



Administrative Committee on Coordination

ACC/1996/17
30 September 1996

ENGLISH ONLY

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMME AND OPERATIONAL QUESTIONS

REPORT OF THE ACC SUBCOMMITTEE ON DRUG CONTROL ON ITS FOURTH SESSION

(Vienna, 4-6 September 1996)

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INTRODUCTION

1. The fourth session of the ACC Subcommittee on Drug Control was held at the Vienna International Centre from 4 to 6 September 1996. The agenda is contained in annex I, the list of participants in annex II. The agenda was adopted with additional sub-items under item 3 to reflect developments since the third session of the Subcommittee.

I. MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION

2. The Subcommittee wished to emphasize the importance of agency involvement in the preparations for the envisaged special session of the General Assembly on drug control in 1998.

3. The Subcommittee wished to report that considerable progress had been made in implementing the 1995 ACC decisions on system-wide cooperation and involvement in drug control matters. More efforts would nevertheless be required, especially with regard to the establishment of country-level thematic groups on drug control and the integration of drug-related matters in the agendas of the agencies.

4. The Subcommittee took note of the satisfaction expressed by member States during the recent sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Economic and Social Council on the progress made in implementing the revised arrangements for the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control, and wished to draw the attention of ACC to the low-cost methodology that had been employed in the process, as described in the report of the Subcommittee on its third session (ACC/1995/16).

II. WORK OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE

A. Actions taken and decisions adopted by the Subcommittee

5. The Subcommittee identified the themes to be developed in the second round of individual plans of action for inclusion in the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control, and decided to ask the task force managers of the six individual plans of action of the first round to update those plans for fund-raising purposes.

6. The Subcommittee decided that the themes for the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in 1997 and 1988, respectively, would be "Mobilizing communities to prevent drug abuse" and "Youth uniting to prevent drug abuse".

B. Summary of discussion

7. In welcoming the participants on behalf of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and its Executive Director, the Deputy Executive Director and Director of the Division for Treaty Implementation and Support Services of UNDCP emphasized three areas of particular importance in the agenda: the System-wide Action Plan, concerning which he congratulated the Subcommittee for its work in the formulation of the first round of individual plans of action and encouraged it to continue the momentum; the need for the system to work in unison to prepare for the anticipated special session of the General Assembly in 1998; and the importance of inter-agency cooperation in working with non-governmental organizations and civil society in general.

1. Global overview of the situation regarding the illicit production of, trafficking in and demand for drugs

8. The Chief of the UNDCP Technical Services Branch presented an update of the world drug abuse situation, pointing out that the figures quoted were estimates from a variety of sources, not merely the official ones provided by Governments. The presentation provided details of trends in the production and consumption of various illicit drugs in the different geographic regions. The main trends noted were a general stabilization in the use of opiates and cocaine; current price falls for those products, which could not, however, be guaranteed as lasting; and changing regional patterns of abuse of different drugs. The greatest change was the increase in the abuse of psychotropic substances, notably amphetamine-type stimulants.

9. The ensuing discussion concentrated on the growing stimulants problem. Particular concern was expressed at the risks posted to youth through various forms of communication that tended to glamorize or otherwise encourage the abuse of these substances. There was a consensus that efforts should be intensified to raise awareness of the alarming rates of abuse of amphetamine and ecstasy-type substances, and that preventive measures needed to be adopted to address that particular challenge. Meetings to be held by the World Health Organization (WHO) at Geneva in November 1996 and by UNDCP at Shanghai in late 1996 on amphetamine-type drugs would serve to enhance international action. It was recommended that the Subcommittee devote specific time and attention to the phenomenon in future meetings in order to contribute to countermeasures.

2. Drug abuse and control issues related to major meetings and conferences

(a) Economic and Social Council and General Assembly

10. The theme of the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1996 was "International cooperation against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotics and psychotropic substances and related activities". It was recognized that the meeting had been effective in focusing high-level attention on the drug issue. The summary of conclusions was made available to the participants.

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11. As to the preparations for the proposed special session of the General Assembly to be held in 1998, the Deputy Executive Director and Director of the Division for Treaty Implementation and Support Services of UNDCP informed the meeting that a report was to be submitted to the Assembly at its fifty-first session, which would be made available to the agencies as soon as it was completed. He called on the Subcommittee for input regarding the preparations for the special session and its desired results.

12. It was assumed that one outcome of the special session would be a political declaration. It was also expected that the guiding principles for demand reduction would be adopted at the special session, and that there would be a review and update of the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution S/17-2 of 23 February 1990.

13. There was consensus that extensive informal and formal consultations within the system, as well as with non-governmental organizations in the widest sense, would be essential to the preparatory process for the special session; given the political nature of General Assembly proceedings, it was recognized that care would also have to be taken to ensure the involvement of appropriate technical expertise. The agenda for the special session was likely to be broad, covering many aspects of the drug phenomenon. It was agreed, therefore, that preparations should be focused on priority areas in order to ensure the most effective outcome. The Subcommittee called for the separation of the various components of demand reduction so that each might receive adequate attention.

14. The Subcommittee was of the view that there should be a parallel forum, open to all relevant organizations in civil society, and members agreed to alert their own constituencies in support of the event. It was also suggested that a dedicated communications network be set up for the preparation of the special session.

(b) ACC task forces on follow-up to major conferences

15. The Secretary of the Subcommittee briefed the meeting on the status of the new task forces that had been established to follow-up on major international conferences, as well as on the Inter-Agency Committee on Women.

(c) Other conferences

16. As to specific follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, the UNDCP Focal Point on Women reported on implementation of the Platform for Action (A/CONF.177/20, chap. I, resolution 1, annex II) to date. She explained that the review had been based on initial monitoring of the individual plan of action entitled "Women and drugs: the gender dimension" within the System-wide Action Plan.

17. There were no reports of drug control issues having been raised at the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).

3. Conclusions and decisions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its thirty-ninth session

18. The Secretary of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs reported on the outcome of the thirty-ninth session of the Commission, and indicated that the resolutions adopted by the Commission as well as those it had recommended for adoption to the Economic and Social Council had fallen into three main categories: demand reduction, control and coordination.

19. There was discussion on the status of the guiding principles for demand reduction, and it was agreed that the draft should have wide circulation to elicit input. Depending on the availability of resources, expert group meetings would need to be convened as part of the drafting process. It was agreed that the agency focal points would be consulted on the selection of the experts.

20. The resolutions pertaining to the convening of a special session of the General Assembly and on the System-wide Action Plan were discussed under separate agenda items relevant to those subjects.

4. Review of progress in developing thematic plans of action for the strategic reorientation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control

21. In introducing the item, the Director of the UNDCP Office for External Relations, Strategic Planning and Evaluation congratulated the Subcommittee on having begun the formulation of a revitalized System-wide Action Plan, which had been positively received both by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and by the Economic and Social Council. The Director emphasized the need to ensure analysis of progress to date, identification of further themes, monitoring of implementation and funding of the System-wide Action Plan, as well as the need to relate the System-wide Action Plan to both the programming and budgeting activities of United Nations bodies and specific technical cooperation activities at the country level.

22. The Subcommittee agreed that the new process for formulating the System-wide Action Plan had worked smoothly for the first round of individual plans of action, and was encouraged by the level of commitment and cooperation of agencies. The Subcommittee stressed the need to develop in each agency a culture that was fully conducive to collaborative policy development, programming and implementation in support of the individual plans of action.

23. Concern was also expressed that lack of adequate funding might hinder implementation of the individual plans of action. It was recalled that the System-wide Action Plan was also intended to be used as a fund-raising tool. It was decided to do this at the level of individual plans of action: once the already approved plans of action had been updated and adjusted so as to be more appropriate for such purposes, a process to be undertaken by each task force manager in consultation with UNDCP, they would be publicized and launched individually, in collaboration with the concerned agencies. At the same time, it was noted that the System-wide Action plan was obliged to include already

budgeted activities to comply with its General Assembly mandate. Resources thus needed to be identified for those activities that had not yet been fully funded.

24. With regard to the next round of individual plans of action, the Subcommittee agreed on the following three modified themes and a fourth additional theme:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Task force</u>
Alternative development in zones of illicit cultivation of crops from which narcotics are produced <u>b/</u>	UNDCP, <u>a/</u> FAO, UNIDO, WHO, ILO, World Bank, UNDP
Information management and data collection systems: their role in providing indicators of sustainable reductions in the production of illicit crops	FAO, <u>a/</u> OOSA
Drugs, imprisonment and alternative sentences	UNICRI, <u>a/</u> CPCJD, <u>a/</u> ILO, UNAIDS, UNDCP, WHO
Drug abuse and trafficking in conflict and post-conflict situations	UNDCP, <u>a/</u> ILO, CPCJD, WHO, UNICRI, UNDP, DDSMS, UNHCR, UNRISD

a/ Task force manager.

b/ Incorporating the agro-industry plan of action identified at the third session of the Subcommittee; the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) proposed that a farming systems approach to alternative development in the post-narcotics phase might also be an appropriate component.

The Subcommittee agreed on the target date of 31 January 1997 for clean draft plans of action to be received from task force managers. The Subcommittee decided that the four themes listed above, when combined with the work still to be undertaken to raise funding for the six individual plans of action from the first round, provided a sufficient load on the system, and agreed to hold for future consideration a number of other themes that had been identified, such as control of licit drugs, drug abuse and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, and support for the establishment and improvement of national legislation.

25. It was noted that while each agency was responsible for monitoring and evaluating its own individual activities, the Subcommittee needed to monitor implementation of the individual plans of action to keep member States informed

of progress. UNDCP was mandated to report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs annually and to the General Assembly every two years on the implementation of the action plan. It was agreed that any proposed monitoring system should be kept as simple as possible. Since more reflection was needed on the nature of the monitoring system, a discussion paper outlining a monitoring and evaluation methodology should be prepared by UNDCP for discussion at the fifth session of the Subcommittee.

5. Integration of drug abuse control issues into country strategy notes and other agency country programmes

26. The Chief of the UNDCP Operational Activities Branch introduced a paper outlining inter-agency collaboration at the field level. As to the country strategy notes, which had been called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/199, she mentioned that to date they existed in only eight countries and were under preparation in eight others. As for specific inter-agency collaboration at the country level, she highlighted the great variety of other inter-agency initiatives on drug control, and noted that although there had been considerable improvement inter-agency cooperation was still somewhat uneven on the ground and joint activities were often of an ad hoc nature. The paper indicated those countries in which thematic groups on drug control had been established.

27. It was evident from the material presented that there had nevertheless been major progress in cooperation at the field level in the period since ACC had established the framework for system-wide cooperation on drug control at its first regular session of 1995. The Subcommittee expressed its appreciation for the extensive survey that had been conducted by UNDCP, and requested UNDCP, with input from the agencies, to collect and update such information on a regular basis.

28. It was recognized that additional effort was needed to enhance the knowledge and motivation of field personnel concerning inter-agency cooperation in drug control. UNDCP informed participants that it was preparing guidelines on that subject for resident coordinators. It was noted that the country team workshops of the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ILO) at Turin provided useful opportunities for enhancing field-level cooperation. The representative of the ILO suggested that ILO representatives be invited to the seminar held annually by UNDCP for its field office directors.

6. Collaboration with non-governmental organizations

29. Members of the Subcommittee outlined how they interacted with non-governmental organizations. It was apparent that while formal structures for consultation existed, less formal working arrangements were increasingly being sought. Some specific events and activities involving non-governmental organizations in drug control were mentioned: the December 1994 Bangkok Forum on Demand Reduction; the annual celebration of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (26 June); the WHO/UNDCP Global Initiative

for Primary Prevention, the Peddro networking publication of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; the ILO/UNDCP training project in Asia; the UNDCP regional non-governmental organizations project for southern and eastern Africa; and the grants provided through UNDCP by the Drug Abuse Prevention Centre in Japan, itself a non-governmental organization, to non-governmental organizations in developing countries.

30. The Subcommittee stressed the importance of grass-roots organizations and recognized the difficulties some organizations had to organize themselves. It was recommended that consideration be given to providing them with assistance in networking and management training. There was also agreement that the term non-governmental organizations should be used in the widest possible sense to incorporate organizations of civil society, although in specific contexts it might be necessary to distinguish between more classical non-governmental organizations and other civil society institutions, such as professional societies and labour unions. While noting that non-governmental organization activities related to drug abuse were usually perceived to be in the demand reduction sector, the representative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization pointed out that they could also be utilized in the supply reduction sector.

31. The Subcommittee welcomed the publication of the UNDCP directory of non-governmental organizations working in drug demand reduction, which was distributed at the meeting, as well as the fact that the directory would also be made available in regularly updated form through the World Wide Web. A number of suggestions were made on ways to enhance the content of the directory and ensure the greatest possible coverage.

32. The Subcommittee agreed on material to be incorporated in response to the queries raised in two recent letters from the Secretary of the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions on non-governmental organizations/civil society issues.

7. Accessibility and exchange of information

33. A useful exchange of views was held on various aspects of data collection, storage and retrieval. The Subcommittee agreed that a compendium of available sources of data on drug control would be useful. Some pros and cons of using the World Wide Web were discussed. The representative of UNDCP suggested that data that were not final enough to be made public could still be made available on the World Wide Web to agencies with a user identification and password. The Subcommittee emphasized the importance it gave to data-collection mechanisms and the need for sufficient resources to be made available for such mechanisms.

8. Other business

(a) Future themes for the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

34. After debating several alternatives, the Subcommittee decided that the themes for the International Day in 1997 and 1998, respectively, would be: "Mobilizing communities to prevent drug abuse" and "Youth uniting to prevent drug abuse".

(b) Dates and venue for the fifth session

35. Subject to confirmation by his organization, the representative of FAO extended an invitation to hold the fifth session of the Subcommittee in Rome. The dates decided on by the Subcommittee were 29 September to 1 October 1997; that timing would facilitate Subcommittee input to the process leading up to the 1998 special session of the General Assembly and the forty-first session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

(c) Agenda for the fifth session

36. The Subcommittee approved the provisional agenda for its fifth session, as attached in annex III.

(d) Adoption of the report of the fourth session

37. The Subcommittee adopted the report on its fourth session.

Annex I

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Global overview of the situation regarding the illicit production of, trafficking in and demand for drugs.
3. Drug abuse and control issues related to major meetings and conferences:
 - (a) ECOSOC and General Assembly;
 - (b) ACC task forces on follow-up to major international conferences;
 - (c) Other conferences.
4. Conclusions and decisions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its thirty-ninth session of relevance to the United Nations system.
5. Review of progress in developing thematic plans of action for the strategic reorientation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control.
6. Integration of drug abuse control issues into country strategy notes and other agency country programmes.
7. Collaboration with non-governmental organizations.
8. Accessibility and exchange of information.
9. Other business:
 - (a) Future themes for the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking;
 - (b) Dates and venue for the fifth session;
 - (c) Adoption of the report on the fourth session.

Annex II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

United Nations International Drug Control Programme	Mr. Mehdi Ali (Chairman) Mr. Gale Day (Secretary) Ms. Susan Mlango
United Nations Interregional Crime and Research Institute	Ms. Maria Elena Andreotti
Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division	Ms. Brigitte Döring Mr. Alfredo Nunzi
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Mr. John Latham
International Labour Organization	Mr. Behrouz Shahandeh
Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS	Dr. Abu S. Abdul-Quader
Office for Outer Space Affairs	Mr. Hubert George Mr. Petr Lala Mr. Sergio Camacho
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	Mr. Andri Isaksson
United Nations Industrial Development Organization	Mr. Tuley de Silva
World Health Organization	Mr. Jukka Sailas
World Bank	Ms. Gretchen Handwerger

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UNDCP resource persons

Mr. Bertrand Juppín de Fondaumière
Mr. Francesco Bastagli
Mr. Peter Storr
Ms. Sumru Noyan
Mr. Walter Gulbinat
Mr. Paulsen Bailey
Ms. Lee-Nah Hsu
Mr. Anders Norsker
Ms. Eileen McCafferty

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Annex III

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTH SESSION

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Global overview of the situation regarding the illicit production of, trafficking in and demand for drugs.
3. Overview of country-level inter-agency cooperation in drug control.
4. Conclusions and decisions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its thirty-ninth session of relevance to the United Nations system.
5. Preparation for the special session of the General Assembly on drug control.
6. Review of progress on the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control:
 - (a) Progress on plans of action;
 - (b) Fund-raising initiatives;
 - (c) Monitoring and evaluation.
7. Possible countermeasures to stimulant abuse.
8. Alternative development: an analysis of experience and prospects for the future.
9. Guiding principles of demand reduction: status report.
10. Inter-agency cooperation on drugs and HIV/AIDS.
11. Other business:
 - (a) Theme for the 1999 International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking;
 - (b) Dates and venue for the sixth session;
 - (c) Provisional agenda for the sixth session;
 - (d) Adoption of the report on the fifth session.
