

INTRODUCTION

1. The 3rd NDS user group meeting was opened by the representative of the Executive Director of UNDCP, welcoming the representatives of 25 Governments and participants from seven UNDCP Field Offices. He stated that *"in today's world, information technology is more and more indispensable, more complex and certainly more expensive. The innovations are no longer a choice. They are to a large extent imposed by the Industry"*
2. The representatives of Canada and Switzerland informed the meeting of their highly positive experience after testing the new version 4.0 of NDS. They stated their plans of putting NDS 4.0 in production at the end of this year and at the beginning of 2001 respectively.
3. Professor Ghodse, President of INCB, concluded the list of introductory speakers by emphasizing the importance of Government and the UN coming together on such an important issue. " You need first to have inspiration, motivation, the belief in good, accurate and reliable information as well as the need for good analysis of the data. But good collaboration is the key to success. Of course, some countries also need to have financial support of the international community and the INCB will definitely support this and make a strong recommendation to the UNDCP and the donor countries for that purpose"

SELECTION OF CHAIR and APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. Mr. Kleinert (Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices, Federal Opium Agency, Germany) accepted to chair the meeting and the attached agenda was adopted.

PRESENTATION OF NDS 4.0 BY UNDCP

5. UNDCP gave an overview of the enhancements made to the existing version of NDS (version 3), emphasizing that all recommendations for improvement received from Governments which has the previous version installed, have been accommodated. Today, NDS 4.0 has become a tool for both international and domestic management of drug control activities, with facilities for electronic communication among Governments. The original request from the CND to facilitate reporting to the UN is now a bi-product of this new version (4.0).

6. The new module for Domestic Management - a major improvement to the previous version of NDS - was presented. All transactions within a country can now be monitored, covering millions of individual delivery notes, data on inspection of companies, process details, stocks, etc. The module is not limited to controlled substances, but can be used from bulk amounts of chemicals to individual packages of pharmaceutical preparations.

7. A functionality to create questionnaires for electronic collection has been added to NDS. As an example of a questionnaire, the Annual Reports Questionnaire (ARQ) was presented. However, Governments can go on-line to create other questionnaires as they wish. While multiple replies, such as those gathered from the ARQ, can be collected, the consolidated reply can be developed by the responsible competent authority before transmission to UN.

8. The modules for requesting Import and Export authorizations, and domestic licenses have all been developed enabling collection electronically via the World Wide Web using the Internet. This is a strong facility for placing the data entry burden at the source (e.g. a company requesting a license). The ARQ has the infrastructure to support data collection through the web. A minor task remaining building a web interface for it.

9. The representative of UNDCP highlighted the ease of integration with existing systems, simplicity of migration of legacy systems' data into NDS 4.0, and seamless customisation of NDS 4.0 to national standards of outputs.

10. The representative of UNDCP concluded that today, NDS 4.0 can be used from recording millions of delivery notes via the Internet in a short period of time, as compared to a sophisticated typewriter reporting one yearly figure to INCB. The system could basically meet all requirements.

ACTION PLAN RECOMMENDED BY THE MEETING

10. All the participants commended UNDCP for the highly positive developments of this new version (4.0) of NDS, and the meeting was concluded with a unanimous agreement that NDS 4.0 is a comprehensive and mature product that is highly user friendly for detailed testing and possible implementation in many countries. The experience of Canada and Switzerland with NDS 4.0, particularly with the easy data conversion for legacy systems and an impressive facility for adaptation to national needs (e.g. special format and layout of licenses, authorizations etc) shows that the new version (4.0) can easily be transferred to other countries.

11. All the participants identified training as the major component for success. However, resources for the equipment and licenses in many countries would be a bottleneck unless the UN or donor countries would be prepared to assist. For the immediate test the representatives suggested the following action plan:

The representative of Australia would test the system and coordinate installation with other countries in the region to reduce costs for getting started.

The representative of Canada would continue to test all the modules and plan full production in Jan-Feb. 2001. Canada would be ready to share certain information such as Canadian preparations with other countries.

The representative of Cayman Islands would test the system, and to collaborate actively with the other countries in the Caribbean region.

The representative of Costa Rica would test the new version and adapt it. Furthermore, she offered to include Caribbean countries in a collective training seminar in the region in addition to the willingness of the Costa Rican government to investigate hosting the support facilities of NDS 4.0 within the region.

The representative of Egypt would start testing in one month and report immediately on their results

The representative of France would test the new version and adapt it to their Internet procedures.

The representative of Germany would request his IT-Department to analyse and report on the possibilities for integration into the Systems already in place.

The representative of Hungary would update their version and was willing to exchange information about their products and preparations through UNDCP to all other NDS users.

The representative of Jordan would begin testing within one month, and upon successful test, the system would be placed in production within one year.

The representative of Lebanon will soon have NDS 4.0 installed, and

offered to co-ordinate further expansion in the region.

The representative of Mexico was committed to use NDS 4.0. She noted that NDS 4.0 was much more user friendly and flexible than version 3.0, and that they must work out how to use it in production to lower their workload

The representative of Nepal recommended to UNDCP to create a regional training programme for NDS, including countries such as Bhutan, Vietnam, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, etc.

The representative of Netherlands Antilles indicated their interest in implementing the system, but pointed out that small countries would need financial support from other countries or the UN in moving forward. They would have the human resources.

The representative of Panama looked forward to adapt NDS 4.0 to their domestic needs, indicating that it would be of significant help to the Government. Panama would be willing to cooperate with other countries in the region.

The representative of Papua New Guinea would initiate the installation, test and adapt the system. They look forward to communicate electronically with other Governments

The representative of the Philippines encouraged countries, such as France, Canada, Germany, Australia and USA to continue financial support for NDS and for providing training to other countries.

The representative of Slovakia would update their NDS 3.0 to NDS 4.0 and recommend to the Government to implement it for production. Furthermore, the representative offered to coordinate with other countries in the regions, such as Poland and Hungary

The representative of Switzerland offered to continue extensive training together with other European Countries and share the experience via the NDS website.

The representative of Thailand would immediately install the system and offered to host training session in their new IT- training centre for countries in the region. It was recommended that UNDCP develop some self-training material.

The representative of USA suggested that perhaps a video tape introducing NDS would be beneficial,

UNDCP would look into the possibilities for including the MEM-questionnaire (Multi-lateral Evaluation Mechanism) in NDS 4.0 for the use of the 40 countries in the American region reporting to CICAD. Furthermore, UNDCP would expand the NDS website to enable Governments to share experiences (problems, solutions) with other Governments. UNDCP should seek to participate in regional training sessions, develop leaflet and instruction material.

UNDCP
15 November 2000