



# Administrative Committee on Coordination

10 December 1998

English only

## Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions

### Report of the ACC Subcommittee on Drug Control on its sixth session

(Rome, 14–16 September 1998)

#### Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction .....	1	3
II. Matters brought to the attention of the Administrative Committee on Coordination .....	2–3	3
III. Work of the Subcommittee .....	4–27	3
A. Actions taken and decisions adopted by the Subcommittee .....	4	3
B. Summary of the discussion .....	5–27	3
1. Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on drug control .....	8–14	3
2. Presentation by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction .....	15	5
3. United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control and operationalization of inter-agency cooperation in drug control .....	16–20	5
4. Impact of United Nations reform .....	21–22	5
5. Other business .....	23–27	6
(a) Themes for the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in 1999 and 2000 .....	23–24	6
(b) Dates and venue for the seventh session .....	25	6
(c) Provisional agenda for the seventh session .....	26	6
(d) Adoption of the report on the sixth session .....	27	6

Annexes

I.	Agenda .....	7
II.	List of participants .....	8
III.	Provisional agenda for the seventh session .....	9
IV.	Interim action plan for coordinated inter-agency support for national implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly .....	10

## I. Introduction

1. The sixth session of the ACC Subcommittee on Drug Control was held at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Rome, from 14 to 16 September 1998. The agenda is contained in annex I, the list of participants in annex II.

## II. Matters brought to the attention of the Administrative Committee on Coordination

2. The participants confirmed their informal agreement that Ms. Sumru Noyan should serve as Chairperson of the Subcommittee through 1999.

3. The Subcommittee wished to reaffirm its commitment to the multi-faceted principles of international drug control, especially in the area of demand reduction and alternative development, and to support and assist national efforts to implement commitments made. To this end, it wished to move forward to instigate, facilitate, enhance and monitor action-oriented coordination at the country level. Consequently, the Subcommittee recommended that a broad strategic framework at the policy level be developed, and drew attention to the interim action plan contained in annex IV to the present report.

## III. Work of the Subcommittee

### A. Actions taken and decisions adopted by the Subcommittee

4. The Subcommittee confirmed that the theme for the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in 1999 would be "Music" and decided on "Networking" as the theme for 2000.

### B. Summary of the discussion

5. The Director of the Research, Extension and Training Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, on behalf of the Director-General and the Assistant Director-General of the Sustainable Development Department, welcomed the participants. Reaffirming the commitment of FAO to cooperating in the international drug control effort, she referred to the twentieth special session of

the General Assembly, saying that a comprehensive set of statements had been adopted confirming the importance of a balanced approach to the world drug problem. Giving a brief synopsis of the outcome of the special session, she highlighted the interest of FAO in cooperating in the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development and stressed her organization's commitment to supporting the promotion of income generation and the diversification of agriculture through innovative approaches. She concluded by saying that the United Nations system looked to the Subcommittee to maintain the momentum gained from the special session.

6. The Chairperson welcomed the participants, especially the newcomer to the group, the new Director of the Division for the Renovation of Secondary and Vocational Education of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and expressed thanks to FAO for hosting the meeting. She also thanked the Subcommittee for the work done in preparing the joint ACC statement for the twentieth special session of the General Assembly (A/S-20/3). She said that it was now essential to follow up on the decisions of the special session. Of special interest to the Subcommittee would be the action plan building on the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Demand Reduction (General Assembly resolution S-20/3) and the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development (Assembly resolution S-20/4 E). In the latter case, it was of particular advantage that the Subcommittee would be able to benefit from the expertise of FAO colleagues. She also pointed out that the special session was equated with major international conferences and that drug control would therefore be on the agenda of the United Nations coordination machinery in that context, which would require extra reporting from the agencies. Further agenda items would include a presentation by the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction and a review of the evaluation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control.

7. The provisional agenda was adopted as amended.

### 1. Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on drug control

#### Demand reduction

8. The representative of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) introduced the topic of demand reduction by explaining that in the Political Declaration (Assembly resolution S-20/2), the General Assembly had identified three priority areas: youth, mobilizing civil society, and providing opportunities for

treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration. Actions to which Governments had committed themselves were implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Demand Reduction, the establishment of new or enhanced strategies by 2003, and the achievement of measurable results by 2008. Two parallel activities were currently under way: an action plan to assist in the implementation of the Declaration was being prepared by Member States with UNDCP assistance; and a business plan for coordinated international support to further assist countries in the practicalities of implementation was being drafted by UNDCP.

9. With regard to the action plan, a preliminary draft had been circulated to Governments and agencies for comments. Some concern was expressed by the Subcommittee that the draft was repetitive and did not provide clear targets. Agencies were to provide their individual comments to UNDCP by 12 October 1998. Collectively, the Subcommittee requested UNDCP to adjust the language where necessary to reflect uniformity whenever referring to "UNDCP" or "UNDCP and other agencies" to read "UNDCP in consultation and collaboration with other concerned entities, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system".

10. With regard to the business plan, a representative of UNDCP indicated that the draft proposal was not yet ready for dissemination for input, but that the plan would inevitably entail a high degree of collaboration with the agencies. She added that an innovative, proactive, partnership approach had been taken in the plan. However, she emphasized the need for adequate funding to implement it.

11. The proposal she outlined was welcomed by the Subcommittee, which indicated that it should encompass collective efforts of the United Nations system and benefit from comparative advantages, and that it should be closely aligned to and support the national-level action plan. Participants also expressed interest in participating in the future development of the plan.

12. Several agencies referred to ongoing activities that could be utilized to move the plan forward. These included UNESCO's preventive education programme and its network of schools, youth, cultural and communication programmes, as well as UNESCO clubs and national commissions. The World Health Organization (WHO) was promoting work in a number of areas described in the outline of the business plan, much of it in close cooperation with UNDCP, including development of drug abuse epidemiology, rapid assessments of drug abuse, and development of effective approaches to prevention and treatment of drug abuse. WHO was also promoting school surveys, with the difference that they

included alcohol and tobacco. UNDCP collaboration with the International Labour Organization in workplace prevention programmes and mobilization of the private sector was also highlighted. The Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS) was working with many countries in national strategic planning, including situation assessment of risk behaviours and the regular reporting and dissemination of data by the UNAIDS and WHO Epidemiology and Surveillance Working Group. The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute had carried out periodic crime victim surveys, had developed a training methodology and had already trained survey teams in many developing and Eastern European countries. FAO related its rural development programmes, including agricultural training, informal education and rural youth outreach, to the proposed business plan.

#### **Eradication of illicit crops and alternative development**

13. On the topic of eradication of illicit crops and alternative development, a representative of UNDCP drew the Subcommittee's attention to the related commitment made by Governments in adopting the Political Declaration (General Assembly resolution S-20/2). As far as UNDCP was concerned, action was progressing on two fronts: the development of a global plan for monitoring the illicit cultivation of crops, building on existing expertise; and the development of country programmes, or business plans, for the countries affected. Initial consultations with potential partners had already taken place. He further explained the potential role of development agencies and the requirement of contributions from demand-reduction-oriented agencies in the implementation of the plan.

14. Drawing on the expertise available in FAO, the Subcommittee was briefed on various aspects of the work of that organization as it related to alternative development, international drug control and the Committee's own work. A graphic presentation on the work of the ACC Global Network on Rural Development and Food Security highlighted the importance of country-based thematic groups within the resident coordinator system, and of networking with all partners at the headquarters and field levels, as well as between regional and sectoral groups. Participants expressed interest in this innovative approach, which they might consider emulating at a later date. In the context of rural development, another briefing highlighted the importance of human resources development, and explained FAO activities in that area, indicating where and how drug control activities could be integrated. Another presentation extolled the

benefits of marketing and indicated that that was an essential factor for the success of alternative development programmes. A final presentation illustrated the importance of community participation in, and ownership of, programmes, especially in situations where formal institutions were weak.

## **2. Presentation by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction**

15. A representative of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, which was established by the European Commission in 1993 to harmonize existing data and provide comparable and reliable statistics, informed the meeting of the Centre's mandate and activities. The main functions during the first three years of the Centre's existence had focused on epidemiology and demand reduction. For the next three-year plan, activities were being extended to include a compilation of legislation and policies, the development of an early warning system on new synthetic drugs and a study on the social cost of drug policy. He said that the Centre's formal partners were currently UNDCP, WHO, the World Customs Organization, Interpol and the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe, and that the Centre was seeking to expand this list. Representatives of those organizations participated as observers in the Centre's Management Board, which consisted of government representatives of the 15 countries members of the European Union.

## **3. United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control and operationalization of inter-agency cooperation in drug control**

16. The evaluator of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control introduced the evaluation and explained the process, findings and recommendations to the Subcommittee.

17. Appreciation was expressed by all participants for the evaluation. In general, the participants agreed that the System-wide Action Plan had not been ideal in the past, but support was expressed for the most recent approach, which had entailed the development of sectoral and subsectoral plans of action with task force managers and core partners for given issues.

18. There was consensus within the Subcommittee that the concept of the System-wide Action Plan had to some extent been overtaken by events — in the form of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). The Subcommittee was unanimous on the need to take concrete steps to align the System-wide Action Plan with the Political Declaration and the Plans of Action endorsed by the

Assembly at its twentieth special session. UNDP considered that national drug control plans or strategies could be developed based on country strategy notes (CSNs) and UNDAFs, using the resident coordinator system for inter-agency cooperation at the country level, and that additional bureaucratic control instruments and mechanisms were unnecessary and would be confusing. It was therefore agreed that as emphasis was currently at the country level, and in the light of the strong commitment made in the ACC joint statement to the Assembly at its twentieth special session (A/S-20/3), a broad strategic framework for inter-agency cooperation in drug control at the policy level would be prepared.

19. As far as operational assistance at the country level was concerned, the Subcommittee agreed that priority should be given to supporting the objectives of the special session. In order to optimize field-level coordination, it was also agreed that thematic groups on drug control should be established in all priority countries if they did not already exist.

20. A lengthy discussion ensued on how best to move forward. In the light of the biennial reporting requirement, the Subcommittee agreed to recommend immediate action for a limited number of selected countries, while continuing to review the process in order to come up with concrete proposals for the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2000. The outline for such interim action, together with a time-frame, is contained in annex IV.

## **4. Impact of United Nations reform**

21. Overviews of the reform process were given by UNDCP, WHO and FAO. They showed that reform was an ongoing process and that restructuring, flattening bureaucratic layers, decentralizing varying levels of authority to field offices and strengthening inter-agency cooperation were the order of the day. UNDCP particularly stressed the establishment of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, which provided a clear basis for more concerted and consolidated activities by UNDCP and the Centre for International Crime Prevention (CICP).

22. At WHO headquarters, the work in the area of substance abuse had until now been carried out under the Programme on Substance Abuse within the Division of Mental Health and Prevention of Substance Abuse. As a first step in the restructuring of WHO headquarters, the new management had created nine thematic areas, or clusters, each of them delivering a message of intent. Under the new arrangement, psychoactive substances were part of the cluster of "Social change and mental health", which also included such areas as mental health, health education and promotion,

ageing and health, rehabilitation, violence and injury prevention. In addition to these specific themes the cluster would focus on emerging burdens of diseases arising from disability, conflict and changes in employment, family and social structures. The different components within the cluster offered an interesting combination of opportunities for the intensification of the work of WHO in the area of substance abuse. The Director-General had emphasized the need to reach out to the rest of the United Nations family to unite forces for health, development and poverty reduction.

## **5. Other business**

### **(a) Themes for the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in 1999 and 2000**

23. Reverting to the discussion held at its fifth session, the Subcommittee confirmed its wish to have "Music" as the theme for the day in 1999, but did not wish to attach any slogan to it, not even a reference to drugs in the title. UNESCO reported that the rap "Free of drugs" had been most successful in the context of the Paris Youth Event in February 1998 as well as at the panel on children and youth, held during the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. UNAIDS reported that, together with the World Bank, it was funding MTV for the production and transmission of HIV/AIDS-related films in several countries. The participants agreed that such activities as youth festivals and music programmes should be identified throughout the year in schools as well as out of schools.

24. With regard to 2000, the new millennium offered appropriate timing for "together we can do it", and the Subcommittee therefore decided that "Networking" should be the theme for that year.

### **(b) Dates and venue for the seventh session**

25. Invitations to host meetings were extended by UNESCO and WHO. It was also mentioned that it was beneficial to sometimes hold the meeting at Vienna, where greater advantage could be taken of UNDCP expertise. The Subcommittee accepted the invitation of UNESCO to hold its seventh session in Paris. The dates agreed to were from 15 to 17 September 1999.

### **(c) Provisional agenda for the seventh session**

26. The Subcommittee agreed to the provisional agenda for its seventh session as contained in annex III.

### **(d) Adoption of the report on the sixth session**

27. The Subcommittee adopted the present report on its sixth session.

## Annex I

### Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on drug control.
3. Presentation by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction.
4. United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control and operationalization of inter-agency cooperation in drug control.
5. Impact of United Nations system reform.
6. Other business:
  - (a) Themes for the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in 1999 and 2000;
  - (b) Dates and venue for the seventh session;
  - (c) Provisional agenda for the seventh session;
  - (d) Adoption of the report on the sixth session.

## Annex II

### List of participants

United Nations International Drug Control Programme	Sumru Noyan (Chairperson) Susan Mlango (Secretary)
United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute	Maria Elena Andreotti
United Nations Development Programme	David Smith
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS	Werasit Sittitrai
International Labour Organization	Behrouz Shahandeh
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	John Latham
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	Armoogum Parsuramen Sonia Bahri
World Health Organization	Jukka Sailas

### Resource persons (partial attendance)

Christina Gynna Oguz (UNDCP)
Jørn Kristensen (UNDCP)
Tomiji Mizutani (UNDCP)
Louise Fresco (FAO)
Santiago Funes (FAO)
Tito Contado (FAO)
Peter Steele (FAO)
John Rouse (FAO)
Danilo Ballotta (European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction)



## Annex III

### Provisional agenda for the seventh session

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Review of the implementation of the interim action plan for coordinated inter-agency support for national implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly.
3. Follow-up to decisions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.
4. Consideration of action to be taken with regard to the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control.
5. Presentation by UNESCO on collaboration with the media.\*
6. Presentation by the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs.\*
7. Other business:
  - (a) Dates and venue for the eighth session;
  - (b) Provisional agenda for the eighth session;
  - (c) Adoption of the report on the seventh session.

---

\* To be confirmed.

## Annex IV

### **Interim action plan for coordinated inter-agency support for national implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly**

Having considered the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, as well as the recommendations of the evaluation of the process of developing a United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control, the ACC Subcommittee on Drug Control recognizes the need to move ahead and to provide coordinated operational support to national efforts to implement the declarations and action plans emanating from the special session, and to involve all partners and stakeholders in this process.

With particular emphasis on the Political Declaration, the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Demand Reduction and the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development, the ACC Subcommittee recommends assisting Member States draw up and implement national drug control strategies by putting at their disposal advice and technical support as required,\* according to the comparative advantage of each agency, and to share information on good practices, starting on a pilot basis with the following countries, selected according to agencies' current activities: Bolivia, Lebanon, Mauritius, Myanmar, Pakistan, Peru, South Africa, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.

In order to facilitate this process of coordination at the country level, it is necessary to:

- (a) Strengthen or create thematic groups on drug control;
- (b) Integrate drug control into other inter-agency coordination groups at the field level, building on and harmonizing with the resident coordinator system, country strategy notes, United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and other existing country statements, such as master plans on drug control.

UNDCP will report to the ACC Subcommittee annually on progress achieved. On the basis of the results in these pilot countries, this coordinated approach will be considered for extension to other countries.

#### **Time-frame for the interim action plan**

1. Report of ACC Subcommittee to the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions, 20–25 September 1998;
2. ACC Subcommittee report approved by ACC, 30–31 October 1998;
3. UNDCP informs resident coordinators and field offices of the decision, with a copy to all Subcommittee focal points;
4. Each agency or programme informs its field offices, with copies to UNDCP;
5. Thematic groups on drug control are strengthened or established in the identified countries and become operational; drug control is integrated into other inter-agency machinery at the field level, as appropriate;

---

\* Areas of assistance at the national level are to include training and capacity-building; monitoring and evaluation; mobilizing financial resources; identifying regional and international expertise; and enhancing information-sharing policies and networking strategies.

6. UNDCP field offices report to headquarters on implementation, February 1999;
  7. UNDCP sends the collated information to Subcommittee focal points and convenes an informal meeting during the forty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in March 1999.
-