



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 30th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ABULHASAN (Kuwait)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 94: ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN
(continued) (A/43/3, A/43/38, A/43/273-S/19720, A/43/354 and Corr.1, A/43/370,
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AGENDA ITEM 95: FORWARD-LOOKING STRATEGIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN TO THE
YEAR 2000 (continued) (A/43/3, A/43/370, A/43/638, A/43/643)

AGENDA ITEM 103: INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFIC IN DRUGS
(A/43/3, chap. V, sect. D, A/43/678, A/43/679, A/43/684, A/43/91, A/43/202,
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1. Ms. SYAHRUDDIN (Indonesia) said that her country had become a party not only to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women but also to the Convention on the Political Rights of Women in 1961 and the Equal Pay Convention in 1957. Indonesia had submitted its initial report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), pursuant to article 18 of the Convention. In that connection, her delegation regretted that the Committee was not able to consider all the country reports promptly. It appreciated the Committee's efforts to rationalize its work but thought that those efforts could be expanded.

2. It was encouraging to note the progress being made in the appraisal of the Forward-looking Strategies, in which the Commission on the Status of Women had a significant role, and her delegation supported the integration of the Strategies into all levels of activity. It hoped that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination would soon be able to carry out its cross-organizational analysis, which should provide verification of the progress made in achieving the objectives of the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development for the period 1990-1995.

3. It was also encouraging to note the increase in the number of women occupying professional and decision-making posts. But it was unfortunate that women's participation rate still fell short of the target of 30 per cent set by the General Assembly in its resolution 40/258. Notwithstanding the Organization's financial difficulties, her delegation trusted that greater efforts would be made in that direction and it reiterated the request made by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1988/17 that the financial restraints should not work against women.

4. Her country was endeavouring, in accordance with its Constitution, to ensure equal rights for all, both de jure and de facto. In 1987 it had adopted, on the basis of the Nairobi Strategies, its own strategies for enhancement of the role of women up to the year 2000, the preparation of which had been entrusted to the Indonesian Commission on the Status of Women and to the Office of the Minister of State for the Role of Women.

(Ms. Syahrudin, Indonesia)

5. In order to improve women's participation in the development process, Indonesia had adopted the Programme on Enhancing the Role of Women in Fostering a Healthy and Prosperous Family. That cross-sectoral programme was being carried out in low-income villages throughout the country. The Family Welfare Movement, which had received international recognition and enjoyed broad grass-roots participation, was intended to improve the life of the family, in which women were the central figures. Efforts were also being made to expand the role of women in the labour force, specifically by helping them to manage co-operatives and set up small business ventures, and by improving their education and vocational training. As a developing country, Indonesia realized the importance of bringing all its citizens into the nation-building process with equal rights and equal responsibilities. Its national policy and current five-year plan were based on the idea that women's participation in development must begin at the planning stage.

6. Her delegation paid a tribute to the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), which had a catalytic role in all activities concerning the status of women. UNIFEM was the only United Nations fund which channelled financial and technical resources to poor women in rural and urban areas in developing countries. It was encouraging to note the measures taken to strengthen the Fund's management capacity, and her delegation approved the designation of three major areas of activity for Asia and the Pacific, modelled on similar plans for Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean. It hoped that the international community would continue to support the Fund.

7. Ms. ENKHTSETEG (Mongolia) reiterated her country's support for United Nations activities for the advancement of women and stressed the importance of the Forward-looking Strategies in that connection. Her delegation welcomed the new spirit prevailing in the work of the Commission on the Status of Women. The Commission had made progress in the integration of the Strategies in the Organization's social programmes, streamlined its agenda by identifying the priority themes, adopted resolutions to promote the integration of women in development and established a system for monitoring the implementation of the Strategies.

8. Her delegation approved the idea of convening two world conferences, in the 1990s and in 2000, and thought that the first one should be held in 1995, as the Polish delegation had proposed. It was also in favour of the proclamation of a second Decade for Women.

9. Within the framework of the Strategies and the Decade, her country was trying to improve the living, social and cultural standards of its rural population - Mongolia being essentially a country of animal husbandry - including those of women. Women must play a larger role in decision-making and the development process. In that connection, her delegation supported Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/29, of which it was one of the main sponsors, and it approved the convening, with a view to the organization of a future world conference, of a seminar on women and rural development which would draw on the results of the interregional seminar on national experience relating to the improvement of the

(Ms. Enkhtsatag, Mongolia)

situation of women in rural areas, held at Vienna in 1984. Of the three objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women - Equality, Development and Peace - the last was fundamental, for it was the necessary pre-condition for the first two. Women throughout the world were increasingly aware of the urgent need to achieve real disarmament, and the Declaration on the Participation of Women in Promoting International Peace and Co-operation was particularly important in that respect.

10. Her country had always attached a great importance to international efforts to ensure equality between men and women and it had ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Like other delegations, it was worried that the rate of accession was slowing down and it called upon all countries which had not yet done so to follow Mongolia's example. Mongolia was now seeking to give the Forward-looking Strategies concrete form. Her delegation appreciated the work done by CEDAW and supported its request for additional meetings in 1989 to deal with the backlog in its consideration of national reports. Like most delegations, her own thought that the Secretariat should furnish CEDAW with the means of performing its functions more effectively. In view of the important role which CEDAW played in the dissemination of information about national experience in the advancement of women, it should be able to organize seminars and other events on different aspects of the question.

11. Her country had always tried to improve the status of women and enable them to play an active part in all aspects of social life. Equal rights for men and women, guaranteed by the Constitution, were a reality. Women represented 50 per cent of the industrial labour force and 45 per cent of agricultural workers. They held a quarter of the seats in Parliament. The State also worked to help women to be wives and mothers in parallel with their professional occupations. Each year it paid out the equivalent of some \$US 25 million in allowances to large families. It was currently setting up a complete mother and child protection programme.

12. Her country reaffirmed its commitment to the advancement of women, and was prepared to co-operate fully in the accomplishment of that objective.

13. Miss AL-ALAWI (Bahrain) said that, in a world of advancing technology, it was of the utmost importance that women should take part in the development process, for the development of human resources was both a means and an end.

14. Her delegation was pleased that, in document A/43/638, the Secretary-General had mentioned the increased role Arab women were playing in self-sufficiency. Sociologists had cast light on the decisive role that women played in family, social and even international life. Thus it was encouraging to note that Arab women were making their presence felt in new areas and that, despite numerous obstacles, important positions were no longer reserved exclusively for men. Still, women continued to enjoy only limited access to decision-making positions - a phenomenon found even in the most advanced countries.

15. The number of women employed in both the public and private sectors in Bahrain was growing steadily, having reached 30 per cent of the total working population in

(Miss Al Alawi, Bahrain)

1984, and the principle of "equal pay for equal work" was strictly observed. The country's economic and social development plans centred upon the protection and well-being of the family, which was regarded as the basic social unit.

16. Her country recognized that the participation of women furthered its overall development, and that social progress depended in large measure on the political, economic and social rights available to women. Its interest, and the interest of the Arab countries, in women's participation in various development programmes was illustrated by the fact that many Arab specialists had attended the meeting on the subject arranged in Cairo from 16 to 18 October 1988 by the United Nations Development Programme.

17. It was to be hoped that the United Nations system would follow up on the recommendations resulting from that meeting, in particular those relating to literacy programmes and training for women. Her country was preparing to host a conference of women from the Gulf and the Arabian peninsula in March 1989.

18. The Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women had spelled out the role of women in development and their contribution to the establishment of a just and equitable economic and social order. Palestinian women had not hesitated to make their contribution. By joining in the popular uprising against Zionist occupation and domination, they had managed to stir world public opinion deeply. Her country took the opportunity to salute the Palestinian women fighting in the occupied Arab territories, and called upon the international community to give them its unqualified support.

19. Ms. ZINDOGA (Zimbabwe) emphasized the interest that her country and the non-aligned nations in general took in efforts by the United Nations since 1975 to improve the status of women; the 1986 Harare Summit Meeting had been evidence of that.

20. Women in her country had in the past suffered from two major forms of oppression: traditional male domination, first by their fathers and then by their husbands, and colonialism. Although the country was now independent, women continued to be disadvantaged: they lacked economic power and had poor employment and promotion prospects and fewer educational opportunities than were available to men. Nevertheless, the country's commitment to socialism had enabled the status of women to be improved in such areas as employment, education and legislation, and certain cultural and traditional practices unfavourable to women had been changed.

21. To facilitate the integration of women in all development programmes, the Government had in 1981 set up a ministry specifically for that purpose, the Ministry of Community Development and Women's Affairs, which was working generally to close the disparities between women and men. The struggle for women's emancipation had assumed a new dimension, in that it now called for economic and educational liberation. By contributing to economic production, Zimbabwean women, who constituted 51 per cent of the population, should not only earn income but also fulfil themselves on the personal level.

(Ms. Zindoga, Zimbabwe)

22. To redress economic and social imbalances, the Ministry was seeking to integrate women in rural communities into the development process by sponsoring income-generation projects, 77 per cent of which were carried out by women. It also provided literacy courses for groups in which 75 per cent of the students were women. Finally, a National Training Centre for rural women had been established in 1984.

23. Legislation on the age of majority, pay and maternity leave had been amended to abolish discrimination against women. Women's involvement in political life had increased markedly, and some women were even exercising ministerial responsibilities.

24. The women of Zimbabwe and the countries of southern Africa held that the women of the region could not be emancipated as long as apartheid had not completely disappeared and women in South Africa and Namibia continued to labour under the double burden of extreme poverty and apartheid. To the women of the region who had been murdered, such as Dulcie September of ANC, or imprisoned, like Winnie Mandela, the most important task was the complete dismantling of apartheid. She urged the international community to help southern Africa with the speedy eradication of apartheid, for women and their families there were undergoing untold suffering. The women of the front-line States were also suffering from the destabilization policy of the South African apartheid régime.

25. She spoke also of the plight of women in Palestine and the occupied Arab territories, who all dreamt of peace in the Middle East. Her country and the non-aligned nations had persistently called for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied territories. The implementation of the Nairobi Strategies could not be considered in isolation from fundamental political, economic and social factors.

26. On the question of the enlargement of the Commission on the Status of Women, the principle of equitable geographical distribution should be respected.

27. In most developing countries, debt repayment had become a major threat to development, with obvious repercussions on the advancement of women. Her delegation endorsed the United Nations Regional Seminar on Women and the Economic Crisis that had recently been held in Vienna. Lastly, she paid tribute to UNIFEM, which had helped improve conditions for many rural women in developing countries by giving them access to credit.

28. Mr. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh) commended United Nations efforts to secure recognition of the significant role played by women in the contemporary world.

29. The International Women's Year, the Mexico Conference and the Forward-looking Strategies were significant milestones in the advancement of women. General Assembly resolution 42/62 offered useful guidelines on the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies by Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and the international community. His delegation had read with keen interest

(Mr. Chowdhury, Bangladesh)

the Secretary-General's report (A/43/638) on the matter. The priority themes - equality, development and peace - to be considered at the next session of the Commission on the Status of Women were most appropriate.

30. It was heartening to note that 94 Member States had acceded to or ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Bangladesh had ratified the Convention in 1984 and hoped that those States which had not yet done so would become parties to that important instrument.

31. The Constitution of Bangladesh guaranteed equal opportunity for all citizens irrespective of race, religion or sex, and the Government had enacted legislation incorporating the provisions of the Convention. Formerly, women in Bangladesh as in many other countries in the region had played a secondary role in society. That situation had rapidly been changing since the country had gained independence in 1971. Women now held leading posts in almost all professional fields. It was, in fact, an essential part of the current Government's policy to integrate women into the mainstream of national development. Many jobs had been generated for women in the rural areas, with the assistance of a credit association, the Grameen Bank, and of United Nations organizations such as the International Fund for Agricultural Development. A Ministry of Women's Affairs had also been established.

32. His delegation had high regard for the work of UNIFEM, which was providing valuable financial and technical support to women in development activities.

33. Ms. SELLAMI-MESLEM (Director, Branch for the Advancement of Women, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) thanked the representatives and observers who had spoken on the agenda items under consideration for their encouragement and constructive criticism. The secretariat had made a note of their recommendations and would try to take them into account when preparing reports on the priority themes.

34. There was general agreement that momentum had been lost in the advancement of women and that new dynamism had to be generated at all levels to promote the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies. If the Organization's finances allowed, a meeting of experts or a seminar would be organized on each of the priority themes, with participants representing national bodies responsible for the integration of women in all sectors of society. Review and discussion meetings of that kind had proved their usefulness. The recommendations adopted by the Commission on the basis of such work had already prompted several Governments to enact legislation specifically to protect women against violence in the family and society and to establish the infrastructures needed for the proper functioning of national machinery for the advancement of women.

35. The review and appraisal of the Forward-looking Strategies scheduled for 1990 would be an important milestone in the advancement of women to the year 2000. The answers to the questionnaires on that point addressed to Member States, which were due in January 1989, would be indispensable in carrying out that comprehensive review. Delegations were asked to remind their Governments of that deadline.

(Ms. Sellami-Meslem)

36. In response to the remarks by an African delegation regarding the role of CEDAW and the fact that it should be encouraged to enter into a constructive dialogue with the States parties to the relevant Convention, taking due account of their social and cultural diversity, she said that the 23 expert members of the Committee were very careful to maintain such a dialogue. The Convention, like any legal instrument, naturally had its limitations, but political will and the wisdom of nations would find ways to overcome the remaining obstacles.

37. Delegations had underscored the need for CEDAW to hold additional meetings to consider the reports still pending. Also, the question had been raised as to whether it should meet in New York or in Vienna. As she had earlier pointed out, the Branch for the Advancement of Women was in a position to help CEDAW in its work in Vienna, whereas it would be impossible to arrange for the necessary staff to travel to New York.

38. In conclusion, she assured the Committee that the Branch for the Advancement of Women would make a point of carefully implementing any recommendations the Committee might make on agenda items 94 and 95.

39. Ms. SNYDER (Fund Director, United Nations Development Fund for Women), thanking delegations for the generally positive comments on the activities of the Fund, announced that during the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, 32 countries had pledged contributions amounting to \$US 4.7 million, or an increase of 20 per cent over the previous year. In 1989, UNIFEM should therefore have available approximately \$US 7 million. Non-governmental contributions and income from other sources such as project co-financing were not included in that amount.

40. As had been noted several times in the course of the discussion, UNIFEM was playing an essential role in mobilizing the funds needed to finance projects. Over the last three years, for every dollar it had invested in any given project, UNIFEM had raised three more from different sources.

41. The representative of Senegal had stated that UNIFEM should extend its co-operation to agencies other than UNDP and several delegations had referred to the Funds participation in the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development. It should be noted that the Fund was co-operating with regional development banks such as the African Development Bank and was Inter-American Development Bank and that it was assisting UNDP to operate a women's unit at OAU. Those agencies were aware of the enormous contribution made by African women to food security and other aspects of development. In addition, as urged by Bolivia, UNIFEM had established links with the Pan American Health Organization under the Participatory Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean and, at Colombia's request, was supporting agro-industries in the region. With respect to the comments made by Zaire, UNIFEM would continue to use non-governmental organizations as executing agencies, as was currently the case in 30 to 50 per cent of projects. Several delegations had expressed the view that UNIFEM should extend its activities to new areas such as employment and the effects

(Ms. Snyder)

of indebtedness and structural adjustment on low-income countries. Such activities were already under way in that UNIFEM was involved with micro-enterprises as a means of creating jobs and would seek to expand its activities in that area.

42. Co-operation between UNIFEM and various United Nations organizations, including financing by the Fund of various United Nations and specialized agency activities, was a matter raised only infrequently by countries but which in fact played an essential role. UNIFEM continued to provide assistance to the United Nations regional commissions and to support various activities of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. For example, the Fund had assisted the Branch for the Advancement of Women in the organization of a workshop on the effects on women of structural adjustment policies.

43. In establishing UNIFEM, the United Nations had modelled it on the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), whose strength derived from its authentically multilateral character. The question, raised by Finland, of the possible establishment of a new fund, whose activities would not overlap with those of UNIFEM, would be studied by the Commission on the Status of Women at the beginning of 1989, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/18.

44. The CHAIRMAN said that he had just received document A/C.3/43/L.24, containing a letter from the Chairman of the Second Committee drawing attention to the "Guidelines for international decades" recommended by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1988/63, and requested members of the Committee to make any observations and comments that they might have on the matter, which would be taken up in due course. He said that the Committee had concluded its debate on the third cluster of items in its agenda.

45. Mrs. ANSTEE (Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna), speaking as the Co-ordinator of All United Nations Drug-Control Related Activities, introduced agenda item 103.

46. The drug abuse situation continued to deteriorate. There was an increasing trend towards abuse, with still more disastrous health effects since drug abusers were likely to be contaminated by the AIDS virus. In certain regions of the world drug abusers were the major group afflicted by AIDS and the HIV virus, which they spread to the wider population. For that reason United Nations drug control units were seeking, in close co-operation with the World Health Organization, to incorporate AIDS prevention into their programmes. As a result of the AIDS pandemic, the fight against drug abuse was becoming a question of survival. Every means of action must be employed: preventive information, education, research, international sharing of experience, and penal sanctions and medical treatment for drug abusers.

47. One of the main conclusions of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, which Mrs. Reagan had recently evoked in the Third Committee, was that the fight against drugs had to be conducted with equal fervour in both producer and consumer countries.

(Mrs. Anstee)

48. The momentum generated by the Conference had been reflected in the programmes adopted by United Nations drug control agencies. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs had considered specific measures to give effect to the Conference's recommendations, measures which the Economic and Social Council had endorsed in its resolution 1988/9. The annex to that resolution contained a list of high-priority activities, selected from the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, which had been adopted at the Conference, relating to the prevention of demand, the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers, control of supply and suppression of illicit traffic. For example, she referred to the establishment of an international drug abuse assessment system currently under preparation by the Division of Narcotic Drugs with the assistance of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC).

49. The draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, which currently contained 28 articles, would be considered at the conference of plenipotentiaries, to be held at Vienna from 25 November to 20 December 1988. That new instrument was intended to provide the international community with tools to deal with illicit transnational drug trafficking, to close the legislative loopholes which so often made the struggle ineffective, to provide for extradition measures, to counter money-laundering schemes, to overcome the obstacle of banking secrecy and to confiscate the proceeds of drug trafficking. Such an enterprise could not be accomplished without encountering difficulties, particularly legal difficulties, in view of which substantive work still had to be done to reach a consensus on the text of several articles of the draft convention.

50. The Division of Narcotic Drugs, as the secretariat of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, had been entrusted with the preparatory work on the draft convention. In addition the Division had continued its standard activities, which included the provision of scientific and technical assistance to Member States in the drafting of legislation and law enforcement. In particular, the Division had serviced three regional meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA).

51. In co-operation with Governments, the International Narcotics Control Board had continued during 1988 to combat diversions of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The new convention was likely to place increased responsibilities on the Board with regard to the monitoring of trade in chemicals essential to the manufacture of controlled drugs.

52. Voluntary contributions to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control had continued to increase in 1988, which had made it possible to expand the Fund's programmes, currently assisting 40 countries. In addition to current projects, the Fund had begun to operate in a number of countries, such as Ecuador and India. Furthermore, over the past year, the Fund had placed special emphasis on regional co-operation and had funded regional drug control training projects in Asia and the Pacific region and in Africa. The Fund had also made efforts to strengthen its administrative and operational procedures so as to improve the effectiveness and quality of its programmes.

(Mrs. Anstee)

53. Inter-agency co-operation played an essential role in combating narcotic drugs. Two inter-agency meetings on co-ordination in drug abuse control had been held in 1988. The first, which had coincided with the session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, had been held in Vienna in February and the second had taken place at WHO headquarters in Geneva in September. Furthermore, a decision had been taken to rotate the second annual inter-agency meeting to different agency headquarters. The success of the meeting held at WHO headquarters had confirmed the wisdom of that decision. The Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, adopted at the Vienna Conference, now served as the basis for discussion at those meetings, which were playing an increasingly important role.

54. Co-operation with non-governmental organizations in the international endeavour to arrest drug abuse was indispensable. Non-governmental organizations had been closely involved in the preparation of the Vienna International Conference and an NGO forum had been held at the same time as the Conference. The support of those organizations had been demonstrated also during the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, which had been celebrated for the first time on 26 June 1988. The NGO committees on narcotic drugs and substance abuse in New York and Vienna also helped foster collaboration between United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations. Such collaboration would result in the near future in the publication of a detailed handbook concerning the prevention of drug addiction and treatment of addicts, which would serve as a basis for the evaluation of future activities.

55. Member States had repeatedly agreed that drug abuse control should have top priority in the United Nations system. Furthermore, the requests for assistance which they made to the United Nations bodies active in drug abuse control had continued to increase. Those bodies should therefore expect their mandates to be expanded at a time when their budgetary and staffing resources were inadequate to enable them to discharge current obligations fully. For that reason, at the latest inter-agency co-ordination meeting in Geneva it had been decided to spell out the work to be done. Each entity should first assess the resources needed to carry out the recommendations of the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline which fell within its mandate and then identify the human and financial resources currently available to it for drug abuse control. That approach should make it possible to determine clearly the gap to be bridged. If Member States believed in the necessity of the work, decisions should be taken to provide the needed budgetary and extrabudgetary resources to the organizations concerned.

56. As Co-ordinator of all United Nations drug control related programmes, she was obliged to make an appeal to countries to demonstrate in a concrete manner their political commitment in view of the growing challenge of drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

57. Mr. DI GENNARO (Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control) said that, thanks to the generous support of a small group of Governments, UNFDAC had been able to increase gradually its efforts to assist countries in

(Mr. Di Gennaro)

combating illicit drugs. The Fund had also been able to improve markedly the quality of its services. Nevertheless, without increased financial and political support, there was no hope of controlling drug production, trafficking and abuse, which in some countries had reached staggering levels. The growing consumption of cocaine and heroin, the relationship between drug abuse and the spread of AIDS, political instability caused by drugs, the unprecedented growth of organized crime and the deterioration of moral values at all levels of society were the most alarming aspects of the drug problem which had been pointed out the previous year at the Vienna Conference.

58. One of the results of the Conference had been an increase in pledges of financial support for UNFDAC. That financial support had not yet materialized when an idea which had quickly attracted the attention of public opinion had emerged, namely the proposal to legalize drugs. That proposal involved a very grave risk. If it was adopted, the as yet embryonic determination of the international community to combat the devastating effects of drug abuse would weaken. Furthermore, that proposal ran counter to the efforts of the United Nations to strengthen the international legal instruments for drug control and was incompatible, in particular, with the preparation of the new convention to be adopted in the near future by a plenipotentiary conference. It was heartening in that regard to note that the eightieth Inter-parliamentary Conference, held the previous September, had stressed the need not only to adopt legislative measures in the field of drug control, but also to complement those measures with concrete multilateral action-oriented programmes. The Conference had referred specifically to the role of UNFDAC in carrying out such programmes.

59. The Fund's programmes had always been conceived in such a way as to address all aspects of the drug problem: reduction of supply, interdiction of illicit traffic and actions to discourage demand. In 1988, the Fund had a budget of \$60 million, representing an increase of 52 per cent compared to 1987 and 536 per cent compared to its budget five years earlier. More than 110 projects had been undertaken in all sectors of drug abuse control. Recently, large-scale projects had been launched in Asia, including India, Laos and Afghanistan. The Fund's operations in Bolivia, Colombia and Peru had been expanded and a multi-sectoral project for \$12 million was being implemented in Brazil. A memorandum of understanding had been signed with the Mexican Government and steps had been taken to strengthen the Fund's programme and activities in the Caribbean. Projects had also been launched in 17 African countries, including Morocco and Nigeria. The number of requests made to the Fund for assistance continued to increase.

60. In view of the expansion of its programmes, the Fund had developed increasingly close co-operation with other agencies of the United Nations system, including WHO, ILO, UNESCO and UNIDO, as well as other drug control units and the United Nations Development Programme.

61. UNFDAC was therefore playing a crucial role which had been recognized by Member States, inter alia, at the recent Toronto Summit of the seven most

(Mr. Di Gennaro)

industrialized countries. Unfortunately, the necessary financial resources were still not forthcoming. Admittedly, in 1987, the Vienna Conference had brought about a spectacular breakthrough in the form of the pledge by a Government of a contribution of \$300 million. That example, however, had not been followed. Although some donors had increased their contributions, effective and conclusive action required much greater resources. A slackening of effort could nullify the results obtained to date in the efforts to combat drug trafficking. In his opinion, the international community could not allow itself to abandon the fight or make anything less than a 100 per cent effort.

62. Mrs. VASSILIOU-ZACHAROPOULOS (Greece), speaking on behalf of the 12 States members of the European Community, underscored the gravity of the threat which drugs posed to young people, particularly in schools, and said that the problem was equally serious for producer, consumer and transit countries. The drug problem transcended national borders and, consequently, required concerted action by countries.

63. The international fight against drugs had begun with the adoption of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, in 1961, which had been supplemented by the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. In addition, the Declaration of the Vienna Conference and the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, adopted the year before at that Conference, indicated the priority activities to be undertaken in that field. The European Community welcomed the recommendations of the Conference and the suggested courses of action contained in the Multidisciplinary Outline. It supported the elaboration and adoption of concrete measures and recognized that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had a special role to play within the United Nations system.

64. The Twelve believed that the adoption of a convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances would be a major step towards realizing the objectives of the Vienna International Conference. Such an instrument would supplement the existing legal provisions and would facilitate international control of production and traffic in all types of narcotic drugs. The Twelve had always actively supported that initiative.

65. Of course, the task of the expert group entrusted with preparing a draft convention was hardly easy. The questions dealt with were very complex and affected different national legal systems. Thanks to the spirit of co-operation which it had shown, the expert group had made considerable progress in its work and that had enabled the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to convene a review group to consider the text of certain articles. The Twelve regretted that the review group had not been able to reach agreement on certain provisions. It was essential that that task be undertaken in a constructive spirit so that the new draft convention could be adopted at the plenipotentiary conference.

66. The Twelve were convinced that the efforts made to combat production and trafficking in drugs would be effective only if they were accompanied by action aimed at reducing demand. In recent years, the 12 States members of the European

(Mrs. Vassiliou-Zacharopoulos, Greece)

Community had sought to strengthen their effectiveness in that area through increased law enforcement activities and education and treatment programmes.

67. In assessing the problems relating to drug abuse and trafficking and monitoring the implementation of existing instruments in that field, the International Narcotics Control Board played an important role. The regional co-operation which the Division of Narcotic Drugs promoted in the area of drug control was also commendable. The Twelve favoured, in particular, the convening of regional meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA). The contribution of the specialized agencies - WHO, UNESCO, FAO - should also be mentioned, without forgetting that of non-governmental organizations.

68. The demands on United Nations units dealing with drug control would increase following the adoption of the new convention. In that connection, the Twelve noted with concern the fact that the financial and human resources allocated to those units were far from sufficient.

69. At the European level, the Twelve co-operated actively in the work of the Pompidou Group, established under the Council of Europe to combat drug abuse. The co-operation programme adopted by the Group gave high priority to the implementation of legislation aimed at confiscating the proceeds of drug trafficking, co-ordinating control and disseminating information. The Twelve had also established the so-called Trevi Group which was concerned with fighting drug-related crimes.

70. In order to reduce the cultivation of narcotic plants crop-substitution was necessary within the framework of rural development programmes. Since 1987, the European Community had made great strides in that field by giving priority to the drug problem in its co-operation with third world countries. In 1988, 18 projects, had been financed under that co-operation at a cost of 5.5 million European Currency Units, or \$4.5 million. In Europe itself, drug control programmes cost 1.25 million European Currency Units or about \$1 million. In that area, the Twelve supported the activities of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, with which the European Community had strengthened its co-operation in pursuance of an agreement signed in 1987.

71. Mrs. PULIDO (Venezuela) said that the problem of narcotic drugs, whose disastrous effects were being felt in every part of the world, but more particularly in Latin America, was one of the most serious threats currently facing mankind. Indeed, the efforts made to combat that scourge seemed doomed to failure because of the ingenuity of the traffickers. It was therefore encouraging to note that the international community was today aware of the need for concerted global action to put an end to the problem.

72. Venezuela gave priority to the problem of illicit trafficking and drug abuse at both the national and international levels. In 1984, the Venezuelan Congress had adopted an organic law on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances which provided a new and multidisciplinary framework for national efforts to control

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narcotic drugs. In addition, a national commission had been established under the Office of the President of the Republic to deal with those issues.

73. At the international level, Venezuela had signed bilateral agreements with several Andean and Caribbean countries and with the Netherlands and Italy. Other agreements were currently being negotiated. At the regional level, Venezuela had ratified the Rodrigo Lara Bonilla Agreement on the prevention and suppression of drug abuse and illicit trafficking and had signed the South American Agreement on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. Within the Organization of American States, Venezuela participated actively in the work of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission. At the multilateral level, Venezuela was a party to all the international instruments in force in the field of drugs, in particular the 1961 and 1971 Conventions. But above all, Venezuela sought to ensure that those instruments were effectively implemented.

74. Venezuela had always given its full support to United Nations efforts to combat the drug problem and was gratified that that question was receiving priority attention in the highest international forums. The adoption of the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline for Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control and the Declaration of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking demonstrated the political will of States in that field. The Economic and Social Council had, for its part, adopted resolution 1988/9 and its annex, in accordance with which it intended to follow up the Declaration and the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline and which provided for broad co-ordination among United Nations bodies.

75. Venezuela had been the first country to draw attention in the General Assembly to the need for a convention against drug abuse and trafficking which took into account the current aspects of the problem, in particular the new forms of crimes to which it gave rise. That convention, which was still being drafted, took duly into consideration the needs and sometimes delicate concerns of all States. Following its adoption at the plenipotentiary conference convened for that purpose by the Economic and Social Council, the draft convention would constitute a universal instrument for increasing the effectiveness of multilateral action to control narcotic drugs. Venezuela hoped that all Member States would participate in that conference at the highest level and that they would demonstrate a spirit of compromise there.

76. The adoption and implementation of a new international instrument would certainly not by themselves eliminate the drug problem. They nevertheless represented an important step forward in the campaign which countries intended to conduct on different fronts to put an end to that problem. In that connection, she recalled that the drug problem had been one of the main topics of discussion at the recent presidential meeting of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Concerted Political Action, held at Punta del Este, Uruguay.

77. Venezuela reaffirmed its support for the important activities of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, to which it was a contributor. It also paid

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tribute to the role played by the Division of Narcotic Drugs and deplored the lack of financial and human resources which was hindering its operations at the very time when it would be called upon to assume more important responsibilities. It was to be hoped that the Conference of Plenipotentiaries would not have to suffer the same constraints and that the necessary conference services would be made available. The United Nations bodies concerned must have the necessary means to implement the international programmes to fight drugs for which they were responsible.

78. Mr. COTTAFANI (Italy) said that the statement made by the representative of Greece had explained the common position of the 12 States Members of the European Community regarding the international campaign against drug abuse and illicit traffic in drugs. In view of the active role which his Government had played in that field, he wished to add to that statement on a number of points.

79. In the face of the growing threat posed by the drug problem, all States must appropriate greater resources, in a comprehensive and integrated way, to the campaign against the devastating consequences of the use of drugs. The International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking had certainly helped to enhance international co-operation in that field. The entire global strategy established by the Conference deserved the full support of all States. It was very important that, within the framework of the collective strategy, national legislations should be progressively harmonized through the adoption and implementation of a convention against the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Italy therefore associated itself with all other States which had expressed their determination to contribute actively to the successful outcome of the forthcoming plenipotentiary conference.

80. The Italian Government welcomed all the initiatives taken by many States to deal with the use of narcotic drugs through education, the treatment and rehabilitation of addicts and, when necessary, through penal measures. The human aspect of the problem must however be borne in mind. Farmers in developing countries who grew marijuana or coca leaves must be provided with substitute projects without which they would be unable to survive.

81. The United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, in co-operation with many countries, had developed master plans to fight narcotic drugs through rural development, social welfare, health care and education. The Fund had implemented operational plans in a number of countries and had given assistance for the preparation of such plans in others. Its resources were based on voluntary contributions and amounted to between \$50 million and \$60 million per year. In 1987 Italy had earmarked up to \$300 million for specific projects on a multi-year basis. It had already granted \$130 million for projects to be carried out in a number of countries and more recently had earmarked an additional amount of \$60 million. The Fund represented the reality of national co-operation in the campaign against drugs. Italy therefore urged all States in the vanguard of the campaign to increase their political and financial support of UNFAC.

82. Mr. LEE (Canada) said that currently there was hardly a country which could claim to be drug-free. The progress which had been achieved, particularly in reducing the international demand for drugs and in the activity of the specialized bodies of the United Nations, could not however be denied.

83. Canada attached great importance to the plenipotentiary conference which, it was hoped, would adopt the draft convention against illicit trafficking in drugs and psychotropic substances. The convention would complement existing instruments by facilitating legal assistance in investigating and prosecuting offenders and in addressing complex new aspects of the illicit international drug trade. For example, the convention would deal with the diversion of precursor and other chemicals and the use of commercial carriers or postal services as well as the laundering of drug-related money.

84. If the illicit drug trade was flourishing, it was because there was an insatiable demand world-wide, particularly in the industrialized countries. Canada had adopted a national strategy under which it would allocate more than \$200 million over five years to the fight against drugs. Education and treatment programmes would account for 70 per cent of that amount. The Canadian Government believed that attitudes must be changed and that efforts should be focused on the most vulnerable group, particularly young people between the ages of 11 and 13. Education and prevention were not enough, however, and Canada would devote significant resources to the treatment and rehabilitation of addicts. The reduction of demand was primarily a national effort. There was evidence that industrialized countries were placing greater emphasis on taking joint action to implement effective programmes. Canada was determined to contribute to such international co-operation.

85. It was a matter for regret that the general public was not aware of the excellent work performed by the United Nations in the fight against drug abuse. Canada held the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in high esteem and participated in the meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies organized by the Commission. The United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control made an indispensable contribution to the eradication of illegal drug plantations and their replacement by legitimate crops. Canada was a major donor to the Fund with an annual contribution of almost \$1 million. The Division of Narcotic Drugs had vigorously pursued the adoption of an international convention against narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Canada trusted that those efforts would bear fruit with the adoption of the new instrument. Canada also appreciated the impartial scientific work of the International Narcotics Control Board.

86. Canada was concerned at proposals to make the specialized units responsible for drug control take higher budget reductions than other United Nations bodies. Canada was opposed to such proposals. It considered that a concentrated effort was needed in the fight against illicit drugs and that task would be impossible if resources were cut excessively. It could not accept the reorganization of the units concerned without first studying the full effects of such a step. The units were performing their tasks well. Care must be taken not to hamper their activities.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.