Thirty-fifth session
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PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of decisions adopted by the Governing Council
at previous sessions

Support to drug control programmes

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 and is submitted pursuant to Governing Council decision 86/21.
1. By its decision 86/21 of 27 June 1986, the Governing Council requested the Administrator to report biennially to the Council on the activities of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the field of drug abuse control. The present report is submitted, for information purposes, to the Council pursuant to that decision. The information included largely corresponds to that contained in the report of the Secretary-General, submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-second session, on international co-operation in drug abuse control (A/42/658).

I. ROLE OF UNDP

2. General. The participation of UNDP in activities related to the field of drug abuse control can be described as falling broadly into three categories: (a) the funding of projects from UNDP resources or other sources of funding, including cost-sharing, made available through UNDP; (b) the execution, wholly or in part, by the Office for Projects Execution (OPE) of projects financed from UNDP resources or other funds, such as the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC); and (c) the provision of support, through UNDP's field office network and headquarters units, to facilitate the implementation of activities of the United Nations system related to drug abuse and to promote communication and co-ordination between Governments and the United Nations system and amongst activities of the United Nations system carried out at the field level.

3. UNDP/UNFDAC working arrangements. In May 1987 a new agreement was signed by the Administrator and by the Executive Director of UNFDAC covering the working arrangements between the two organizations. The agreement specifies the roles of resident representatives and UNFDAC field advisers and lays out the general terms of the administrative support which is provided by UNDP for UNFDAC activities. The agreement is intended to strengthen and broaden the close co-operation which has existed between the two organizations for about 10 years. The general thrust of the new arrangements is to support UNFDAC's goal of securing greater operational visibility and more direct control of field programmes. A joint letter from the Administrator and the Executive Director of UNFDAC concerning the agreement and the operational modalities which were to come into effect on 1 January 1988 was addressed to all resident representatives and UNFDAC field advisers in November 1987.

4. Global research. In 1986 UNDP approved, under the global programme, a research project, jointly financed with the United Nations Social Defence Research Institute (UNSDRI), on drug abuse in the context of development: prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. The research was intended to provide inputs to the preparation of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, which was held at Vienna in June 1987. The research programme was completed and a report was circulated to the Conference. Arrangements are now being made to distribute the report more widely as a joint publication of UNDP and UNSDRI.

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II. ACTIVITIES IN INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES AND REGIONS

5. The projects related to drug abuse control with which UNDP has been concerned, in terms either of funding and/or of execution, continue to involve efforts to substitute food or cash crops for crops from which drugs are derived; efforts to control the spread of drugs; efforts to treat drug abuse victims and to curb the illicit use of drugs through education and rehabilitation programmes; and research efforts.

6. The highest concentration of project activities has traditionally been in the Latin America and Caribbean region, with the Asia and Pacific region following. This pattern has continued. Relatively few activities have yet been undertaken in the Africa region. During 1986-1987 a number of modest efforts were, however, initiated and it would appear that the number of projects related to drug abuse control activities and the number of countries having such projects may begin to rise modestly.

7. UNFDAC-funded projects constitute the largest volume of assistance and comprise the largest number of projects related to drug abuse control activities with which UNDP has been involved.

Latin America and the Caribbean

8. The Office for Projects Execution records a portfolio in the order of magnitude of $US 50 million of UNFDAC-funded projects in Latin America for which it is either the executing or co-operating agency. The largest single project is the Yungas Agricultural Development project in Bolivia. UNFDAC's contribution exceeds $US 20 million over a five-year period. Fifty-three communities with a total population of 10,000 are involved in the programme, which is directed towards the gradual substitution of coffee and other crops for coca cultivation while improving the living conditions and economic well-being of the communities. Through the project agricultural inputs and services, including credit, are provided. In addition, roads, schools, and water supply facilities are established for the communities in exchange for their undertaking to reduce coca cultivation.

9. Another example of a drug abuse control project in Latin America is a project, approved in 1987, which was designed to strengthen the National Commission for the Control of Narcotics Traffic and Drug Abuse in Argentina by developing preventive education programmes. The project is funded by a government cost-sharing contribution of $US 90,000 and is executed by the Government itself.

10. Other projects in Latin America with which UNDP has been directly associated since 1986 include: another government-executed, government cost-shared, small-scale project in Argentina aimed at identifying high-risk population groups in the Buenos Aires area; and four UNFDAC-funded projects in Colombia which are executed by the Government with OPE acting as co-operating agency and which deal with the training of educational agents to promote community participation in drug abuse prevention, with the development of a mass media national prevention campaign and the establishment of a drug information and communication centre, with the promotion of agricultural production and community development while substituting...
other crops for coca cultivation, and with a programme aimed at involving young people in socio-economic and cultural activities. In Paraguay, OPE is executing a small-scale project, financed from indicative planning figure (IPF) resources, which is intended to design a research programme on the use of drugs and to plan and initiate activities of the national council on drug abuse. In Peru two large-scale UNFDAC projects are executed by OPE. These projects relate to the promotion of small agroindustries and crop substitution in the Huánuco and to rural development in the La Convención and Lares Valley areas.

Asia and the Pacific

11. A larger number and proportion of the projects related to drug abuse control in this region is supported from IPF resources. Some $US 5 million from the IPF is at present approved for expenditure in 1986 and later years. In 1987 three projects included in the regional programme were active in the fields of the training of personnel in drug rehabilitation; in narcotics detection; and in minimizing illegal drug trafficking and unlawful interference in civil aviation.

12. In the Doi Pa-Por area of northern Thailand, UNDP is financing jointly with UNFDAC, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) an integrated rural development project, one of the major objectives of which is to replace opium poppy cultivation with food and cash crop production. IPF resources in excess of $US 1 million have been approved. This programme essentially seeks to extend to a new geographical area the experience gained between 1972 and 1984 under the UNFDAC-funded Crop Replacement and Community Development project and the UNDP supported Highland Agricultural Marketing and Production project. Under these projects the promotion of coffee and vegetable production in lieu of opium cultivation was shown both to raise the income level of farmers and to reduce the traditional opium crop. Continued support to the areas originally covered is now being provided under a Thai/Norwegian Church Aid project, with some support from UNFDAC.

13. In Indonesia additional IPF resources were approved for a project executed by OPE which is geared to the prevention of the use of illicit drugs. The UNFDAC-funded Buner project in Pakistan has largely succeeded in weaning farmers away from opium growing and providing other remunerative opportunities through alternative crop production and infrastructural development. This project was phased out during 1987, but assistance to Pakistan continues with projects which provide specialized training to health personnel and which focus on preventive education and drug training and rehabilitation.