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Chairman: Mr. Wenaweser. (Liechtenstein)

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02-61025 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 100: Crime prevention and criminal justice (A/57/3, 64, 135, 152 and Add.1, 153, 154, 158 and Add.1; A/C.3/57/L.2, L.3, L.4 and L.5)

Agenda item 101: International drug control (A/57/3, 88, 127 and 203)

1. **Mr. Costa** (Executive Director, United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP)), introducing agenda items 100 and 101, said that the issues of drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism required an integrated approach, as there were a number of parallels in the operational strategies for confronting drugs and crime, from both the prevention and the law enforcement perspectives. The operations of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP) must fit into the global agenda, starting with sustainable development and the Millennium Declaration and Development Goals. Development could not be sustainable if society was torn apart by “uncivil society” behaviours.

2. A factual analysis must be made of the nature and extent of drug and crime problems, leading to a strategic plan of action based on the Office’s comparative advantage and aimed at the efficient delivery of operational activities. His five priorities for the Office were good governance, both internal and external; strategic clarity in setting the framework for operations; predictability of resources and the commitment to deliver; staff motivation; and communication, both within and outside the Office. He commended the commitment and dedication of the staff in Vienna and in the 23 field offices worldwide.

3. In the area of crime prevention and criminal justice, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime had been adopted as a complement to the drug control conventions of 1961, 1971 and 1988. The Convention and its first two protocols had already been ratified by 24 Governments and the Convention was expected to obtain the 40 ratifications required for its entry into force in the course of 2003. To achieve the goal of universal participation in multilateral treaties dealing with transnational organized crime, he proposed that the Office, in cooperation with the Office of Legal Affairs, should arrange a treaty event for 2003; he would welcome the Committee’s views on the proposal.

4. Corruption had become a major stumbling block to economic development and progress. Many countries, some endowed with rich natural resources and therefore potentially wealthy, had been plundered by unscrupulous leaders. Steady progress was being made in the negotiation of a comprehensive United Nations convention against corruption, which represented a unique opportunity to take stock of what had proved feasible in the fight against corruption. That convention would also address the issue of the transfer and recovery of funds of illicit origin, an area where national legislation in many parts of the world was inadequate. Corruption very often involved situations in which the public and private sectors interacted; cooperation with the private sector was therefore essential.

5. The United Nations must strengthen its capacity to assist in the fight against terrorism and to provide advice and assistance to its Member States. ODCCP, in close consultation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Security Council and the Office of Legal Affairs, could play an important role. In document A/57/152, it proposed a programme of work, to be funded through voluntary resources that focused on providing assistance to Member States in ratifying and implementing international legal instruments in that area. It had also prepared a draft programme against terrorism, under which it had already started providing technical assistance in the legal field. At the centre of the crime-drugs-terrorism nexus were financial flows, and ODCCP was helping States to strike back at drug traffickers, organized criminal groups and corrupt officials by targeting illegally generated, illegally transported and illegally used resources through its programme against money-laundering.

6. The other major component of the struggle against “uncivil society” was the production and use of illicit drugs. The Office was involved in preparations for the first ministerial-level segment of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, scheduled for April 2003. That high-level meeting would provide a landmark opportunity for taking stock, refining existing strategies and breaking new ground in the common search for pragmatic approaches to countering the drug problem.

7. ODCCP had been a partner in the global effort to reduce the cultivation of cannabis, coca and opium by 2008, launching several important alternative

development projects. Considerable success had been achieved with sustainable rural development programmes in Bolivia, as well as in Pakistan and Thailand. The bulk of opium and heroin production was currently concentrated in Myanmar and Afghanistan. Production had dropped significantly in Myanmar in 2002 and monitoring to further reduce illicit opium poppy cultivation would continue.

8. The situation in Afghanistan was somewhat different. By the time the Afghan Interim Administration had been established in December 2001 and a new ban on illicit cultivation had been issued by President Karzai, the opium poppy fields planted by farmers between September and November, taking advantage of the power vacuum, had begun to sprout. A survey made by the office in spring 2002 had confirmed that illicit cultivation had returned to the relatively high levels of the late 1990s. It had also indicated that heavy economic dependence on opium production was concentrated in just five of Afghanistan's 34 provinces. For Afghanistan to be able to address its drugs and crime problems, there must be a clear commitment by the international community to supporting the elimination of illicit cultivation as a national security issue and as part of the reconstruction of the rural development sector. Licit means of livelihood must be provided to farmers, coupled with effective law enforcement against drug traffickers. There must be efficient drug and crime control institutions at the national and provincial levels, combined with cross-border and regional cooperation.

9. Drug abuse had blurred geographical boundaries, becoming a problem that affected all countries and leading to increased commitment by Governments to reducing the demand for illicit drugs. The Office's strategy took into consideration key issues such as the spread of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and also the need for better control over precursors and essential chemicals for amphetamine-type stimulants such as Ecstasy, which had become a major concern in both developed and developing countries.

10. Funding for the programmes under his direction depended heavily on voluntary contributions, which accounted for 90 per cent of the Office's total resources. In order to build the credibility that would lead to increased funding, ODCCP would be careful not to commit itself to doing more than it could deliver, and tough in imposing on itself the efficient monitoring

and evaluation of its work that was needed to enhance the confidence of Member States.

11. **Mr. Dhakal** (Nepal) asked whether developing countries which had received technical cooperation assistance from ODCCP had evaluated their experience with it.

12. **Mr. Osmane** (Algeria), referring to the Secretary-General's report on strengthening the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the Secretariat (A/57/152), said that the proposals contained in that report would have significant programme budget implications for the biennium 2002-2003. He wondered why it had not been sent to the Fifth Committee for consideration.

13. **Mr. Alaei** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the most important crisis in his region was drug trafficking from Afghanistan. The Afghan Administration was trying to combat drug trafficking and was working to dismantle poppy cultivation and opium production, but despite intensive efforts, significant amounts of opium were still being produced. Crop substitution seemed to be the best way to combat the problem and Afghan farmers should be given an opportunity to benefit economically by growing other crops.

14. **The Chairman**, replying to the representative of Algeria, said that terrorism was a cross-cutting issue which was receiving increased attention in several bodies. Obviously, the proposals made in document A/57/152 had major programme budget implications.

15. **Mr. Costa** (Executive Director, United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP)) said that the report in question had been submitted to the Committee for consideration as a way to build support for the proposals it contained.

16. Responding to the representative of Nepal, he said that, in the past, there had been no evaluation or assessment of the Office's technical cooperation with the developing countries; however, ODCCP was currently developing an evaluation methodology. There were several stages to the technical cooperation process, beginning with a quantitative assessment of the problem, a process which helped build a database, followed by legislative activities in many countries to encourage Governments to accede to international conventions. Finally, at the operational level, country profiles were drawn up that resulted in overall country strategies and specific projects.

17. With regard to the situation in Central Asia, the Office had already launched seven projects for Afghanistan, with six more in the pipeline, that were designed to address both supply and demand by reinforcing the Afghan Administration's drug interdiction capability and the country's legal framework. Promoting alternative development by providing farmers with licit options was the main strategy for the future. The Office was not a development agency and could not fund large-scale projects, but it could offer farmers low-interest or interest-free loans to enable them to grow alternative crops. Currently, drug traffickers provided loans to farmers to buy seed, but at exorbitant interest rates. Thus far, over \$1.2 billion had been provided for humanitarian and emergency assistance in Afghanistan, but little had been provided for alternative development assistance.

18. **Mr. Andrabi** (Pakistan) welcomed the Executive Director's encouraging remarks regarding Pakistan's success in the field of drug control. That success was attributable to measures to eradicate poppy cultivation and to the implementation, in cooperation with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), of alternative sustainable development programmes. Such programmes required a long-term commitment on the part of ODCCP, however, and he hoped that such a commitment would be forthcoming.

19. The Political Declaration on global drug control adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly recognized the need to strike a balance between drug supply and drug demand reduction strategies. However, the preponderance of supply reduction strategies in UNDCP programmes reflected a degree of ignorance about the plight of countries with high drug-addiction rates; he wondered what assistance was being provided by ODCCP to countries which had successfully eradicated poppy cultivation and drug production but which still had large numbers of addicts requiring rehabilitation.

20. **Ms. Faye** (Senegal) asked whether ODCCP had set up any programmes to combat corruption, particularly in developing countries.

21. **Mr. Bazel** (Afghanistan) said that his country was living with the legacy of 23 years of conflict. However, the Afghan Administration was firmly committed to combating drug trafficking and abuse and, to that end, two Presidential decrees intended to tackle the problem

of drug abuse had already been issued. His country needed to develop alternative means of socio-economic development: revitalizing rural infrastructures could help to reduce poppy cultivation and therefore levels of drug abuse. His delegation appealed to the international community to help Afghanistan achieve the goal of eradicating its drug problems.

22. **Mr. Costa** (Executive Director, United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention) stressed that the Office would continue to work with countries which had successfully reduced their drug cultivation levels. Although ODCCP was not a development agency, it was supportive of development programmes and recognized the need to continue assisting countries which had embarked upon the lengthy transition from illegal to legal activities.

23. Responding to the representative of Pakistan, he acknowledged the need to strike a better balance between drug supply and drug demand reduction strategies. In the past, the emphasis had been on prohibiting drug-related activities, but now it was important to supplement such action with assistance in the areas of prevention campaigns, advocacy and treatment programmes. New patterns of drug addiction were also emerging, owing to the development of new trafficking routes through Africa and Asia. As drugs passed through those regions, a portion of each consignment was shed as payment for the use of the routes, and the resulting increased availability of addictive substances was increasing the number of addicts.

24. Responding to the representative of Senegal, he drew the Committee's attention to the global programme against corruption, which specifically addressed the issue of judicial integrity. In addition, ODCCP had designed an anti-corruption tool kit, now available on its web site, which focused on best practices for senior government officials.

25. Turning to the situation in Afghanistan, he said that it was important to realize that, since illicit crops had been cultivated for the past 25 years, it would take time to bring the problem under control. The present Administration should not be held responsible for the 2002 opium poppy harvest, which had been planted before it came to power. The Afghan problem was a localized one, in that only five provinces continued to cultivate illicit crops. However, it was important to ensure that the governments of those provinces

complied with the two recently-issued Presidential decrees.

26. **Mr. Hahn** (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the associate countries Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey and, in addition, Iceland and Norway, said that the terrorist attacks in the United States of America had indeed made the fight against all forms of international organized crime and terrorism an absolute priority. The European Union welcomed the efforts of the Centre for International Crime Prevention (CICP) of the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP) to promote the early entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and provide technical assistance to countries for its timely implementation. The European Union also appealed to all States to ratify that key international instrument, as well as the three protocols thereto. As a next step, it was to be hoped that the draft convention against corruption would be finalized and opened for signature in 2003. The fight against corruption was essential to global economic and social development, and all States shared responsibility for ensuring its success.

27. The European Union welcomed the Secretary-General's proposals for strengthening the Terrorism Prevention Branch of CICP (A/57/152) as a follow-up to the 2000 Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice, and it called on the Centre to provide technical assistance to States upon request.

28. With regard to international drug control, the growth of drug production, trafficking and consumption was a global phenomenon. The eradication of illicit drug crops and the promotion of alternative development should be seen in the broader context of poverty reduction and conflict resolution and required a strong partnership between developed and developing countries in implementing nationally owned and led poverty-reduction strategies. Effective coordination among partners involved in alternative development was essential, as were preventive actions and law-enforcement programmes.

29. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) should adopt a higher profile and interact more fully with other United Nations agencies and other actors to ensure that drug-related

issues were effectively integrated into development programmes.

30. In Afghanistan, where opium poppy cultivation was of particular concern, UNDCP should increase its efforts to help enhance national law-enforcement capabilities and build drug control institutional capacities, as well as address the growing problem of addiction.

31. The European Union remained concerned at the high level of drug abuse worldwide. Drug demand reduction and the prevention of illicit drug use were key elements of both the European Union Drugs Strategy (2000-2004) and the European Union Action Plan on Drugs. In that context, the European Union would continue to give priority to the United Nations Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction. UNDCP, for its part, should continue to lend its full support to countries which were committed to implementing national plans that took a balanced approach to both supply and demand reduction.

32. The European Union was alarmed by the rapid growth in the illicit production and use of amphetamine-type stimulants, which posed new challenges for supply-reduction operations and international law-enforcement cooperation. The increasing recreational use of illicit and other psychotropic substances by young people must be tackled through, inter alia, school-based prevention programmes and the involvement of families and local communities.

33. Enhanced cooperation was also needed to identify and disseminate best practices in the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS associated with drug abuse. The European Union strongly encouraged UNDCP to continue to work with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and other United Nations entities and to help promote awareness of the pandemic at all levels.

34. The European Union urged UNDCP to continue to strengthen the Global Assessment Programme on Drug Abuse (GAP) in view of the importance of promoting the exchange of information on new patterns of drug abuse. Improved knowledge about drug use and dependence would also increase the impact of drug-control policies and strengthen the effectiveness of prevention policies.

35. The ministerial-level segment of the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, to be held in April 2003, would provide an opportunity to take stock of progress in implementing the Political Declaration adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, learn from the difficulties encountered and give new impetus to efforts to combat the world drug problem.

36. The European Union hoped that the reform process implemented by UNDCP over the past year would continue, leading to improved programme delivery and greater cost-effectiveness and coherence, with an additional focus on staff training and programme monitoring and evaluation. It encouraged the Programme to broaden its donor base and urged all Member States to support its activities. Both UNDCP and CICP required strong and predictable core funding in order to fulfil their mandates.

37. **Mr. Xie Bohua** (China) said that China had signed the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime on the day on which it had been opened for signature, testifying to the Government's strong resolve to join the international community in combating transnational crime. His delegation appreciated the efforts made to expedite the Convention's entry into force. In the meantime, the international community should provide increased technical and financial support for capacity-building in developing countries to ensure the Convention's effective implementation once it entered into force.

38. The fight against corruption was high on China's national agenda and the Government attached importance to international cooperation in that regard. It looked forward to the finalization of the draft convention against corruption, which should help prevent the spread of corruption and ensure its effective punishment. The concerns of all parties should be taken fully into account in the drafting process.

39. The events of 11 September 2001 had shown that it was imperative for the international community to cooperate effectively in preventing and combating crime in all its forms, including international terrorism. The leading role of the United Nations in that area should be further strengthened. His Government stood ready to join the international community in making unremitting efforts to combat crime and safeguard the peace and tranquility of humankind.

40. **Ms. Khalil** (Egypt) said that the events of 11 September 2001 had served to underline the need to combat terrorism, a complex phenomenon which had been exacerbated by globalization, advances in information technology and the dissolution of national borders. The scourge of terrorism affected society as a whole, and the international community therefore had a responsibility to work together to eradicate it.

41. Her delegation welcomed the broader scope of the mandates given to the Centre for International Crime Prevention (CICP) and UNDCP and was pleased that countries in need of technical assistance had received it. It hoped that the necessary funds would be earmarked to enable assistance to be provided in the legal and criminal justice fields. It was also vital to identify the linkages between terrorism and other crimes, so as to determine the best practices for combating it. In that connection, there were several areas in which technical assistance from CICP would be useful.

42. She urged the Committee to coordinate with the other Main Committees of the General Assembly and with the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee on the issues currently under discussion. Increased cooperation with CICP and with individual Member States would also be beneficial.

43. Her delegation welcomed the growing number of signatories to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and hoped that all Member States would eventually accede to it, thereby demonstrating their willingness to participate in the fight against all forms of crime.

44. Turning to the question of drug trafficking, her delegation had considered the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly (A/57/127) and welcomed the drafting of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction. However, increased rates of addiction to certain illegal substances was a matter of some concern, since they impeded the international community's ability to combat the drugs trade. That point had been made at the forty-fifth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at which the Commission had stressed the need to take appropriate measures to reduce the demand for illicit drugs and had called for the implementation by

Member States of the provisions of the international drug control treaties.

45. Her delegation was also concerned about the resumption of opium production in Afghanistan since the United States intervention. The international community should make a concerted effort to find ways of reducing the acreage devoted to poppy cultivation.

46. Despite international, regional and local efforts to combat it, drug trafficking continued to hamper development in many parts of the world. There was a need to develop a global strategy to tackle the problem, preferably by attacking its root causes; in that connection, she stressed the link between poverty and drug production. Lastly, her delegation appealed for enhanced international cooperation to put an end to the illegal drugs trade and to provide assistance to countries that were suffering from it.

47. **Ms. González Fraga** (Cuba) said that although the fight against crime had become a greater priority for all States, it had yet to achieve the desired results. Globalization, the development of new information technologies and the liberalization of financial institutions were providing criminals with unprecedented opportunities to engage in money-laundering and the trafficking of drugs, arms and persons. The majority of States recognized that such complex challenges could be tackled only through international cooperation, but efforts to combat international crime must strictly respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and the principle of non-interference in their internal affairs. Ultimately, domestic legislation was responsible for combating crime, international or otherwise.

48. Her delegation believed that the United Nations was the proper framework for enhancing international cooperation. The fight against corruption was another significant challenge for the international community and, in that connection, her delegation welcomed the negotiation of an international convention against corruption. Such an instrument should allow for differences among countries and establish an international regime that complemented national efforts, rather than taking precedence over them. The recent cases of corruption and fraud in major corporations bore witness to the need for preventive action and to the economic benefits that would ensue from eradicating the phenomenon. The most serious

problems of corruption occurred in the industrialized world, and she stressed that Cuba, despite its economic difficulties, had an exemplary record of combating corruption and of enacting effective domestic legislation against money-laundering and other forms of organized crime.

49. Turning to the trafficking of human beings, she said that the so-called "Cuban Adjustment Act", a United States law which had come into force in 1966, continued to encourage trafficking in migrants from Cuba to the United States. Because of the failure of the United States authorities to punish such traffickers they continued to commit breaches of international law, United States law and the migration accords concluded with Cuba in 1994 and 1995.

50. Her delegation also condemned the lack of political will of certain governments to combat other serious crimes, such as drug trafficking. Cuba was not a drug-producing country or a market for drug traffickers, but attempts had been made to use its territory for transit to the United States market. The Government had taken successful action to prevent the use of Cuban territory for such trafficking, imposing severe penalties on those who engaged in it. The Government had also approached the United States on a number of occasions to propose the negotiation of cooperation agreements in the areas of drug trafficking, human trafficking and international terrorism, but its proposals had been rejected. Cuba continued to advocate enhanced international cooperation to combat such crimes and reiterated its political will to contribute to global efforts to put an end to them.

51. **Mr. Stagno** (Costa Rica), speaking on behalf of the countries members of the Rio Group, welcomed the report on the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly (A/57/127). As the report indicated, the support provided by the United Nations to Member States, particularly those in Latin America, through the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP) was fundamental in helping them meet the goals and targets established at the special session.

52. The Rio Group countries recognized that the drug problem affected all States, and they were determined to cooperate in the worldwide effort to counter it. To that end, at the sixteenth Summit of the Rio Group, held in Costa Rica in April 2002, the Heads of State and Government had renewed their commitment to

combat the world drug problem, recognizing the need to take joint action based on cooperation, shared responsibility and a comprehensive approach to the problem. It was essential to help make alternative development sustainable by opening up markets to substitute products, and also to combat other types of criminal activity linked to the drug problem, such as arms trafficking, transnational crime, money-laundering and terrorism. A determined, collaborative effort by all countries was needed to counter the world drug problem, and the Heads of State and Government had reiterated their support for the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) and its Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism, believing that its work offered valuable support to multilateral cooperation efforts.

53. As part of the global effort to combat drugs, the mechanisms available to the United Nations system must be strengthened. The Rio Group countries therefore pledged their support to the new Executive Director of ODCCP and their cooperation in strengthening UNDCP.

54. The Rio Group countries also wished to underscore the importance of the five-year review, in 2003, of the implementation of the Political Declaration adopted at the twentieth special session, which afforded an opportunity to give renewed momentum to the international commitment to combating the drug problem. They stood ready to participate actively in the ministerial-level segment of the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and urged States to submit their answers to the second questionnaire, so that the segment would have the latest information on national efforts to meet the goals and targets established for 2003 and 2008.

55. **Mr. Tomoshige** (Japan) said that his delegation welcomed the Executive Director's recent initiatives to improve the management of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP). A year had passed since the 11 September terrorist attacks and it was very important that Member States should conclude international conventions on terrorism as soon as possible in order to deprive terrorists of safe havens. The international community must also take comprehensive measures to counter transnational organized crime, drug trafficking, money-laundering and trafficking in persons and arms. His delegation appreciated the activities of the Centre for International Crime Prevention to assist Member States in ratifying

the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organization Crime and its protocols. Japan was taking the necessary legislative measures for early ratification of the Convention and had been helping raise awareness by supporting training courses and co-hosting seminars for early ratification by other States.

56. Japan welcomed the negotiation of a United Nations convention against corruption and was willing to contribute actively to it. It would also make every effort to stop the crime of trafficking in persons, which required comprehensive international and regional action. The United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, which was staffed and financed by the Japanese Government, was celebrating its fortieth anniversary. The Institute organized short and medium-term training courses and seminars on a wide variety of subjects in the criminal justice field for, inter alia, members of law enforcement agencies from Asia and the Pacific, Africa and Latin America.

57. The implementation of the global drug control strategy adopted at the twentieth special session should be accelerated. As a major donor, Japan would contribute over \$3 million to UNDCP in 2002. The International Drug Control Summit which it had co-hosted with UNDCP in Tokyo in April 2002 had been attended by members of government and experts from 35 countries and representatives from six international agencies. Their discussions had focused on international efforts to eradicate illicit poppy cultivation in Afghanistan and the problem of amphetamine-type stimulants and other synthetic drugs, which posed a growing threat in East and South-east Asia and Europe.

58. Solving the drug problem was a key element in the reconstruction of Afghanistan. The international community must continue to cooperate with UNDCP and the Afghanistan Transitional Administration in that effort. Japan was contributing to one UNDCP project in Afghanistan, and was considering a second one, in its determination to promote international cooperation to achieve a world free from the threat of drugs and crime.

59. **Mr. Schrage** (United States of America) said, since 11 September 2001, a coalition of nations had arisen which was committed to confronting those responsible for the attacks. Future generations would judge the present generation not only by the actions it

took against the perpetrators, but also by whether the international community had united to create a world that denied safe haven to both al-Qa'idah and future threats.

60. Gaps in jurisdiction and in effective law enforcement could occur around the globe, including in the United States, and addressing such problems was critical to efforts against terrorism. Targeted intelligence and operations might remove specific terrorist, drug-trafficking or organized crime groups, but unless the environments that allowed them to thrive were addressed, other threats would simply fill the void. Moreover, sustainable development could not be achieved unless the rule of law and effective law enforcement formed a foundation on which investment, economic development and human rights could be built. Support for law enforcement institutions must therefore be mainstreamed into overall foreign policy efforts to promote sustainable development. Building institutional capacities in countries such as Afghanistan was a tough, long-term process requiring the sustained commitment of both host governments and the international community.

61. In recent years, a consensus has emerged that transnational criminals and corruption must not be allowed to hijack the benefits of globalization. The international community had responded to specific threats with concrete initiatives and cooperation, thereby narrowing the field of action for illicit groups that had once operated with impunity. By responding to threats such as drug cartels and terrorism, it had helped lay the foundations for broader, long-term international law enforcement cooperation. ODCCP should be commended for supporting a number of crucial initiatives, particularly the negotiations on an international convention against corruption, which his Government enthusiastically supported, and for its continuing support for the efforts of Member States to ratify the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols.

62. The issue of terrorism had assumed new urgency over the past year, and the most important immediate step was to implement the law enforcement measures outlined in Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), including universal ratification and implementation of the 12 United Nations counter-terrorism conventions, in order to improve international mechanisms for cooperation against terrorism. His Government was providing millions of dollars in law enforcement

training and equipment to governments around the world. In cooperation with host countries, it was sponsoring a network of international law enforcement training academies to help build a global network of law enforcement officials committed to the fight against terrorism.

63. Money-laundering was the lifeline for virtually all forms of transnational crime. The United States would continue to provide assistance for developing and enforcing anti-money-laundering regimes that met the highest international standards. Many of the same illicit mechanisms that criminal groups used to launder their assets were also used by terrorists to finance their crimes, and the world community, including the global programme against money-laundering, had gone to extraordinary lengths over the past year to crack down on that threat to peace. The United States would be providing over \$10 million for training and technical assistance to thwart the funding of terrorist groups.

64. **Mr. Aguilar Zinser** (Mexico), associating himself with the statement made by Costa Rica on behalf of the Rio Group, said that the five-year review of the implementation of the Political Declaration of the twentieth special session was a priority for his Government. Mexico welcomed the adoption by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of resolution 45/7 on preparations for the ministerial-level segment of its forty-sixth session in 2003, which would focus on assessing the progress achieved and the difficulties encountered in meeting the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration. The outcome of the segment must strengthen the commitment made in 1998 and lend impetus to the future work of the Commission. The participation of all Member States was necessary to ensure that the work of the segment accurately reflected the needs of the international community. Countering the world drug problem was a responsibility of all States. Mexico believed that particular attention should be paid to demand reduction, as provided for in the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction.

65. His delegation reiterated its strong support for UNDCP, which had done excellent work in countering the world drug problem by assisting States and executing projects. While acknowledging the efforts made to strengthen the Programme, it felt that the momentum should be maintained by intensifying the

dialogue between Member States and UNDCP on the Programme's priorities and management.

66. His delegation would be chairing the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and was determined to ensure a realistic and objective assessment of the implementation of the Political Declaration. That would give the international community a clear idea of the complexity of the world drug problem, the extent of the challenge and the need for international cooperation in combating the different elements of the problem: production, trafficking and demand.

67. **Mr. Valdes** (Chile), associating himself with the statement made by Costa Rica on behalf of the Rio Group, said that solving the world drug problem required extensive international cooperation. Every effort should be made to meet the goals and targets set for the years 2003 and 2008 by stepping up efforts to control supply and reduce demand, as well as taking measures aimed at prevention and at the rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug addicts. With regard to prevention, educational campaigns should create awareness about the risks of drug abuse and emphasize the links between the world drug problem and the financing of transnational organized crime, money-laundering and terrorism.

68. The distinctive characteristic of the world drug problem was its transnational nature. Drug trafficking systematically breached political, legal and ideological boundaries and traffickers formed part of a multifaceted network that often eluded the traditional control mechanisms of States or groups of States. The world drug problem had vast negative effects for human security, and protection of the individual, particularly the most vulnerable individuals such as children and youth, should become the focus of efforts to counter the drug problem and other major problems affecting States.

69. His Government was committed to overcoming the world drug problem, while respecting the general principles of international law embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, such as non-intervention and respect for sovereignty. However, State institutions seemed to lack the instruments, mechanisms, versatility and speed needed to counter the world drug problem, and the related crimes in particular. Condemnation of the world drug problem and preventive action by individual States must therefore be complemented by

an imaginative set of measures for tackling the problem at the transnational level. Among other things, international cooperation for the eradication of illicit crops should focus on training and education in alternative production activities, so as to permit the sustainable development of countries where drug crops were grown.

70. The most effective way of overcoming the world drug problem was through international cooperation at all levels, both globally through UNDCP and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and regionally and bilaterally. In that connection, regional efforts such as the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission were to be commended.

71. **Mr. Mejdoub** (Tunisia), said that recent events had demonstrated that organized crime, money-laundering, corruption and terrorism were interlinked, posing a global threat that could only be met if an international consensus was reached on a speedy, global solution.

72. His delegation supported the proposals contained in the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the Secretariat (A/57/152), particularly the recommendation that there should be greater synergy of action between the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Security Council and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

73. His delegation had long advocated a global strategy for combating transnational crime and related phenomena that focused, *inter alia*, on strengthening national and international legislation. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three protocols were particularly important in the present circumstances, and his delegation looked forward to the finalization of a draft convention against corruption. At the national level, States should adopt appropriate legislation and ensure its enforcement. His Government had adopted a strategy of amending laws and revising criminal legislation to adapt them to the new national and international environment. It also recognized the importance of strengthening the existing institutional framework and giving it the necessary human and financial resources.

74. Legal and technical cooperation among States must also be enhanced, particularly in the areas of

information exchange and extradition and judicial assistance. In that connection, his delegation hoped that certain European States would revise their positions on the terrorist networks established in their territories under the guise of human rights organizations.

75. The Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP), the Centre for International Crime Prevention and other international entities had an important role to play in furthering technical cooperation and gathering and disseminating information. In that context, his delegation paid tribute to the work done by the ODCCP Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa Region in providing States of the region with substantial technical assistance.

76. His delegation looked forward to the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in 2005, and to the ministerial-level segment of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, to be held in 2003, and hoped that they would achieve concrete results.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.