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COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS  
Thirty-ninth session  
Vienna, 16-25 April 1996  
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

**Provisional agenda**

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. General debate: Government action to implement the Global Programme of Action and policy directives addressed to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, including follow-up to General Assembly resolution 48/12.
4. Principles and practice of primary and secondary prevention in demand reduction programmes.
5. Illicit drug traffic and supply, including reports from the subsidiary bodies.
6. Crops from which drugs are extracted and appropriate strategies for their reduction.
7. Stimulants and the use of their precursors in the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in drugs.
8. Consideration of national drug control plans.
9. Implementation of the international drug control treaties:
  - (a) Changes in the scope of control of substances;
  - (b) International Narcotics Control Board;
  - (c) Other matters arising under the international drug control conventions.

10. Monitoring of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control and other coordination matters.
11. Administrative and budgetary matters.
12. Provisional agenda for the fortieth session of the Commission and future work.
13. Other matters.
14. Adoption of the report of the Commission at its thirty-ninth session.

### **Annotations**

#### ***Item 1***

Elections are held in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.<sup>1</sup>

Beginning with its eleventh special session in 1990, the Commission has elected a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. In view of the rotation of offices based on regional distribution, the officers at the thirty-ninth session will be as follows: Chairman - western Europe and others; first Vice-Chairman -Latin America and the Caribbean; second Vice-Chairman - Africa; third Vice-Chairman - Asia; Rapporteur -eastern Europe.

#### ***Item 2***

The provisional agenda for the thirty-ninth session was proposed by the Commission at its thirty-eighth session and approved by the Economic and Social Council by decision 1995/244 of 24 July 1995.

Following the adoption of the agenda, the Commission normally establishes its timetable for the session. A provisional timetable for consideration by the Commission is contained in the annex to the present document.

#### *Documentation*

Annotated provisional agenda (E/CN.7/1996/1)

#### ***Item 3***

Beginning at its thirty-fifth session, the Commission has striven to refine the procedure to be followed in the general debate. At its thirty-seventh session, there was consensus that the general debate could be further improved by increasing its relevance to policy formulation. To focus the debate, it was agreed that statements should concentrate on core issues that would further that objective. The Commission was also of the opinion that, because of time constraints, information about national activities might more usefully be circulated in written form. The question of how best to organize the debate has still not been entirely resolved. To assist the Commission in its efforts to move in that direction, the provisional timetable suggests separating the three component parts of agenda item 3 in order to improve the focus of discussions. In that connection, it may usefully be noted that each of the three parts of the agenda item is the subject of a separate background document.

Item 3 of the provisional agenda deals with the following three different subjects:

- (a) Global Programme of Action adopted on 23 February 1990 by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session;<sup>2</sup>
- (b) Follow-up to General Assembly resolution 48/12 of 28 October 1983;
- (c) Policy directives addressed to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP).

The provisional timetable foresees that the Commission, in the interest of clarity, would first conduct a general debate on government action to implement the Global Programme of Action at the beginning of its session on 16 April 1996. That general examination of the situation and trends in drug abuse control is introduced by a report of the Secretary-General (A/50/460).

The follow-up to General Assembly resolution 48/12, in conjunction with its complementary resolution 50/148 of 21 December 1995, would be discussed on 17 April 1996. To facilitate consideration of the item, the Commission will have before it a report of the Executive Director on resolution 48/12 (E/CN.7/1996/3) prepared pursuant to a request contained in Commission resolution 13 (XXXVIII) of 23 March 1995.

On 18 April 1996, after completing its overview of the general drug abuse situation and identifying measures that it wishes to propose to the Council and the General Assembly in response to Assembly resolution 48/12, the Commission would examine the activities of UNDCP and formulate policy directives to assist the Executive Director in fulfilling the mandate of UNDCP. The report of the Executive Director in document E/CN.7/1996/2 will serve as a basis for the deliberations of the Commission.

#### *Global Programme of Action*

The Secretary-General reports annually to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, and his latest report (A/50/460) is available to the Commission to assist it in monitoring implementation. The Commission has the responsibility for such monitoring by virtue of a mandate given to it by the Council in its resolution 1991/38 of 21 June 1991.

The report submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly and available to the Commission is structured along the lines stipulated in Commission resolution 4 (XXXVII) of 20 April 1994. The introductory section contains an evaluation of progress made by States in implementing the Global Programme of Action, as well as recommendations for improving implementation and provision of information by States. The summary of government activities is based on replies from 67 Governments to the questionnaire approved by the Commission at its thirty-seventh session.

#### *Follow-up to General Assembly resolution 48/12*

At the high-level plenary meetings held at its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 48/12 on measures to strengthen international cooperation in drug abuse control, in which it requested the Commission, with the support of UNDCP and in cooperation with the International Narcotics Control Board, to monitor and evaluate action taken to implement the international drug control instruments, with a view to identifying areas of satisfactory progress and weakness, and to recommend to the high-level segment of the Council in 1995 appropriate adjustments of drug control activities whenever required.

After discussing the request contained in resolution 48/12, the Commission at its thirty-seventh session adopted resolution 3 (XXXVII) of 21 April 1994, formulating the methodology that it wished to follow in responding to the request. In that connection, it decided to proceed on the basis of an assessment by the Executive Director, in cooperation with the Board and with the support of an ad hoc intergovernmental advisory group, as well as on the basis of a report by the Executive Director in the light of the work of its subsidiary bodies and the conclusions and recommendations of relevant international conferences.

The Executive Director convened the ad hoc advisory group twice at Vienna in 1994, and prepared an assessment that was submitted to the Commission at its thirty-eighth session (E/CN.7/1995/14). At that session, the Commission began its examination of the issue, but did not complete it. It submitted an interim report to the Council, which did not consider the question of international cooperation in drug abuse control at its high-level segment in 1995. The Commission also adopted resolution 13 (XXXVIII), in which it requested the Executive Director to further elaborate and refine his recommendations, on the basis of additional information obtained from Governments, for further consideration at its thirty-ninth session. The report of the Executive Director is before the Commission for its consideration (E/CN.7/1996/3).

In that connection, the attention of the Commission is also drawn to Council resolution 1995/40 of 27 July 1995, in which the Council reiterated its recommendation that the issue of international cooperation in drug abuse control should be the theme for the high-level segment of its substantive session of 1996. The Council also recommended that the General Assembly and the Commission should give priority consideration to the proposal to convene an international conference on the issue. In resolution 50/148 of 21 December 1995, the General Assembly took note of Commission resolution 13 (XXXVIII) and Council resolution 1995/40 and stressed that,

"... when considering the proposal for holding such a conference, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should take into account international drug control priorities and resources, the financial and other implications of holding such a conference, as well as ways and means to increase the implementation of existing international conventions and other international instruments for cooperation on drug control."

#### *Policy directives addressed to UNDCP*

By virtue of the mandate given by Council resolution 1991/38, the Commission should give policy guidance to UNDCP and monitor its activities. That role is fulfilled by the Commission through the adoption of consensus positions, resolutions or other decisions. However, beginning with its adoption of resolution 2 (XXXIV) of 8 May 1991, entitled "Consideration of priority themes", the Commission has, since the establishment of UNDCP, recognized that guidance should be provided to UNDCP in the identification of priority themes for the further development of its activities.

A practical example arises in connection with Assembly resolution 50/148 referred to above. In section II, paragraphs 4 and 12, of that resolution, the Assembly requests UNDCP to continue providing assistance to Member States that request it in adjusting national laws, policies and infrastructures in the context of the implementation of the international drug control treaties, as well as in establishing or strengthening national drug detection laboratories. Discussion of the relative merits, urgency and priority of such activities could give useful guidance to UNDCP.

Since its thirty-fifth session in 1992, the Commission has considered the matter of policy directives twice as a separate agenda item (in 1993 and 1994) and twice under an agenda item concerned with the general debate (in 1992 and 1995). At its current session, the matter has again been included in the general debate, but, as explained above, in the provisional timetable it is proposed to treat it separately in order to focus clearly on the issues involved. When establishing the provisional agenda for its fortieth session, the Commission may wish to adopt a standardized approach to carrying out its function as governing body of UNDCP.

#### *Time-limits on statements*

The Commission has decided that statements in the general debate should be subject to a time-limit. At informal consultations among interested permanent missions at Vienna, the view was expressed that a five-minute time-limit would allow all speakers to address the three subtopics of the general debate by the afternoon of 18 April 1996, as proposed in the provisional timetable. The Chairman is expected to raise this matter at the beginning of the session.

*Documentation*

Report of the Executive Director on activities of UNDCP (E/CN.7/1996/2)

Report of the Executive Director on General Assembly resolution 48/12 (E/CN.7/1996/3)

Report of the Secretary-General on the Global Programme of Action (A/50/460)

**Item 4**

At its thirty-seventh session, the Commission decided to consider matters relating to demand reduction on a regular basis under a separate agenda item, and requested the Secretariat to prepare background documents that would facilitate its examination of specific topics.

At its thirty-eighth session, the Commission decided that the item on demand reduction should target the principles and practice of primary and secondary prevention and the experience gained from a series of regional expert forums on demand reduction. The Commission requested the Secretariat to prepare background documents on those two topics as well as a report on the world drug abuse situation. The reports contained in documents E/CN.7/1996/5-7 respond to that request.

To guide the deliberations of the Commission, the three background documents originally requested by it have been supplemented by two further documents prepared by the Executive Director in accordance with Council resolution 1995/16 of 24 July 1995, one on the UNDCP strategy for demand reduction (E/CN.7/1996/8) and the other on a draft declaration on the guiding principles of demand reduction (E/CN.7/1996/4).

*Documentation*

Report of the Secretariat on the world drug abuse situation (E/CN.7/1996/5)

Report of the Secretariat on the state of knowledge in primary and secondary prevention (E/CN.7/1996/6)

Report of the Secretariat on regional cooperation in demand reduction (E/CN.7/1996/7)

Report of the Executive Director on the UNDCP strategy for demand reduction (E/CN.7/1996/8)

Note by the Executive Director on a draft declaration on the guiding principles of demand reduction (E/CN.7/1996/4)

**Item 5**

For several years, the Commission tried combining discussions on drug abuse and illicit trafficking with the item devoted to the general debate. At its thirty-eighth session, it reverted to its earlier practice of considering those issues under separate agenda items, and decided to continue that practice at the current session. To assist the Commission in its consideration of this item, the Secretariat has prepared two background documents as requested by the Commission: a report on the worldwide situation with regard to illicit drug trafficking (E/CN.7/1996/9); and a note on the activities and reports of its subsidiary bodies concerned with illicit trafficking, in particular the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East and the regional meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies (E/CN.7/1996/10).

*Documentation*

Report of the Secretariat on illicit drug trafficking (E/CN.7/1996/9)

Reports from subsidiary bodies (E/CN.7/1996/10)

**Item 6**

In considering the draft provisional agenda for its current session, the Commission at its thirty-eighth session proposed the inclusion of a separate item on the reduction of crops for the illicit supply of narcotic drugs. As requested by the Commission, the Secretariat has prepared a special report on such crops and appropriate eradication measures (E/CN.7/1996/11).

*Documentation*

Report of the Secretariat on crops from which drugs are extracted and appropriate strategies for their reduction (E/CN.7/1996/11)

**Item 7**

The subject of stimulants and their precursors was proposed for inclusion when the Commission at its thirty-eighth session considered the provisional agenda for its current session. Increasing concern in many parts of the world with spreading abuse of and trafficking in stimulants, particularly amphetamines, has led to the convening of an expert group to examine the issue. As requested by the Commission, the Secretariat has prepared a background document on the question (E/CN.7/1996/12).

*Documentation*

Report of the Secretariat on stimulants and the use of their precursors in the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in drugs (E/CN.7/1996/12)

**Item 8**

At its thirty-eighth session, the Commission noted with interest the proposal of the Secretariat whereby the Commission should consider national drug control plans. The Commission was of the view that such an exercise would be an additional means of monitoring the Global Programme of Action. It was agreed that an item on national drug control plans should be included in the agenda of the thirty-ninth session. The Executive Director was requested to submit a report on the current status of such plans and specific options as to how the Commission might consider the matter in future. The report in document E/CN.7/1996/13 responds to that request.

*Documentation*

Report of the Executive Director on national drug control plans (E/CN.7/1996/13)

**Item 9**

*(a) Changes in the scope of control of substances*

In the absence of any notification from a Government or the World Health Organization pursuant to the relevant provisions of the international drug control treaties, the Commission is not called upon, at its thirty-ninth session, to consider any proposal to amend the scope of control of substances under those treaties.

*(b) International Narcotics Control Board*

The annual report of the Board is submitted to the Economic and Social Council through the Commission, in accordance with the provisions of the international drug control treaties. The Commission may make such comments

on the report as it sees fit. In addition, article 8 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,<sup>3</sup> article 17 of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971<sup>4</sup> and article 21 of the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988<sup>5</sup> authorize the Commission to call the attention of the Board to any matters that may be relevant to the functions of the Board. The report of the Board for 1995 is contained in document E/INCB/1995/1.

Article 12, paragraph 13, of the 1988 Convention, requires the Board to report annually to the Commission on the implementation of that article. It is suggested that the separate report of INCB on the implementation of article 12 (E/INCB/1995/4) should be considered at the same time as the main report. That would be in line with recent Commission practice, and is reflected in the provisional timetable annexed hereto.

(c) *Other matters arising under the international drug control conventions*

At its thirty-eighth session, the Commission adopted resolution 8 (XXXVIII) of 23 March 1995, by which it endorsed the report of the Working Group on Maritime Cooperation which had met in September 1994 and February 1995, including the recommendations adopted by the Working Group. In furtherance of the implementation of article 17 of the 1988 Convention, the Commission urged Governments to consider closely the recommendations of the Working Group, and requested UNDCP to convene an expert meeting to develop training and technical assistance programmes for maritime cooperation as suggested in one of those recommendations. As requested in resolution 8 (XXXVIII), a progress report on the implementation of its provisions is before the Commission in document E/CN.7/1996/17.

Also available to the Commission for information is the cumulative index of all national laws and regulations on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances that Governments have communicated to the Secretariat for the period from 1991 to 1995, as published in the E/NL. series of documents (E/NL.1995/Index).

*Documentation*

Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1995 (E/INCB/1995/1)

Report of the International Narcotics Control Board on article 12 of the 1988 Convention (E/INCB/1995/4)

Note by the Secretariat on maritime cooperation (E/CN.7/1996/17)

Cumulative index of national laws and regulations relating to the control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (1991-1995) (E/NL.1995/Index)

**Item 10**

In its resolution 1991/38, the Economic and Social Council entrusted the Commission with, *inter alia*, a new mandate to review the development and implementation of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control (SWAP).<sup>6</sup> In its resolution 44/141 of 15 December 1989, the General Assembly had decided that the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) should prepare such an action plan leading to specific activities to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations system in the field of drug abuse control. SWAP was subsequently drawn up and, following the approval of the Global Programme of Action, has come to be perceived not only as the necessary tool for coordination of system-wide activities, but also as the framework for action by the secretariats of the organizations in the United Nations system to complement the efforts of Governments called for in the Global Programme of Action.

ACC has been requested by the General Assembly to update SWAP on a biennial basis, and the last such update was submitted to the Council and the Assembly in 1994 (A/49/139). The review of the development of

SWAP is therefore before the Commission in even years. On the other hand, the review of the implementation of SWAP is undertaken on a yearly basis by the Commission, which may comment thereon in its report to the Council.

The approach adopted by ACC in the latest review has in fact changed SWAP into a more action-oriented forward-looking planning tool. This approach was endorsed by the ACC Subcommittee on Drug Control at its third session held at Geneva from 31 July to 2 August 1995. Details of the new procedures for involving the United Nations system in the planning stage and development of SWAP are contained in the report of the Executive Director on SWAP and the coordination of drug control activities in the United Nations system (E/CN.7/1996/14). The working version of the revised SWAP is before the thirty-ninth session of the Commission for comment (E/CN.7/1996/CRP.1). The final revised version of SWAP will be issued as a document of the Council and the General Assembly.

*Documentation*

Report of the Executive Director on the System-Wide Action Plan and coordination of drug control activities in the United Nations system (E/CN.7/1996/14)

Revised System-Wide Action Plan (E/CN.7/1996/CRP.1)

**Item 11**

At its reconvened thirty-eighth session, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs adopted resolution 15 (XXXVIII) of 14 December 1995, in which, *inter alia*, it requested the Secretary-General to review the financial functioning of UNDCP with regard to the need to promulgate separate financial rules, and requested the Executive Director to assess the ability of the programme support cost arrangement to cover the administrative and substantive backstopping of technical cooperation projects. At the same session, it was also recommended that UNDCP continue to seek clarification from the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) on its observation on the budget methodology (E/1995/29/Add.2, para. 17). In response to those requests, the Commission has before it a note by the Executive Director containing a progress report on action taken (E/CN.7/1996/15). The unaudited financial statements of the Fund of UNDCP for the biennium ended 31 December 1995 are also available.

The medium-term plan of the United Nations is the principal policy directive for the Organization, and serves as the framework for the formulation of biennial programme budgets. The Executive Director has drafted a contribution to the medium-term plan 1998-2001 covering Programme 17: International Drug Control (E/CN.7/1996/CRP.2). The General Assembly, in its resolution 47/214 of 23 December 1992, re-emphasized the importance of the contribution of intergovernmental bodies in reviewing the plan. The Commission may therefore wish to take note of the draft medium-term plan, and provide any comments thereon which it may deem appropriate. Its comments would then be forwarded to the Committee for Programme and Coordination and ACABQ, which will review the entire plan prior to its submission to the Council in July 1996 and the General Assembly in December 1996.

*Documentation*

Note by the Executive Director on administrative and budgetary matters (E/CN.7/1996/15)

Financial statements of the Fund of UNDCP for the biennium 1994-1995

Medium-term plan 1998-2001: Programme 17: International Drug Control (E/CN.7/1996/CRP.2)

**Item 12**

Under this item of its agenda the Commission is invited to draw up the provisional agenda and list of documents for its fortieth session, and to consider other organizational questions relating to its future work (E/CN.7/1996/16).

In the course of 1995, the subsidiary bodies of the Commission have adopted a new approach to establishing the provisional agenda for the following meeting, which has given good results. Rather than waiting until the end of the meeting to undertake this task, when time constraints and other last-minute pressures often impede a thorough discussion of what can reasonably be accomplished, an informal discussion at the end of the first day has led to the establishment of a small working group. That group, representing a cross-section of all regional and subregional interests, meets informally during the course of the meeting and reports its suggestions to plenary when the agenda item is considered formally. The Commission may wish to consider such an approach.

In establishing its documentation requirements for its fortieth session, the Commission is requested to indicate as specifically as possible the contents and, if applicable, the format of each document. This will assist the Secretariat in tailoring documentation to the exact needs of the Commission.

*Documentation*

Note by the Secretariat (E/CN.7/1996/16)

**Item 13**

No documentation is currently foreseen under this item.

**Item 14**

It is expected that the Commission will adopt the report of its thirty-ninth session on the afternoon of the last day of its session.

*Notes*

<sup>1</sup>United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.I.10.

<sup>2</sup>See resolution S-17/2, annex.

<sup>3</sup>United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.

<sup>4</sup>*Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

<sup>5</sup>*Official Records of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 25 November-20 December 1988*, vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XI.5).

<sup>6</sup>E/1990/39 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1.