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Chairman: Mr. ABULHASAN (Kuwait)

later: Mr. JATIVA (Ecuador)

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

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1984-1989 (EXTENDED TO 1991) AND DRAFT INTRODUCTION TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997 (A/C.3/43/L.4)

1. Mrs. CHRYSANTHOPOULOS (Greece), speaking on behalf of the 12 members of the European Economic Community, said that the Twelve had taken note of the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1991 and, in particular, of the amendments recommended by CPC that concerned the Third Committee. The Twelve would object to any recommendation from the Third Committee to the Fifth Committee suggesting that the matter be reopened. They would simply like to stress the priority that the Twelve attached to the efficient functioning of the various United Nations and Treaty bodies concerned with the protection of human rights, including the Centre for Human Rights. With regard to the introductory draft for the next medium-term plan, the Twelve supported the observations and recommendations of CPC that were favourable to the structural simplification proposed by the Secretariat. The Twelve might take position again on that question on the basis of a new draft that would be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session.

2. Mrs. PELLICER (Mexico) said that Mexico had already explained in other committees its position on paragraph 33 of the introduction to the medium-term plan which authorised the strengthening, dilution or elimination of certain activities. For the moment, the Third Committee did not have sufficient criteria to make a considered judgement of the suitability of such a reform. It would be interesting to know the basis for the decision to abandon the system used so far and what would be the advantages of reducing the major programmes from 31 to 4 and the existing programmes from 148 to 40. Those reductions would not be sufficient to ensure the rationalisation and improvement of the operation of the United Nations that was indeed necessary. Rather, they would result in the elimination or weakening of programmes which were very important for the developing countries.

3. The Committee for Programme and Co-ordination had requested the Secretariat to draw up an unofficial list of the programmes concerned with restructuring in order to have a clearer idea of the objectives of such a revision. That list was considered to be useful but inadequate. The Secretariat had therefore decided to refer the question to the Main Committees of the General Assembly. However, the Committees, in responding to such a request, did not even have the document before them. Mexico therefore requested that the list in question should be circulated as an official document and hoped that the request would be duly noted and that the Fifth Committee would also be informed.

4. Mrs. WALDER-BRUNDIN (Sweden) said that, in view of the extensive and wide-ranging international co-operation of today, she agreed with the Secretary-General's comment in the introduction to the medium-term plan (A/43/329) that priorities would have to be clearly determined and more rigorously observed than in the past. Even if new human rights instruments might be needed in some

(Mrs. Walder-Brundin, Sweden)

areas, particularly regarding the rights of the child, the abolition of the death penalty and the defence of human rights, the United Nations should, during the plan period, focus mainly on efforts to achieve universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms which had already been laid down. The capacity of the United Nations to deal effectively with global and regional issues that were important for ensuring social progress, including the advancement of women, should be strengthened. Other important issues were the equalization of opportunities for disabled people and the eradication of racism. Sweden agreed on the importance of the problem areas identified by the Secretary-General, i.e., disease control, drug abuse and so on. It also concurred with the view that multilateral efforts to assist national authorities to overcome such social threats should be encouraged.

5. Mr. WALDROP (United States of America) said that paragraph 47 of the medium-term plan highlighted the critical role played by the United Nations in the area of human rights. However, the paragraph failed to devote sufficient emphasis to the basic freedoms cherished by human beings around the world. Although theories of new rights would continue to be advanced, they could not be allowed to detract from the core issue: respect for the inalienable civil rights with which every human being was endowed, regardless of race, religion, gender, nationality, legal status or social position. The United Nations had a unique role to play in providing technical assistance to developing countries to build up their infrastructure with respect to human rights. That capability must be strengthened as global standards of justice evolved, and yet the draft medium-term plan neglected that element. Further, the draft failed to incorporate an important lesson of experience, namely, that to maintain credibility for promoting human rights anywhere, the United Nations must concern itself with freedoms everywhere.

6. With regard to paragraphs 67 and 68, the United States felt that drug abuse was one of the most important issues confronting the international community and it must be given sufficient resources to carry out the world-wide struggle against drugs.

7. Throughout the medium-term plan there were references to decisions of special conferences, commemorative years and ongoing decades. The United States urged the utmost restraint in making such decisions since the proliferation of the observances in question only served to dilute their effectiveness and that of the medium-term plan itself.

8. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, if there were no objections, he would send to the President of the General Assembly a letter summarizing the views that had been expressed on the item.

9. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 103: INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFIC IN DRUGS (continued)
(A/43/3, chap. V, sect. D. A/43/91, A/43/202, A/43/373, A/43/399, A/43/423,
A/43/435, A/43/480, A/43/510-S/20091, A/43/678, A/43/679, A/43/684 and A/43/709)

10. Mr. SOTO GARCIA (Cuba) said that Cuba, which did not produce, process nor abuse drugs, nevertheless played an active part in the world-wide campaign against that scourge. On humanitarian grounds, and having compassion for people who were suffering in the throes of an evil which his country had managed to overcome, Cuba showed no mercy for foreign traffickers who violated its territorial waters and airspace; it did not hesitate to prosecute them, imprison them and destroy their merchandise. Nevertheless, like the rest of the international community, he was aware that much still remained to be done to eliminate the problem which called for a multidisciplinary and multilateral approach.

11. It was indeed encouraging to note that, even though they continued to assign responsibility for the drug problem to the "producer" countries, the "consumer" countries had come to recognise both the role played by demand and the importance that the introduction of substitute crops might have, but it was ignoring the facts of history to speak of substitute crops in terms of crops that were truly traditional, such as maize and coffee, which had been supplanted only because of the emergence of more profitable crops on the world market. Farmers in the developing countries, while allowing themselves to be enticed by offers of profit and of protection by drug traffickers, actually wished only to ensure their own livelihood. In order to induce them to stop growing illegal crops, economic conditions must be created to afford them a decent livelihood by means of economic recovery in the third world and the establishment of a new international economic order. It was also mistaken to think of solving the drug problem by interfering in the internal affairs of States, denigrating the Governments of other countries or violating the sovereignty of other nations for political and other questionable ends. It was just as simplistic to view the anti-drug campaign only in terms of repressive action in the belief that man was basically evil, whereas the problem would have to be attacked at its roots and a solution found for the crisis in human values resulting from the materialism predominant in consumer countries.

12. Cuba shared the interest generated by the draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, but believed that the convention should be based on the principles of shared responsibility and of equality between States and on respect for the sovereignty, culture and interest of all nations. While there was an urgent need for an instrument that would introduce greater coherence and effectiveness, it was no less necessary for it to be as comprehensive as possible and to take into account the acquired experience of all.

13. Mr. Jativa (Ecuador) took the Chair.

14. Mr. GRILLO (Colombia) paid tribute to the courageous position taken by Mrs. Reagan in her statement on the international campaign against traffic in drugs, in which she had gone much further than all that had been said by the United States on the subject previously, because she had recognized that that country bore

(Mr. Grillo, Colombia)

the full responsibility for the problem of drug abuse, which was rampant in the United States, and should stop shifting that responsibility onto other countries. Colombia also wished to extend heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Reagan for the tribute which she had paid to the heroic struggle being waged by Colombia to escape from the terrible hold of traffickers over its territory.

15. It was by combating that scourge, both in the streets of the United States or of other consumer countries and in the streets of Colombia, that the scourge of the illicit production of and trafficking in drugs could be overcome. However, in spite of the efforts made at great expense by Colombia, in particular within the framework of rehabilitation programmes and the introduction of crop substitutes in the coca-producing areas, the international drug traffic had not diminished, for the simple reason that Colombia's place had been taken by other countries. The consumer cared little whether drugs came from Colombia or elsewhere, provided that he had a supply to meet his demand. The problem was too complex and had too many international ramifications for one country to be able to resolve it by itself. International co-operation in that area was therefore necessary. Colombia hoped in that regard that the new international convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances soon to be adopted would be the effective legal framework which the world needed in that area, account being taken of the need to respect the security and legitimate interests of all countries. Existing co-operation must be intensified within the framework of the United Nations, but also within the framework of regional organizations, such as the Inter-American Commission for Drug Abuse Control and the South American Treaty on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. The financial resources devoted to crop substitution programmes should also be increased with a view to integrated development and the reduction of illicit trades in precursors. Colombia would, as in the past, continue to allocate a considerable portion of its budget to those activities even though those resources would be taken away from programmes for social assistance and the combating of poverty. It wished to pay tribute in that connection to the flexibility and discretion shown by the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control and the support which it provided for the execution of programmes adapted to each country and to the effective and impartial mobilization of credits earmarked for the struggle against narcotic drugs. The Governments of all consumer countries should, for their part, seek to reduce the illicit demand for drugs, which was at the origin of the supply, and recognize the moral, and not solely economic, dimension of the problems. It was interesting to note, in the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1987, that secret laboratories for manufacturing synthetic drugs seemed to have emerged in those same countries. Would that be a means of ending illicit drug trafficking once and for all?

16. As a result of the tremendous economic power at their disposal, their strong men and their links with terrorism which enabled them to defy Governments openly, the traffickers had succeeded in creating a State within a State, which was often the source of serious internal disturbances. Colombia proposed, therefore, that in the event of seizure, the assets of traffickers should revert to the Fund which would reinvest them in programmes for the social rehabilitation of drug addicts.

(Mr. Grillo, Colombia)

In conclusion, it requested that each should finally assume his responsibilities in the matter and show realism for the purpose of eliminating that scourge which threatened the stability of many democratic Governments.

17. Mr. LINDHOLM (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that the combating of drugs, a global problem with social, economic, cultural and political ramifications, called for a range of initiatives on many levels in order to prevent the illicit production and trafficking of drugs, as well as dissuading people from abuse and treating drug addicts. There must also be an awareness of the disastrous effects of drug dependence, and the necessary resources must be provided for those efforts. Such wide-ranging action could not be undertaken without effective international co-operation. Individual countries and regions needed aid in identifying problems and initiating concrete solutions, co-ordinating the various initiatives and exchanging ideas and experiences. The United Nations had a major role to play in that regard, which it was scarcely able to do because of the lack of the necessary economic and human resources.

18. The three United Nations agencies specialising in the combating of drugs were relatively small organisations. The United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, financed by voluntary contributions, had succeeded in developing its drug control activities. It had developed flexible working methods, which had enabled it to provide assistance to those countries and regions that needed it. The Nordic countries hoped that the Fund would be able to develop its activities further, which would only be possible if more countries contributed to it. At the present time, a dozen countries were financing approximately 90 per cent of its activities.

19. It was now proposed that a further reduction should be made in the already very limited budgets of the two other agencies specialising in drug control: the Division of Narcotic Drugs and the International Narcotics Control Board. Those two agencies already had a very extensive mandate, and their tasks would increase still further as a result of activities for follow-up of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and important tasks that would inevitably fall to them as a result of the new convention against illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances which was currently being drafted. In view of the limited financial and human resources available to them how could they discharge their mission satisfactorily?

20. In that connection, attention should be drawn also to the necessity of a more effective utilization of existing resources. He wondered, in particular, whether the agencies that were financed under the regular budget might co-ordinate their efforts in a better way and whether the tasks given to those agencies could be better defined with the aim of using available resources more effectively. The Nordic countries wished to emphasize how important it was that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and other competent bodies should continue the debate on those issues with the aim of proposing means of increasing the effectiveness of United Nations initiatives.

(Mr. Lindholm, Sweden)

21. The International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking had demonstrated the will of countries to improve their initiatives concerning the drug problem. One of the most important results of the Conference had been the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities for Drug Abuse Control. In February 1988, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had made a proposal to the Economic and Social Council on activities for follow-up of the Conference, stressing concrete areas that should receive priority attention. The Economic and Social Council had accepted that proposal in its resolution 1988/9. The Conference would not have been truly effective unless there was substantial follow-up activity at the international level in the prevention and production of demand, the control of supply, the suppression of illicit traffic and the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts. In that context, special mention should be made of the work of non-governmental organizations. Bearing in mind the major difficulties experienced by many developing countries, the Nordic countries wished to draw attention to the need to assist them in improving their capacity for controlling illicit drug trafficking at points of entry, and monitoring the production, importation and distribution of substances under international control and in developing national laboratories. It was also necessary to assist them in working out comprehensive plans to control drug trafficking. Efforts should also be focused on education, improved equipment and a better analysis of available information. Many countries were also in need of assistance in intensifying treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts. The spread of all HIV and AIDS among drug addicts was a frightening new aspect of the drug problem and could only be dealt with if drug addicts could be offered support and care.

22. The Nordic countries considered that the specialized agencies, such as UNESCO, WHO, ILO, FAO and UNIDO, should participate more actively in the work of the United Nations in that area.

23. The conference of plenipotentiaries to be held in November 1988 would finalize the draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Once adopted, the convention should be ratified by as many Governments as possible in order to make it an effective instrument. The Nordic countries stressed, in that regard, that all countries should accept and adhere to the two conventions in force (the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1953 and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971).

24. Mr. MIYATA (Japan) pointed out that, in the past 10 years, drug abuse had become a menace not only to the health and welfare of the individual but to the fundamental integrity of nation and society as well. One of the most alarming developments was the spread of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) among drug addicts. Another disquieting aspect of the problem derived from the exorbitant profits to be made from drug trafficking and the resulting increase in illicit activities. Given the steady growth in demand and in illicit trafficking, no single State could wage the battle against drugs alone. It was therefore more than ever necessary for the international community to join together and present a united front in order to combat that scourge effectively.

(Mr. Miyata, Japan)

25. It was therefore gratifying that, at summit meetings such as the one held in May 1988, in Toronto, and at other regional and international meetings, countries had confirmed their political determination to continue the battle against drugs. The International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking had provided a timely opportunity to raise global awareness of the issue.

26. The Conference had given renewed impetus to the formulation of the draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Numerous meetings had been held in 1987 and 1988 and the draft had been considered article by article. The text would be submitted to the forthcoming conference of plenipotentiaries for adoption.

27. The text, which referred to various aspects of illicit drug trafficking that were not yet covered by existing international agreements, dealt inter alia with the following issues: application of adequate sanctions; identification, tracing, freezing and forfeiture of proceeds of drug trafficking; extradition of offenders; mutual legal assistance; international co-operation and assistance for transit States; controlled delivery; measures to monitor substances frequently used in the illicit processing and manufacturing of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; eradication of illicit crops and elimination of illicit demand for drugs; measures to ensure that commercial carriers and the postal service were not used in the illicit traffic; and suppression of illicit traffic by sea.

28. The first step should be to avoid duplication and contradiction with existing agreements, specifically the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1953, and the 1972 Protocol, and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971.

29. Secondly, the new convention must be universal so that it could be accepted and implemented by as many States as possible. That was of crucial importance, since there were significant differences among countries and regions with respect to patterns of drug abuse and illicit trafficking and also the extent of the resulting human and social devastation.

30. Thirdly, it was absolutely essential to ensure that the Convention did not adversely affect the legal activities of the chemical and pharmaceutical industries.

31. He was gratified to hear that the United Nations would shortly be organizing a second regional meeting of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies so as to promote co-operation in the implementation of the convention.

32. Another important result of the Conference had been the adoption of the Declaration and of the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control. The latter did not have binding force but provided a comprehensive set of guidelines.

33. In the annex to its resolution 1988/9 the Economic and Social Council had listed suggested activities for follow-up of the Conference. In that connection, he requested that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should study fully measures

(Mr. Miyata, Japan)

which could ensure the follow-up of the Conference in the light of the Organization's financial situation, since there would be a wide gap between available resources and the action required by the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline. In that regard, the Commission might study various possibilities, such as the appointment of a special rapporteur, constitution of a small unit, establishment of a new organ for follow-up activities to the Conference and establishment of an international drug abuse assessment system - on which Member States had not yet reached agreement - in order to deepen understanding of the problem and gain broader support from Member States.

34. His delegation also hoped that at its next session, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs would fully study the information strategy to be submitted to it by the Secretary-General with a view to the creation, within existing United Nations structures, of an information system. His Government would fully support the follow-up activities of the Conference.

35. In compliance with the Declaration and Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline, Japan had developed a strategy for eliminating drug abuse; it comprised a public information campaign, strict law enforcement, treatment of drug addicts and international co-operation. Those measures would be updated every year in response to changing domestic and international circumstances.

36. With respect to international co-operation, his delegation attached great importance to co-operation in poppy substitution programmes and in human resource development programmes particularly in Asia. On the supply side, control of production was closely related to the degree of economic and social development of each country and, on the consumption side, control of demand must be linked to publicity campaigns to prevent drug abuse. In that connection, in 1987, Japan had set up a drug abuse prevention centre. Moreover, since 1962 it had been holding seminars on the control of drug-related offences. In 1987, it had hosted a meeting of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies for the Asia and Pacific region and, in June 1988, it had hosted a ministerial conference on security matters for the Asia and Pacific region, which had considered that issue.

37. Japan had co-operated consistently in the various drug control programmes launched by the Organization through its financial contribution to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. In 1988, it had contributed \$670,000 to that Fund. It had also contributed to the seminar organized in China in 1988 by the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB).

38. The Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs had been seriously affected by the financial constraints affecting the United Nations system. Japan was concerned and hoped that the Fifth Committee would study the problems carefully since the fight against drugs should be one of the Organization's top priorities.

39. Mr. MIKUCHAUSKA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that drug abuse was not only a social scourge but also had human dimensions since it attacked what was most precious to man, the mind.

(Mr. Mikuchauska, USSR)

40. Illicit drug trafficking not only undermined the economic and social order but, since it was linked to the major international criminal organizations, the global trade in arms, subversive activities and international terrorism, it also jeopardized the internal political situation of many States.

41. The gravity and dimensions of the problem called for concerted efforts on the part of the international community, both bilaterally and multilaterally. The International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking had highlighted the political determination of States to combat the spread of drug abuse and illicit trafficking in what was called "white death". The Conference had considered the entire range of drug-related problems and it had also drawn up guidelines for action at the national and international levels. The main thing now was to put the decisions taken at the Conference into practice.

42. His delegation supported the specific recommendations for implementation of the decisions of the Conference which the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had made at its tenth special session. Accordingly, it felt that the Secretariat should provide adequate support to the Division of Narcotic Drugs and to the International Narcotics Control Board.

43. He noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in the preparation of the draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. He expressed the hope that the conference of plenipotentiaries to be held at the end of 1988 would succeed in adopting a balanced text acceptable to the largest possible number of States. Such an instrument would strengthen existing international conventions on drugs.

44. The Soviet Union participated in the activities of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control by providing it with medical assistance, medicines and specialist services and by training professional staff.

45. The action undertaken at the international level did not mean that the importance of the measures to be taken by States at the national level should be forgotten. His Government, concerned at the number of drug addicts in the Soviet Union, had assigned various government departments and social organizations responsibility for controlling drug abuse, with the assistance of the media. State opium crops had been reduced, concentrated and better protected. The Government had decided to discontinue cultivation of black poppies. In order to eliminate the raw material, a large-scale operation had been launched in areas where they grew wild and had led to the discovery of 4,000 illegal crops of white poppies and hemp. There were, however, particularly in Central Asia, entire plantations of hemp, the destruction of which raised a number of ecological problems.

46. In 1987, the Soviet Union had adopted legislation on the illegal cultivation of white poppies and certain varieties of hemp and the sale of narcotic drugs. In 1987, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR had issued a decree authorizing the implementation of broader social and administrative measures. Measures were also being taken to educate, treat and rehabilitate drug addicts.

(Mr. Mikuchauska, USSR)

The number of hospitals and specialized services providing free treatment was being increased. Stress was also laid on the responsibility of the Soviet customs services for preventing the entry or transit of drugs. Those services were currently co-operating in all measures taken by the United Nations, the Customs Co-operation Council and regional organizations to control illegal drug trafficking. Successful operations had been carried out in conjunction with a number of Western countries and, in September 1988, the Soviet and British customs services had signed an agreement providing for joint efforts in controlling illegal drug trafficking.

47. The Soviet Union supported the efforts being made by Latin American countries (Mexico, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia) to put an end to the criminal activities of drug traffickers.

48. As the Commission on Narcotic Drugs was the main body for formulating drug-control policy, his delegation supported the proposal to strengthen the Commission's role and effectiveness.

49. Mr. SCHLEGEL (German Democratic Republic) said that no country was protected from the dangers of drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking and that there was no machinery providing security from the smuggling and abuse of drugs. Purposeful national and international measures were therefore needed.

50. The International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking held in Vienna in 1987 had given fresh momentum to international efforts to tackle the drug problem. The Declaration and the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control provided guidelines, and resolute action was made all the more urgent by the continuing deterioration of the situation in many countries.

51. Given the evident links between drug trafficking and the critical economic and social conditions in the producer countries, as well as between drug consumption and the social situation in which many addicts found themselves, it was essential to create a favourable socio-economic environment at the national level if drug abuse was to be effectively controlled.

52. At the international level, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had a growing role to play in that endeavour, and a number of other specialized organizations should also be involved in the follow-up to the recommendations of the Vienna Conference. His Government was prepared to give its full support to such efforts, within the limits of its resources.

53. His delegation regarded action against drug abuse and illicit trafficking as an important humanitarian concern with medical, social, economic and political dimensions. His country received more than 50 million visitors each year, including a large number of transit travellers from countries where drug abuse was widespread. As a party to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1954 and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and having consistently applied their

(Mr. Schlegel, German Democratic Republic)

provisions, his Government had enacted strict legislation against the illegal import, transit and export of such substances. It strictly observed the legal provisions of other countries concerning the export and import of medicaments, chemicals, solvents or precursors.

54. At its meetings, the open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Group had succeeded in harmonizing the essential parts of the text of the draft convention against the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. However, in articles 1 to 6, a number of important matters were as yet unresolved (definitions, offences and penalties, jurisdiction, seizure, extradition, legal assistance and transit States). The conference of plenipotentiaries to be held in Vienna at the end of November would be able to complete its work successfully only if all sides showed realism and moderation. His delegation hoped that the new convention would duly reflect the interests of all States and would take account of the two earlier Conventions of 1961 and 1971. In particular, it should fully preserve the sovereignty of States and preclude any abuse for political ends. Only then could it become an international legal instrument conducive to businesslike co-operation between States.

55. Mr. ABRAHAM (Hungary) said that no country could fight alone against the problem of drugs. It was the collective responsibility of all States to provide appropriate resources and to take practical measures for the elimination of illicit production of, trafficking in and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. His Government participated actively in the United Nations programmes for drug-abuse control by co-operating with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the International Narcotics Control Board, the Division of Narcotic Drugs, WHO and other international organizations.

56. With regard to the budgetary and current staffing situation of the Division of Narcotic Drugs and the International Narcotics Control Board, his delegation supported the recommendation in the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/1988/13) to maintain, and possibly increase, the level of resources available to those bodies.

57. In his delegation's view, action-oriented programmes and initiatives should be taken and an information strategy launched in drug control units, and the Department of Public Information should further increase public awareness of those problems.

58. Drug problems, linked as they were to organized crime, undermined social stability and public safety and led to social disintegration. His delegation therefore supported the efforts of the international community to increase the efficiency of criminal justice systems, so as to be able to arrest, prosecute and sentence traffickers and to strengthen national and international legal instruments to that end. It could never be emphasized enough how essential international co-operation was for breaking up international organized crime gangs and for confiscating the illegal profits reaped from the illicit traffic in drugs. New, efficient anti-drug methods were needed for that purpose.

(Mr. Abraham, Hungary)

59. Hungary was a party to all the major international instruments on drugs and took an active part in the preparation of the draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, an instrument that could only develop international co-operation still further. In that regard, his delegation emphasized the need to bring national judicial and administrative systems into line with the provisions of the new convention.

60. The campaign against the illicit supply of drugs was imperative, but not enough; steps must still be taken to reduce demand. That was, of course, a national obligation, but national efforts could be assisted to a great extent by international co-operation. The Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline provided a number of recommendations and practical measures for preventing and reducing the demand for illegal drugs, curbing supply, suppressing trafficking and treating addicts.

61. Hungary was convinced that universal accession to the international drug-control instruments and their strict implementation could only strengthen national action and international co-operation.

62. Ms. SKOWRON-OLSZOWSKA (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) pointed out that UNESCO had begun to take measures against drug abuse in 1971 with the adoption of General Conference resolution 1.202 which advocated a programme of study and action in research, education and communication. She outlined the measures recently taken by UNESCO in accordance with the recommendations of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, held at Vienna in 1987.

63. In particular, UNESCO focused on three of the targets formulated in chapter I of the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control: prevention through education; prevention of drug abuse in the workplace; and the role of the media. It considered both the legal and illegal aspects of drug abuse and acted at the regional and international levels. It planned to conduct a survey in Latin America among governmental and non-governmental institutions with a view to encouraging them to exchange information and co-operate. Seeking to promote the establishment of a co-operative network in Africa, it had organized a meeting (scheduled for December 1988) of teams from Senegal and Ghana, which would exchange information and would consider the possibility of establishing a regional plan for West Africa. It was preparing an international meeting of experts for 1989 on the role of the media.

64. With a view to strengthening its action, UNESCO co-operated with other organizations and individuals, including the European Community and the Francophone Drug Control Institute, in order to prepare video materials for use in three African countries: Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso. The epidemiological surveys conducted by UNESCO and its knowledge of local conditions would be very useful in that joint endeavour. UNESCO collaborated closely with a regional organization, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), under its Caribbean Network of Educational Innovation for Development (CARNEID) programme, which focused on the

(Ms. Skowron-Olasowska, UNESCO)

development of projects for preventive education against drug abuse. It had also assisted Jamaica, in co-operation with the World Health Organisation (WHO), to implement a similar programme, whose results were very encouraging. It was to launch an audio-visual pilot campaign for the prevention of drug abuse in France, in collaboration with the International Public Relations Association and a governmental service for young drug addicts. That campaign would be evaluated and would possibly be extended to other countries. UNESCO co-operated with a German organisation which issued awards every two years for international television programmes devised for young people and was endeavouring to have a prize awarded in 1990 for a drug-abuse prevention programme.

65. In its anti-drug campaign, UNESCO continued to co-operate with other United Nations agencies: with ILO for the production of kits for use by the media to combat alcohol and other drug abuse in the workplace, and with WHO for the preparation of drug-abuse prevention programmes for adolescents attending school and those out of school in developing countries.

66. UNESCO contributed to the execution of projects financed by the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, including an epidemiological survey on drug consumption among young people in Senegal and Ghana, which would make it possible to carry out a drug-abuse prevention pilot experiment in the suburbs of Dakar, thanks to a thorough analysis of economic, social and cultural factors. The public awareness campaign in Benin was being continued and improved by new approaches: increased participation of the population; the promotion of community activity; and the production of audio-visual aids. In Burma, a project on the intensive production of teaching materials for local communities was entering its third phase of implementation. Several countries, including Swaziland, Argentina, Sierra Leone, Cameroon and Nepal, had requested the assistance of UNESCO under its Participation Programme, so as to be able to carry out various anti-drug abuse activities.

67. Unfortunately, the financial resources were not commensurate with the extent of that world phenomenon. In some cases they had even diminished, whereas more urgent action on the part of the United Nations system was increasingly necessary. Moreover, the budgets for prevention were markedly smaller than those earmarked for suppression and reduction of supply. However, on no account should the preventive approach be neglected.

68. In concluding, she recalled a passage from a booklet, published in 1987 by UNESCO with the assistance of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, on the role of preventive education in drug abuse. The booklet emphasized the alarming nature of international reports on drug abuse, which was a problem that increasingly affected young people in industrialized countries and the developing regions and jeopardized the health of the population, as well as the economic and even political stability of nations.

69. Mrs. ASHTON (Bolivia), outlining the thrust of Bolivia's campaign against illicit trafficking in drugs, said that the campaign was co-ordinated with the programme of crop conversion, the first stage of which was voluntary cessation of the cultivation of illicit plants and their substitution.
70. The National Council for Eliminating Drug Abuse was carrying out a comprehensive campaign of research, communication, treatment, readjustment and the social rehabilitation of drug addicts.
71. The results obtained in terms of suppression had been encouraging. From January to September 1988, the forces responsible for suppressing the traffic in drugs had seized 9.2 tons of cocaine, which had been burned. They had arrested 617 offenders, including some foreigners, had sentenced 208 other offenders and had had 920 clandestine factories and laboratories destroyed.
72. In July 1988, the Bolivian Congress had adopted a new law governing coca and controlled substances, with 149 articles covering all aspects of the problem, from the protection of the coca-growers' authorized crop to the gradual reduction of illegal crops and their substitution. The law prohibited the utilization of chemical substances, herbicides, biological agents and defoliants. It also laid down rules for controlled substances, established the regulations of the national authority in charge of the national campaign and set up a criminal law system presenting penalties ranging from imprisonment to confiscation of property, equipment, etc. A summary of the law had been made available to the members of the Third Committee.
73. Bolivia had spared no effort to free itself of an evil that threatened its moral values and institutions, which it would defend at all costs.
74. The international, bilateral and multilateral assistance that it received enabled Bolivia to implement programmes, which it would have had great difficulty in carrying out otherwise. Her Government thanked the North American, Latin American, European and other countries that had provided Bolivia with bilateral aid.
75. Referring to General Assembly resolution 42/113 and the report of the Secretary-General (A/43/684), her delegation hoped that that key aspect of the international drug control campaign would be dealt with without delay.
76. The report contained a number of positive elements, including the preparation of regional workshops on the use of community resources for preventing and reducing illegal drug use. Such programmes should also, to the extent possible, address the problems of children who had fallen prey to drug trafficking organizations.
77. The seriousness of the problem highlighted the importance of the regional meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, at which they could exchange experiences, information and methods.
78. Her delegation noted with satisfaction that the Division of Narcotic Drugs was co-operating with Interpol and the Customs Co-operation Council for the purpose of revising two training manuals on the subject.

(Mrs. Ashton, Bolivia)

79. Bolivia supported the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, particularly with regard to agro-industrial development programmes.

80. Unfortunately, a number of regional commissions had not been able to participate, for lack of resources, in the inter-agency meetings on co-ordinating international drug abuse control.

81. The forthcoming adoption of a new international convention would be an important step in the campaign against drug trafficking. Above all, that instrument should supplement, while bearing in mind the current situation, the aspects not dealt with in other instruments in force. Her delegation hoped that the Division of Narcotic Drugs would apprise the Committee of organizational matters and was concerned that the relevant documentation had not yet been distributed to delegations in New York. It was to be hoped that the Secretariat would remedy that situation.

82. The Declaration adopted at the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking stated that each country must assume its part of the responsibility in the fight against that scourge. For its part, Bolivia would make every effort in that sense.

83. It was essential for the international community, Governments, institutions and individuals to marshal their efforts at all levels in the fight against drugs. It was important to leave behind the period of mistrust and recrimination in order to arrive at real co-operation between States. The international community had appropriate legal instruments for continuing to exercise drug control. What was important at the current stage was that States should demonstrate their political determination to eradicate that evil once and for all.

84. Mr. Abulhasan (Kuwait) resumed the Chair.

85. Ms. WROBLESKI (United States of America) evoked the tragedy of drug abuse, which in many ways affected the entire world community. The previous week, President Reagan's wife had spoken to the Committee on the collective national responsibility for the problem. Each nation must take responsibility for its own drug problem; the United States had already done so. President Reagan had recently proclaimed "Drug Free America Week", demonstrating his commitment to providing a drug-free environment, and the next Administration would continue along the same path.

86. The United States would devote unprecedented resources during the next few years to eliminating drug abuse, *inter alia*, in the area of treatment and education. Moreover, current legislation made users responsible for their drug use by imposing fines and denying certain federal benefits to those convicted.

87. While countries themselves were the best judge of what worked to reduce demand at home, they could not individually address the problem of drug trafficking. Almost all nations of the world were prey to the activities of drug traffickers:

(Ms. Wroblewski, United States)

the transshipment of illegal drugs and chemicals essential to their preparation, money laundering, the flight of criminals. The transnational nature of the problem required a concerted international approach and multilateral co-ordination of efforts. Encouraging steps had already been taken, such as the drafting of the international convention against the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances proposed by Venezuela, on which more than 80 nations had collaborated. The Convention could not, however, be the least common denominator of national efforts but must be a way of augmenting co-operation across borders. The success of such a convention would confirm the role of the United Nations as a catalyst and a leader in the international drug control effort, would provide help to the countries bearing a greater share of the burdens created by drug trafficking and would tell the traffickers that there was a world-wide commitment to stop their activities and to prosecute them for their crimes, wherever committed.

88. The International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking had enabled Member States to give the United Nations a clear mandate in other areas of drug control: demand reduction and control of illicit production and supply. The United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control was helping to step up programmes in crop elimination, alternative income generation, strengthened law-enforcement capabilities, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation.

89. The question was what else the United Nations could do. As called for in the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline, many countries would like to see specific methods of crop reduction, including a study of the use of herbicides, as a follow-up to the highly respected United Nations study of 1979. Some States considered that the area was too controversial for the United Nations, but surely the United Nations could not ignore any facet of the problem and must encourage initiatives in all areas of drug control. It must also be more involved in drug abuse epidemiology, training of law-enforcement officers and the formulation of objectives for the assistance it provided to countries. Those were all priorities identified by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

90. The fight against drug addiction required the collaboration of all States and the sharing of expertise, and in the new phase of drug control that the United Nations was entering, the United States pledged to act accordingly through bigger and better programmes, greater resources and new initiatives. But it was also essential to speak out publicly against countries that refused to co-operate and that facilitated drug trafficking by turning a blind eye to the devastating effects that narcotics had on the rest of the world.

91. Mr. PIBULSONGGRAM (Thailand) welcomed the great success of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking which, nevertheless, was only a beginning. It was now necessary to adopt concrete measures at the national, regional and international levels. He drew attention to the reports of the Secretary-General (A/43/679 and A/43/684), with which his country agreed in many respects, such as the suggestion to strengthen the Division of Narcotic Drugs and the INCB and to maintain or increase the level of contributions to the United

(Mr. Pibulsonggram, Thailand)

Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. One could plead financial difficulties, but if the will to act was strong enough, the necessary resources would be found.

92. Thailand also supported Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/9 which committed the United Nations system to endeavour to reduce demand, control supply, suppress illicit trafficking and facilitate the rehabilitation of victims. Inter-agency co-operation would be essential in that regard.

93. He welcomed the drafting of a convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, which would strengthen existing international laws and would assist Governments in their joint efforts, especially with respect to the confiscation of the proceeds of illicit traffic and mutual legal assistance. Thailand looked forward to participating soon in the conference of plenipotentiaries which would be convened at Vienna to adopt that important convention.

94. He pointed out the measures taken recently by his country to combat drug addiction: reduction by nearly 60 per cent of the opium cultivation, accompanied by measures for socio-economic development. Major crop substitution programmes and community development benefiting 300 villages and 50,000 persons were being implemented with the assistance of the Federal Republic of Germany, Norway and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. Control of illicit cultivation and trafficking received priority attention. Thanks to continued co-operation with other Governments, large quantities of drugs had been seized and clandestine refineries and laboratories destroyed.

95. As a member of the Association of South-East Asian Nations, Thailand attached great importance to regional collaboration which had permitted joint strategies and plans for co-operation in the prevention, suppression and interdiction of trafficking and rehabilitation of victims. Still, the drug menace continued to grow everywhere, and efforts must be intensified to eradicate that evil. As a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Thailand pledged to spare no effort in the joint struggle, which one could not, despite the great costs incurred, afford to lose.

95. Mr. BARNETT (Jamaica) underscored the determination of Governments to fight individually and collectively against drug abuse and trafficking, which the International Conference held at Vienna in June 1987 had permitted them to express.

96. He emphasized the complex nature of the drug problem which had many aspects (consumption, production, transit, supply and illicit trafficking) and which recognized no national or regional borders. As it became more extensive, the traffic used increasingly subtle channels and all sorts of clandestine methods. It often undermined the financial system of countries through tax evasion, banking violations and money laundering. Trafficking was the fuel which kept the drug business going and created an international climate of crime which was a danger to peace and security everywhere.

(Mr. Barnett, Jamaica)

97. Drug abuse had a destructive effect on the individual and on society and was all the more alarming because it affected a growing number of young people, at an increasingly tender age and spread to all social, economic and political groups and across national borders.

98. Drug addiction made heavy demands on society through unemployment, anti-social disruptive behaviour and associated public health problems, including AIDS. His delegation believed that it was at that level that priority action should be taken. User countries would have to provide preventive education and treatment and rehabilitation of addicts. Jamaica noted with satisfaction that the user societies now recognized that more had to be done on their side.

99. Up to the present, emphasis had been placed on production and supply and the countries concerned, including Jamaica, had done their utmost to limit and eradicate production fully. They had made that commitment despite the many political and social problems posed. Viable alternatives had to be found to replace illicit production. Nevertheless, Jamaica was unshakeable in its commitment to fight against that threat by involving all of the society in the struggle.

100. The Jamaican Government had intensified its activities against trafficking, production and use of drugs through the increase of resources devoted to equipment and training of the Defence Force, destruction of illegal airstrips used for trafficking, suppression in the form of heavy fines and seizures, drafting of legislation permitting the seizure of total assets of traffickers, a systematic programme of eradication of production, a national campaign about the dangers of drug abuse launched by the National Council on Drug Abuse established in 1983, and education and public information, especially among vulnerable groups such as young persons, in collaboration with the Ministries of Education, Youth and Health, the University of the West Indies, primary and secondary schools, the Pan-American Health Organization, UNDP, bilateral agencies and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control.

101. The United Nations being in the forefront of international co-operation in that field, his delegation was pleased to see the strengthened co-operation between the Division of Narcotic Drugs, the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Office at Vienna. It hoped that at a time when the action of Governments was at the highest level, United Nations programmes would receive the additional resources required for their execution and called for by the urgency of the problems to be solved.

102. He paid a tribute to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control for the concrete technical and financial assistance which it provided in the formulation and execution of programmes. He welcomed the imminent adoption of the convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, which would assist Member countries to put an end to the scourge of drugs before, it was to be hoped, the end of the next decade.

103. Mr. MOYA PALENCIA (Mexico) said that drug trafficking had recently assumed alarming proportions; the number of drug addicts was increasing, especially among children and youth. Drug trafficking was the cause of serious distortions in national and regional economies; some large international banks "laundered" with impunity the money amassed by the traffickers. At the political level, the situation was most disturbing, as recently indicated by the heads of Latin American Governments meeting at Punta del Este (Uruguay), who had stressed that the problem of drug trafficking threatened social health, institutions and the very notion of the sovereignty of countries and had begun to pervert relations among States. They had also noted that the increase in drug trafficking was due to the increase in demand in the major user countries. In addition, there were the links which had been created in certain countries between drug traffickers and terrorists and other criminals.

104. It was for that reason that all countries must together continue the fight against the scourge; the highly industrialized countries must act in the areas of education, prevention and suppression, and producer countries must take measures to control the sources of production and to find substitutes for illicit cultivation. Transit countries must also join in the common struggle.

105. He therefore welcomed the address of Mrs. Reagan at the previous meeting of the Third Committee as it bore witness to an open-minded attitude and to the indispensable need for the sharing of responsibilities in the fight against the scourge.

106. While Mexico insisted that recipient countries should take measures against drug consumption, that did not mean that efforts to combat production and traffic should not be intensified. The document listing the results of the campaign during the last legislative session would soon be published and presented to members of the Committee.

107. It was essential that the conference of plenipotentiaries which was to meet in Vienna in November 1988 to finalize and adopt an international convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances should be crowned with success. In order to ensure that, four conditions must be met.

108. First, the convention must be a true instrument of co-operation between States. The phase of confrontation must be relegated to the past, and the artificial separation between producer and user countries, which had stood in the way of collective action by all States, must be eliminated.

109. Second, if the convention was to be an effective instrument, it must address all aspects of the problem. It would be ridiculous if the convention sanctioned only the illicit demand for drugs or did not prohibit production. A comprehensive approach was essential.

(Mr. Moya Palencia, Mexico)

110. Third, drug traffickers must be pursued by the weaponry of the law. In that connection, States parties to the future convention must agree to include in their respective national legislations certain minimum standards, which should nevertheless have maximum effect, with a view to facilitating mutual co-operation. Once such a legal common denominator had been established, States should intervene through the application of their own internal legislation. There would be no contradiction between co-operation within the framework of the convention and the application of internal legislative instruments when the necessary provisions to fight the drug traffic on all fronts were incorporated in internal legislation. In that way, each State would co-operate with others under the convention but would apply its own internal regulations regarding the form and modalities of such co-operation.

111. Fourth, it would be a matter for regret, bearing in mind that the international drug traffic represented a threat to the sovereignty of States, if a convention should be adopted which produced the same results. It must be based on the principle that States would implement the provisions of the convention in good faith and would take all measures needed for that purpose at the national and international levels. It should be an instrument which emphasised co-operation between States but which could not be used against the sovereignty, public policy or other fundamental interests of any State and which could not be invoked to justify interference in the internal affairs of the State, through political pressure or the threat of unilateral or collective sanctions.

112. It was the hope of Mexico that the convention, which was to be signed on 20 December 1988, would be an example of political will and co-operation between States in the face of a common enemy, whether in a producer country, in a transit country or in a user country. It was absolutely essential that the results and successes which had recently been achieved and which had culminated in the taking of a unique stand by the international community should be reflected integrally in the text of the Convention and that the instrument should free the world from the drug scourge. Mexico was ready to sign on the stipulated date and wished to stress that that date must not be postponed.

113. Mr. WOTAVA (Austria) said that the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Drug Trafficking had heightened world public awareness of the dangers of drugs, which represented a scourge with known social, economic and even political consequences and which threatened the very foundations of society. In that connection, Austria welcomed the appointment of the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV) as Co-ordinator of all United Nations Drug Control-related Activities. Unfortunately, UNOV and other agencies responsible for the campaign against drugs had not been spared by the financial crisis of the Organization and had been obliged to suffer a staff reduction of 15 per cent or even more at the very time when their responsibilities were increasing as a result of accelerating international co-operation in that field. While those agencies had accepted the cuts as an act of solidarity, they nevertheless hoped that the next budget would redress the imbalance, as otherwise the Organization would risk losing its credibility with the traffickers whom it was mandated to attack and the societies which it was its duty to safeguard. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs

(Mr. Wotava, Austria)

might also be forced to suffer from the consequences of those cuts at its session in 1989. Activities to follow up the decisions taken in 1988 might be endangered for lack of staff. Austria hoped that account would be taken of the recommendation in the report (A/43/16) of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the concern expressed by Member States regarding reductions in posts in smaller offices, especially in the area of narcotics. As it was not possible for the bodies responsible for the campaign against drugs to perform all their responsibilities with the staff at their disposal, Austria proposed to hold in Vienna or elsewhere, perhaps after the second interregional meeting of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies in September 1989, a seminar or workshop with the participation of representatives of the Secretariat, experts and government officials to make suggestions on short- and long-term priorities. Their conclusions would be transmitted to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for consideration in February 1990.

114. In regard to the draft convention against illicit traffic in drugs and psychotropic substances, Austria welcomed every effort which would intensify the campaign and strengthen international co-operation with a view to putting an end, in particular, to the drug transit problem which was of special concern to Austria. Many difficulties remained to be overcome before the final text of the convention could be adopted by the conference of plenipotentiaries convened for that purpose. In view of the complexity of the issues, a third team of interpreters would be essential in order to accelerate the work of the committee of the whole, the sub-committee of the whole and especially the drafting committee, in order to avoid any delay in the adoption of the convention.

115. In conclusion, he considered that the distance between the United Nations Office at Vienna and New York should not lead delegations and officials at United Nations Headquarters to forget the eminent importance of the anti-drug campaign activities which were being carried out by UNOV.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.