

UNITED NATIONS  
**General Assembly**  
FORTY-FOURTH SESSION  
*Official Records*

THIRD COMMITTEE  
31st meeting  
held on  
Friday, 3 November 1989  
at 3 p.m.  
New York

---

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 31st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KABORE (Burkina Faso)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 111: INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFIC IN DRUGS (continued)

---

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned within one week of the date of publication to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, Room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL  
A/C.3/44/SR.31  
13 November 1989

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

89-56881 1880S (E)

13 P.

/...

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 111: INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFIC IN DRUGS (continued)  
(A/44/572, A/44/601, A/44/119, A/44/235-S/20600, A/44/321, A/44/380,  
A/44/409-S/20743 and Corr.1 and 2, A/44/415-S/20749, A/44/551, A/44/477, A/44/578,  
A/44/598, A/44/607 and A/C.3/44/6)

1. Ms. SINGH (Nepal) said that illicit drug production and trafficking had become a vast undertaking, financed and master-minded by criminal organizations and protected by a system of bribes and pay-offs. Drug supply activities not only undermined the economic and social order but also posed a threat to political stability and national security by virtue of their close links with international crime, the arms trade and international terrorism. That threat had been aptly demonstrated by recent events in Colombia where law enforcement officials and others had been murdered by drug traffickers.
2. Among the most disturbing features of the drug problem were the spread of AIDS among drug abusers, the increase in the number of youth in the drug-dependent population and the damage suffered by infants born to drug-dependent mothers.
3. The scope of the drug problem and the serious threat it posed had been universally recognized. Inspired by the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and its 1972 Protocol and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, many countries had launched campaigns against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. It was therefore discouraging to note that despite all those efforts, there had been a sharp rise in drug abuse and trafficking in recent years.
4. Drug control efforts in most countries had been aimed primarily at curtailing the drug supply. Yet, those efforts could not be effective without equally strong measures to reduce demand, which was increasing at an alarming rate. According to the report on the World Social Situation (ST/ESA/213), there were an estimated 48 million regular drug users world wide. The Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse had also reconfirmed the importance of curbing both supply and demand and had stressed the need for producer countries and consumer countries to work together in that effort.
5. As an expression of its deep commitment to controlling the drug menace, her country, like many third world countries, had banned all production of opium and other harmful substances. Those measures had created difficulties for some farm communities which had long depended on cash crops of the raw materials for those substances. Production was not likely to be discontinued unless the farmers could grow profit-making substitution crops or find alternative occupations. Furthermore, since it was only one aspect of the larger problem of underdevelopment, the drug problem had to be tackled at the roots by means of economic recovery programmes and the establishment of a new world economic order.
6. Illicit drug production and trafficking was too complex a problem for any one country to tackle alone and required close inter-country collaboration. Among the activities at the international level, her delegation wished to commend the work of

(Ms. Singh, Nepal)

the Division of Narcotic Drugs and the International Narcotics Control Board, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, UNDP and the ILO for their contributions in the areas of prevention, control, training and the treatment and rehabilitation of drug users.

7. Her delegation appreciated the United Kingdom's decision to contribute £500,000 to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) and welcomed its offer to host an international conference on cocaine demand reduction in 1990.
8. The year 1989 had been designated by the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) as the Year for Combating Drug Abuse and Drug Trafficking, reflecting the determination of the member countries to launch a concerted regional campaign against drugs. In the framework of that programme, her Government had established a national committee responsible for programme policy and planning. Two sub-committees would assist in implementing a comprehensive network of anti-drug projects.
9. Although the drug problem was not as severe in her country as in some others, drug abuse among Nepalese youth had risen significantly in the 1980s. As part of its anti-drug campaign, her Government had promulgated the Narcotic Drug Control Act in 1976, had set up a special Narcotics Control Administration and had issued a decree authorizing local officials to destroy illicit crops and indict offenders. Subsequent amendments to the 1976 Act had provided for severe punitive action against drug offenders and had expedited the judicial review of drug cases.
10. Other anti-drug measures included increased responsibility for customs and law enforcement officials in preventing drug entry and transit; education, treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers; greater access to free treatment for drug users; and educational programmes for the public and in the schools.
11. She welcomed the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline, which called for increased and concerted international action and provided clear guidelines for the implementation of anti-drug measures. It was encouraging that 71 countries out of 106 participants in the conference to draft a convention had signed the Convention as of August 1989. Her delegation welcomed the General Assembly's decision to hold a special session early in 1990 to prepare a global plan of action on drugs.
12. Mr. CASAJUANA (Spain) said that his delegation fully endorsed the statement by the representative of France on behalf of the Twelve. The battle against drugs called for continuing and expanded concerted efforts, in particular, by the European countries to co-operate fully with other regions. The International Meeting on Drugs, held at Madrid in October 1989, had brought together participants and guests from Europe and the Americas and had issued a Joint Declaration which envisaged a co-operative anti-drug strategy. Copies of the Declaration would be available to delegations.

13. Mrs. ERSHAD (Bangladesh) said that she wished to pay a tribute to the Governments of Colombia and Mexico for their courageous efforts to fight the drug problem and to the United States initiative in launching a national drug control policy and providing assistance to drug-threatened countries. Action was needed at the regional, national and international levels and should have three main objectives: prevention and reduction of demand; containment and curtailment of supply; and treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers.

14. The major obstacles to an effective drug control programme were insufficient resources, lack of adequate information about the nature of illicit drugs and their production and an absence of technical expertise among enforcement personnel. Not only did legal systems have to be adapted but the administrative machinery for law enforcement, and for social and educational rehabilitation measures, had to be put in place. It was therefore imperative for the international community to share experience, knowledge and expertise and to pool its material resources.

15. As a signatory to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, Bangladesh had fulfilled its commitment to stop the cultivation and consumption of the small amount of cannabis which it had been producing under strict government supervision. In addition, there was no production of opium, opium derivatives or any psychotropic substances in her country. Importation of opium for registered consumers had been banned in July 1984. However, drug abuse had increased at an alarming rate in recent years and there was growing evidence that her country, which was highly vulnerable because of its physical proximity to the production belts, was being used as a transit route. In its comprehensive anti-drug campaign, her Government was using a two-fold strategy: reduction of supply through enforcement measures and curtailment of demand through, inter alia, preventive government and NGO educational programmes, youth development, recreational facilities and job creation.

16. Her Government had established a National Drug Resistance Committee whose mandate was to formulate guidelines, monitor their implementation and ensure rehabilitation of addicts. It was also considering setting up a special police unit to deal with drug-related crimes. In 1988 it had enacted a law providing the maximum penalty of death and a minimum prison term of seven years for possession, sale or trafficking in dangerous drugs.

17. Bangladesh was endeavouring to co-ordinate national policies with regional and international anti-drug efforts and had been an active participant in establishing, within the framework of SAARC, the Permanent Technical Committee on Prevention of Drug Abuse, in the hope of producing a regional convention. SAARC had declared 1989 as the Year for Combating Drug Abuse.

18. She welcomed the call by the United Kingdom Government for a conference in London in 1990 to consider ways of curbing demand and the recent decision of the General Assembly to hold a special session on drugs. In April 1989, her country had become a signatory to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, thus reaffirming its total commitment to the promotion of a drug-free world.

19. Ms. ANSTEE (Director-General, United Nations Office at Vienna) said that the recent terrifying events in Colombia marked a turning point in the drug debate, sweeping away any doubts as to whether drug abuse and drug trafficking should be among the top priority items on the international agenda. The Colombian Government had responded with courage and determination, earning universal admiration. Yet the problem was not confined to that country. The rapidly worsening situation demanded new efforts from all nations, individually and collectively and further strengthening of the United Nations.

20. In her previous statement to the Committee, she had emphasized the interdependence among the various aspects of the drug problem. While its political aspects had tended to dominate the debate, it was important not to overlook the economic and social ramifications for all countries, producers and consumers alike. For example, the recent World Bank Consultative Group Meeting on Bolivia had concluded that the problem of cocaine production and trafficking could not be divorced from the country's general situation. It was essential to improve standards of living and create jobs and other sources of livelihood for the entire population and to work towards price stabilization and increased access to markets for the country's other legal exports. Such changes, which could not be undertaken without international support, were also in the interests of the consumer countries, which were increasingly threatened by the insidious advance of the drug culture. It was no coincidence that at the recent meeting of Mayors of Europe and North America, the overriding preoccupation had been the rising flood of drugs and the related upsurge in violent crime. Concerns such as those had led to the welcome initiative of the United Kingdom to host an international conference in 1990 on the reduction of demand for drugs.

21. A global approach was essential to the international campaign against drugs. It had to encompass all aspects - economic, social, cultural, ecological and political - of that immensely complex problem. Furthermore, in searching for new ways of attacking the problem, the international community should not forget the considerable progress that had been made in the last few years or the valuable instruments that already existed and were in need of more effective implementation.

22. The 1987 International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances were significant milestones, imposing new obligations on Member States and increased responsibilities for the United Nations system. As co-ordinator of all United Nations drug-related programmes, she had endeavoured to make maximum use of the scarce resources available throughout the system and to achieve maximum progress towards the agreed-upon goals. The meagreness of resources remained a constant debilitating restraint.

23. She expressed the hope that Member States would speedily ratify the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances so that it could enter into force as soon as possible. The preparation of a system-wide programme of action based on existing mandates would not be an easy task. It was essential to demonstrate how the system was responding to the demands made upon it

(Ms. Anstee)

by Governments, identify the resources already available to all components of the system, agree on additional action that must be taken and how to provide the additional resources.

24. The Secretary-General bore the responsibility of helping intergovernmental bodies reach conclusions and decide on the various options under consideration. That was the purpose of an internal study to examine objectively as many aspects as possible of various informal suggestions for strengthening the Organization's role in law enforcement and interdiction with regard to drug trafficking. The study, which was expected to be completed before the end of the current session, responded to some of the concerns raised by delegations in the Committee. Although there had been three previous management studies of the drug units, their conclusions had not been implemented because of lack of agreement at the political level. Any new exercise of that kind should lead to arrangements that had general support and were an improvement on the current situation. Furthermore, none of the linkages with related programmes in the social development policy area should be lost in the process.

25. Events in Colombia and the tenor of the debate in the General Assembly had increasingly led to talk of an all-out war on drugs. If that was indeed the case, all available resources must be mobilized. Much more money was needed to help "producer" countries stem the flow of drugs towards the largest markets, assist the so-called major "consumer" countries in curbing demand, and enable the co-operation mechanisms to operate effectively. The funds provided were still pitifully inadequate compared to the billions of dollars at the disposal of drug traffickers. Although the means available to the United Nations system had increased somewhat recently, they were still totally disproportionate to its mandates and responsibilities. Accordingly, the greatest possible use must be made of human resources through training and logistical support.

26. The proposal to legalize narcotic drugs was deceptively simple. The problem, however, was infinitely more complex. There were no easy solutions or "quick fixes". The vast majority of Governments did not consider legalization to be an option readily acceptable to their peoples. As in all wars, a carefully thought out and effective strategy was essential. All available resources must be mobilized and the fight must be waged on all fronts at once.

27. Mr. KRENKEL (Austria) said that Austria fully supported the holding of a special session of the General Assembly to consider the question of international co-operation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs. The preparations for the special session must be thorough and Governments and United Nations bodies dealing with drug questions should participate actively in order to ensure a broad basis for taking decisions. He expressed satisfaction at the extensive work carried out by the drug control units and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) in Vienna.

28. The three aspects of drug control were demand reduction, suppression of illicit drug trafficking and crop eradication. Further research on drug-demand

(Mr. Krenkel, Austria)

reduction was necessary and would require additional financial resources. It should also be determined whether maximum use was being made of existing resources and programmes in the field. There was a need for better understanding of the interrelationship between such factors as upbringing, family circumstances, poverty, unemployment and social environment, on the one hand, and drug addiction, on the other.

29. The Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances would be a very useful tool in dealing with drug trafficking. Austria strongly supported the development of a long-term drug law enforcement training strategy and considered that the proposed establishment of a United Nations drug law enforcement training programme in the near future was crucial.

30. The relationship between crop substitution and the development prospects of developing countries must be taken into consideration. Increased financial flows to those countries, greater market access for their products and commodity price stabilization would most likely lead to successful crop eradication and substitution. By revitalizing their economies, eliminating poverty and creating employment possibilities, countries would be able to stop producing raw materials for narcotic drugs.

31. Mr. USMAN (Brunei Darussalam) called on all countries to give their full support and co-operation to ensure success in the efforts of the United Nations to combat illicit drug trafficking. His delegation supported the Organization's multi-faceted programme to help countries deal with the drug problem through education, prevention, rehabilitation, crop substitution and law enforcement.

32. Although the drug problem in Brunei Darussalam was still relatively small, his Government wanted to eradicate drug abuse completely. The Narcotic Control Bureau had been established in 1988 for that purpose. The Bureau had the power to arrest and prosecute drug traffickers and seize shipments of illicit drugs. National legislation imposed severe penalties for drug-related offences and served to deter drug trafficking and the Government launched education campaigns to heighten public awareness of the serious consequences of illicit drug trafficking and drug abuse.

33. Brunei Darussalam participated actively in international and regional activities to solve the drug problem and was committed to the United Nations efforts to promote co-operation among all nations in dealing with drug problems, particularly illicit trafficking. Conferences such as the recent Second Interregional Meeting of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA) in Vienna were instrumental in suppressing illicit trafficking.

34. Mr. SCHLEGEL (German Democratic Republic) said that the 1987 International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking had identified areas for national action and international co-operation in fighting drug abuse and trafficking. The recommendations of the Conference must be translated into resolute action. Maximum use must be made of relevant international conventions such as the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

(Mr. Schlegel, German  
Democratic Republic)

35. The German Democratic Republic supported the conclusions and recommendations in the report of the Secretary-General (A/44/572) and the proposal that a general programme should be worked out with due regard for the provisions of the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control and the 1988 Convention. The German Democratic Republic had signed the Convention in 1988 and its drug enforcement laws were fully in accordance with that instrument. It had been participating quite actively in efforts to promote international co-operation in drug abuse control and favoured resolute action under international agreements to prevent the illegal import, export and transit of narcotic drugs.

36. His Government supported the idea of holding meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies in Europe. Consideration should be given to the proposals for further strengthening the role of the United Nations in combating drug abuse. The special session of the General Assembly to consider the question of international co-operation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs would help mobilize the material and human resources needed to deal with the problem and co-ordinate work among the various United Nations agencies.

37. International co-operation in drug law enforcement must be supported by resolute action at the national level in order to create a social environment where the demand for narcotic drugs was minimal. Achievement of that goal required joint endeavours in all relevant areas, including health, education and law enforcement.

38. Mr. KOSHROO (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that Iran, itself a victim of drug abuse and trafficking, had recently embarked on a comprehensive campaign against the use of illicit narcotic drugs. A headquarters to co-ordinate executive policy for the campaign had been established under the direct chairmanship of the President of the Islamic Republic.

39. Its new drug law mandated punishment for poppy planting and cultivation; import, export, storing, trafficking, processing and supply of drugs; manufacturing drug requisites and instruments; sheltering drug offenders; and destroying or concealing evidence of drug offences. Prosecutors were permitted to call for capital punishment for those convicted of possession, concealment, export and import of more than 30 grams of heroin and morphine and 5 kg of opium, armed drug smuggling, and illicit poppy cultivation. Traffickers were also deprived of all assets acquired from drug smuggling except the means of support for their families.

40. New laws and severe punishment alone would not eradicate the problem. Consequently, his Government had undertaken a vast prevention programme, including employment, education, medical treatment and rehabilitation.

41. Since the campaign against drugs called for extensive multilateral co-operation, Iran had begun negotiations with some Asian countries towards the conclusion of multilateral agreements. Its newly established drug headquarters



(Mr. Koshroo, Islamic  
Republic of Iran)

would host the May 1990 meeting of the International Conference of the Campaign against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in addition to the Drug Expert Group of the Islamic Conference. It stood ready to exchange information and experience on the drug problem through the international agencies.

42. Mr. FERENC (Hungary) said that the political commitment of Member States and the central and increasing role of the United Nations system were key elements in the fight against drug trafficking and abuse. Universal accession to international drug control treaties and their strict implementation would intensify and strengthen both international co-operation and national action.

43. His delegation fully supported the Colombian initiative and welcomed the proposal for a special session of the General Assembly on the drug problem.

44. Hungary had co-operated closely with international drug control organizations and was a party to all existing international drug treaties. It had signed the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in August 1989, and had already complied with the strict foreign trade measures called for by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs by instituting a supplementary declaration system similar to the one for psychotropic substances for the export of precursor materials such as ergotamin and ergometrin.

45. The universal phenomenon of drug abuse had become acute in Hungary towards the end of the 1970s with the appearance of "hard" drugs. Drug consumption was also beginning earlier, with experimental use found among children as young as 10 years of age. In response, a drug treatment centre had been established and drug education had been added to the school curriculum along with more training for drug treatment specialists.

46. The sophistication and complexity of illicit drug trafficking required a concerted effort to increase the efficiency of the criminal justice system and strengthen national and international legal instruments. International co-operation was imperative in order to disrupt international drug trafficking networks and prosecute international criminal gangs. Hungarian customs and police agencies had long enjoyed close co-operation with their counterparts in neighbouring countries, and had participated actively in HONLEA.

47. Mrs. KALMYK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the drug trade had undermined the social order and democratic institutions of many countries. It was often linked to the arms trade, sabotage and terrorism, and joint international efforts were required to combat it. The basis for such efforts had been established in international decisions calling for practical measures and for giving the drug problem high priority on the United Nations agenda. Faithful compliance with the relevant international instruments, and especially the very important recently adopted Convention against Illicit Traffic in Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, must be an important part of such efforts.

(Mrs. Kalmyk, USSR)

48. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs had a very important role to play in the implementation of international decisions to combat the drug problem, and her delegation strongly supported efforts to strengthen it. Her delegation also welcomed the steps recently taken at joint meetings of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to co-ordinate the efforts of all United Nations bodies dealing with the drug problem. The Secretariat must give its full support to those bodies.

49. Her delegation supported proposals to give the United Nations a greater role in dealing with the drug problem, especially through practical measures to assist member States in their individual efforts to combat drugs. Consideration should be given to the proposal to create special forces to help countries, at their request, to combat drug abuse, with due regard for the sovereignty and wishes of the States concerned and to establish United Nations machinery to promote co-operation in the use of aerospace technology to detect illegal crops. Such measures, however, should not result in the creation of new bureaucratic structures in the United Nations. In order to expand regional co-operation to combat drugs she favoured the convening at another meeting of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies.

50. The war against drugs required long-range and consistent measures and she therefore favoured the proclamation of a United Nations decade to combat drugs. She commended the work of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) and said that her country was exploring ways to increase its support for it. Bilateral co-operation in the war against drugs should be buttressed by providing it with a sound legal foundation.

51. Mr. NOGUEIRA-BATISTA (Brazil) took note of the recent Declaration made at Ica, Peru, by the Heads of State of the Permanent Mechanism of Consultation and Concerted Political Action of Latin America, reaffirming their decision to fight illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances with all available means, with due regard to national sovereignty.

52. Since the last century nations had progressively become more aware of the need for greater and more effective co-operation at the international level against drug abuse. Between 1912 and 1988, 14 multilateral instruments dedicated to controlling drug abuse had been adopted, most with nearly universal participation.

53. His delegation felt that the Third Committee should avoid any action that would prejudice the aims of the proposed special session or interfere with its unique political mandate. Its broad mandate and high-level participation would allow identification of specific aspects of the drug problem not sufficiently covered by existing instruments. Demand was one such area for any serious effort to combat the drug problem must address the essential aspects of demand and distribution. The special session could be the forum through which the international community would give impetus to greater co-operation in traditional areas while identifying new ones and providing guidance for United Nations agency technical activities. His delegation envisaged a plan of action as the main substantive document emanating from the special session.

(Mr. Noqueira-Batista, Brazil)

54. He concluded by urging careful examination of the substantive proposals put forth by President Barco in his address to the General Assembly, and consideration of the formation of an intergovernmental working group.
55. Mr. MGBOKWERE (Nigeria) said that the sense of urgency in international action on the drug issue must be sustained and must be coupled with concerted action if the war against illicit drug trafficking was to be won. Few issues as readily commanded such unanimous support, and every opportunity to build on that unique international understanding and co-operation must be used.
56. The well-organized and well-financed drug cartels must not be allowed to undermine State authority, or to put the law under siege. The President of Colombia had shown extraordinary courage in facing the situation in his country, and it must not be allowed to lose the war.
57. Two significant events had occurred since the adoption of resolution 43/122. The first was the adoption of the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, symbolizing the resolve of the international community to effectively suppress such illicit traffic. The Convention provided the fundamental tools for strengthening the fabric of international co-operation, but also attacked traffickers in their profit-making and their freedom of movement.
58. The second event was the Second Interregional Meeting of HONLEA to consider the provisional application of the Convention. The role of drug law enforcement training had also been emphasized and the establishment of training centres in each of the five African subregions had been recommended, with priority given to West Africa, a major transit area. His delegation agreed that standardized police practices at the regional and international level would prevent drug syndicates from taking advantage of disparate law enforcement practices.
59. The enormous wealth of the drug traffickers and the increasing sophistication of their operations not only highlighted the need for a global strategy to combat organized crime, but also the need to strengthen staffing and funding of United Nations drug control bodies. His delegation appealed for generous technical assistance and support to developing countries to enable them to grapple with transit traffic without having to divert development resources.
60. His Government was among the earliest to accede to the Convention. It had recently embarked on a nation-wide media drug education campaign on the hazards of drug use. Nigeria was still being used as a transit point, but through effective co-ordination with destination States, the number of drug seizures had dramatically increased in 1989. In order to strengthen regional law enforcement co-operation, Nigeria had fostered a quadripartite agreement with Benin, Ghana and Togo.
61. In conclusion, his delegation expressed its appreciation for UNFDAC support and to the Government of the United Kingdom for equipping a forensic science laboratory.

62. Mr. DING YUANHONG (China) said that awareness of the need for co-ordinated international action to fight drugs was reflected in the recently adopted Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. China was among its earliest signatories and hoped that it would become universal and enter into force soon. It also fully supported the decision to convene a special session of the General Assembly devoted to the question of narcotic drugs and would co-operate fully to ensure its success.

63. His Government had maintained a strict ban on drugs and pursued a policy of severe punishment for drug-related crimes so that for 30 years China had enjoyed the reputation of being a drug-free country, but recently international drug rings had taken advantage of China's geographical situation to use it as a transit country for drug trafficking and the Chinese Government had responded by an increasingly successful crackdown. It attached great importance to international co-operation against drugs and had made good progress in developing co-operation with the drug control agencies of other countries and regions and with the United Nations. It had sponsored a workshop for narcotic drug control officers, anti-drug workshops as well as symposia and meetings of law enforcement agencies to promote better co-ordination among the police of various countries in the fight against drugs.

64. The Declaration of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control had produced recommendations for the international anti-drug campaign which, if effectively implemented, would have far-reaching effects, and United Nations drug control agencies had made much progress in that connection in spite of financial constraints and personnel problems. The problem was still far from being resolved, however. The United Nations must give even greater support to its drug control agencies and further co-ordinate their efforts with those of the specialized agencies.

65. Mr. MACEDA (Philippines) said that the drug problem transcended national boundaries. The international traffic in drugs had surpassed international trade in oil and was second only to trade in armaments; and drug addiction had become increasingly more organized and difficult to control. Co-operation at national, regional and international levels was urgently needed, instead of pointless efforts to blame specific countries for the problem. The United Nations International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and the adoption of the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances illustrated the kind of collective action the United Nations could provide in combating drugs.

66. His own Government spared no effort, despite its limited resources, to eradicate drug abuse, stop trafficking, treat and rehabilitate drug abuse victims and fight police corruption. It co-operated with other countries and organizations at the regional and international levels in implementing its own drug abuse prevention and control programmes. Drug law enforcement officers and police officials were being trained to extend their expertise to preventive drug

(Mr. Maceda, Philippines)

education, counselling and rehabilitation. Measures to ensure the arrest, detention and prosecution of drug offenders had been taken and anti-drug laws had been enacted to implement the provisions of the relevant international instruments. The restoration of the death penalty had been proposed for illegal, drug-related acts, as had life imprisonment for officials who aided or abetted persons charged with acts considered crimes under the drug laws.

67. Unfortunately, however, the Philippines lacked the machinery and infrastructure it needed to stop drug traffickers, whose international syndicates exploited its poverty to lure people into cultivating illegal drugs, and therefore needed the assistance of the entire international community in its anti-drug war.

68. He stressed the importance of the Convention, which prescribed practical measures that national authorities could take against drug trafficking, and said that as a member of the Philippines Senate he would personally do his utmost to ensure its ratification by the Philippines.

69. Mrs. SKOWRON-OLSZOWSKA (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) said that UNESCO's efforts to combat drug abuse stressed preventive education, which had proved to be the only way to reduce the demand for drugs on a long-term basis. Preventive education must therefore become an integral part of the school curriculum and of extracurricular activities based on precise knowledge of the conditions under which drugs were used. International exchange of information should also be developed, particularly among drug-consumer countries where living conditions, customs and cultural conditions were similar. UNESCO had formulated a plan of action to define the illicit drug situation more precisely, to produce an inventory of documentation on anti-drug projects and to organize preventive education to improve the quality of life and the environment. The plan of action required international co-operation and the support of many disciplines. The goal was to build on the values of a specific culture rather than to impose a particular ethic. It was important to enlist the aid of the mass media in preventive education and to assess the impact of anti-drug education projects on the basis of criteria that remained to be defined.

70. UNESCO was studying the effectiveness of anti-drug media campaigns in order to help developing countries launch such campaigns, and was co-operating with various countries and organizations for that purpose. It was also pursuing efforts to encourage the exchange of information and experts on a South-South basis and co-operated extensively with other United Nations agencies and bodies to combat drug abuse, through, inter alia, joint projects. It gave financial support to countries that were implementing anti-drug projects and subsidized seminars and workshops in different countries.

71. UNESCO had been active in the war against drugs since 1970 and its educational efforts included publications in several languages and expert meetings and seminars at regional and national levels, as well as consultative services to Member States.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.