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SUPPORT

ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF
DRUG ABUSE CONTROL

Report of the Administrator

Summary

The present report highlights, for information purposes only, the main activities of the United Nations Development Programme in the field of drug abuse control-related programmes and is submitted pursuant to Governing Council decision 85/6.

1. Subsequent to Governing Council decision 85/6, at its fortieth session, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 40/122 and decided to convene, in 1987, an international conference on drug abuse and illicit trafficking at the ministerial level at the Vienna International Centre as an expression of the political will of nations to combat the drug menace, with the mandate to generate universal action to combat the drug problem in all its forms at the national, regional and international levels and to adopt a comprehensive multidisciplinary outline of future activities which focused on concrete and substantive issues directly relevant to the problems of drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

I. THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

2. In order to underline to United Nations Development Programme staff at headquarters and in the field the importance which the Administrator attaches to assisting the countries concerned in finding solutions to the drug-related problems they face, the Administrator wrote to all the resident representatives in October 1985 and informed them of the Secretary-General's initiative in calling for the International Conference and to advise them of UNDP's position on efforts to control drug-related problems. Resident representatives were advised of UNDP's (a) continued commitment to drug abuse control programmes; (b) its continued willingness to consider Governments' requests for financing country and intercountry activities out of indicative planning figure (IPF) resources; and (c) its willingness to continue to execute, in association with other specialized agencies, as appropriate, projects financed by the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC). They were further advised that UNDP would assist the Secretary-General, through both the headquarters and the field office network, in preparing for the International Conference. They were requested to develop awareness of significant activities in this field in their countries of assignment, and pay particular attention to programming of UNDP funds and co-ordination of activities in this field, particularly in those countries with serious drug-related problems.

3. During the global meeting of resident representatives at Copenhagen in November 1985, the Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Special Activities, met a number of resident representatives and discussed with them, inter alia, the possible role resident representatives could play in respect of the proposed International Conference and in enhancing field-level co-ordination.

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4. The general impression the Administrator has at present, based on some of the responses from the resident representatives and other information, is that there is an increasing realization that more international co-operation and assistance are needed to combat the drug problem. The concerned developing countries are also coming to realize that their own people cannot be isolated and kept immune if drugs are produced or trafficked in their territories. The Administrator anticipates that, as a result, more requests would be forthcoming to UNDP and other organizations for assistance. Inasmuch as these projects or portions of them have a development orientation and fall within UNDP's mandate, the Administrator intends to process them, subject to availability of funds.
5. With respect to the International Conference, the UNDP field offices would be able to (a) disseminate information to the local media as and when needed; (b) produce and disseminate information materials reflecting the role of the United Nations system in this field in the country concerned; (c) assist Governments in preparing reports; and (d) discuss and pursue Conference-related issues with the Government authorities and other United Nations colleagues.
6. As for co-ordination, the field offices would be willing to (a) take a lead in putting together a "country profile" of drug-related problems and exchange information with other United Nations system agencies; (b) assume a leading role in evolving a United Nations system multi-sectoral approach; (c) assist in identifying and pursuing sources of finance for the programmes which are identified; and (d) continue to play their co-ordinating roles within the United Nations system and with others, as appropriate. As to the latter, under the UNDP-UNFDAC working arrangement, UNFDAC field advisers are currently assigned to UNDP field offices in six countries; they work in close co-operation with the resident representatives.
7. At the headquarters' level, UNDP continues to participate in inter-agency meetings on drug-related problems and would provide full support to the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs who has been designated by the Secretary-General to ensure overall co-ordination of United Nations activities in this field.

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II. UNDP ACTIVITIES

8. UNDP's Office of Projects Execution (OPE) is one of the main executing agents for projects financed by UNFDAC. UNDP itself is financing some projects. UNDP field offices are also actively involved in other UNFDAC-financed projects. Given below are the highlights of such projects. It will be noted that, at present, activities are concentrated in the regions of Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean.

9. Asia and the Pacific. In Burma, a second phase of \$5.4 million UNFDAC-financed programme aimed at crop substitution was completed in 1985. An UNFDAC programme review mission has visited Burma and a proposal for a third phase programme of \$10.6 million has been prepared. In Indonesia an IPF-financed project (\$250,000) executed by the World Health Organization (WHO) has been completed. Another IPF-financed project of \$455,000 has adopted an integrated approach covering the entire field of demand reduction and has initiated institutionalized co-operation between government and non-governmental organizations. Community participation also is being ensured. Linkages have been established with bilateral programmes. United Nations volunteers have been introduced in the project, with one on the job and another expected shortly. The project also serves as a vehicle for the co-ordination role of the field office. A major expansion and extension of the project is under discussion. UNFDAC is financing and OPE is executing a \$20.3 million programme in Pakistan which includes crop substitution, preventive education and treatment and rehabilitation. This programme has shown considerable promise and provides an umbrella for other Governments to make financial contributions in this field; co-ordination has been established with bilateral programmes. With UNDP financing (\$110,906), WHO is executing another project in drug rehabilitation. In Thailand, implementation has started of a master plan for the opium-growing regions of northern Thailand; the project is financed by UNFDAC, and inter-agency support has been secured from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP). Three intercountry projects totalling \$1 million have also been approved from the IPF, covering training in law enforcement and drug rehabilitation and seminars on crop substitution.

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10. Latin America and the Caribbean. The programmes deal primarily with rural development geared to providing farmers with alternative sources of income. In Bolivia, UNDP/OPE is executing an UNFDAC-financed \$20.5 million project in agricultural diversification and agro-industrial development. In Colombia UNDP/OPE is collaborating with the Government in the implementation of UNFDAC-financed programmes totalling \$2.9 million. The programmes cover crop substitution, mass media campaign and training of educators. UNFDAC is financing a project in prevention and control of drug abuse in Jamaica (\$380,000), executed by the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). An UNFDAC-financed analysis of the dependency on drugs in Paraguay has been completed and a request for financing a new project for implementation of the National Plan for the Prevention of Drug Addiction has been submitted for UNFDAC consideration. The Peru programme, financed by UNFDAC, totals \$5.2 million and concentrates on rural development (implemented by UNDP/OPE, \$2.7 million) and development of cocoa plantations and processing, implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) (\$2.5 million).

11. Global programme. The United Nations Social Defense Research Institute (UNSDRI) has developed a proposal to undertake research focusing on the impact of drug abuse on developing countries, taking into account the experience of industrialized countries. At the conclusion of the project, recommendations may be developed to cover legislative areas, instruments for the prevention of drug abuse, diffusion of therapeutic and rehabilitation programmes, reduction of socio-economic damage and costs and reintegration of affected persons in the productive process. UNDP is presently discussing the proposal with UNSDRI with a view to providing, under the authority given to the Administrator by the Governing Council, a sum not exceeding \$120,000 to finance the research activity. If implemented, the results of this preparatory assistance could be a key input to the International Conference. Any follow-up to the proposed research project of UNSDRI could then be considered by interested donors.

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