



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 34th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ABULHASAN (Kuwait)

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AGENDA ITEM 103: INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFIC IN DRUGS (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 103: INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFIC IN DRUGS (continued)
(A/43/3, chap. V, section 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)

1. Mrs. MUJUMA (Tanzania) said that her country, fully aware of the gravity of the drug problem, supported the international community's efforts to counteract that evil.
2. In Tanzania, cannabis grew wild and was traditionally used as a medicine and a flavouring substance. However, the cultivation, possession and sale of cannabis were prohibited. The Government had also formed a special narcotic squad to combat drug trafficking. Unfortunately, Tanzania had of late become a vital transit point for traffickers who, lured by the lucrative prices fetched by drugs in turbulent South Africa, were increasingly using intermediaries based in Tanzania. There had been reports in the international press of the involvement of Tanzanians in several drug trafficking cases; however on closer examination, such people had proved to be foreigners carrying forged Tanzanian passports. Because of the transnational nature of the illicit drug trade, no country could solve the drug problem without the co-operation of others.
3. The Party and Government of Tanzania had been very active in the campaign against drug abuse, through education and administrative and legal measures. However, law enforcement, especially in the area of illicit trafficking, was hampered by a lack of trained personnel, specialized equipment and dogs for the identification and detection of drugs to cover all ports of entry and exit. A well-equipped laboratory was also needed.
4. It was urgently necessary, therefore, to step up and enhance co-operation, including exchanges of information on suspected couriers and experience in the use of entry point screening techniques, and the reinforcement of border patrols. To combat the drug problem, all efforts must be united, both bilaterally and through the United Nations. Tanzanians were redoubling their own efforts.
5. Mr. ZHANG (China) said that, despite widespread concern throughout the world about the adverse effects of drug abuse on the economic development and social stability of countries, serious problems of drug abuse and illicit trafficking persisted in many parts of the world.
6. His delegation noted with satisfaction international efforts to combat drug abuse: the tenth special session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held in February 1988, had discussed the formulation of a new convention on narcotic drugs and the implementation of the recommendations of the 1987 International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking; many countries had put into effect the Declaration and Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline adopted at that Conference; and many proposals for international action had been put forward.

(Mr. Zhang, China)

7. His delegation endorsed many of the suggestions included in the report of the tenth special session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as well as the resolutions on narcotic drugs adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1988. It regretted, however, that a shortage of human and financial resources in the narcotics field was affecting the implementation of the various activities, and hoped that the bodies concerned would use available resources to the full in order to achieve maximum results.

8. Regarding the preparation of an international convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, although all States basically shared the same principles and objectives, the fact that the convention touched upon questions of domestic law had given rise to differences of opinion which had prevented a consensus from being reached on the content and wording of certain articles. His delegation hoped that solutions would be found through a spirit of mutual understanding and that the plenipotentiary conference would be able to accomplish its mission successfully.

9. China, which in the past had had a long and devastating experience with opium, had always supported the international campaign against drug abuse. It had acceded to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1953 and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. It had also taken an active part in the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and recommended an expert to serve on the International Narcotics Control Board.

10. At the national level, the Chinese Government, anxious to safeguard its people's health, sought to ensure that narcotics were used strictly for medical and scientific purposes. All illegal planting, production, trafficking, importing and exporting of drugs was strictly prohibited and offenders were severely punished. The Government had taken a number of measures in that regard: it had established a Conference on the Co-ordination of Narcotic Drug Control to facilitate co-operation with the United Nations and other countries and in 1988 had supplemented existing legislation by promulgating the Narcotic Drug Control Act and formulating supplementary regulations on the import and export of psychotropic substances.

11. At the international level, China maintained fruitful ties with the Division of Narcotic Drugs, the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, the International Narcotics Control Board, UNDP, Interpol, the Customs Co-operation Council and WHO. It also engaged in bilateral co-operation with the United States of America, France and the Federal Republic of Germany. As the Chinese Minister of Health had reaffirmed at Beijing on the occasion of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the Government and people of China would continue their relentless efforts to eliminate drug abuse from the world.

12. Mr. AL-MAJED (Bahrain) said that it was particularly difficult to combat illegal trafficking in drugs because the market for them was extremely lucrative. While the drug problem affected all countries, developed and developing, the scope of the campaign so far undertaken to combat it was too restricted.

(Mr. Al-Majed, Bahrain)

13. His Government had enacted special legislation on drug use. That legislation, which was in conformity with Islamic law, provided severe penalties, including life imprisonment, for drug users and traffickers. That legal crackdown had yielded positive results and drug-related crime had declined in Bahrain since 1985.

14. A drug prevention and education campaign had also been launched throughout the country. At universities and other institutions, meetings were held to exchange experiences and identify the most appropriate ways of overcoming the drug problem.

15. At the international level, Bahrain attached great importance to the co-ordinating work done by the United Nations drug control units. The activities of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control in particular deserved the full support of the international community.

16. Mrs. LISSIDINI (Uruguay) said that her country was alarmed by the increase in drug trafficking whose operators, in the search for new markets, were now trying to attract young people.

17. Drug addiction in Uruguay had certainly not reached the disturbing proportions it had assumed in other countries. Nevertheless, her Government, in its serious concern at the problem and its desire to raise public awareness, had developed a national plan for drug control.

18. Because the problem of drug addiction had many facets and thus required an integrated and co-ordinated approach, her country had established, in 1988, a National Office to Combat Drug Abuse and Trafficking with the authority to propose measures and to monitor their implementation by public and private institutions working to combat drug use and trafficking and involved in the rehabilitation of drug addicts.

19. The Office was trying first of all to reduce the supply of drugs: to that end, it had enacted legal provisions aimed at strengthening law enforcement and had reached agreements with neighbouring countries aimed at preventing drugs from entering Uruguay. It was also trying to discourage demand by alerting the population to the dangers of drug abuse. That task was primarily an educational one involving, inter alia, training courses for teachers and leaders of student associations. In the area of health and rehabilitation, those efforts were being supplemented by the establishment of treatment centres for drug addicts.

20. National measures would, however, be inadequate without co-operation among countries. Uruguay attached great importance to regional co-operation in the fight against illicit traffic in drugs. In April 1988, senior officials from Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay had met together with a view to harmonizing drug control policies, co-ordinating the dissemination of information and ensuring co-operation between their countries' police forces. At the second meeting of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Concerted Political Action, held in October 1988 at Punta del Este, the Heads of State of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela had drawn attention to the fact that the illicit production,

(Mrs. Lissidini, Uruguay)

trafficking and use of drugs and psychotropic substances threatened the stability of some countries' institutions and the security of the community of nations. Pointing to the growth in demand in the major consumer countries, they had stressed that all countries must join forces to combat the drug problem - the industrialized countries by taking action in the spheres of education, prevention and law enforcement and producer countries by pursuing their action to control sources of production and by promoting the substitution of illicit crops. Transit countries must also take action in that area.

21. Her country attached great importance to the Conference to be held at Vienna from 25 November to 20 December 1988 and hoped that it would result in the adoption of an international convention against illicit traffic in drugs.

22. Her delegation reiterated its support for the United Nations drug control bodies; those bodies should be provided with the financial resources they needed to perform their functions fully.

23. Mrs. RAJBHANDARY (Nepal) noted that, unfortunately, the drug problem was increasingly affecting young people and that there was a link between drug use and criminality and disease, including AIDS.

24. There was a growing realization among Member States that national drug control efforts needed to be supplemented by regional and international efforts. All countries, developed and developing, had a responsibility to combat the problem, whether they were consumer, producer or transit countries.

25. Although in her country the problem of drug abuse was not as serious as in some other countries, her Government had nevertheless taken several preventive measures. It had amended the 1976 Narcotic Drugs Act with a view to discouraging drug production, consumption and trafficking by imposing increased prison terms and fines for offenders. The sale of drugs, except for medical purposes, and their export, import, production, cultivation and stockpiling had been declared criminal offences. The Act also provided for the confiscation of property acquired through illicit trade in drugs. Implementation of those provisions was the responsibility of the Ministry of Home Affairs and district authorities.

26. Her Government had also adopted remedial measures. The Drug Abuse Prevention Centre and various non-governmental organizations were engaged in the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts. The press, radio and television were also involved in educating the public about the harmful effects of drugs, in particular on young people.

27. At the regional level, the member countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) had identified drug abuse control as one of their areas of co-operation. A technical committee on the prevention of drug abuse and illicit trafficking had been established to find ways and means of curbing the drug threat through the co-ordination of law enforcement measures, the exchange of expertise and know-how and the establishment of laboratories, as well as by

(Mrs. Rajbhandary, Nepal)

co-ordinating rehabilitation measures and the anti-drug laws in force in member countries.

28. Convinced that combating drug abuse and illicit trafficking was a collective responsibility of Member States, her country, which was a party to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1954 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, had participated in the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and supported the Declaration and the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline adopted by the Conference. She expressed her delegation's satisfaction at the initiatives taken by the Secretary-General to implement the recommendations of the Conference.

29. Her delegation paid tribute to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for its role in the preparation of the convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances to be adopted at the forthcoming Plenipotentiary Conference at Vienna. At the same time, her delegation regretted the financial constraints experienced by the United Nations drug control bodies at a time when they were engaged in a crusade against the drug threat. It was particularly concerned at the budgetary and staffing situation of the Division of Narcotic Drugs and the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board. The useful role played by the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control also needed to be complemented. Her delegation urged Member States to provide those bodies with the resources they needed to perform their task more effectively and echoed the words of the President of the United States, who had said that the war against drugs was one war which the United Nations could endorse and in which it could participate.

30. Mrs. SYLLA-LINGAYA (Madagascar) recalled the main initiatives taken by the international community to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking, in particular the 1987 International Conference held at Vienna, which had adopted by consensus a Declaration and a Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline which would serve as a basis for international co-operation in the field and as a guide for the implementation of measures at the international, national and regional levels. She highlighted the respective and complementary roles of the various United Nations drug control bodies, whose activities bore witness to the proper functioning of the structure put in place in that field at the international level. Her delegation believed that that structure should be reinforced by improved co-ordination of its various components. It welcomed the adoption of Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/9 providing for follow-up of the Vienna Conference, and noted with satisfaction that the co-ordination of drug abuse control and the follow-up to the Conference had been included in the agenda of the inter-agency meeting held at Geneva in September 1988.

31. Her delegation had read with interest the report of the Secretary-General in document A/43/678 and noted with satisfaction the measures taken by the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Secretary-General to finalize the drafting of the convention for adoption in Vienna by the conference of plenipotentiaries. The new convention would contribute decisively by supplementing the 1954 and 1971 Conventions. Her delegation hoped that a large number of States would become parties to that instrument, since it was crucial for ensuring regional

(Mrs. Sylla-Lingaya, Madagascar)

and international co-operation with a view to reducing illicit demand, putting an end to illicit traffic, improving training and data collection and undertaking joint activities in those areas.

32. Although the drug problem in Madagascar did not compare in scale with that observed in some countries, the Government was none the less taking an active part in United Nations efforts to resolve it. Madagascar was a party to the 1961 and 1971 Conventions and a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and had taken part in the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Despite its economic difficulties, her country contributed to the United Nations Fund For Drug Abuse Control.

33. The International Narcotics Control Board drew attention to the growing drug problem, as well as to the rising incidence of AIDS related to drug addiction in previously unaffected areas, especially sub-Saharan Africa. That deterioration in the situation called for even greater mobilization by the international community against a scourge which posed a threat to all societies.

34. In that context, her delegation expressed concern about the budgetary restrictions placed on United Nations drug control bodies, particularly the Division of Narcotic Drugs and the International Narcotics Control Board. Reductions in staffing and funds would have disastrous consequences, because even though it was up to each State to combat the drug problem in its own way, only international co-operation at all levels and on all fronts would put an end to that evil. Concerted international action should include public information and education, supervision of legal supply, the elimination of illicit supply, and the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts. The international community, which had become aware of the scale of the problem, must summon the means to overcome a scourge which jeopardized the development of peoples.

35. Mr. ALZAMORA (Peru) said that the problem of drug trafficking in its present-day form was a relatively recent one. It was true that as early as 1912 the Convention concerning opium had marked the beginning of international co-operation against the illicit use of drugs, but drug trafficking on a world-wide scale by criminal organizations, undermining the very foundations of society and even the sovereignty and security of States, was a phenomenon which went back some 20 years.

36. To take the example of cocaine, he said that up until the 1960s coca production had been relatively small in his country and had been mainly intended for the pharmaceutical industry. Chewing the coca leaf - which was not in fact cocaine - had of course been commonplace among the Peruvian population, but was a practice that had had nothing to do with illicit drug-taking, which had been extremely rare. What had caused the radical change that had taken place in less than two decades? According to the American researcher E. A. Nadelman, it was the increase in the demand for cocaine on the United States market during the 1970s which had revolutionized the coca trade in South America. Until the 1960s, the annual production of coca leaves in Peru had been 120 tons, and that quantity had

(Mr. Alzamora, Peru)

sufficed to meet the demands of legal consumption and the needs of the pharmaceutical industry. However, by the middle of the 1980s, production had increased tenfold.

37. Thus, the drug problem had assumed extraordinary proportions. According to various sources, including the World Health Organization, there were 48 million drug addicts in the world today; 30 million of them took marijuana, 17.6 million cocaine, 1.7 million opium and 700,000 heroin.

38. That extraordinary increase in consumption had brought with it an equally staggering rise in illegal production. Between 1982 and 1984, the world production of opium had increased by more than 50 per cent, that of coca by some 40 per cent and that of marijuana by about 20 per cent. The annual production of cocaine was reported to be nearly 70 tons.

39. Other figures illustrated the magnitude of the problem. For instance, according to some estimates, earnings from drug trafficking amounted to \$300 billion a year. That capital, deposited in establishments where they were protected by banking "confidentiality", entered world financial circuits.

40. Given the magnitude of the drug scourge, half-measures were not enough; as a matter of urgency, a political and structural strategy must be launched that could bring down the drug economy, which had become the biggest non-formal sector of the world economy.

41. That new strategy must be based on the principle that there were not, strictly speaking, illicit drug-producing as distinct from illicit drug-consuming countries, but simply countries affected in one way or another by the drug problem, for it would be absurd for those two categories of countries to enter into conflict on questions of apportioning responsibility. The strategy aimed at reducing consumption by striking at production was based on misconceptions. What was needed was to get at the root of the problem, namely mass consumption. Peru therefore welcomed the statement by Mrs. Nancy Reagan, who had stressed that the solution to the problem of drug addiction in the United States was to be found primarily in that country. It was to be hoped that that statement would meet with a favourable response in other countries and so lay the foundations for a consensus conducive to effective international co-operation in the fight against the transnational drug rings. In that connection, the forthcoming conference of plenipotentiaries for the adoption of a convention against illicit traffic in drugs gave the international community an opportunity to demonstrate its willingness to co-operate by providing itself with a sound, effective instrument.

42. He drew attention to recent press releases reporting an increase in the number of children taking drugs in Peru and Colombia. Furthermore, according to an article in a New York newspaper, 60 per cent of adolescents detained in New York prisons were charged with drug-related offences. Elsewhere in the United States, various means were used to instigate children to take drugs. There was nothing more scandalous than the machinations of traffickers trying to lure children into

(Mr. Alzamora, Peru)

the world of drugs. It was quite simply a crime against humanity. That was why Peru intended to submit, along with other countries, a draft resolution concerning the enlisting of children into illicit drug trafficking and the rehabilitation of juvenile drug addicts.

43. Mr. JAYA ABDUL LATIF (Brunei Darussalam) said that drug trafficking had become a critical problem with potentially irreversible consequences. Moreover, the substantial profits earned from the drug trade had led the emergence of highly sophisticated criminal organisations which no country could combat alone.

44. In some countries, drug addicts took two or more harmful substances. The most disquieting aspect of the problem was that young people were affected most. To that was added a new cause for concern, namely the spread of AIDS.

45. Faced with the complexity and magnitude of the problem, the international community had agreed, at the International Conference held in Vienna in 1987, to promote interregional and international co-operation on the prevention of drug addiction, reduction of demand, control of supply, suppression of illicit trafficking and treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts. His delegation welcomed the results of that conference and hoped that a convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances would be adopted in the near future as expected. That convention should strengthen the ability and effectiveness of States in combating the drug problem and mark the beginning of a new series of endeavours to that effect.

46. The drug abuse problem in his country was still minimal; however, in 1985 the authorities had established, under the Ministry of Education, an anti-drug unit which had been transferred to the Prime Minister's office as from 10 October 1988. The unit, now known as the Narcotics Control Bureau, was responsible for all matters pertaining to the fight against drug abuse. In his country, it was mainly the youth who were affected. In order to make future generations aware of the dangers, educational programmes had been carried out in schools and colleges to point out the negative effects of drug abuse, from the standpoint both of health and of religion. Efforts had also been made to increase public awareness of the problem, especially in families. Following the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, held on 26 June 1988, various activities to increase public awareness had been organized at the national level: a forum on the International Day had been telecast nationwide; an exhibition had been organized and articles had been disseminated on drug abuse; a declaration had been read out in secondary schools throughout the country; and a football match had been held with the theme "Use your spare time to create a drug-free society".

47. The untiring efforts being undertaken within the United Nations system to mobilize forces world wide in the fight against drug abuse were to be commended. His country would whole-heartedly support the convention against illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances to be adopted at the end of the year.

48. Miss JARAMILLO (Panama) said that her delegation was firmly convinced that the fight against drug trafficking was the responsibility of all countries, and particularly of the industrialized countries, where drugs were sold to all kinds of people, including children and youth. It was time for accusations to end and for confrontation to give way to co-operation. All countries should combine their efforts to put an end to the suffering, losses of life and social upheavals caused by drug abuse.

49. In her country, legislation adopted on 30 December 1986 provided for various anti-drug measures: strengthening the penalties applied to drug offenders; the unavailability of release on bail in cases of drug-related crimes; making it a crime to conceal profits derived from drug traffic; and the establishment of a special extradition procedure in cases of drug-related crimes.

50. At the international level, her country had continually sought to establish norms for the formulation of drug-control policies. Thus, it had endorsed the Declaration and the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, which had been adopted at the Vienna Conference in 1987. During a 1987 session of the Economic and Social Council, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Panama had supported the idea of establishing an intergovernmental group of experts to prepare the articles of a convention against illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Her delegation welcomed the progress made in that area and hoped that the convention would be adopted.

51. At the regional level, her country had endorsed the Quito Declaration against Traffic in Narcotic Drugs of 1984, and in 1986, had adopted the Rio de Janeiro Inter-American Programme of Action against the Illicit Use and Production of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Traffic Therein.

52. Despite the coercive measures which had been taken against her country, which had limited the resources it could allocate to the fight against drug abuse, her Government had continued and intensified its anti-drug battle. In 1987, the authorities had seized more than 35 kilos of basuco (a cocaine-based drug), 167 kilos of marijuana and more than a ton of cocaine, and had gaoled 884 drug offenders. Between January and September 1988, more than 58 kilos of marijuana and approximately 980 kilos of cocaine had been seized and 837 persons had been arrested. Those figures testified to the efforts which her country had undertaken, and pledged to continue in order to combat the traffic.

53. Mrs. REBONG (Philippines) said that drug abuse and illicit trafficking no longer knew any boundaries. The battle, therefore, had to be fought both in the producer countries and in the consumer countries, not against the victims of drug abuse but against those who, lured by the prospect of gain were the instigators of the drug traffic. The Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control and the Declaration adopted at the close of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking should serve as a corner-stone for concerted efforts in several areas: the prevention and reduction of illicit demand; the control of supply; action against illicit trafficking; and treatment and rehabilitation. It was to be hoped that the provisions of those documents,

(Mrs. Rebong, Philippines)

which had been issued in all official languages, would find their way into programmes and concrete actions at all levels.

54. Her delegation was pleased to note that the Inter-Agency Meeting on Co-ordination in Matters of International Drug Abuse Control had started to plan co-ordinated activities which would take into consideration the immediate steps recommended by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1988/9. It recognized the difficulties faced by the United Nations drug-control units and specialized agencies due to the lack of financial and human resources, and was ready to co-operate with other Member States in finding a solution to that predicament.

55. Her Government was devoting its efforts to the eradication of drug abuse, the curtailment of illegal trafficking, and the treatment and rehabilitation of drug-abuse victims. At the cabinet level, an inter-agency body was responsible for co-ordinating national programmes with those of other countries and organizations at the regional and international levels. The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking had been held pursuant to General Assembly resolution 42/112. A national symposium had taken place on that occasion. It was to be hoped that the observance of the International Day would further increase the Philippine people's awareness of the adverse effects of drugs.

56. At the regional level, her country was co-operating closely with other members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in its fight against drug abuse. The ASEAN countries had formulated and adopted a five-year programme of action based on the decisions of the Third ASEAN Summit and on the recommendations of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. A total of seven projects had been initiated in several areas: law enforcement, treatment and rehabilitation, preventive education, information, and research and training.

57. Her country believed that the international agreements were effective instruments in the fight against the illicit production of and demand for prohibited drugs. Thus, it had enacted legislation implementing the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1954, as amended by the 1955 Protocol, and of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. It was therefore looking forward to the convening of the conference of plenipotentiaries for the adoption of the new convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

58. It was the economies of the least developed and developing countries which bore the real financial, material and human burden of the fight against drug abuse and trafficking. The United Nations bodies and agencies should be able to extend to those countries the maximum material, technical and financial assistance. In that regard, the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control was playing a significant role in various regions. There was an urgent need for all States to increase their support of the Fund. Thanks should also be extended to the personnel of the drug-control units of the United Nations system, and to the members of the non-governmental organizations concerned, for their tireless efforts to create a world free from the scourge of drug abuse.

59. Mrs. THORPE (Trinidad and Tobago) said that no region of the world was unaffected by the problem of drug abuse and that the small island developing countries of the Caribbean were increasingly exposed to the social and economic ills which were the inevitable consequence of abuse. Their open coastlines, which were difficult to police owing to their limited human and economic resources, and their "ideal" location between the producing and consuming countries, made the Caribbean islands easy targets for traffickers who preyed on their vulnerability.

60. In recognition of that vulnerability, the States members of the Caribbean Community had adopted in 1986 a regional programme for drug abuse abatement and control. Implementation of that comprehensive and integrated programme had already begun. Some of the proposed projects required funding from external sources, and her delegation hoped that the funding would be forthcoming. It also hoped that the fruitful relationship between the Caribbean and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control would continue.

61. Trinidad and Tobago was actively involved in the regional battle against drugs and also had its own national programme. Multidisciplinary treatment programmes had been established and local non-governmental organisations and various sectors of society were being encouraged to join in the battle. The legislative aspect had not been ignored. Trinidad and Tobago was a party to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, and to the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances. Legislation adopted in December 1985 had substantially increased the penalties for trafficking in drugs and also provided for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts. Some of the provisions authorized the confiscation of property used in drug trafficking and of the proceeds from trafficking and sale of drugs. The Parliament had also adopted an act providing for the extradition of any person charged with a trafficking-related crime, a provision included in the draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

62. The drug problem could be solved only by concerted action at the world level. The adoption by the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking of the Declaration and the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control was a concrete expression of the universal abhorrence of the drug menace and the international community's determination to take decisive action for its eradication. The importance of the expected adoption of a convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances could not be underestimated.

63. However, her country shared the widely held view that the adoption of national and international legal instruments must be complemented by concrete action-oriented programmes at the national, regional and multilateral levels. The United Nations and its network of organs and agencies had an indispensable role to play in that regard. It was therefore incomprehensible that, while drug abuse and illicit trafficking were assuming frightening proportions and the fight against that transnational scourge had been designated a major international priority, the United Nations bodies responsible for formulating and implementing many important drug programmes were plagued by shortages of staff and funds. Her delegation

(Mrs. Thorpe, Trinidad and Tobago)

supported the call for the allocation of increased resources and staff to those bodies.

64. There had been much talk at the forty-third session of the General Assembly of the Organisation's political successes and the restoration of its credibility. Its innovative and constructive work in the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking would enhance its credibility still further. It was important for the deliberations on the issue to remain free from any shortsighted political considerations. It was to be hoped that the forthcoming adoption of the convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances would preclude the unilateral adoption of measures of doubtful effectiveness against States actively engaged in the international battle against drugs. The grave effects of the drug scourge, which now afflicted all regions of the world, warranted the adoption of such an instrument. Trinidad and Tobago hoped that it would be universally accepted and judiciously implemented.

65. Mr. CAMERON (Australia) said that the market for illicit drugs was very close to the model of classical economics. The consumers were "captive" but the supply of illicit drugs was "free"; that enabled the suppliers to make very large profits and to form monopolies. When the thirst for profits was combined with other social problems such as poverty, unemployment, lack of education and the breakdown of traditional social values, the result in some countries was social dislocation which threatened the rule of law, and the emergence of an underground economy which rivalled and drew resources away from the legitimate economic sector.

66. Because drug traffickers were motivated only by profit, it was incumbent on Governments to take measures to attack those profits. Such action had unfortunately been impeded so far by the fact that drug traffickers could exploit the differences between national legal systems and loopholes in banking laws to launder their money and transfer it across frontiers. It was therefore essential for national legislation to be complemented by the draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. If the convention was to be effective it must contain mandatory provisions on the enactment of appropriate domestic legislation to give effect to its fundamental obligations. The Australian Government had already introduced a legislative package of measures consistent with the convention in order to suppress serious drug-related crime.

67. However, there would be no final solution to the drug problem without reduction of the demand. His country knew from experience that the task was a difficult one. It was now in the fourth year of a national campaign against drug abuse based on the following objectives: greater awareness by the community of the problems of drug abuse; rendering the use of illegal drugs less attractive and encouragement of a more responsible attitude towards such drugs and towards legal or readily available substances; improvement of both the quantity and the quality of the services provided for the casualties of drug abuse; effective suppression of illicit trafficking, with particular attention to those who controlled, directed and financed it; support for international efforts to control the production and distribution of illegal drugs; and the maintenance, as far as possible, of a

(Mr. Cameron, Australia)

national approach in all the States of Australia's Federation. It was a question of combating the abuse not only of illicit drugs but also of licit ones, particularly alcohol and tobacco. A large volume of resources had been allocated to the campaign, and a decision had been taken to continue it for three years.

68. Australia made an active contribution to international co-operation in the fight against drug abuse. That contribution took the following forms: continued participation in the computer project of the Thai office of the Narcotics Control Board; conclusion of several bilateral treaties on extradition and on mutual assistance in criminal matters, including drug-related crimes; participation in the drafting of the Commonwealth Mutual Assistance Scheme and adoption of legislation enabling Australia to request from other countries, or grant to them, assistance in criminal matters; and secondment of members of the Australian Federal Police and the Customs Service to a number of countries, mainly in South-East Asia, as a means of improving the capacity to intercept drug imports. Australia was a long-standing supporter of and contributor to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control.

69. His country had stated in the Commission on Narcotic Drugs its position on the question of the supply of licit opiates for medical and scientific needs. That question should be considered in the Commission, for it had the necessary technical expertise to understand its diverse and complicated aspects. Since the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 36/168 there had been a major change in the international situation with respect to licit opiates. The over-supply of the beginning of the decade had been re-absorbed and, as the Commission recognised, there was now a balance between the supply and demand of licit opiates.

70. His delegation had read with particular interest the reports of the Secretary-General on the international campaign against drug abuse and illicit trafficking (A/43/684) and the follow-up to the International Conference (A/43/679). It was encouraged by the concrete measures taken by the Secretary-General in pursuance of the recommendations and requests of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the General Assembly. As a member of the Commission, Australia believed that it had played a constructive and responsible role in ensuring that realistic political measures were taken at the international level and hoped to be re-elected to the Commission in 1989.

71. The Division of Narcotic Drugs and the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board should be provided with sufficient resources. Perhaps that would require reallocation of resources in line with more clearly defined priorities, not only at Vienna, but in all activities of the United Nations. Member States should co-operate with the Secretariat in determining those priorities.

72. Mr. MARA (Fiji) said that illicit drug trafficking was one of the most lucrative activities in the world. It seemed that nothing could stop it. As the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking had confirmed, the drug problem must be attacked from all sides. His delegation unreservedly supported that affirmation, but believed that consumer countries should assume a

(Mr. Mara, Fiji)

greater proportion of the financial burden, which implied the organisation of an international campaign. It was unrealistic and unfair to hold all countries equally culpable.

73. Fiji fully supported the guiding principles and targets contained in the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control. It believed that enforcement measures should be balanced with economic reforms in the depressed regions of the world where the illicit crops were grown. Consumer States should provide assistance by way of crop substitution and subsidies and by guaranteeing long-term markets at realistic prices and preferential trade arrangements. The production of illicit drugs had economic origins, and many poor farmers had no alternative but to resort to it or die of hunger. In some producer countries, that activity brought in more revenue than legal exports. It was therefore a significant factor in determining a Government's political will to deal effectively with the problem.

74. Political realities complicated the war against drug trafficking. Some compromises served only to undermine co-operation between States. Often in the past, penalties had not been imposed because of vital national interests. That had enabled the drug lords to operate with impunity.

75. Fiji was a small transit country that was particularly vulnerable. It did not have the means to fight against the sophisticated techniques of drug traffickers. It was nevertheless doing its utmost with the resources at its disposal. His delegation hoped that the consensus that had emerged at the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking would be strengthened over the years. It welcomed the progress made by the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control around the world and urged all States to support it financially. Without that support, that entire machinery for eradicating the illicit traffic in drugs would grind to a halt.

76. Mr. DAMM (Chile) reaffirmed the will of his Government to intensify the fight against drug trafficking and underscored the need to update the current regional and international legal instruments. In that connection, it was important to ensure that the principles on which the inter-American system was based, notably the principle of non-intervention, underwent no erosion as a result of pressures created by the drug problem. Chile had also emphasized, on more than one occasion, the need to work for the unification of legislative provisions governing the fight against drugs. It had also pointed out that it did not seem fair to shift the main responsibility regarding drugs to the producer countries or the transit countries. Similarly, Chile was opposed to the trend, which was increasing, whereby countries were forced to take actions deemed important in the fight against drugs but which international law expressly condemned.

77. At the regional level, Chile had proposed the drafting of an inter-American convention against drug trafficking which would be more concrete and more specific than the draft convention currently being prepared in the United Nations and which would include the question of extradition, a source of the greatest controversy at

(Mr. Damm, Chile)

the international level. Chile had also proposed the increase of contributions to the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (IDAC) and the improvement of its machinery. The fact that the above-mentioned ideas had been favourably received at the regional level indicated that the Latin American countries were aware of the need to intensify the fight against drugs in the region.

78. Mr. LY (Senegal) said that his country had put into place an appropriate legal framework to carry out an effective fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. As early as 1965 it had established the National Narcotics Drug Commission, a central body composed of all the ministerial departments concerned.

79. At the international level, Senegal had participated actively in the Vienna International Conference, at which it had been one of the vice-presidents. His delegation noted with satisfaction that the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Economic and Social Council had given specific commitments designed to ensure the follow-up of that important Conference. It had taken note of the four broad components which must make up the fight against drugs: prevention and reduction of demand, control of supply, suppression of illicit trafficking, treatment and rehabilitation. Senegal believed that the emphasis must above all be placed on prevention and education.

80. At the regional level, the second meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies had been held at Dakar, Senegal, in April 1988. The emphasis had been placed on co-ordination and regional co-operation in the field of detection and suppression. The need to establish national narcotic drugs laboratories or to strengthen existing ones had also been emphasized.

81. The disturbing development in the field of drugs made it necessary to strengthen the measures of surveillance and control established by United Nations bodies and to increase financial and human resources in that regard. It was therefore incomprehensible that the resources allocated to the Division of Narcotic Drugs and the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board had been reduced. Senegal associated itself with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in requesting that the resources allocated to those two entities should be sufficient to permit them to carry out their important tasks.

82. Senegal was a party to all international conventions on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and met its international obligations in that regard. Senegal was convinced that close and organized regional and international co-operation, uniformity of the national legislations of Member States and highly trained specialists entrusted with repressing illicit drug trafficking were the means by which the obstacles raised by the complexity of international drug transactions could be overcome. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the forthcoming conference of plenipotentiaries which would be held to adopt a draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. It hoped that a spirit of conciliation and negotiation would be demonstrated there thus helping to iron out remaining difficulties. Finally, while the international community understood the extent of the dangers posed by the drug problem, it had

(Mr. Ly, Senegal)

yet to undertake concrete action by strengthening co-operation and the means of control. For that reason, the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control more than ever deserved to be supported.

83. Mr. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh) said that the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking held in Vienna in 1987 had been a milestone in the campaign being waged by the United Nations in that field. His delegation also welcomed the decision taken by the General Assembly in resolution 42/112 to observe 26 June each year as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Similarly, the convening of three regional meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies had been a commendable initiative. Lastly, Bangladesh hoped that the forthcoming conference of plenipotentiaries would be able to adopt the new convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

84. Although the drug problem in Bangladesh had not yet assumed serious proportions, the Government was fully aware of the danger of that menace. That was why it had recently approved a bill providing for, inter alia, the death penalty for persons engaged in the import, export, trans-shipment or sale of prepared opium or narcotics exceeding 25 grams. The case for strong and deterrent laws against drug traffickers could hardly be overstressed.

85. In response to a request from Bangladesh, the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) had decided in 1986 to include in its agenda an item on drug trafficking and drug abuse. Since then, a number of expert meetings had been held with a view to devising common strategies and programmes in that field.

86. Mr. MGBOKWERE (Nigeria) said that his delegation was delighted to note that systematic and co-ordinated steps were being taken in the programme of the United Nations drug-control bodies to ensure implementation of the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities adopted in 1987 by the Vienna International Conference. In his delegation's view, it was imperative that those bodies should receive all the support they needed to carry out those functions efficiently. It hoped, in particular, that the Division of Narcotic Drugs, in collaboration with the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, would shortly be able to put in place the desired international drug abuse assessment system. Nigeria had participated actively in the Vienna Conference and had shown sustained interest in all the initiatives taken in that field. At the domestic level, stiff penalties were imposed on drug-related offences.

87. His delegation was glad to know that the draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances was ready for adoption at the conference of plenipotentiaries scheduled for the end of 1988. In particular, it was pleased that that instrument addressed the need to enlarge the scope of extradition and to deal effectively with money-laundering schemes. Given the difficulties of drafting such an instrument, particularly in view of the divergencies in national laws, his delegation wished to pay tribute to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for its patience and untiring efforts. He hoped that the convention would receive the necessary number of ratifications to enable it to enter into force at the earliest possible date.

88. Mr. MARTINEZ (Paraguay) said that his country had joined in the universal crusade against drug trafficking. It was a signatory to the many international instruments on that subject, had taken an active part in the work of the Vienna Conference and had closely followed the drafting of the convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, which should provide the necessary legal framework. In that connection, he emphasized the need to avoid formulating provisions which were incompatible with countries' domestic legislation and individual interests, since the principle of the sovereignty of States parties must be respected in all circumstances.

89. His Government had spared no effort to combat drug trafficking, which Mr. Alfredo Stroessner, President of the Republic of Paraguay, had termed a "social cancer". The Paraguayan Congress currently had before it a bill designed to make the campaign against drug trafficking more effective at the national level. Furthermore, the Government had sought to expand the human and technical resources available to the law-enforcement agencies in the field of drug abuse and drug trafficking. The large volume of drugs seized, especially marijuana and cocaine, during the period from August 1983 to August 1988 testified to the effectiveness of that policy.

90. At the bilateral, level Paraguay had signed a mutual co-operation agreement with the United States designed to reduce the demand, prevent illicit consumption and combat drug production and trafficking.

91. Mrs. SEMAMBO KALEMA (Uganda) endorsed the views expressed on 25 October 1988 by Mrs. Reagan, who, in her statement, had stressed the need for redoubled efforts to curb demand for drugs.

92. Uganda was neither a producer nor a consumer of drugs, but could not claim to be totally free from the drug problem. It had therefore enacted legislation which provided for the punishment of traffickers and confiscation of drugs seized.

93. She paid tribute to the United Nations drug-control units and urged the Secretary-General to reconsider the financial situation of those units, taking into account the work so far achieved and the ever increasing number of requests for assistance addressed to them.

94. With regard to drugs, prevention was better than cure. That was why her delegation called attention to the work of UNESCO, WHO and ILO, which focused on prevention through education.

95. She acknowledged the efforts of those countries which were making an effort to replace their crops of psychotropic plants with alternative crops, and also those countries which were combating demand. She hoped that the conference of plenipotentiaries to be convened for the adoption of the draft convention would be successful.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.