



Administrative Committee on Coordination

17 November 1999

English only

Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions

Report of the ACC Subcommittee on Drug Control on its seventh session

(Paris, 15-17 September 1999)

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I. Introduction

1. The seventh session of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) Subcommittee on Drug Control was held at United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) headquarters from 15 to 17 September 1999. The agenda is contained in annex I, the list of participants in annex II.

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

2. The Subcommittee is in the process of developing an umbrella framework for inter-agency coordination in drug control, as decided at its sixth session and mandated by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1999/30 of 28 July 1999, to be applied at the global, regional and national levels and referred to in conjunction with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) process.

III. Work of the Subcommittee

A. Actions taken and decisions adopted by the Subcommittee

3. The Subcommittee decided to extend for another year the applicability 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 (ACC/1998/17, annex IV). Furthermore, the Subcommittee decided to expand the plan to include nine additional countries: Afghanistan, Brazil, Colombia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nigeria, the Russian Federation, Thailand, Turkey and Ukraine.

4. The Subcommittee reconsidered its decision taken at its sixth session with regard to the theme for 2000 in view of the challenges at the turn of the century and millennium and decided that the theme for the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in 2000 would be "Facing reality: denial, corruption and violence". In 2001, the theme would be "Sport".

B. Summary of discussion

5. On behalf of the Director-General of UNESCO, the Deputy Director-General for Education, Mr. Colin Power, welcomed the participants, saying that integrated policies were necessary to confront drug abuse at all levels and from all angles: supply and demand reduction, law enforcement and anti-money-laundering and related corruption measures. He stressed the need to involve young people in the design and implementation of demand reduction programmes, noting that society was in a state of moral crisis and that support mechanisms, and perceptions of chances for the future, were disappearing. Mentioning that more drugs were now more easily available and that the modern global climate made it easier for money to be laundered, it was more important than ever to equip young people with the information and decision-making skills to defend themselves against prevailing negative pressures. He stressed the need to listen to youth, to help young people develop values and to promote the positive role they can play in the media.

6. UNESCO wanted to mainstream drug control implications in its work, linking it to the work of many different parts of the organization to address not just education but also social sciences, trafficking, corruption and so forth. He intended to bring the subject to the attention of the General Conference, which should look at drugs as a threat to peace and security in the twenty-first century.

7. He stressed the need for agencies of the United Nations system to look for points of convergence and build on them in order to mainstream drug control as a development issue.

8. The Chairperson welcomed the participants, especially the newcomers to the group, and expressed thanks to UNESCO for hosting the meeting. She outlined the tasks that the Subcommittee had before it at the present session, namely, to develop a strategic planning tool to replace the United States System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control (SWAP) (E/1990/39 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1), as recommended by the Economic and Social Council, and to review the interim action plan adopted at the sixth session and decide on future action in this respect.

9. The provisional agenda was adopted as amended, replacing the reference to SWAP under item 4 by "Framework for cooperation", and adding an item under item 8 on "Working modalities of the Subcommittee".

1. 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

10. The Subcommittee had before it a compilation of information from the nine countries addressed in the interim action plan (IAP), and noted that some considerable progress had been achieved in terms of inter-agency collaboration at the field level. The cases of Bolivia, Pakistan and Peru were cited in particular in this context, as inter-agency collaboration appeared to be firmly established among the agencies present in the country.

11. In order to establish the reasons behind the success or lack of success in implementing IAP in various locations, it was suggested that site visits be conducted. While no travel could be undertaken for this purpose, the secretariat agreed to bring this request to the attention of the operational staff in the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and to report back to the Subcommittee on the results of the investigations.

12. The importance of linking the current exercise to the UNDAF process was stressed and it was agreed that the three core drug-related common country assessment (CCA) indicators should be applied to IAP. It was suggested that additional indicators related to adverse health effects and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) also be included. The Subcommittee also recommended that IAP and the umbrella framework on drug control coordination be brought to the attention of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG).

13. It was agreed that the exercise had been useful and that it should be retained and expanded to cover additional countries. The Subcommittee therefore decided to enter a second round of IAP to include Afghanistan, Brazil, Colombia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nigeria, the Russian Federation, Thailand, Turkey and Ukraine, using the same time-frame as had been applied to the first round. It also decided that relevant non-governmental organizations should be included where possible in country-level theme groups, as they were often involved in implementing programmes. In this context, it was agreed that the Chair of the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs should address a letter of encouragement to counterparts in the countries concerned similar to that to be sent by the United Nations organizations to their field staff.

2. Follow-up to decisions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

14. It was noted that the decision of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs calling for the preparation of a strategic planning tool to replace SWAP had been endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in July 1999. The Subcommittee members were most interested in the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and recommendations concerning inter-agency cooperation.

3. Consideration of action to be taken with regard to the development of a framework for cooperation

15. The Subcommittee had before it a working paper on this issue prepared by the secretariat. There was some discussion as to what was required as a final product. It was agreed that an umbrella framework addressing global, regional and national needs should be prepared, but that planning had of necessity to be undertaken at the country level.

16. It was noted that there was ample scope for consolidated strategic and high-profile action on the part of the United Nations system to assist Member States achieve their goals as defined in the resolutions of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, and that such action would serve to enhance the visibility and credibility of the United Nations. Advocacy was required within each agency as well as vis-à-vis country teams.

17. It was suggested that, as an advocacy tool to reach a wider audience, a global United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report on drugs could be prepared. This would be the product of all agencies' work on the subject.

18. It was also noted by the Subcommittee that it was necessary for member organizations at the global, regional and, particularly, national levels to pursue advocacy with their own government counterparts so as to facilitate acceptance of common standards in all intergovernmental forums. States should be encouraged thereby to bring the drug problem to the attention of the governing bodies of all United Nations agencies, funds and programmes.

19. It was agreed that the framework:

- Should be realistic and contain concrete examples of "best practices" in an annex;
- Should provide guidance to United Nations country teams to assist in national policy-development

processes through the provision of information on options available to facilitate decision-making;

- Should provide common guidelines for adaptation to national requirements;
- Must be interconnected with the UNDAF process, which is the country-level planning tool;
- Should identify and utilize mechanisms in agencies (for example, the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) (UNAIDS) theme groups, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) (Country Support Teams)) and build on comparative advantages;
- Should address human rights and gender aspects in all situations.

20. It was further agreed that the framework could not be finalized at the current session, as intra-agency consultations were still necessary. The framework would therefore be further developed and finalized by correspondence, and submitted to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its forty-third session in 2000.

4. Presentation by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on its activities in the field of drug control

21. One presentation concerned the progress and results of the “International Youth Campaign for a 21st Century Free of Drugs” which entails a large number of diversified and creative activities, such as workshops, debates, football cups, television programmes and musical events. The main instrument of the campaign is the “Youth Charter for a 21st Century Free of Drugs” which was prepared on the basis of young people’s contributions and testimonies, and which had 3.5 million signatories by August 1999. The UNESCO Associated Schools Project network was particularly active in supporting the campaign. A multi-agency initiative in Central America is the organization of a musical festival, with the participation of celebrities, as an event to highlight the 1999 theme of “Music” as well as to mark the new millennium.

22. The drug abuse prevention programme in Asia for marginalized youth was introduced. The main objective of the 18-month project is drug abuse prevention through formal and non-formal education and vocational skills training for targeted groups of young people. In the discussion following this presentation, the importance of timely consultations and inter-agency coordination was

stressed. Furthermore, it was emphasized that care should be taken to ensure that all activities of the United Nations system were in line with the spirit of the international conventions on drug control.

23. Another presentation was on a radio soap opera programme in Afghanistan called “New Home, New Life” which contained a drug component among several other issues. A monthly cartoon magazine with the same title features a number of drug abuse prevention messages, and two of a set of books for children and new literates address the issue of drug abuse and poverty alleviation.

24. The UNDCP Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Project on Economic and Social Transformations connected with the international drug problem was presented and discussed. The main points underlined were the outputs of the project, as well as the future perspectives: the creation of UNESCO Chairs on drug-related social transformation in Brazil, Mexico, China and India; the case studies on knowledge-use in policy-making; and the training modules for higher education centres and mass media professionals.

5. Presentation by the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs

25. The Chairperson of the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs briefed the Subcommittee on the history of the Committee: it had been established in 1983 and met every two months to discuss matters of interest and ways to strengthen the relationship with the then Division for Narcotic Drugs. An NGO Forum was held in Sweden in 1986 and in Vienna in 1987 on the occasion of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

26. In accordance with the rules of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO), membership was open to international organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. In 1988, it was decided to expand the original membership of like-minded organizations active in the field of drug control to include non-specialized organizations. Subsequently, in order to include non-governmental organizations not in consultative status, membership was expanded to include such organizations as “Corresponding members”. Currently, the membership totals 96 organizations in 20 countries and comprises many different viewpoints and ways of working. In 1994, a mid-Decade NGO Forum was held in Bangkok which served to facilitate further networking among organizations.

27. The NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs has organized celebrations in Vienna on the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, 26 June, since its inception in 1988. In more recent years, this has also included liaison and coordination with the authorities of the City of Vienna. It has also encouraged some 1,500 partners around the world to celebrate that day and to report back on their activities.

28. An ongoing priority has been the lobbying for demand reduction to be included in the international agenda. The strength of most of the members of the Committee lay in prevention, treatment and rehabilitation as well as advocacy.

29. She also informed the meeting of the approximately US\$ 500,000 raised annually by a Japanese non-governmental organization, the Drug Abuse Prevention Centre, and channelled through UNDCP for distribution in small amounts to non-governmental organizations in developing countries. In this connection, she expressed the Committee's wish to be better informed of the criteria required for the receipt of such a grant, and offered the Committee's assistance in identifying worthy organizations.

30. Recalling the Charter of the United Nations, as well as statements made by several Secretaries-General, on the importance of collaboration with non-governmental organizations, she expected closer working relationships between the NGO Committee and UNDCP, as well as with other concerned organizations in the United Nations system, in the future. In this connection, she appreciated that the Committee would be included in the IAP exercise. She also mentioned that the non-governmental community preferred to be referred to as such, rather than be included under the term "civil society", which was perceived as meaning the private sector.

6. Other business

(a) Working modalities of the Subcommittee

31. In an effort to streamline the work of the Subcommittee, some time was devoted to discussing modalities for future work. The following was agreed upon:

- The secretariat would in future call upon relevant agencies to assist in the preparation of documents for Subcommittee meetings, expenses thus incurred being absorbed by the said agencies; these agencies would then also participate in the presentation of the agenda items during the meetings;
- The Subcommittee would include the discussion of issues of a technical nature in the agenda of each

meeting; preparation of these topics would be undertaken by one or more competent agency; initial topics suggested were: harm reduction, methodology for determining and disseminating best practices, and the creation of a demand reduction strategy checklist.

32. Under this agenda item, the Subcommittee also expressed its appreciation of the presence of the Chairperson of the Vienna NGO Committee and remarked on the benefits and value added of collaborating with the non-governmental organization community. The question arose as to the modality to be followed to ensure that non-governmental organization perspectives were considered on an ongoing basis in the Subcommittee.

33. The participants believed the work of the Subcommittee to be hampered by the lack of participation by potentially key members, such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UNFPA and the World Bank. They therefore wished to encourage such organizations to recognize drug control as a development issue and to play an active role in the Subcommittee's activities.

(b) Virtual clearing house on illicit drugs, alcohol and tobacco

34. A proposal by the Canadian Centre for Substance Abuse to create a worldwide clearing house was brought to the attention of the Subcommittee and discussed with interest. Each agency would pursue the matter as it chose.

(c) Theme for the International Day against Drug Abuse and Trafficking in 2001

35. The Subcommittee reconsidered its previous decision to designate "Networking" as the theme for 26 June 2000 and decided to make better use of the thrust of the new century and millennium. It was therefore decided that the theme for 2000 should be "Facing reality: denial, corruption and violence". For 2001, the Subcommittee recommended "Sport" as the theme for the International Day.

(d) Dates and venue for the eighth session

36. The Subcommittee agreed to hold its eighth session at Vienna on 28 and 29 September 2000.

(e) Provisional agenda for the eighth session

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

(f) Adoption of the report on the seventh session

38. The Subcommittee adopted the present report on its seventh session.

Annex I**Agenda**

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 on decisions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.
4. Consideration of action to be taken with regard to the framework for cooperation.
5. Presentation by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on its work in the field of drug control.
6. Presentation by the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs.
7. Other business:
 - (a) Working modalities of the Subcommittee;
 - (b) Virtual clearing house for illicit drugs, alcohol and tobacco;
 - (c) Themes for the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, 2001;
 - (d) Dates and venue for the eighth session;
 - (e) Provisional agenda for the eighth session;
 - (f) Adoption of the report of the seventh session.

Annex II

List of participants

United Nations International Drug Control Programme	Ms. Sumru Noyan (Chairperson) Ms. Christine Oguz Ms. Susan Mlango (Secretary)
United Nations Development Programme	Mr. Bertrand Coppens
United Nations Office for Project Services	Mr. Hans-Ulrich Hugo
Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) (UNAIDS)	Mr. Werasing Sittitri
International Labour Organization	Mr. Behrouz Shahandeh
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Mr. John Latham
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	Ms. Sonia Bahri Mr. Carlos Sanchez-Milani
World Health Organization	Ms. Mary Jansen
Chairperson of the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs	Ms. Eva Tongue

Resource persons, UNESCO (partial attendance)

Mr. Colin Power
Mr. Ali Kazancigil
Mr. Armoogum Parsuramen
Mr. Mehboob Dada
Ms. Masako Sauliere-Mori
Ms. Sigrid Niedermayer-Tahri
Mr. Shankar Chowdhury

Annex III**Provisional agenda for the eighth session**

1. Adoption of the agenda.
 2. Review of the interim action plan and framework for cooperation.
 3. Thematic discussion: harm reduction.
 4. Thematic discussion: best practice.
 5. Other business:
 - (a) Theme for the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, 2002;
 - (b) Dates and venue for the ninth session;
 - (c) Provisional agenda for the ninth session;
 - (d) Adoption of the report of the eighth session.
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