already benefiting from the reorganization of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, which, towards the end of 2002, established the following new operational priorities, which provide guidelines for operations in the medium term:

- (a) To pursue an integrated approach to drug, crime and terrorism issues;
- (b) To place drug and crime issues in the context of sustainable development;
- (c) To balance prevention and enforcement activities;
- (d) To select operations on the basis of knowledge and strategic vision;
- (e) To help establish institutions that promote international best practices;
- (f) To leverage resources to exploit the power of partnership.

The reorganization of the Office, following consultations with Member States, is now under way.

7. Several enabling conditions need to be satisfied in order to effectively pursue the operational priorities. Of primary importance is the requirement for sound, predictable and stable funding. As a counterpart to this, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is enhancing its accountability, credibility and transparency—the essence of improved relations with stakeholders. In order to improve the resources and delivery configuration in technical assistance, the field office network is being reviewed.

8. Despite efforts to improve efficiency in delivery, for the biennium 2002-2003 total income from voluntary contributions was only revised upwards by less than \$1 million (from \$136.3 million to \$137.2 million). General-purpose income was revised downwards (by \$5 million), while special-purpose (or earmarked) income went up (by \$5.9 million). Insufficient unearmarked contributions will also result in the decline of the general-purpose fund balance (to \$5.3 million by the end of 2003); that amount is below the \$8 million required to maintain adequate cash flows. This will furthermore constrain the resource flow in 2004 and 2005, making it increasingly difficult to manage the Programme, including by providing contracts of more than six months to staff.

9. A number of Member States have actively endorsed calls for the return of the Programme to financial predictability, notably the urgency to rebuild the general-purpose fund balance to its historic level (about \$15 million). This will allow the financing of core (mandated) activities that do not receive earmarked funds and provide the operational flexibility needed to fund the support budget in line with the guidelines adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

II. Operational activities

A. Africa

An estimated 32 million Africans abuse illicit drugs, mostly cannabis. Drug traffickers and organized criminal networks use several African subregions for the trans-shipment of illicit drugs from producing areas to illicit markets in Europe and North America. Africa has been largely immune from the large-scale cultivation of illicit drug crops, with the exception of cannabis cultivation. Given the socio-economic pressure faced by African States, the Programme has recognized that Africa requires increased support to improve the situation. Working with the New Partnership for Africa's Development and regional organizations, UNDCP will continue to promote the inclusion of drug control issues in the continent's development. In particular, drug control needs to be part of the fight against various forms of "uncivil behaviour", which in Africa relate mainly to corruption, crime and violence.

10. UNDCP cooperated with the African Union in organizing the Ministerial Conference on Drug Control in Africa, held in Yamoussoukro in May 2002. The resulting plan of action for drug control in Africa, covering the period 2002-2006, which was subsequently endorsed by the Assembly of African Heads of State and Government, held in Durban, South Africa, in July 2002, calls for the integration of strong drug control measures within a set time frame. With the adoption of the plan of action for drug control in Africa, a sound foundation has been established that will enable the programmes of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Africa to develop more forcefully. The need is there and the instruments have been worked on; resource requirements and absorption capacities remain the primary concern. Predictable funding is the key.

11. A workshop was organized in August 2002 to launch a programme against drugs and crime for the Southern African Development Community (SADC), representing 11 States. Subsequently, UNDCP formulated a five-year regional initiative. In Southern and East Africa, the Programme trained judges, prosecutors and magistrates from 19 countries. Regular review, training and planning sessions were conducted in cooperation with SADC.

12. Governments of African countries have given increased priority to countering drug abuse. Demand reduction activities in Africa have focused on helping youth in and out of school. In urban centres, the focus has been on the unemployed and marginalized groups, who are more likely to be tempted by the notion of drug abuse or the quick profits offered by drug trafficking and other criminal activities. Action has concentrated on persons living in shanty towns and (especially in South Africa) townships, and plans exist for those groups severely affected by war and conflict, such as child soldiers, forced into active conflict by violence and drug addiction.

13. UNDCP has continued to support selected treatment and rehabilitation services, in particular programmes on HIV/AIDS and drug abuse. In late 2002, the pilot project on local expert networks for demand reduction was expanded to cover North and West Africa. The Local Expert Network for East Africa met twice in the course of the year and agreed on a publication on peer-to-peer prevention

interventions and treatment and rehabilitation. In West Africa, UNDCP initiated demand reduction activities covering nine countries. An assessment of treatment and rehabilitation centres in Nigeria began in 2002. At the same time, UNDCP trained 130 persons from non-governmental organizations and Governments and provided direct support for demand reduction and prevention activities in Djibouti, Seychelles and Uganda.

14. The programme for demand reduction in Africa would benefit from better statistics and improved knowledge of drug abuse. To improve that situation, UNDCP has formulated an Africa-wide demand reduction project that will provide support for the gathering and analysis of epidemiological data. The Programme has provided demand reduction expertise at the field level to Governments, other United Nations entities and the African Union, and expanded its action under the Global Assessment Programme on Drug Abuse. That growing combination of better understanding issues and greater operational support is contributing to more integrated demand reduction activities. It also addresses another critical problem, namely, the link between drug abuse and HIV/AIDS.

15. The HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa is related to drug injection to a lesser extent than in other regions. However, the interaction is there and the risks cannot be overestimated. As a consequence, the joint UNDCP/UNAIDS initiative in Africa was launched with a large-scale assessment of the threats involved and with preventive action in several countries. Another new project is to provide support to six countries in West Africa that have included HIV-related drug demand reduction initiatives in their national action plans.

16. Civil society partners have been mobilized. Small grants were provided to non-governmental organizations in eight African countries to support activities targeting drug abuse and HIV/AIDS. In South Africa, governmental and other organizations, allied with media groups, have cooperated with UNDCP in launching campaigns throughout the country to raise awareness about those problems.

17. A seaport control project initiated by UNDCP and the Customs Cooperation Council (also called the World Customs Organization) for East and Southern Africa was extended to include new port control teams in Mauritius and South Africa. UNDCP provided advisory services and training for the port control teams for Port Louis in Mauritius and for Cape Town, Johannesburg and Port Elisabeth in South Africa. All port units established in the initiative reported increased drug seizures. The major land border posts between Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia were assessed jointly by UNDCP, national experts and local stakeholders, and measures were identified for each border post. Furthermore, in 2002, law enforcement training and equipment were put in place in Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland and the United Republic of Tanzania.

18. The first phase of the project to strengthen licit drug control in East Africa ended in mid-2002. An external technical assessment confirmed the improvement in the licit drug control systems in three of the four pilot countries: Ethiopia, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania. In West Africa, in cooperation with the Government of Nigeria, plans were initiated for the establishment of a regional law enforcement training academy. In North Africa, two national projects were successfully launched in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Morocco.

B. Central and Eastern Europe and the Russian Federation

Central and Eastern European countries and the Russian Federation face increasing challenges associated with the illicit drug traffic and transit traffic, as well as with the rise in drug abuse. A most daunting and urgent task is to halt and reverse the rising trend in the spreading of HIV/AIDS by injecting drug abuse.

A major concern stems from the fact that in the region the treatment facilities for both drug abusers and HIV/AIDS patients are not yet up to the standards needed to turn therapy for one into prevention for the other. The problem is acute and socially dangerous, as drug-related offenders and persons infected with HIV/AIDS are sometimes confined on the same premises. In the absence of adequate therapeutic facilities, such interactions contribute to the spread of HIV/AIDS.

One noteworthy element in the region concerns the spreading of drug trafficking. In no other region have criminal groups been able to develop new drug trafficking routes and new illicit markets as fast and efficiently as in Eastern European countries and in member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

19. UNDCP has initiated and supported throughout the region the development of national drug abuse monitoring systems. The Programme has developed, in collaboration with UNAIDS, regional systems for the collection of data on HIV/AIDS prevention and diversified services for drug abusers. Best practices adopted elsewhere have been screened and readied for assimilation in the region, especially once the main countries have taken the lead in addressing the problems.

20. Cross-border cooperation in drug law enforcement has gained new momentum. An independent evaluation of a UNDCP programme (funded by Phare, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) for strengthening narcotic interdiction capabilities in South-Eastern Europe confirmed the reduction of illicit drug supply, contributing directly to significant drug seizures. In that context, over 1,000 officers have received training and equipment.

21. UNDCP has supported the development of criminal intelligence capacities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Serbia and Montenegro. It has contributed to the strengthening of capacity in Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, Slovenia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The Programme has assisted Albanian law enforcement agencies in interdicting drug trafficking in land border areas so as to disrupt a part of the Balkan route, leading to increased drug seizures. In all three Baltic countries (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania), UNDCP has helped develop new educational curricula to raise awareness of drug abuse prevention by promoting healthy lifestyles and alternatives to drug abuse.

22. In 2002, UNDCP activities in the Russian Federation did not attract adequate external funding, given the size of the country and the complexity of the challenge. Conspicuous in the context of the Government's drug control programme for the period 2002-2004 was the support provided for the prevention and treatment of drug abuse, of course with emphasis given to HIV/AIDS prevention. The Programme has

also contributed to the suppression of drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime through specialized law enforcement training in the Russian Federation and other member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States. UNDCP helped improve the control capacity of the Russian Federal Border Service along the border with Afghanistan and Tajikistan, resulting in increased drug seizures.

C. South Asia

In India, to foster a better understanding of the issues, a national survey to assess drug abuse trends neared completion. It comprises rapid assessments in 14 cities, a national household survey, a drug abuse monitoring system and focused thematic studies on drug abuse among various high-risk target groups.

23. UNDCP cooperated with the National Centre for Drug Abuse Prevention of India and eight regional resource and training centres that have become fully operational, involving approximately 2,000 service providers in the prevention and treatment of drug abuse and the rehabilitation of drug abusers. Training manuals and facilitators' guidebooks were prepared on drug demand reduction and issues related to HIV/AIDS. Partnerships were established with organizations of civil society, the private sector and government institutions, and a mobile exhibition by leading artists was organized to raise awareness of drug-related problems.

24. UNDCP worked closely with UNAIDS in South Asia to raise awareness about the spread of HIV/AIDS among drug abusers. The Programme launched two subregional projects to increase the capacity of public and non-governmental organizations to fight HIV/AIDS. One project involved integrating HIV/AIDS concerns into the risk-taking behaviour of young drug abusers, counting on people-to-people networking.

25. In Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, the Programme carried out comprehensive surveys of opiate abuse. Rapid assessments were conducted in Maldives as a contribution to developing a master plan for drug control. In Sri Lanka, UNDCP and the World Health Organization held two subregional consultations to increase national capacity in drug demand reduction. In Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, training was provided to drug law enforcement and regulatory personnel, including those responsible for precursor control, contributing to increased seizures.

D. South-East Asia and the Pacific

All major facets of the illicit drug problem are present in South-East Asia and the Pacific, from illicit crop cultivation to the production or manufacture of illicit drugs, including synthetic drugs, and from drug trafficking to drug abuse. There is now fear that injecting drug abuse is resulting in the rapid spreading of HIV/AIDS. South-East Asia is one of the main illicit sources of opium and heroin, Myanmar being the world's second largest producer (after Afghanistan), followed by the Lao People's Democratic Republic. UNDCP continued to support alternative development programmes, in particular in the establishment of national systems for monitoring illicit opium poppy cultivation.

26. In Myanmar, the 2002 opium poppy survey estimated the area under opium poppy cultivation to be 81,400 hectares, about 50 per cent less than in 1996. The reinforced controls by central and local authorities, assistance provided by UNDCP and adverse weather conditions reduced the estimated opium production to 828 tons, about 25 per cent less than in 2001. Community-based alternative development activities in the Wa area, vigorously promoted by UNDCP, led to a reduction of 30 per cent in illicit opium poppy cultivation in the area covered by the project. Health considerations have also prevailed, as UNDCP, together with UNAIDS, continued to support research, analysis and information-sharing on the link between drug abuse and HIV/AIDS and to train educators about its lethal effects. By promoting initiatives to counter illicit crop cultivation, the manufacture of ATS, illicit drug trafficking and drug abuse, the Programme is contributing to national reconciliation and is having an impact that goes beyond drug control.

27. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the national opium survey estimated the area under opium poppy cultivation to be over 14,000 hectares in 2002, a perceptible decline over the previous years, especially in the provinces where community-based alternative development projects have been operating. The same survey recorded a reduction of almost 10 per cent in opium abuse compared with 2001. The income-generating activities and the health and education components of UNDCP alternative development projects may have caused that reduction by providing sustainable economic opportunities and enhancing the awareness of drug problems. UNDCP advocacy contributed to the greater participation of donor countries and international institutions in the national opium elimination programme.

28. In 2001, the area under opium poppy cultivation in Viet Nam totalled 324 hectares, compared with 21,199 hectares in 1992. In mid-2002, UNDCP started the second phase of alternative development activities in Ky Son, aimed at preventing the re-emergence of opium poppy cultivation.

29. Regional cooperation in drug control matters has increased among the signatories to the 1993 memorandum of understanding on drug control between the countries in the Mekong area. To enhance trans-border cooperation, UNDCP provided border offices with equipment for communications, "sniffer dogs" (dogs trained to find drugs) and transportation. Twenty-two computer-based training centres were installed and 100 drug law enforcement officers were trained. To address the high level of abuse of ATS, subregional projects were launched to

improve data collection and to develop primary prevention initiatives. To help eliminate opium poppy cultivation, a subregional forum was established so that practitioners and policy makers with experience in alternative development could share information on best practices. Following the adoption of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD) Plan of Action, the 10 ASEAN member States and China initiated the implementation of the first annual work plan, consisting in four task forces, with the help of UNDCP. The Programme is also supporting government efforts to prevent money-laundering.

30. UNDCP supported the implementation of national drug control objectives. In Cambodia, UNDCP provided training and equipment to the Secretariat of the National Authority for Combating Drugs, responsible for planning, operational, administrative and coordination procedures. Cambodia, Myanmar and Viet Nam received assistance in drafting national drug control legislation consistent with the international drug control treaties. In Viet Nam, UNDCP assisted in the preparation of the national master plan for drug control covering the period 2001-2010. As follow-up to a recent workshop, over a dozen organizations are joining in activities, coordinated by UNDCP, that target remote northern communities.

31. In cooperation with the National Narcotic Board of Indonesia, the Programme has assisted in the review of national drug control planning. The United Nations Regional Task Force on Drugs and HIV/AIDS Vulnerability, operated jointly by UNDCP and UNAIDS, organized information exchanges and technical support to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. UNDCP also involved non-governmental organizations in fighting the spread of HIV/AIDS by injecting drug abuse.

E. West and Central Asia

For a number of years, West and Central Asia has been in turmoil. Some areas have been affected by a dramatic resurgence of illicit production of opiates, organized crime and terrorist violence. The production of opium in Afghanistan resumed at a high level, accounting for three quarters of the world's opium production. The total area under opium poppy cultivation in 2001, estimated at 74,000 hectares, yielded 3,400 tons of opium in 2002.

32. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has launched a comprehensive strategy to counter illicit drugs and crime in Afghanistan. The strategy has identified five priority areas: (a) legal and judicial framework; (b) law enforcement; (c) mainstreaming of drug matters in development assistance; (d) demand reduction; and (e) monitoring. UNDCP has been able to combine assistance on policy support, legislation and advocacy, elimination of illicit crops, suppression of drug trafficking and reduction of drug abuse. UNDCP is providing advisory and technical assistance in Afghanistan to the Counter-Narcotics Department of the National Security Council, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Education. UNDCP also provides advice on drug issues to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan.

33. The role of micro-credits as a financing alternative to lending by usurers was assessed. In the course of the year, an analysis was completed that revealed the economics of opium in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries. The research analysed the market's perverse logic, so that individual alternatives could be developed for each of its components: farmers' decisions, the activities of women and children in the poppy fields, the role of narco-usurers, the need to promote legality in bazaars and the persistent presence of warlords funded by drug proceeds.

34. The situation in West and Central Asia remained an increasing concern, owing to the threat to security and stability posed by drug trafficking from Afghanistan and its links with organized crime and international terrorism. Since Central Asia has emerged as one of the major trafficking routes for illicit drugs from Afghanistan, UNDCP has concentrated its efforts on assisting Governments of Central Asian States in strengthening their drug control capacity. The comprehensive strategic programme framework for strengthening drug control and crime prevention capacities in Central Asia, covering the period 2002-2005, continued to guide national efforts and regional initiatives to counter the drug problem. Drug demand reduction issues in Central Asia were addressed at the Regional Conference on Drug Abuse in Central Asia, held in Tashkent in June 2002; the results of the rapid drug abuse and needs assessments conducted in each country were reviewed, and priorities for future activities were identified, emphasis being placed on increased inter-agency cooperation.

35. UNDCP continued to assist in enhancing the investigative capacities of drug control and law enforcement bodies, as well as in strengthening border controls, in Central Asia. The Programme supported inter-agency cooperation at the national level, such as border control and investigation capacities in Tajikistan. Furthermore, UNDCP initiated or supported the conclusion of several cooperation agreements between Governments of Central Asian countries, such as the agreement between the Drug Control Agency of Tajikistan and the Russian Federal Border Service, as well as with their counterparts in Afghanistan.

36. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, UNDCP provided support to the national drug control programmes and facilitated interaction between Iranian drug control agencies and their counterparts in other countries. Attention focused on countering the trafficking in drugs from Afghanistan and the drug transit traffic in the direction of the Caucasus and the Persian Gulf area. A second area of emphasis was enhancing capacity to respond to the challenges posed by drug abuse and trafficking, counting on the participation of civil society. Advocacy and technical cooperation activities were implemented in cooperation with the Economic Cooperation Organization.

37. In Pakistan, with UNDCP support, considerable success was achieved in assisting the country in eliminating opium poppy cultivation. Activities involved strengthening law enforcement agencies, improving the performance of drug-testing laboratories and assessing the scale of money-laundering. UNDCP continued to implement its comprehensive three-year programme for drug demand reduction in Pakistan, consisting of the prevention of drug abuse and the strengthening of treatment and rehabilitation services for drug abusers.

38. Within the framework of the Subregional Drug Control Cooperation Programme for the Middle East, UNDCP focused on strengthening capacity for the

treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers, providing specialized training courses and establishing an in-service training centre. In mid-2002, UNDCP supported the upgrading of the licit drug control system in Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon and activities to promote drug abuse prevention among street children in Egypt. Rapid assessment studies of the drug abuse situation were conducted in Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon.

F. Latin America and the Caribbean

Latin America and the Caribbean includes countries with contrasting experience with regard to drug control. Three of the Andean countries that had been affected by significant illicit coca bush cultivation, coca refining and trafficking have achieved encouraging results in curbing those problems over the past few years. Countries in the Latin American southern cone have little or no experience in dealing with the problems of illicit drug production. Some of the countries in the region are seriously affected by drug abuse, HIV/AIDS, drug trafficking and violent crime, in particular in urban areas.

Central American countries and the Caribbean islands situated between major drug-producing areas in the southern hemisphere and major drug-consuming areas in the north, have become vulnerable to drug trafficking, drug abuse and money-laundering.

39. In the Caribbean, UNDCP provided policy and technical support for the development of a strategy on drugs and crime approved by the twenty-third meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, held in Georgetown in July 2002; the strategy serves as follow-up to the 1996 Barbados Plan of Action on Drug Control Coordination and Cooperation in the Caribbean. Supported by UNDCP, the Caribbean Conference of Churches completed training courses and distributed drug abuse prevention kits, while programmes for the reduction of illicit drug demand have been launched in five countries with 30 focal points. Cuba developed schemes for the training of trainers in drug abuse prevention, targeting persons in the medical and education professions.

40. In Central America, UNDCP worked closely with the drug control commissions in the development of the first subregional drug control action plan, to be launched in 2003. Persons from 18 countries were trained in drug abuse prevention and best practices in demand reduction. Honduras and Nicaragua have developed minimum standards in treatment of drug abusers. In Nicaragua, 300 outreach workers learned how to design and implement community prevention programmes targeting children and adolescents at risk of abusing drugs or being sexually exploited. In Mexico, UNDCP supported the construction of a centre for the treatment of drug abusers in Tuxtla Gutiérrez, prepared training manuals and worked closely with communities to promote services for the treatment of drug abusers.

41. Bolivia upgraded its system for tracking information essential to drug control activities. In Colombia, where support for the decentralization of the national drug control plan remains a priority of UNDCP, all 28 regional control bodies and

committees established with the support of the Programme in 1999 continue to operate. In Peru, the national drug control commission was restructured and its mandate expanded to include the interdiction of illicit drug consignments and the eradication of illicit crops. UNDCP provided technical advice.

42. In Brazil, the large-scale UNDCP-supported programme for the prevention of drug-related HIV/AIDS, which involves the direct participation of injecting drug abusers, has remained a priority. Working with non-governmental organizations, UNDCP has implemented a total of 258 "subprojects" to prevent the spread of the disease and to upgrade the technical capacity of 208 centres for counselling and testing persons affected by HIV/AIDS and drug abuse. The programme reaches the prison population. With more than 3,000 Brazilian experts and social workers taking part in it, the project has reached 70 per cent of the public schools in Brazil.

43. The prevention of drug abuse and the elimination of illicit crop cultivation remain twin priorities in Bolivia, where UNDCP supports an education programme provided as part of teachers' training. A total of 790 directors of educational institutions and 3,000 teachers have been trained in drug abuse prevention. As a result, schools in Bolivia have included drug abuse prevention in their curricula and 75,000 students have been reached through the programme. In Peru, a similar project has been continued. During the year under review, 228 additional primary schools were included in the drug abuse prevention programme. Both schoolmasters and teachers received training in 2002, and future teachers in training colleges were also trained.

44. Under the memorandum of understanding on drug control cooperation among Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Peru and Uruguay, drug abuse surveys were initiated targeting the school population. In Peru, a national household survey on drug abuse was launched.

45. Urban security remains a key priority in Brazil. UNDCP supported the upgrading of the teaching facilities of the National Police Academy, including the installation of new computer equipment and library acquisitions. Over the year, 1,000 new federal agents and 2,000 state law enforcement officers were trained. A system for precursor control is under development: 102 federal police units have already been connected to the headquarters in Brasilia. Eighty agents and senior police officers received training in registration and control of precursors.

46. In Colombia, training continued in field-testing for precursor control; some 220 officials were trained in broad areas of criminal justice and drug control investigation. In Ecuador, support in the form of training for prosecutors and equipment was provided. In Bolivia, some 200 officers received training in combating money-laundering and drug trafficking.

47. UNDCP played an important role, serving as a catalyst in supporting the Andean countries in their efforts to eliminate or significantly reduce the illicit cultivation of coca bush and to contain the emerging illicit cultivation of opium poppy. The long-term sustainability of coca reduction programmes requires the support of commercially viable agro-industries, as well as the rational use of forest resources and emphasis on soil conservation. In 2002, UNDCP supported several major projects aimed at institution-building and the implementation of model alternative programmes, in collaboration with Governments, donor countries and other interested parties.

48. In Bolivia, support provided by UNDCP for alternative crop development, vocational training and micro-enterprises yielded tangible results. In pilot experiments, over 2,000 campesino families received assistance in managing land under ecologically sound reforestation plans and agro-forestry systems. As a result, over two thirds of the wood marketed in the Chapare is being harvested from managed forests. Another 2,362 families received training in related subjects. Revolving funds to purchase input were provided to numerous micro-enterprises, many managed by women's groups and young people. Vocational training was provided to more than 2,600 people in different fields, in order to reduce illicit crop cultivation by promoting alternative livelihoods.

49. In Colombia, 3,000 farm families associated with eight different farmers' organizations continued to receive assistance in the production and marketing of crops, livestock and other products from alternative development programmes. Agreements were reached with major supermarket chains and private companies to sell products from such programmes. With those initiatives in place, agreements were signed with farmers for the voluntary reduction of coca bush cultivation.

50. In Peru, alternative development assistance was provided to 21 farmers' organizations in eight coca-growing areas reaching 8,900 families. Support included extension and marketing services for a range of products, including coffee, cacao, palm oil, palm heart, tropical fruits and cattle breeding, as well as the provision of agricultural input. The total area covered by alternative crops amounted to 4,340 hectares. Recently, the Programme has also started to develop pilot activities in forestry management and handicraft production. Key to such success stories have been efforts to promote cooperatives and processing facilities, but the accomplishments remain fragile, and their sustainability will be threatened unless development institutions complete the work promoted by UNDCP.

51. In Bolivia, Colombia and Peru, systems for monitoring illicit crops are fully operational and have produced important data. In Bolivia, the first coca crop map of the Yungas was produced; training courses were provided in the geographic information system (GIS) and the use of remote-sensing software. In both Colombia and Peru, UNDCP supported systems for monitoring illicit crops, which produced figures on illicit coca crop production for 2001 using satellite imagery. In Colombia, efforts are under way to develop a methodology for use in detecting opium poppy cultivation and measuring illicit crop yields.

III. Thematic and other activities

A. Adherence to the international drug control treaties

While great strides have been made in international cooperation within the framework of the international drug control treaties, which now enjoy almost universal adherence, a number of States have not yet ratified all three of those treaties. Parties to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 are required to legislate and implement provisions against activities related to trafficking in illicit drugs, such as the laundering of money derived from drug trafficking. Much work remains to be done in order to put the measures into practical use and to prosecute successfully the organized criminal groups engaged in drug trafficking. More States need to implement their legislation against money-laundering, in order to freeze, seize and confiscate the assets of criminal groups. The International Narcotics Control Board, in its assessment of the implementation of the international drug control treaties, has reported that many States need additional assistance in such areas. The Board has also noted the difficulties many States are facing in fulfilling their treaty obligations.

52. Much progress has been made in treaty implementation. Through its legal assistance programme, UNDCP continued to assist Governments in becoming parties to, and implementing the provisions of, the international drug control treaties. As at March 2003, the treaties enjoyed almost universal adherence, and more progress may be expected. Since 1998, when the twentieth special session of the General Assembly was held, 19 States have become parties to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,² bringing the number of parties to that convention to 166 States, plus the European Community; 17 States have become parties to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961³ and that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol,⁴ bringing the number of parties to 179 States; and 15 States have become parties to the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,⁵ bringing to 172 the number of States parties to that convention.

53. Assisted by voluntary contributions, UNDCP has provided a large number of States with high-quality legal assistance in drafting legislation for drug control, including precursor control, and legislation against money-laundering. More than 2,400 judges, prosecutors and other law enforcement officials have been trained. UNDCP model laws were updated and new model legislation was developed for use in countries that follow the Islamic legal tradition. The online legal library, which is heavily used, has disseminated national drug control legislation to Governments and the general public. Interregional legal advisers provided training and technical assistance in Latin America and Central Asia. Mentors were placed to assist prosecutors in developing best practices in mutual legal assistance, asset forfeiture and drug abuse offender casework.

54. Legal advisory services are now concentrating on helping States implement legal tools provided by treaty-related legislation. The legal tools have broad

applicability beyond purely drug-related organized crime and assist States in their efforts to combat transnational organized crime and terrorism. New software that is being developed includes software that generates requests for mutual legal assistance and assists in prosecutorial case management and in casework relating to the treatment of drug offenders. The tools help reduce court backlogs and improve the quality of justice.

55. UNDCP serves as the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board, assisting it in monitoring the implementation of the international drug control treaties, in close cooperation with Governments. The substantive work of the Board also benefited from the assistance of UNDCP and technical cooperation programmes and field offices, in the promotion of the annual report of the Board and in the provision of support to missions of the Board. UNDCP assisted in the organization of two round tables on precursor control in Africa and Central Asia, at which agreement was reached on standard operating procedures to prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals.

B. Demand reduction

The level of drug abuse remains at an unacceptably high level. One positive sign is the increased priority that Member States are attributing to demand reduction in the pursuit of a balanced approach to tackling the drug problem. UNDCP was called upon to provide support to Member States in carrying out the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, in facilitating the sharing of best practices and in enhancing capacities in the collection of drug abuse data, the prevention of drug abuse, the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers and the prevention of HIV/AIDS transmission associated with drug abuse.

56. Through the Global Assessment Programme on Drug Abuse, the data collection capacities of Governments have been improved by the dissemination of sound methodological practices. A web site was established to facilitate access to relevant methodological and information resources. A report was published containing recommendations for policy makers and practitioners based on a global review of approaches and lessons learned in drug abuse prevention. Capacity-building for data collection activities continued under the guidance of regional epidemiological advisers; those initiatives included school surveys in the Caribbean, national assessment studies on drug abuse in Central and South-West Asia and training on cost-effective methods for estimating the prevalence of drug abuse in Southern and East Africa.

57. The Global Youth Network against Drug Abuse currently includes 100 groups from more than 40 countries. Thematic meetings were organized to identify good practice in various subject areas, such as using sport, the Internet and peer-to-peer techniques. They involved target groups, such as youth from ethnic minorities, students and young injecting drug abusers. A web site was created to serve as an online compendium of resources and databases.

58. The Global Initiative on Primary Prevention of Substance Abuse provided technical assistance to more than 100 local organizations, mainly non-governmental organizations, in Belarus, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Thailand, the United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam and Zambia. Assistance was provided in the planning, implementation and evaluation of community-based activities for the prevention of substance abuse among young people.

59. UNDCP shared information and provided guidance on strategies for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers, which integrated broader health and social options. With a view to assisting countries in upgrading their treatment and rehabilitation services, the first three modules of a “tool kit” on drug abuse treatment have been produced. The Programme continued to support various activities aimed at assisting the expansion and diversification of drug abuse treatment services in Belarus, Egypt, Jordan, Pakistan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, South Africa and Ukraine, as well as in the Central Asian countries.

60. UNDCP continued to include HIV/AIDS prevention in its drug demand reduction work by targeting injecting drug abusers. A thematic evaluation was undertaken of UNDCP activities in Brazil, Myanmar, the Russian Federation and Thailand. Key recommendations included the need to strengthen the capacity of UNDCP to develop, provide and monitor technical support for HIV/AIDS projects targeting injecting drug abuse and the need for a clearer focus, especially in China, the Russian Federation, Central Asia and Eastern Europe, where injecting drug abuse constitutes a major mode of transmission of HIV. As the convening agency for the UNAIDS inter-agency work on injecting drug abuse, UNDCP commissioned an assessment of the assistance given in that area to Governments by United Nations agencies. A report on the conclusions of the assessment was disseminated to all stakeholders.

61. To increase awareness among children of the dangers of illicit drugs, the UNDCP campaign “Sports against Drugs” produced eight television and radio spots featuring star athletes speaking out against drug abuse. The UNDCP web site provided more than 2 million visitors access to important research and analysis data on the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers, as well as information on drug abuse prevention and education.

C. Suppression of drug trafficking; and research

The initiatives of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in respect of supply reduction encompass a wide range of measures. These include the provision of advice and assistance and the implementation of projects in the areas of alternative development, illicit crop monitoring, law enforcement cooperation, scientific support, countering money-laundering and precursor control. Cooperation between law enforcement agencies, particularly the exchange of operational information on drug trafficking networks, and cross-border cooperation remain major challenges. Particular emphasis is placed on identifying and promoting best practice and facilitating cooperation at the national, regional and international levels between law enforcement authorities. The threats

posed by drug trafficking are often not fully understood. In addition, support is given to Member States through detailed reports and assessments on current trends.

Terrorist organizations and drug trafficking and other organized criminal groups use the same techniques to launder funds used to finance their activities. The challenge to Governments has become ever more urgent. Many States need assistance in order to establish the legislative framework and investigative tools such as the establishment of financial intelligence units to counter money-laundering. They also need other mechanisms for implementing national legislation. Much progress has been made in adopting national legislation, but there is still much to be done to implement the laws effectively.

62. UNDCP continued to serve as the secretariat of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East and the regional meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies), which play an important role in furthering regional cooperation aimed at countering drug trafficking.

63. UNDCP, in close coordination with interested drug law enforcement agencies (the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), the World Customs Organization and the European Police Office (Europol)), supported cross-border law enforcement initiatives. As a result, drug seizures have increased in several regions, notably in South-East and Central Asia. Various forms of technical law enforcement assistance were provided to Governments in Southern and East Africa, Central Asia, South-East Asia and Central and Eastern Europe to counter drug trafficking and related cross-border crime. The assistance was provided in areas such as precursor control, developing intelligence systems, promoting operational cooperation between law enforcement agencies through improved intelligence exchange and provision of operational equipment.

64. In respect of training, UNDCP promoted the training of drug law enforcement personnel and contributed to the development of such training. It designed a computer-based training programme, which has been successfully introduced in six South-East Asian countries. Work has commenced to introduce the programme in training centres in other countries, such as the Turkish Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime, which has taken over the task of training officers from neighbouring countries and Afghanistan.

65. UNDCP support enabled drug analysts to reliably identify illicit drugs and their precursors and law enforcement and health authorities to access reliable drug-testing services and expertise to facilitate investigations. In 2002, UNDCP continued to produce and distribute field testing kits for the rapid detection of illicit drugs and their precursors. The use of these kits led to major drug seizures, such as the largest seizure of cocaine ever made in South Africa.

66. Technical assistance was provided to countries in Central America and to collaborative laboratory training centres worldwide. Laboratory staff from countries in Central Asia were trained in drug and chemical analysis. Reference standards and scientific manuals and guidelines were sent to some 200 laboratories worldwide. To better understand the threat posed by ATS, in particular

methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDMA, commonly known as Ecstasy), UNDCP organized an expert group meeting on understanding the clandestine manufacture of Ecstasy. A manual on analytical approaches to the examination of Ecstasy-type substances is to be published shortly.

67. UNDCP, through its global illicit crop monitoring programme, provided technical assistance for the development of crop monitoring systems in countries affected by illicit crop cultivation. In 2002, it provided reliable and transparent estimates on illicit drug production in the major coca- and opium-producing countries.

68. UNDCP research activities seek to provide a better understanding of the international drug problem by means of statistical and situation analysis, support for operations and policy and a programme of publications. The annual report entitled *Global Illicit Drug Trends, 2002*⁶ was published, covering illicit drug production, trafficking and consumption. Currently, work is under way on the third *World Drug Report*, which is scheduled to be published in September 2003. A double issue of the *Bulletin on Narcotics*, on the theme "Dynamic drug policy: understanding and controlling drug epidemics",⁷ was published in 2002.

69. In 2002, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime continued to be the focal point in the United Nations system for dealing with the laundering of the proceeds of drug trafficking and other organized criminal activities. It also continued to assist States in the development of financial intelligence units and the adoption of national legislation through mentoring programmes and by training members of the judiciary, law enforcement officers and regulatory institutions. Mentors were placed in the Eastern Caribbean and East and Southern Africa and in a number of Pacific island countries with offshore banking facilities to work with the authorities in the prosecution and confiscation of assets. The Programme worked closely with the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering, the Egmont Group, the International Monetary Fund and the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force.

D. Inter-agency cooperation

70. While continuing to promote consideration of drug issues in the work of other agencies, UNDCP has also made progress in providing coordinated support to the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration (General Assembly resolution 55/2). Of the task forces set up to address the Millennium Development Goals, UNDCP is a member of the one on poverty eradication and economic growth, which addresses issues such as human rights, governance, drugs and crime. On the basis of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly and as part of the follow-up implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, UNDCP will strive to make drug control issues an integral part of security and development.

IV. Conclusions

71. During 2002, UNDCP continued to act as a catalyst in supporting sustained action against the drug problem, involving all stakeholders. Through its field office network, it delivered a wide range of technical assistance in areas that included the reduction of illicit drug supply, the suppression of drug trafficking and the prevention of drug abuse. UNDCP supported the implementation of the international drug control treaties and the achievement of the goals and targets agreed upon at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. With its technical expertise, UNDCP has supported Member States in making substantial progress in efforts to pursue a balanced approach to countering the drug problem. In order for UNDCP to continue to play its role, the Commission, as its governing body, should ensure that its projects and programmes are provided with sufficient and predictable funding. The Programme has adopted new management initiatives to improve the resources/delivery configuration, which in turn will be enhanced by the newly established operational priorities. The operational priorities will provide guidelines for a common framework to be used to pursue the objective of countering illicit drugs, crime and terrorism in the context of sustainable development.

Notes

¹ United Nations, Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, *Afghanistan: Opium Survey 2002*, October 2002.

² *Official Records of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 25 November-20 December 1988*, vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XI.5).

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

⁶ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.XI.9.

⁷ *Bulletin on Narcotics*, vol. LIII, Nos. 1 and 2 (2001) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.XI.6).
