



# General Assembly

Twentieth Special Session

**5**<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
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 New York

Official Records

*President:* Mr. Udovenko ..... (Ukraine)

*The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.*

## Agenda item 8 (continued)

### General debate

**The President:** The Assembly will first hear a statement by His Excellency Mr. Luis Alberto Flores Asturias, Vice-President of the Republic of Guatemala.

**Mr. Flores Asturias** (Guatemala) (*interpretation from Spanish*): On behalf of the people and the Government of Guatemala, I should like to congratulate you warmly, Mr. President, on your efficient and effective organization of this special session of the General Assembly devoted to combating drug-trafficking and related crimes.

From the outset, the United Nations has been based — as it still is — on the spirit and purpose of preserving world peace. Despite the efforts of the United Nations, in some areas humanity is still travelling along the road of the cold war, with its resultant ideological dogmatism.

In the case of Guatemala, where, thanks to the will of all the people and with the support of the international community we have been able to put an end to the internal armed conflict that lasted for more than 30 years, the problems of poverty, drug-trafficking and criminality continue to challenge the State.

Respect for national sovereignty underlies every aspect of way of thinking, but certain problems, such as drug-

trafficking and related criminal violence, while they affect countries individually, are cruel enemies that also extend beyond territorial boundaries. We have gathered here today because we have all been attacked by a form of crime that does not respect the principles of sovereignty, homeland or border and for which the law does not exist.

We are doing the right thing in order to face this challenge: turning to the supreme values that inspired the United Nations and showing that the international community is capable of acting in unity in order to deal with this serious problem. Today's world war is not one of nation against nation, but of all nations against one common enemy: drug-trafficking. That is why the global commitment that goes along with this effort is essential if we are finally to triumph in this war.

In my statement at this session, I wish also to outline what the war against drug-trafficking means to a State which, with an enormous effort, has emerged from internal conflict and is engaged in a process of political and social transition thanks to peace agreements that also underpin our struggle against poverty and social injustice.

Because of its location, Guatemala has been used as a bridge for the illicit trade in drugs, by air, by sea and by land, and to some extent as a storage and supply centre. Moreover, natural conditions make my country into fertile ground for illicit cultivation, favouring the growth of marijuana and poppies. There has also been an increase in addiction among our population.

In the sphere of demand reduction, some of our efforts have aimed at analysing the addiction problem. Here, initial results confirm that there has been an increase in consumption among adolescents and even among children. In that context, our work has focused on comprehensive preventive education at various levels in the formal education system, and on providing incentives for community self-management, in order to make people more aware of the problem. In addition, the Government has sought to work more closely with the non-governmental sector so that through intersectoral coordination we can design and implement a national master plan.

On supply reduction, statistics show that there has been more effective detection and prosecution of crimes in this area. In 1998, the number of persons arrested doubled vis-à-vis the previous year. In 1997 the destruction of poppy plants was 148 per cent that of the previous year. Seizures of cocaine grew by more than 300 per cent in 1996 compared with 1995, and the same level was maintained in 1997.

With illicit trade more profitable than traditional legal activities, we must tirelessly seek solutions involving alternative development. Hence, the international community's alternative development plans must take into account countries which, like Guatemala, are part of the transit routes for this illicit trade. But in speaking of alternative development, we must consider not only crop substitution in producer countries, but also the predicament of small-scale farmers, transporters and fishers in transit countries, whose poverty and lack of alternatives lead them to participate in the deadly trade in illegal drugs. Serious consideration must be given to guaranteeing fair prices for legal crops and services, in order to provide alternative activities.

Governments continue to make real efforts to reduce drug supply and demand. But we must unite our efforts in a global and coordinated way, and give the same importance to supply reduction as to demand reduction. We must devote additional resources and efforts to that end, in conformity with each country's national legislation.

Guatemala supports the action plans that will emerge from this session, the adoption of measures against money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation, the control of precursors, and the draft declaration on the guiding principles of demand reduction. But these declarations will remain nothing more than paper principles if we do not seek the machinery necessary to implement them. We therefore believe it necessary to draw up a plan of action in

this field that will be adapted to the needs of each country.

The present session is a most important step in the fight against one of the worst scourges of the twentieth century. Let us put an end to the war of words, and begin to take real action. What is said may be doubted; but there is no doubting what is actually done. And now is the time for us all to "do".

**The President:** I thank the Vice-President of the Republic of Guatemala for his statement.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Fabián Alarcón Rivera, Constitutional President of the Republic of Ecuador.

**President Alarcón Rivera** (*interpretation from Spanish*): The United Nations was founded as a universal forum for peoples to talk to one another and find common action on problems that affect the lives of all the world's people. We have gathered in special session to discuss and address one of the worst scourges of the latter part of our century. Drug use and the vast social, economic and legal problems it entails constitute one of the world's major obstacles to peace, law and order and security. As a result of this evil, criminal scourge, the health of millions suffers; families are wrecked; children are abandoned or abused; States and societies face violence, and their institutions are undermined.

My country, Ecuador, is distressed and concerned at the grave effects of drug-trafficking and related crimes. The economy, political life and social coexistence of peoples, particularly those of less developed countries, daily suffer from this criminal phenomenon. The vast economic gains illegitimately obtained by criminal organizations means that they can destabilize legal systems in many parts of the world. They operate outside the law; they ignore State boundaries; they are linked with terrorism, the arms trade and other aspects of world crime. In a way, globalization has opened the doors for organized crime, and this now constitutes a worldwide challenge. Hence we require a strong, concerted response from the world community.

History shows that the drug problem is gaining new and increasing complexity. There are more psychotropic substances, and their illegal use is on the rise; new chemicals and processing methods have appeared; the boundaries between use, abuse and addiction are cloudy and are the subject of dispute in the medical and legal

fields; and drug use is now tragically beginning even in childhood. My delegation believes that the draft declaration on the guiding principles of demand reduction, which we trust the Assembly will adopt at this session, will turn out to be a critically important tool.

It is important that our work towards international cooperation against drugs should be planned and carried out in keeping with the principle of the shared responsibility of drug users and drug producers. Plans that do not take into account both demand and supply — two sides of the same coin — will only waste resources and time, and will perpetuate the complex problem of drug-trafficking. Producer countries' efforts to destroy crops, and their policing efforts, will be inadequate if there is no real simultaneous action by the Governments of consumer countries to eliminate demand.

We need to establish a mutual and voluntary system that controls production, transport and consumption and respects our sovereignty. This system must include ongoing national and international oversight of our efforts in the fight against drugs. This oversight must include not only the drug-producing and transit countries, but also the consuming countries, with the goal of creating a viable system of objective evaluation of the reduction of drug consumption in each country and with a means of decertifying, as necessary, those consuming countries whose mounting consumption levels show they are making only minimal efforts to control the problem. The rhetoric of shared responsibility must be transformed into equal treatment of all States in the assessment of results they achieve.

The struggle against drug-trafficking is very much like a just war in defence of the security and well-being of our societies. A war against crime can be won only if we have resources to tackle it decisively at its roots. In the last few years the struggle has been seriously hampered because of the lack of funds for alternative-crop development programmes. In many producing countries — though fortunately not in my country, Ecuador, which plays only a marginal role in the area of illicit trafficking — the proliferation of crops has an undeniable social dimension. This session of the Assembly offers us an opportunity to strengthen international cooperation and gather the resources to reduce substantially over the next 10 years the growing of the raw materials for the most widespread drugs.

However, Ecuador warns that this cooperation and support should not overlook programmes that deal with

other equally important aspects of the struggle against drug-trafficking. I refer in particular to the transport of narcotics — an illegal trade that particularly affects my country. Ecuador's problems in regard to drug-trafficking are born of its geographical situation. We are located in the midst of nations that have extensive areas where the raw materials are produced and drugs made. Our territory is used as a drug transit route. With limited means, but aware of the importance of our duty, our national council on narcotic substances, the State Attorney General and the national police of my country have all taken significant, concrete steps to stop the criminal activities of drug-trafficking in strict accordance with our domestic laws. Successful police operations have been combined with appropriate legal actions to break up the criminal networks and their channels used to transport drugs.

As in all the countries of the world, in Ecuador the drug problem is, unfortunately, tending to increase and take on new dimensions. We are observing with concern an increase in the consumption of narcotics in our country. Therefore, we are facing a very delicate challenge: to preserve the well-being of our people, particularly the youngest. I wish to appeal urgently to this forum for international cooperation with the developing world to eliminate drug consumption and implement rehabilitation programmes.

In general, and despite the fact that Ecuador is a drug transit country, the work done by my Government during the year and a half of my mandate has been significant. We have passed a new law that fills gaps and redresses deficiencies for the fight against the laundering of drug money, the importation and commercialization of chemical precursors, prevention and rehabilitation. In particular I should highlight that the drug traffickers' assets that we have seized have been turned over not only to the police to serve its efforts to combat drug-trafficking but also to universities and social institutions.

On behalf of the Republic of Ecuador, I wish this extremely important international gathering the greatest success. May the spirit of international cooperation that inspired the Charter of San Francisco lead us to fruitful understandings and to the development of effective and timely policies. Our peoples need them and demand them.

**The President:** I thank the Constitutional President of the Republic of Ecuador for his statement.

The Assembly will now hear a statement by His Excellency Mr. Bichai Rattakul, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand.

**Mr. Rattakul** (Thailand): Faced with uncertainties for many years, this special session has become a reality due in great part to the efforts of many concerned countries, especially Mexico.

We should recall that we are gathered at this important special session from more than 150 countries to face a challenge so great and a mission so vital that we simply cannot afford to ignore the devastating results of this problem any longer, simply because it has not only broken many homes and hearts but also the very real value of life itself.

Indeed, the drug problem is an issue that has been the talk of the century. It has become a global issue due to its extensive spread to countless communities around the world. It has become so acute that if nothing concrete is done soon, the world will face an awful and dreadful situation that will affect the well-being of people and destabilize the security of nations everywhere.

Someone once said,

“The path of duty lies in what is near, and man seeks it in what is remote.”

This special session of the General Assembly seeks what seems so remote, yet is not at all unachievable.

In the past decade many instruments have been dedicated to international drug control. At this session, I believe that a new phase of international drug control will be launched with the adoption of the Political Declaration, action plans, measures and resolutions that correspond to the six main themes of the session. However, we should not ignore the existing instruments that we already have in our possession, as they are still very much applicable and worthwhile.

But what can one voice do? What can one nation do? My delegation would like to recommend the following.

First, for the next decade of international drug control, focus should be placed on the problem of amphetamine-type stimulants or ATS, and the prevention of diversion of

precursors used for illicit drug production. I urge all States to pay attention and cooperate more closely in eliminating the supply of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors.

Thailand is one of the countries that is seriously suffering from the problem of illicit methamphetamine use and trafficking. Millions of methamphetamine tablets have been seized in Thailand. Thousand of gallons of illicit precursors have been smuggled into my country. Thailand is the importing and transit country for precursors and chemicals used for this illicit industry. The closest possible cooperation among the countries concerned, especially with exporting countries, is therefore vital to prevent the diversion and smuggling of precursors.

In this respect, a study to explore the possibility of inventing other harmless substances as substitutes for amphetamine-type stimulants should be conducted. I admit that it is certainly not an easy task to find substitutes for amphetamine-type stimulants. But in this area of “hard drugs”, Thailand has been successful in implementing programmes to reduce the supply of opium through crop substitution and highland development programmes. We are proud to say that our achievement of highland development is derived from the initiative of His Majesty King Bhumibol of Thailand. With support from the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and donor countries, the royal project on highland development has been taken as a model for solving the problem of opium-poppy cultivation.

The second recommendation which my delegation would like to make is the strengthening of collaboration among countries in the same region or subregion. This is a must for combating drugs.

Through the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) mechanism, Thailand is fully committed to the obligations on drug control measures. But over and above this, we fully support the subregional strategy initiated by UNDCP, and we are a signatory country to the 1993 Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control among Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam and UNDCP. These countries have suffered far too long and endured far too much in their efforts to wipe out drug abuse and illicit drug-trafficking.

Thus, in response to the spirit of this special session, the six signatory countries have issued a Joint Declaration to signify a common stand and our political will in eliminating drug and related problems. The Joint Declaration, which is circulated as an official document of this session, highlights our common aim of combating illicit production, consumption and trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances through a balanced and comprehensive approach. In this connection, the signatory countries to the 1993 Memorandum of Understanding will establish an operation network to combat drug crimes through intelligence-sharing and harmonized policies.

Together with our neighbours, we have started the long march. The strategic point of combating illicit drug production and illicit drug-trafficking lies here, as do the trust and faith we have in each other and which have brought us together. It is that kind of trust, that kind of faith and courage, that have infused our search for a lasting solution destined to become uniquely great for the common good of mankind.

And from here we shall move forward with strength, so that by the year 2003 we hope to fulfil the bold objective of the Political Declaration to be adopted at this special session. Then we will be able to say, in a loud and clear voice, that we have been able to achieve tangible results in our quest for a world free of dreadful drugs.

This is the path Thailand has chosen, and this is the path we will continue to pursue. We remain firm in our political commitment to fight against drugs. We are ready to cooperate with other Governments and international organizations.

Having said this, I wish to commend the UNDCP and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for their contribution to the success of this special session. Obviously, their efforts have not been in vain.

**The President:** I thank the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand for his statement.

I give the floor to His Excellency The Honourable Dean O. Barrow, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs, National Security and Attorney General of Belize.

**Mr. Barrow (Belize):** A decade has passed since the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic substances. During this decade the commitment to international

collaboration in ridding the world of the scourge of drugs has taken on increased pertinence.

This special session of the General Assembly devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities comes at an opportune time. For it is good that, 10 years on, we collectively assess the global effort and revise strategies with which to confront this ill as we enter the next millennium.

The menace posed by the world's drug problem has spared no sector of society. But its effects are particularly insidious on the most cherished of our assets, our youth. In countries like mine, the problem also extends way beyond the threat to the mental and physical health of society, and increasingly has to be engaged as a principal national security concern.

It is with alarm that we consider estimates that suggest that, despite the vast initiatives undertaken during the United Nations Decade on Drug Abuse, the profits from this pernicious activity may still amount to no less than \$400 billion annually, or represent as much as 8 per cent of total international trade. Beyond all doubt, we have achieved significant successes. But just as clearly, the problem has grown exponentially. We are here, therefore, to share experiences, reassess our efforts and reinforce and expand existing initiatives, so that we might simultaneously seek to counter all aspects of this hydra-headed problem.

The Global Programme of Action issued by the seventeenth special session of the Assembly devoted to international drug control issues, held in February 1990, called on States to consider strengthening judicial and legal systems towards the suppression of drug-trafficking. In keeping with promises made then, Belize is now numbered among the parties to the 1988 Convention and is revising national legislation, in fulfilment of our obligations under this treaty.

Belize's geographical location, on the Central American isthmus and in the heart of the Caribbean basin, presents us with a tremendous challenge. The indigenous cultivation of cannabis has been put down. But, like all our neighbours, Belize is affected by the large-scale transit traffic in illicit drugs, particularly cocaine. And without close coordination among law-enforcement authorities in the Caribbean, Central America and Mexico, drug traffickers will continue to exploit our strategic

vulnerability as a way station to the major consumer market.

Belize's resolve now is to deny the use of its territory to the traffickers. But it is self-evident that our national and international commitment, as well as limited human financial and material resources, mandates bilateral and regional cooperation in battling the better-equipped narco-traffickers. Joint cross-border counter-narcotics operations and training, shared equipment and rapid exchange of intelligence go far in addressing the global responsibility to make successful interdiction possible.

Belize's drug eradication and interdiction effort is the charge of the civil police as well as the military, in a legislated support capacity. Our bilateral cooperation efforts include the conduct of regular joint maritime operations with the United Kingdom's designated West Indies guard ship and with the United States Coast Guard. We have also achieved a significant level of coordination of action with Guatemalan and Mexican counter-narcotic forces.

Additionally, the Belize Government and its major civil society partners have been bolstering efforts associated with drug demand reduction control. In concert with the National Drug Abuse Control Council; local and internationally funded non-governmental organizations; churches and religious institutions; medical and health professionals; the law-enforcement community; trade unions, employer and employee associations and the media, all levels of the educational system and parents have come together. Multi-disciplinary initiatives now focus on preventive education, research and information, treatment and rehabilitation as well as community mobilization.

To be effective, any national or international counter-narcotics strategy must be directed to strike the narco-trafficker where it most counts. The profit and proceeds from the sale of illegal drugs and the related illegal traffic in small arms have to be identified and confiscated. In today's global marketplace, where the supply is produced in one location to meet a demand elsewhere and in which profits from such illegal transactions can be hidden in numerous jurisdictions, enhanced international cooperation is key. Harmonization of banking and financial regulations and "know-your-customer" policies are obligatory in advancing cooperation against the laundering of ill-gotten gains.

In 1996, Belize enacted its own legislation to criminalize money-laundering in the form of a Money Laundering (Prevention) Act. With this law — which we

will continually review to take account of the latest developments coming out of the regional and global thinking on the subject — we hope to play our part in the international effort to eradicate a worldwide industry which, it is estimated, may be processing up to \$500 billion every year.

I have previously alluded to the valiant and aggressive manner with which Belize's Security Forces have been engaged in narcotics interdiction. Belize Police Force statistics on drug seizures and arrests indicate that in 1997 there was a 143.5 per cent increase in the destruction of cannabis plants over the amount destroyed in the previous year. Further, some 262.8 kilos of cannabis were seized in 1997, up from the 201.5 kilos confiscated during the previous year. Cocaine transshipment interdiction during 1996 yielded 469.8 kilos, while in 1997 our multi-agency approach prevented some 2,691.1 kilos of cocaine from reaching intended markets.

In the last decade, Belize's eradication efforts were strongly underpinned by the development of alternative cash crops and the achievement of greater diversification in our agro-based economy. The recent retrenchment of the protected markets for Belize's primary agricultural products is, however, cause for great concern, particularly for the population involved in banana cultivation in southern Belize. International cooperation in eradication efforts must bear well in mind the continued economic and social viability of populations in affected areas. Our attempts to promote the destruction of illicit drug cultivation cannot ignore the fact that social and economic marginalization compounds the very phenomenon we are trying to eliminate. If we lose sight of this central thesis, all our initiatives will be circular and pointless — a veritable labour of Sisyphus.

Both here and at other forums, Belize has raised its objection to the discriminatory use of unilateral devices in measuring the counter-narcotics performance of certain countries. We once again make the point that the use of such certification procedures is repugnant to the concepts of cooperation, multilateralism and respect for the personality, sovereignty and independence of States. Much more briefly and poignantly, it is also inimical to success.

Belize has demonstrated its own commitment to multilateralism in addressing the challenges which confront the international community. Consistent with this commitment, I hereby pledge the support of my

delegation to the successful outcome of this special session. It is Belize's hope that this seminal initiative will, at the minimum, achieve tangible results with respect to greater availability of equipment and resources; training and mechanisms for the exchange of intelligence; and wider cooperation and stronger and more effective liaison. We are convinced that the only way to achieve the United Nations International Drug Control Programme's objective of significantly reducing world cultivation of illicit drug crops within the next decade is to meet this challenge resolutely and unstintingly together.

**The President:** I thank the Deputy Prime Minister of Belize for his statement.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Paulo Tchিপilica, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Angola.

**Mr. Tchипilica** (Angola) (*spoke in Portuguese; English text furnished by the delegation*): On behalf of the Angolan Government and my delegation, I would like to congratulate the United Nations on this new initiative to limit the production, sale, demand, trafficking and illicit distribution of narcotics and psychotropic substances, including related synthetic drugs and criminal activities.

The Angolan Government is aware that the fight against all forms of the illicit drug problem is the common and shared responsibility of every nation and that this public threat transcends the frontiers of any individual nation or group of nations. It has become a global phenomenon that is destroying lives and communities, generating delinquency and affecting the independence of youth, and poses a major threat to the health and well-being of mankind. Illicit drug use affects democracy, the independence and stability of nations, the structure of society, and the dignity and hopes of millions of people and families.

Permit me briefly to characterize the status of illicit drugs in my country. It is well known that Angola is a nation that has been ravaged by an extremely devastating war that almost destroyed the country, its economic and social infrastructure and, most importantly, its people. But, in spite of the considerable efforts that it is making to rebuild the nation and to restore the dignity of the Angolan people, the Angolan Government has also concentrated on research into and prevention of drug use and trafficking.

The Government of Angola, concerned by the magnitude of the drug problem today, therefore formed an Inter-Ministerial Commission to combat illicit drugs through

official Administrative Order number 7/PR/91 of the President of the Republic, dated 28 February 1991. This Commission, coordinated by the Ministry of Justice, includes the Ministries of the Interior, External Relations, Health, Public Assistance and Social Reintegration and Finance, as well as the Attorney General's office. Among other tasks, the Commission was entrusted with the preparation of a study on the problem of illicit drugs and the preventive and repressive means available to combat it. Members of this Inter-Ministerial Commission have participated in various international and regional forums on drug-related issues, gathering information and acquiring the experience necessary to attack this problem through a multifaceted approach.

Although an in-depth study of illicit drugs has never been conducted in Angola on the basis of the modern methodologies of the United Nations, we believe that the consumption of and traffic in drugs in our country has developed alarming dimensions. This conclusion is based on the study by the Inter-Ministerial Commission and on other studies and drug enforcement agency statistics.

The only illicit substance known to be produced in Angola is cannabis. This plant grows naturally in some areas of our country, in certain cases for therapeutic purposes, principally for use by animals. But it is also widely produced for illicit ends for domestic consumption as well as for export.

The illicit drugs currently consumed in our country include cannabis, primarily, as well as prescription drugs and inhalants such as gasoline and glue, in addition to certain solvents, such as ether and acetone, the latter being used mostly by children between the ages of 7 and 15. In 1990, we began to notice the consumption of cocaine and heroin, although on a small scale. The group using cocaine and heroin ranges in age from 16 to 45.

Our country is used essentially as a transit zone because of the inadequate control over and permeability of our land and sea borders and air space, compounded by a lack of human and material resources. Illicit drugs in transit come from various countries and are destined for Europe and certain African countries.

Only very recently, on 27 May 1998, our country acceded, by a National Assembly resolution, to the international conventions on drugs. Now this resolution is to be published in the official gazette of the Republic, and the respective instruments must be deposited with the United Nations for ratification to occur. However, for

some time now, the Angolan authorities in charge of drug control issues have sought to apply United Nations mechanisms to the extent possible with our limited human and technical resources.

Reinforced police control at our more vulnerable border posts, the use of dogs at airports and ports and exchanging information with other countries in our region — especially Namibia and South Africa — and also cooperation between the law enforcement authorities of Angola and Portugal have yielded some satisfactory results. However, our Achilles heel is control of our coastline. Because it is so vast, it is difficult to monitor and is therefore frequently used by international drug traffickers.

Finally, in the area of drug control, the National Prescription Drug Board, an agency that reports to the Ministry of Health, assesses the country's needs, taking into account general medical, veterinary, scientific and academic requirements without violating the provisions of the conventions.

The legal instruments in effect in our country have proven to be inadequate and fail to meet the requirements of the drug control efforts. For this reason, new legal bills have been submitted to our national bodies for approval. They seek not only to combat the production, trafficking and consumption of narcotics, psychotropic substances and their precursors, but also to establish the judicial framework to control the legal marketing of drugs for medical purposes. The legislation now being developed is a response to the concerns of the international community and complies with the clauses of the international conventions and the framework they have established to control drugs. We expect that the National Assembly will promulgate these new laws by the end of this month.

In addition, our criminal law system is undergoing a reform that includes the reformulation of penal codes and procedures which will establish new legal means for dealing with organized transnational crime, including drug-related cases, money-laundering, arms trafficking, terrorism and other related criminal activities.

We realize that other tasks will be required after the legislation is promulgated so that the laws can be enforced. We will have to train people so that they can enforce and execute the laws in question. Moreover, we must provide agencies combating illicit drugs with the resources they need to do so, and create conditions for the treatment and social reintegration of addicts, et cetera.

Will all this effort be effective without true international cooperation that is not limited to mere formal protocols? We think not. The existing international mechanisms must be reinforced. Consistent international aid from the richer to the poorer countries will be particularly significant here. There is urgent need for international assistance so that material resources can be provided, manpower can be trained and, a global programme established to help the poorer countries. Beyond this, international, regional and bilateral cooperation must be reinforced so that we can achieve integrated rural development and solve the main economic and social problems that affect these countries and in most cases underlie the drug problem in general.

In conclusion, we hope that this draft Political Declaration will become another step forward in the international community's long march toward achieving commitments to implement practical measures and provide the resources needed to ensure effective and measurable results in our fight against this worldwide ill. We must do this for the life and dignity of our youth.

Before the advent of illicit drugs, war was an even greater scourge for us. Through this forum we make a strong appeal to the international community: please, discourage those who fear reintegration into our society and who persist in creating political and economic instability in our country, those who still today are making the spectre of war hang over the heads of the Angolan people. We ask the international community to urge them to participate in the reconstruction and the economic and social progress and development of our nation. In so doing they too will contribute to solving the problem of illicit drugs.

**The President:** I thank the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Angola for his statement.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Mirko Bandelj, Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia.

**Mr. Bandelj (Slovenia):** I am pleased to have the opportunity to address this special session of the United Nations General Assembly, which I firmly believe will be an important milestone in the fight of the international community against illicit drugs — an evil which has been increasingly encircling and threatening us.

Slovenia has associated itself with the statement made yesterday on behalf of the European Union and the

associated States. In addition, I wish to make the following points.

Ten years have passed since the adoption of the United Nations Convention against the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. A lot has been achieved in this period in reducing the abuse of and addiction to narcotic drugs, or at least towards keeping them within certain limits. However, it appears that these measures have not been sufficient because the statistics on the production of illicit drugs, the number of users and addicts, the dealers discovered and the drug shipments seized show an ever growing increase. Moreover, new drugs are emerging along with new user groups, new routes and methods of smuggling and, consequently, new problems. Thus, we have to recognize that the fight against drugs directed primarily towards drug supply reduction has not achieved the desired results in spite of all the efforts made and quite a few successes achieved. We should therefore look for a new approach that is not based only on repression, but which is based to the same extent or even more so on the removal of the causes behind drug abuse and the consequences of drug addiction. In other words, we have to drain the swamps which encourage the use of drugs.

Transnational organized crime, terrorism, corruption, money-laundering and other criminal activities are closely interwoven and linked to drug use. Our fight against these elements is therefore also a way of preventing drug addiction.

The problem of drug abuse is a global problem. No country, regardless of its size, is exempt. It can be a producer, a transit State, a consumer or a country where money is laundered; and these roles are easily interchangeable. For a long time, Slovenia has only been a transit country on the route of heroin smuggling into Western Europe. But, due to its crucial geopolitical position between the East and the West, and the North and South, of Europe, it is becoming more and more an intersection for the smuggling of cocaine, hashish and other drugs. The number of drug users and addicts within Slovenia has also been increasing.

Slovenia has ratified all three United Nations conventions in the area of drugs and is now harmonizing its legislation and policy on drugs with the legislation in force in the European Union. It has adopted a well-balanced policy based on both prevention and repression. Slovenia is cooperating with member countries of the European Union, as well as bilaterally and multilaterally with other countries.

We are striving to implement consistently the obligations we have undertaken and are convinced that the goals we have set for ourselves can be achieved only through joint efforts and unselfish cooperation. However, these goals have to be realistic and attainable.

The human race has been using drugs — licit or illicit, moderately or immoderately — for millenniums. It would be unreasonable to expect that the future will be different. We should therefore direct our efforts primarily towards a realistic restriction of drug use and addiction, because a world without drugs seems, for the moment, to be a goal beyond our reach. This can be done by, above all, promoting a healthy, creative, and tolerant lifestyle and by ensuring economic, political, and social support for it. Education and prevention, particularly with regard to children, teenagers and other vulnerable groups, both have an important part in this. We must prevent and restrict the worst consequences of drug addiction and make it possible for addicts to have access to adequate treatment and rehabilitation.

We have to fight drug-trafficking firmly and uncompromisingly by providing adequate legislation, the effective operation of law enforcement authorities, mutual cooperation and strict sanctions. We must pursue the reduction of the production and manufacture of drugs in a level-headed manner, and special attention should be given to the control of trafficking in precursors and to uncovering the existence of new synthetic drugs, especially amphetamine-type stimulants.

However, along with these efforts, we should not overlook the fact that addiction and social harm also occur through the consumption of licit drugs — alcohol, tobacco and medications — so we should not limit our prevention activities to illicit substances only.

I am convinced that we can come closer to achieving these goals by adopting the proposed Political Declaration and other documents prepared for this session, and by consistently implementing them in practice. In order to do this, we will have to work hard and allocate considerable financial resources, but, above all, we must ensure that the responsibilities we accept will not merely remain on paper but will be truly implemented in practice. I am deeply convinced that the pertinent United Nations bodies, especially the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, will make sure that we will be able to report on successfully accomplished work by the year 2008.

**The President:** I thank the Minister of the Interior of Slovenia for his statement.

I now give the floor to Her Excellency Mrs. Margot Wallström, Minister of Health and Social Affairs of Sweden.

**Mrs. Wallström** (Sweden): The purpose of this special session of the General Assembly is to raise awareness and mobilize support to tackle the world drug problem.

I have met boys and girls no more than 20 years old who have already been treated several times for their drug addiction. I have heard girls tell stories of falling in love with an older boy with drug problems, dropping out of school, losing a job, turning to crime, et cetera. Boys from well-to-do families have told me that they were just curious and wanted to experiment. I try to keep the faces of these young persons in mind when I discuss drug problems. Let us talk to, not just about, young people, and listen very carefully to what they have to say, as happened here yesterday in the panel discussion on "Children, Young People and Drug Abuse".

By international standards the drug problems in Sweden are relatively limited. But there is an increase in first-time recruitment for drug abuse and a growing interest among young persons in testing different kinds of drugs. Certain groups of young people are very attracted by the promotion of new, synthetic drugs.

Problems caused by the illicit consumption of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances are increasing. Crimes related to the illicit production and distribution of drugs are getting worse. At the same time, there is intense international promotion of illicit drug use and of pro-drug messages. Such messages are transmitted worldwide in a matter of seconds and tend to be embedded in a cultural context, accompanied by music and fashion. The marketing is often aimed directly at young persons and promotes the view that drugs are fun and exciting. Risks associated with drug abuse are played down and, unbelievably, cannabis and some of the synthetic drugs are portrayed as totally safe and harmless.

We need effective international cooperation to counter this massive propaganda. It is vital to sustain consistent, restrictive policies and make common cause against the legalization movement.

As the International Narcotics Control Board stated in its latest report, we face a fundamental challenge to reverse those very dangerous trends that threaten the structure of our societies and our basic cultural values. Our best insurance is to maintain a negative attitude towards drug abuse among the general public. Solidarity with disadvantaged, vulnerable groups and concern for our children and young people requires that. It is also an issue of democracy and preservation of democratic rights.

Governments can legislate, provide financial budgetary resources and adopt drug policies. But drug policy is implemented at the local level. The work done locally by public authorities, non-governmental organizations and, ultimately, by all members of civil society determines the results. Coherent strategies, with everyone pulling in the same direction, require strong political leadership at all levels.

The objective of Swedish drug policy is to create a drug-free society. It is supported by a broad consensus among the political parties in our Parliament. It is also a vision based on a positive, humanistic approach. Swedish drug policy has evolved over a long period of time. It is integrated into our social policy, which provides everybody with basic security through a system of general benefits. We believe that everyone is entitled to a decent existence in a society which respects human rights and safeguards the security of the individual. No person and no group should be marginalized or excluded.

The commitments that we will make at this special session can be seen as a comprehensive global plan for action against the world drug problem in all its aspects. Sweden welcomes and supports the visionary approach of the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP). As one of the main donors to that United Nations body, we are very concerned about the way the United Nations drug control activities are funded. I want to urge all Member States to contribute to a more stable and predictable financial basis for the United Nations drug control organs.

Finally, to sum up, the world drug problem threatens our States, our people and our communities. Governments will make very important commitments at this session to meet this serious challenge. But that is not enough.

Strong political leadership will be required to ensure that those commitments are fulfilled. It may be difficult and it may be costly, but we, the political leaders of the States Members, of the United Nations, must make it very

clear that we will not allow ourselves to be influenced by those who promote illicit drugs. I firmly believe that giving in to such ideas will undermine our common effort. Let us not lose sight of our goal: a drug-free society. That is a responsibility we have to the younger generations as we lead our countries into the next millennium.

**The President:** I thank the Minister of Health and Social Affairs of Sweden for her statement and for her strict observance of the time limit.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Stasys Šedbaras, Minister for Interior Affairs of Lithuania.

**Mr. Šedbaras** (Lithuania) (*spoke in Lithuanian; English text furnished by the delegation*): It is a great honour for me to participate in this special session of the General Assembly to discuss issues of great concern to the international community.

Lithuania fully supports the comprehensive approach to narcotics control and the implementation of drug prevention activities, as well as the important international cooperation laid out in the European Union Presidency's statement. I will therefore briefly survey regional drug control problems and developments in this field in Lithuania.

In recent years, the transformation to a market economy has brought about radical changes in the social and economic spheres, and has affected people's lives. However, these changes have been accompanied by growing drug abuse and trafficking. Following the restoration of Lithuania's independence and the collapse of the iron curtain between East and West, the drug problem in our country has been of growing concern.

Due to its geographical position and well-developed infrastructure, Lithuania is in danger of becoming a drug transit country from West to East and back again. Narcotics dealers from other countries are eager to find new markets for their illegal products and new gateways to Western States. The emergence of cocaine in Lithuania, therefore, is no accident. Admittedly, Lithuania is a purchase country for drug addicts and dealers from other countries, including the Kaliningrad region of the Russian Federation, Latvia and Estonia.

The number of drug abusers and of drug-related deaths in Lithuania is increasing. In 1997, over 3,000 people were registered as drug addicts, and the number of drug-related deaths was 56. Unfortunately, these figures include only

those who have applied for treatment in health care institutions or have been otherwise brought to light. The actual number of drug abusers in Lithuania may amount to approximately 20,000.

Analysis of illegal drug-trafficking demonstrates that the most popular drugs in Lithuania are poppy-based opiates. Of late, however, these are being replaced by synthetic drugs. Today the popularity of drugs, particularly synthetic ones, among young people is increasing at an accelerated pace. Drugs are supplied in places of entertainment — night clubs, discothèques, bars and cafés — and also on the streets. Teenagers consider the use of synthetic drugs to be fashionable.

An examination of the situation in Lithuania in recent years shows that the number of drug-related crimes is steadily increasing; the drug market is expanding and diversifying to include new kinds of drugs. Illegal traffickers may be divided into those who produce, those who deliver and those who sell drugs. Although this problem has been more prevalent in major Lithuanian cities, rural areas are also becoming involved.

All these developments commit us to combat illicit drug-trafficking. We have made substantial progress in strengthening border controls. Demarcation of our eastern national border is nearing completion. Extensive efforts are being undertaken to improve the infrastructure and equipment needed to ensure border protection. A governmental drug control commission has been set up to coordinate the activities of governmental agencies in the sphere of drug control. This commission is staffed by representatives of all agencies concerned. The Lithuanian criminal police force has specialized divisions to fight illicit drug-trafficking.

From 1987 on, an annual targeted police operation, Operation Poppy, has taken place, during which poppy fields are destroyed and other preventive measures are taken, including teaching workshops at schools, inspection of places of entertainment, and so on. In accordance with United Nations conventions and the legislation of the Republic of Lithuania, the country's law enforcement services have engaged in special operations: "controlled" deliveries and infiltration into criminal activities.

Particular attention is devoted to developing international cooperation in the area of narcotics control. Mutual cooperation with the United States of America, France, the United Kingdom and Germany has been substantially broadened. We have a good working

relationship with the Nordic countries as well with as our nearest Baltic neighbours, Latvia and Estonia. Bilateral agreements on this issue have been signed with Hungary, Turkey and the Czech Republic.

Especially important for Lithuania are the “third-pillar” programmes of the European Union. Together with representatives of Sweden, Russia, Latvia, and Estonia, Lithuania actively participates in the anti-drug commission of the Baltic-Sea States, which deals with the drug problem. Lithuania is also involved in international operations against drug smugglers, including the targeted Baltic-Sea States operation, Operation Speed. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme has contributed to laying down the basis for local narcotics control and for regional cooperation in the control of drugs in a very positive and timely manner.

Drug control and drug-addiction prevention measures for the period 1998-2000 have been developed and are currently being implemented. Moreover, a national programme for the prevention of drug circulation and drug addiction, the main goal of which is to create a national drug policy and provide basic guidelines for the reduction of drug addiction, is expected to be developed by the end of this year.

Lithuania is a signatory of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. Yesterday I deposited with the Secretary-General our instrument of accession to the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. I would like to emphasize that the law on the control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances adopted this year in Lithuania is in full compliance with the requirements of those United Nations conventions. A law on precursors has been drafted and is currently being considered by the Lithuanian Parliament. The objective of the law is to control the legal circulation of precursors and ensure their proper destination pursuant to the relevant international instruments.

The Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania has ratified the 1990 Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime, and has adopted a law on the prevention of money-laundering. As a consequence, a special division dealing with the prevention of money-laundering has been established within the tax police. The Lithuanian Parliament has also adopted a law on the acquisition of property of persons and The substantiation of

lawfulness of income. That law obliges those persons suspected or charged with financial crimes, as well as their close relatives and other close associates, to substantiate the lawful acquisition of income. All of these laws and structures provide us with a solid footing for minimizing the negative impact of narcotics problems for society in Lithuania and in the international community. Lithuania is also committed to treating the drug control problem with due attention in the future.

I would like to use this opportunity to state our appreciation to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, as well as to the Nordic States and other States of the European Union for the significant assistance they have rendered to Lithuania.

We are deeply convinced that the legal instruments adopted during the present session will be very important for international cooperation. Multinational support will strengthen the fight against drug-trafficking. It is my fervent hope that these joint efforts will prove a success.

**The President:** I thank the Minister for Interior Affairs of Lithuania for his statement.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Roberto Díaz Sotolongo, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Cuba.

**Mr. Díaz Sotolongo** (Cuba) (*interpretation from Spanish*): What eight years ago was already seen as a global problem has today reached alarming proportions. There are now more illegal drugs; new amphetamine-type drugs are emerging; production is much more extensive; consumption has increased; and new trafficking routes have opened up. Driven by demand, a world market for illegal drugs has been created.

While commodity prices have remained low and in many cases have even fallen during the last two decades, the world drug market and its prices have continued to grow, generating annual profits of more than \$400 billion, the approximate equivalent of 8 per cent of total world trade.

The world economic and social changes generated by neoliberal globalization have enabled the producers and traffickers of illegal drugs to organize on a global scale, placing and investing their profits in financial centres that offer attractive returns.

In the developing world, where poverty is on the increase and there are few resources to combat this phenomenon, where the work to prevent the problem is limited by the high level of illiteracy and ill health, where there is a widespread lack of trained personnel and material resources to provide treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration for drug addicts — this is where there is the flow of the resources to confront the challenge posed by this evil is most needed.

There is a need for a greater contribution by the most developed States, as well as an urgent need for an increase in the availability of financing. It is essential to seek out new sources of funds. One bold measure would be to free up the money that today is squandered in the arms race and devote it to the strengthening of the structures for preventing and dealing with the world drug problem.

Razing the plantations is not enough. The legal movement of precursors and essential chemicals that can be used in the illegal production of drugs must also be strictly controlled. All of us — both drug-importing and drug-exporting countries — must contribute to this effort.

In this battle, legal cooperation is imperative. It is also essential to draw up regulations to stop money-laundering and thus create a legal framework so that it can be punished as an unlawful activity.

The reduction of demand is an essential element of the global approach to combating the worldwide drug problem. In this regard, there must be additional efforts to provide programmes in the areas of education, health care and social well-being that include prevention and rehabilitation services.

We are called upon to strengthen the structures of international drug control, to broaden international cooperation and to harmonize efforts at all levels in this process: production, sales, demand, trafficking and illegal distribution of narcotics and psychotropic substances, including synthetic drugs; and the diversion of precursors and essential chemicals for use in the illegal production of these drugs; and money-laundering.

As is recognized in the Political Declaration to be adopted by the Assembly, all of these measures are part of a common and shared responsibility that requires a global and balanced approach, in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law — in particular, respect for national

sovereignty, territorial integrity and the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States.

In Cuba drugs are not a social problem. There is a genuine political resolve to do everything in our power to combat this phenomenon and to prevent our national territory from being used in illegal drug-trafficking. Between 1994 and 1997, the Cuban authorities stopped 95 million doses of cocaine from being delivered to consumers in other countries for which they were intended.

Cuba is waging this war in difficult economic conditions, which have been further aggravated by the continuation and strengthening of the unjust unilateral blockade that has gone on for almost 40 years.

Our country does not accept — on the grounds that they are illegitimate and contrary to international law — unilateral certification policies being applied in the fight against drugs. We reaffirm the irreplaceable role played by the International Narcotics Control Board, the only body that has international authorization to determine the extent to which States are complying with their obligations under international conventions.

We support the activities and the work being carried out in the area of drug control by the United Nations agencies, particularly the United Nations International Drug Control Programme under the dynamic leadership of its Executive Director, Mr. Pino Arlacchi.

We would like to reiterate here in this forum, once again, Cuba's willingness to make bilateral agreements with countries that wish to do so — agreements to cooperate on the various aspects involved in combating illegal drugs on the basis of respect for sovereignty, equality and non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

It is only if we unite all of our efforts, cooperate at the international level and work together that we can lay the necessary foundations to put an end to this phenomenon.

We must deepen the roots of virtue in this vice-ridden world.

**The President:** I thank the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Cuba for his statement.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Almerino Manhenge, Minister for Home Affairs of Mozambique.

**Mr. Manhenge** (Mozambique) (*spoke in Portuguese; English text furnished by the delegation*): I would like to begin by congratulating you, Sir, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Mozambique and on my own behalf, on your election to preside over the deliberations of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly.

A word of esteem and recognition goes to Mr. Kofi Annan, the Secretary-General, for his effective leadership of our world Organization.

Mozambique is proud to take part in this special session with a new image as a result of the consolidation of peace, strengthening of democracy and enhancement of political and social stability. These achievements have allowed us to achieve significant results in the economic and social recovery which we are undergoing.

These realities and achievements are essentially due to the commitment of the people of Mozambique to overcome the challenges of reconstruction and development. They will enable our active participation in both regional and continental processes of integration, as well as in the globalization and interdependence of international economic relations on the threshold of the twenty-first century.

During the present decade we have witnessed significant changes in the balance of power in the world which have led to establishment of new relationships among States in the international arena. Indeed, the new international reality allows for the adoption of collective and more efficient mechanisms for resolving problems with transnational impact.

Crimes of drug-trafficking and consumption of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances constitute today in Mozambique and in many other parts of the world a serious and increasing threat to political, economic and social order, thus becoming a major concern to the institutions dealing with crime prevention and suppression, as well as to the society as a whole. This special session bears testimony to the universal dimension of the problem and equally expresses our commitment to finding the best ways and means to act successfully in the ongoing battle against drug-trafficking.

In Mozambique the first sign of international drug-trafficking in large quantities through one of our ports emerged in 1993. We were alerted by the authorities of the Netherlands, Canada and Switzerland. It was found that merchandise registered in the bill of lading as tea and cashew nuts was in fact hashish. In 1995 police authorities dismantled and arrested a group of 11 people of foreign nationality who were living on the outskirts of the city of Maputo, in a house which had been transformed into a small factory for the production of mandrax. More recently, in 1997, 12 tons of hashish were seized in the northern part of the country after being shipped from an unidentified vessel of foreign nationality.

These are a few examples of a situation that is of concern to my country in view of the weak and inadequate coastal protection and control of movements of individuals linked to drug activities.

From a transit country today, we may become a society of drug consumption, and if this happens, it will have dramatic consequences for my country.

We are aware that illicit drug-trafficking is linked to money-laundering, and that has led my Government to take legal and other measures against drug-related crimes as well as organized crime in general.

In this regard, since 1990 my Government has ratified the relevant United Nations conventions on drugs: the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988; the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971; and the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961.

Mozambique has a law on drugs, law 3/97 of 13 March, which implements the most significant provisions of the 1988 Convention and improves the judicial instruments against illicit traffic and consumption of drugs by imposing stronger penalties, thus discouraging the traffic and consumption of drugs.

In addition, we have another law establishing the legal framework for medical drugs, aimed at reinforcing the observance in Mozambique of the norms relating to the importation and use of medical drugs regulated by the International Narcotics Control Board.

We are currently preparing complementary legislation on money-laundering and other regulations and norms that will give the police and judiciary institutions efficient legal instruments to combat this worldwide

scourge, which is gaining more and more ground in all parts of our planet.

Under these laws, we have created two important institutions — a central office on drug prevention and control and a council on medical drugs — responsible for defining strategies and national plans for drug prevention and control as well as the medical use of drugs.

In addition to national action, we have established institutional and operational linkages with other, similar organizations of the countries of the southern African subregion.

We believe that in this special session we will not only exchange views and experiences but we will also define appropriate mechanisms to face the drug problem in all its aspects. We also hope that consensus will prevail among States in order to facilitate the struggle regarding this issue of international concern.

Hence, we call for the reinforcement of cooperation between the developed and the developing nations in the field of capacity-building and appropriate technologies in order to enhance the efficiency of our programmes of prevention, treatment, law enforcement and investigation. In this regard, special attention should be given to coastal countries since illicit drug-trafficking by sea is reaching increasingly alarming proportions.

The process of globalization and interdependence among States in present international circumstances is bringing about new challenges. On the one hand, it unifies the markets and tends to create a common culture through the most advanced means of communication and transportation; on the other hand, it imposes an order that leaves less room for isolated or individual action by countries.

What will happen in our countries when, via the Internet, drug dealers offer drugs, information about their manufacture and prices and codified instructions to their clients and agents, creating enormous difficulties for police action? This question is food for thought for all of us representing, in this Assembly, the commitment of our peoples and States to combat this universal scourge efficiently.

In conclusion, we wish to express the hope that the political, diplomatic and moral power of the United Nations will be at the disposal of all nations and, in particular, of developing nations to help them mobilize the necessary

support to strengthen and complement national plans and strategies for prevention and control of illicit drug-trafficking.

Mozambique is committed not only to actively participating in the deliberations of this session but also to implementing all relevant decisions and recommendations adopted by consensus, hoping that they will contribute to and complement the efforts to reach our ultimate goal, the elimination of the world drug problem.

**The President:** I thank the Minister for Home Affairs of Mozambique for his statement.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Carsten Koch, Minister of Health of Denmark.

**Mr. Koch** (Denmark): Critics in many societies argue that the war on narcotic drugs is lost. But although the war is not won, this certainly does not mean that the war is lost.

In most countries, population surveys will confirm that a majority of the population have never even tried cannabis and that a far more limited number of people have ever tried heroin. In Denmark, the latter figure is far less than 1 per cent. In comparison, 98 per cent of the Danish population have drunk alcohol.

Thus, it is clearly demonstrated that national legislation and law enforcement against the non-medical use of narcotic drugs, combined with primary prevention and social intervention, actually works.

No Government should jeopardize this situation by considering the legalization of narcotic drugs for purposes other than medical and scientific ones. This would entail the obvious risk of substantially increasing the demand for drugs.

The Danish Government welcomes the strong commitment and the balanced approach reflected in the draft documents before the Assembly.

In particular, we welcome the draft Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction. The Declaration constitutes a new, strong and common effort that provides great potential for action at the local, national, regional and international levels.

In Denmark, drug abuse is considered to be primarily a consequence of general conditions in society.

Any improvement in well-being in the areas of social conditions, education, employment and housing will have a substantial positive impact also in the prevention of drug abuse.

We face the fact that even the most powerful law enforcement measures will not be able to prevent more than a small portion of illegally manufactured narcotic drugs from reaching the drug abusers. We also face the fact that it is very difficult to obtain successful results in treatment and rehabilitation, and we recognize for humanitarian reasons the need to add to existing drug-free treatment programmes activities aimed at reducing the physical, mental and social harm associated with the hard life of a drug abuser.

From this perspective, prevention and social intervention must be regarded as most promising instruments for substantially reducing the future number of drug abusers.

Still, countering the supply of narcotic drugs in our streets must be maintained as a key element in tackling the world drug problem. Cooperation at the international and regional levels is essential in order for us to succeed. The preparatory work has shown that we now have favourable political conditions to pursue extended international cooperation in this area.

The Danish Government welcomes the proposals aimed at improving and strengthening judicial cooperation and our efforts to combat the laundering of money derived from illicit trafficking and to control precursors.

However, we should not forget the importance of efficient national cooperation between police and customs authorities as a prerequisite to the combat against illicit trafficking.

Furthermore, I should like to draw the Assembly's attention to the unique regional cooperation between police and customs in the Nordic countries, which could hopefully serve as inspiration for other countries.

The Action Plan on the eradication of illicit crop cultivation and promotion of programmes and projects on alternative development is, in our view, a major achievement of this special session. It is a well-balanced plan. On the one hand, it underlines the special responsibilities of those countries where the illicit cultivation takes place. On the other hand, it recognizes a shared responsibility and commits the international

community to contribute to the financing of comprehensive alternative development programmes. So here also action is strongly encouraged.

Poverty is an underlying reason for most illicit cultivation in many countries. Therefore alternative development programmes must be aimed at empowering men and women. The programmes must offer people a real and sustainable alternative to illicit cultivation. The programmes must fully respect human rights as well as take full account of the gender issue. These are important principles, and Denmark attaches great importance to their concrete application in all development cooperation.

The UNDCP and its Executive Director are developing a global strategy for the elimination of illicit crops. This strategy is ambitious and forward-looking. It deserves to be considered fully and acted upon.

To be successful, any implementation of a global strategy will require close collaboration between all concerned. As far as the multilateral organizations are concerned, it will require — in addition to constructive collaboration — the commitment of funds and resources from the whole United Nations system as well as from the relevant international financial institutions. Also, in this context UNDCP has an important role to play as catalyst.

Finally, the Danish Government regards the draft political declaration before this Assembly as a strong expression of a joint commitment to action, in particular by Governments and by the United Nations. We fully support efforts to strengthen international cooperation to combat the world drug problem in a balanced way and with full respect for human rights.

**The President:** I thank the Minister of Health of Denmark for his statement.

I give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Ivan Romero Martínez, Minister of State of Honduras.

**Mr. Romero Martínez** (Honduras) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I have the honour, Sir, on behalf of the Government of Honduras, to extend to you my sincere congratulations on your successful conduct of this special session of the General Assembly devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities. This special session is also proposing new strategies, goals, practical measures and

concrete steps to strengthen international cooperation so that we can tackle this problem of drug abuse and drug-trafficking.

My country congratulates the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which has acted as preparatory body for this session of the Assembly, on the excellent work it has done and on its preparation of important documents, which we are sure will constitute valuable guidelines for our deliberations.

Likewise, my country would like also to extend its appreciation for the very positive initiative taken by His Excellency Mr. Ernesto Zedillo, the President of Mexico, which offers us an opportunity to take a global and comprehensive approach to this scourge, which affects every corner of the globe.

*Mr. Kpotsra (Togo), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

The new Government of Honduras, in its New Agenda Government Plan, is urgently advocating far-reaching change that will enable our citizens to be involved in national development and in determining their own destiny, so that we can enhance the greatness of our country and our own economic, social and spiritual well-being.

We realize that our people's health, our children, our young people and the strengthening of our legal systems and our public institutions are all being threatened at a global level by drug-trafficking and related crimes, such as arms trafficking and money-laundering. We are therefore actively promoting international cooperation and action that, together with national strategies, will allow us to achieve a reduction in both the demand and supply of these criminal substances, which are poisoning the minds and destroying the health and hopes of millions of people worldwide.

To that end, our New Agenda Government Plan includes the following measures. First, we will buttress our legal system with measures to strengthen it so that we can more effectively combat this evil. Secondly, we will develop information programmes to increase our people's awareness of the drug problem so they can help us to combat drug-trafficking and consumption. Thirdly, we will promote the reform of existing legislation so as to increase penalties for drug-related crimes and to endow the agencies involved in the fight against drugs with greater legal authority.

Fourthly, we will adopt special legislation covering banking and financial activities so that we can better control, detect and punish any money-laundering

transactions. We will coordinate international action with friendly States so that, while full respecting national sovereignty, we will provide assistance to national activities in the fight against drug-trafficking. We support all efforts by the international community to combat this scourge.

The Government of Honduras reiterates its support for the efforts of the international community to combat drug production, distribution and consumption. The Government of Honduras has signed the three United Nations Conventions on drugs, and in July 1997, together with the Governments of six Central American countries, Honduras signed a convention against money-laundering with a view to combating drug-trafficking.

At the recent summit in Santiago, Chile, our president, along with other attending Presidents of Latin America, approved a plan for specific actions to combat the drug problem. These activities will be carried out under the leadership of the Inter-American Commission for the Control of Drug Abuse, a technical specialized body of the Organization of American States.

The new Government of Honduras is seriously committed to combating this scourge and will continue to take any necessary measures, including at the legal level, to punish drug-related crimes, to strengthen our judicial system, to have judicial cooperation with other countries and to carry out campaigns so that our people can be free from these poisonous substances that destroy lives, communities, hopes and dreams.

The Republic of Honduras appreciates and supports the draft resolutions and decisions put forward by the international community at this special session of the General Assembly devoted to the world drug problem. Consistent with international guidelines that describe drugs as one of the greatest problems of the modern world, the Republic of Honduras approves of the Political Declaration to be issued at this special session and agrees with its arguments.

In particular, Honduras supports the objectives, purposes and concrete goals that have been determined for the coming years with respect to anti-drug programmes. No more pain and tears in the world; no more destroyed families; no more contaminated societies; no more cursed money. All must fight together against drugs, which threaten the health and well-being of humanity, the independence of States, stability,

democracy, the structure of our societies, and the dignity of thousands and thousands of human beings.

Honduras aspires to a world with peace for all — a world without drugs.

**The Acting President** (*interpretation from French*): I thank the Minister of State of Honduras for his statement.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Abdulaziz Kamilov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan.

**Mr. Kamilov** (Uzbekistan) (*interpretation from Russian*): The Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan shares the profound concern of the international community over the spread of drug addiction and welcomes the convening of this special session of the General Assembly on this problem.

It will be news to no one that the volume of illicit drug-trafficking through Central Asia has been steadily growing. Significant structural changes have occurred in the illicit market in narcotic substances. While our region has traditionally produced raw materials, law enforcement bodies today more often find themselves facing the illicit traffic in such hard drugs as heroin and opium, which are smuggled into the country.

Today, it is possible to say with confidence that the main source for the growth, manufacture and delivery of drugs to Europe is Afghanistan. From 60 per cent to 90 per cent of the drugs sold in some European countries originate in Afghanistan. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) estimates that more than 80,000 hectares of land in Afghanistan have been sown with opium poppies; from each, approximately 40 kilograms of raw opium are harvested, for a total of 3,500 tons. About 150 underground laboratories for processing raw opium into heroin are located in the Afghan-Pakistani border region.

The military-political instability that has reigned for over 20 years in that country, the disunity and the inability of the Government to control vast swathes of territory have created conditions conducive to the development of this criminal business. Moreover, the leaders of various armed political and religious groups in Afghanistan reap huge financial gain from the drug business, with which they purchase weapons, intensify the civil war in Afghanistan and disseminate religious extremism and international terrorism. Thus, as civil war in Afghanistan continues,

drug-producing and weapons-trading syndicates in particular will grow stronger and rise to the transnational level.

Favourable conditions for the development of the drug trade in our region also exist in Tajikistan as a result of the ongoing tensions and direct impact of the situation in Afghanistan on the processes in that country. Criminal groups involved in the drug trade persistently try to use the territory of Uzbekistan and other States of Central Asia as a staging post for the transit of drugs to the newly independent States, Europe and America. The transnational structures that control the international drug traffic appear in many cases to be more mobile, cohesive and inventive than those set up to resist them.

The Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan recognizes the importance and significance of the Global Programme of Action as a comprehensive basis for national, regional and global action in the struggle against the illicit manufacture of and traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The Republic of Uzbekistan, consistent with General Assembly resolution S-17/2 of 23 February 1990, has adhered to a number of international agreements in this realm and is expanding its interaction at the bilateral level. In April 1995, new criminal legislation, providing the strictest measures of responsibility and punishment for various crimes related to the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, came into force. A State Commission on drug control has been operating in Uzbekistan since 1994.

With the support of UNDCP and a number of other States, an information and analysis centre for drug control and a special crime laboratory on narcotic and psychotropic substances have been set up. Biological methods to eradicate the opium poppy are being developed by the Academy of Sciences.

Allow me to make a number of concrete proposals on the issues on the agenda of this session.

First, since most drugs leaving Afghanistan and Tajikistan are destined for Europe, we feel that it is necessary, with the cooperation of United Nations agencies, to establish close cooperation between European institutions and the countries of Central Asia in the joint struggle against the drug trade. In this connection, it would be necessary to establish a centre, under United Nations auspices and funded by donors, to coordinate the campaign against drug-trafficking and trade in Central Asia. Within the framework of the coordination centre, it

would be possible to determine specific forms of cooperation between the Central Asian States and the European Union and to develop a joint long-term programme.

Second, we cannot limit ourselves to condemning the fact that Afghanistan has become the largest supplier of drugs. Given that this phenomenon also has socio-economic roots, it is necessary to develop an international programme for the economic revival of Afghanistan and to render the appropriate assistance to the Afghan people.

Third, we should focus our efforts on offering technical assistance — in the form of special equipment, technology to detect narcotic substances, and modern means of communication — to those countries that are immediate neighbours of the major drug producing States.

Fourth, there is a need to develop and strengthen national structures and systems in order to ensure institutional drug control, including the legal trade in medical psychotropic substances and precursors, and to improve the logistics of law enforcement bodies directly involved in the struggle against illegal drug-trafficking. It is also necessary for some States, particularly in our region, to bolster the campaign against the drug trade by reviewing their national legislation. The legal norms in force today are inadequate to the dangers posed by drug-trafficking.

Fifth, a specialized data bank and electronic network must be created at the international level to exchange drug control information, with stress on receiving preventive information and on that basis conducting joint operations and improving data collection methods.

Sixth, there is a need to carry out special studies on drawing up effective and ecologically safe means for the destruction of drug raw materials and the drugs produced.

Seventh, there is a need to draw up special programmes to reduce demand, prevent drug abuse and inculcate in society, above all in the younger generation, a negative attitude towards drugs.

Finally, there is a need to have a special international publishing body so that all countries and specialists could have a broad exchange of information and experience.

Allow me once again to express our confidence that, with the existing level of understanding and cooperation, the joint efforts of our States to resolve the problems

discussed at this session will undoubtedly assure that we achieve positive results.

**The Acting President** (*interpretation from French*): I thank the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

I now give the floor to the His Excellency Mr. Heinz Frommelt, Minister of Justice of Liechtenstein.

**Mr. Frommelt** (Liechtenstein): The Government of Liechtenstein attaches the greatest importance to the drug problem. In order to provide a basis for discussion of the issue in Parliament and among the public, and with a view to this special session of the General Assembly, the Government submitted at the end of last year a comprehensive report on its drug policy. A national campaign is being conducted in order to promote public awareness of this important topic.

Liechtenstein is convinced that solutions to the drug problem must be sought and found both through international cooperation and by means of strategies and measures at the national level. It is to be welcomed that this special session is employing an integrated approach. Measures must be taken in relation to the supply side, and especially also the demand side.

The international community has already drawn up a number of treaty instruments that regulate the trafficking, sale, production and possession of illegal drugs. Liechtenstein has not yet acceded to all of these instruments. However, the Government of Liechtenstein has brought the greater part of its national legislation into line with the provisions of the relevant conventions. Liechtenstein attaches great importance to combating international trafficking in illicit drugs and organized crime and is conscious of its shared responsibility within the international community for combating money-laundering.

I should like, in this connection, to make special reference to the new Liechtenstein legislation of 1996 on money-laundering, which is now in conformity with the relevant provisions of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. In addition, preparations are under way for Liechtenstein's accession to the Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime.

Allow me now to make a number of comments on Liechtenstein's drug policy.

All the States gathered here are certainly in agreement with the objective of ensuring that the number of drug-dependent individuals is as small as possible. On the other hand, there are differing culturally determined views as to which psychotropic substances are socially acceptable, even though they have a narcotic effect and may lead to dependency and impairment of health. In Liechtenstein, as in many other countries, alcohol is a socially accepted stimulant and intoxicant of this kind.

Liechtenstein's action is guided by the recognition that a totally drug-free society could be attained only at the cost of freedom and individual self-determination. The goal of a realistic drug policy must be to prevent new development of addiction and dependency. There is no standard recipe for doing so. This highly complex phenomenon can be successfully tackled only by means of a package of practical measures. Liechtenstein's drug policy distinguishes between three levels, namely, prevention, therapy and legal intervention.

We see primary prevention of addiction as an integral part of a comprehensive health education. Through it, the frequency of drug abuse and of dependency should be reduced, and, above all, young people must be deterred from using dangerous substances. Imparting positive lifestyles and teaching the appropriate use of substances play a decisive role in this respect.

At the level of therapy, we distinguish between drug withdrawal and actual therapy, which consists of a large number of sometimes very long-term therapeutic and educational measures. In this connection, comprehensive out-patient and in-patient care of addicts is provided.

Lastly, with respect to legal action, we distinguish between educational and repressive measures. The repressive measures under penal law focus on combating drug-trafficking and thus, in particular, on combating organized crime. Drug consumption in Liechtenstein is punishable under the legislation in force. Since the consumption of psychotropic substances is a form of behaviour that is potentially harmful to the person consuming them and not, per se, harmful to others, the principle of penalizing consumption of illegal drugs is the subject of discussions within the country.

On pragmatic grounds as well, however, alternatives are being sought. As has been found in other countries, the

penal law alone has not proved to be a suitable tool for bringing about the desired behaviour, namely, a health-conscious way of life among young people. "Education rather than punishment" is the motto. The nation-wide addiction prevention campaign we are conducting this year is fully in line with this approach. The campaign is being conducted under the watchword, "Have the courage to educate", and thus embodies the conviction underlying the Government's drug policy that the drug problem is, in the first place, a challenge to adults, who must live up to their responsibility for education in relation to drugs as well as in other areas.

So far, the policy at the international level and at the level of individual States has not led to the desired containment of drug-trafficking. The existing black market is leading to an increase in organized crime, which is financed largely with the profits from drug-trafficking. Economically convincing arrangements also need to be found in order to tackle this problem more effectively. In this connection, Liechtenstein is strongly against liberalization of the drug market and stands in solidarity with the international community in combating the international flows that stem from drug-trafficking.

Liechtenstein's efforts focus in particular on combating money-laundering and organized crime, both at the national and international levels. In this connection, there can be no doubt that international cooperation in particular is of the utmost importance for combating money-laundering and organized crime. If we are to win the fight against drug-related criminality, all nations have to work together.

**The Acting President** (*interpretation from French*): I think the Minister of Justice of Liechtenstein for his statement.

I now give the floor to His Excellency The Honourable Alexander Downer, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia.

**Mr. Downer** (Australia): It has been eight years since the last special session on drugs, and it has been 10 years since the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. It is a propitious time to take stock of our efforts.

Multilateral efforts on drug control have been enhanced by the establishment of the United Nations

International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP). Much of the world's illicit production has been confined to a few geographically concentrated regions. Drug seizures and criminal convictions have increased markedly. The efforts of the Financial Action Task Force and regional counterparts have improved our capacity to trace the proceeds of crime. And significant advances have been made to minimize the harm caused by drug abuse.

These are valuable steps forward, but important challenges remain. Participation in the existing international control treaties is not universal. New trafficking routes for illicit drugs have emerged. New chemical-based designer drugs have been developed. And globalization of trade has meant greater and more extensive trade in drugs, now conservatively estimated at about 500 billion Australian dollars annually.

Indeed, the scale of the world drug problem means that it is now one of the major non-military threats to regional and international security. It is against this background of an expansion in international cooperation, on the one hand, and an increase in the order and sophistication of drug related activity, on the other, that we meet here in New York to consider next steps.

This special session provides a unique opportunity to acknowledge the challenges which remain and to commit ourselves jointly to finishing the job. Elimination of illicit drugs, of course, remains our first and ultimate goal. But the reality is that an unknown quantity of illicit drugs will continue to reach those who are prepared to risk their health and often their lives using drugs. A comprehensive demand-reduction strategy is necessary to address the health and social consequences of drug use for individuals, their families and the rest of the community. Australia is therefore very pleased to endorse the Declaration on demand reduction. We also welcome the five theme papers dealing with aspects of drug supply and the Political Declaration on the world drug problem. These instruments provide an important blueprint for action and a framework for maintaining the momentum internationally to address drug control.

The approaches embodied in these documents already find parallels in Australia's approach to addressing the drug problem. The Australian Prime Minister has recently announced a major new "Tough on Drugs" strategy, which will allocate an additional \$A 215 million over four years to Australia's efforts against illicit drugs. It provides a balanced and integrated approach to reducing the supply of

and demand for illicit drugs and minimizing the harm they cause.

On the supply side, \$A 112 million will go to providing more effective investigative and interception capacities. These include mobile strike forces, improving information technology to detect incoming goods and to track the money-laundering trail and enhancing judicial cooperation. On the demand side, the strategy directs \$A 103 million towards prevention and rehabilitation measures.

Over one third of this is targeted on prevention activities, which include both school- and community-based education. A focus on youth, reflected also in the proposed outcomes of this special session, is particularly important. We are determined to discourage a new generation of drug users.

The demand initiatives also include an allocation of almost \$A 67 million to rehabilitation and research to reintegrate drugs users into the community and support front-line health professionals.

Australia takes very seriously the difficulties Asia-Pacific societies face in trying to reduce the impact of illicit drugs and the threat they pose for development and security in the region. I intend to put this nexus between drugs and security firmly on the agenda of upcoming discussions with regional colleagues.

I am also announcing today a three-pronged Australian initiative to support drug control efforts in the Asia-Pacific region. This initiative is designed to enhance the security of our borders and our streets by concentrating on supply and health treatment within our own region. In short, safer borders mean safer streets. We are committing \$A 5.7 million over four years to develop an Asia-Pacific regional law enforcement cooperation programme, and a further \$A 6.1 million to extend Australia's law enforcement liaison office network in the region. We will also contribute \$A 1 million over four years to the secretariat of the Asia-Pacific Group on Money-Laundering based in Sydney to help combat this growing regional phenomenon.

In addition, we will allocate a further \$A 1 million for crop eradication and alternative development efforts in the Mekong basin region of South-East Asia.

As part of an overall commitment of approximately \$A 20 million Australian dollars for treatment, prevention and education of people with HIV/AIDS and those high-risk groups such as intravenous drug users, we will allocate \$A 2 million to drug-related activities in the region. This will focus, in particular, on health projects targeted at reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS. In addition, we will increase our financial support for activities to minimize the adverse effects of illicit drugs by over \$A 1 million, to \$A 6.7 million.

These funds will be disbursed in partnership with regional Governments, UNDCP and the World Health Organization. They will include support for training and education on substance abuse and strengthening customs services in the Pacific.

I would like to close by recalling once again that the production, trafficking and consumption of illicit drugs not only ruin lives and livelihoods, but undermines security — the security of individuals and families, the security of nations, the security of regions.

For its part, Australia is prepared to roll up its sleeves and address these issues seriously — domestically, in the Asia-Pacific region and internationally, through international governmental and non-governmental mechanisms.

We join with others to commend the progress that has been made over the last decade. But we are only too well aware that our collective efforts have to be redoubled if we are to control supply, reduce demand and minimize the harm to our societies caused by illicit drugs. At this special session, therefore, Australia is committing itself to that goal. We look forward to working collectively with other States to finish the job and thereby achieve a genuinely drug-free millennium.

**The Acting President** (*interpretation from French*): I thank the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia for his statement.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Tomislav Cokrevski, Minister for Internal Affairs of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

**Mr. Cokrevski** (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) (*spoke in Macedonian; English text furnished by the delegation*): It is my great pleasure and special honour to participate in the twentieth special session of the General Assembly of the United Nation, dedicated to the

fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, trade and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities. I take this opportunity to express the great expectations of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia for the work and deliberations of this special session. It should make important contribution to the national and international efforts to create a world without drugs.

The drug phenomenon is a global problem that demands national and international measures and strategies aimed at reducing and suppressing the illicit drug supply and drug abuse. It is in this context that the Government of the Republic of Macedonia welcomes this special session of the General Assembly and supports the ideas and the commitments expressed in the draft Political Declaration and in other documents that were adopted at the forty-first session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

The Republic of Macedonia has a healthy and educated population, but still faces challenges and problems that are part of the overall international trends in drug abuse, and in particular it is affected by difficulties arising from the problems of the transitional processes that are taking place both in our country and in the broader region of south-eastern Europe.

Profound economic, political, cultural and other social changes are taking place in our country. I am pleased to say that our efforts to build a democratic civil society, a parliamentary political system and a State built upon the rule of law, to advance the observance of human rights and freedoms, to build a market economy, and so on, are moving in a positive direction. In spite of these efforts, however, we are facing the phenomenon of various criminal trends. The problem of drugs is of particular concern in that regard.

The process of privatization, restructuring our economy and social reform has brought many positive results, but on the other hand the unemployment rate has increased, which first and foremost affects the younger generation. This situation again creates a favourable climate for the growth of all sorts of crimes, particularly the illicit drug trade and drug abuse. The political instability of the region, the deterioration of the economic situation and the negative effects of the conflicts in parts of southeastern Europe have helped the expansion of the criminal underground within national borders and in the region.

There is deep concern in the Republic of Macedonia at the increased scale of local and regional problems related to the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of traditional and new synthetic drugs, and in particular at the spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the region.

At the same time, the Macedonian Government is deeply concerned about the links between illicit drug production and trafficking and the illegal arms trade, and also about the involvement of criminals connected to transnational organized crime. Our citizens are alarmed by the threat that drug abuse poses to the health of the nation and to the political, economic and social fabric of the State.

The Macedonian Government is fully aware that the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, and in particular corruption and money-laundering activities, could negatively affect the development of a democratic civil society. In order to enhance the effectiveness of activities aimed at control of the drug phenomenon, the Macedonian Government in 1996 launched its national programme for the fight against the abuse of drugs and illegal drug-trafficking and set up an inter-ministerial national commission for the prevention of illegal drug-trafficking and drug abuse. This programme, which includes activities and strategies that are set out in existing international drug conventions, is compatible with European Union legislation and instruments to combat drug-related problems, and is a part of the broader efforts and commitment of the Republic of Macedonia to join the European Union.

The Macedonian Government welcomes and supports regional and broader international cooperation, in particular within the programmes of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), the European Union PHARE programme, the mini-Dublin Group, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the World Health Organization, the Council of Europe Cooperation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs — the Pompidou Group, the European Customs Union and other international agencies and organizations aimed at the creation of comprehensive and successful national strategies and legislation for effective control of the drug situation. In that regard, our Government is fully committed to the implementation of the UNDCP project on strengthening drug control capacities in the Republic of Macedonia and the joint UNDCP-European-Union-PHARE programme for strengthening drug law enforcement capacities in southeastern Europe.

Further to its efforts to strengthen its national drug legislation and in particular to harmonize it with European Union standards, the Macedonian Government is devoting special attention to the implementation of measures to combat money-laundering and corruption and to control the diversion of precursors. Laws against corruption and money-laundering, and on the control of precursors are to be adopted together with the law on narcotics.

Despite its limited resources, due to the present difficult economic situation in our country, the Government envisages the allocation of additional funds to provide adequate treatment for the rehabilitation of drug abusers and for their social reintegration. Drug abuse has its roots not only in an unbalanced mental condition, but also in social disharmony, both in well-off societies and in poor and marginalized ones. It is for these reasons that demand reduction and the rehabilitation of drug addicts must be accompanied and enhanced by an overall improvement in the functioning of all structures of society. Of particular importance in this regard are the improvement of the status of women and the protection of children, and measures to help high-risk groups. All efforts in that direction must be an integral part of a comprehensive educational, health and social welfare policy.

Allow me to end my statement by reaffirming the strong political will of all of Macedonian society and its Government to participate fully and cooperate unswervingly in United Nations efforts to address the challenges of the world drug problem. The principal aim of this special session — to build a drug-free world — is a realistic and achievable one. We will make our full contribution to that end.

**The Acting President** (*interpretation from French*): I thank the Minister for Internal Affairs of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for his statement.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Faustin Kouané, Minister for Presidential Affairs of Côte d'Ivoire.

**Mr. Kouané** (Côte d'Ivoire) (*interpretation from French*): As I address the General Assembly today, I wish, on behalf of the President of Côte d'Ivoire, to hail the initiative of Mexico, which has made it possible for us to gather here for this twentieth special session of the General Assembly, to consider ways and means of strengthening international cooperation in the struggle against the illicit traffic and abuse of drugs.

Côte d'Ivoire is convinced that this high-level session, which marks the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Convention against the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, will enable us to consider these issues and define new strategies to combat this problem.

It can never be overemphasized that drugs are a worldwide, insidious phenomenon that undermines society by destabilizing the democratic, economic and social order. The drug cartels fuel organized crime, including the arms trade, corruption and money-laundering. Drug addiction is a major means for the transmission of AIDS, a disease that is decimating our young people, the hope of our countries.

Drug abuse and the increasing number of victims of drug addiction in the majority of the world's countries are affecting the values that govern our societies.

This loss of human values has been compounded by the adverse effects of cultural globalization. No country today is safe from the horrendous scenes shown on television, in which violence is made to seem commonplace. Given this overwhelming situation, how should we propose to slow down this inevitable march towards the self-destruction of our societies — a march in which drugs are an important element?

The campaign against drugs does not involve only the burning of poppy and cannabis fields, or increasing the number of prisons. The anti-drug campaign is, above all, a strategy that includes educating children and young people, inculcating spiritual and moral values. This is a long-term endeavour since it will require patience, perseverance and determination to instil new values in the new generation so that it does not inherit destructive values.

Before we are able to see the advent of a drug-free society, we, as the protagonists of this scourge, must together take the appropriate actions to cope effectively with the urgent problems of our society, which is faced with drug abuse and the illicit trade in drugs and psychotropic substances.

An integrated approach designed to halt production and sale at all levels is required. The promotion of alternative crops for developing countries that are producers must be accompanied by effective measures to prevent the production in other countries of chemical inputs without which drug production is not possible.

There is a need to enhance cooperation and technical assistance for detection and control in the transit countries,

since the porosity of borders makes our young countries crossroads for drug traders of all types.

Despite the drastic nature of the drug problem, most of our countries are not in a position to divert the meagre resources devoted to high-priority projects such as health and education in order to effectively combat this scourge.

Like all the countries of the West African subregion, Côte d'Ivoire is faced with a drug problem, both at the level of consumption and at the level of trade. The Government has set about establishing appropriate institutions to counter this scourge.

With the assistance of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and the European Union, we have trained a number of experts in the area, though not enough.

Regarding the institutions established, we have created a police division for narcotics and drugs, an inter-ministerial committee for the anti-drug campaign, a national office for narcotics and a training unit to combat drugs in Africa that serves the entire subregion.

The Government of Côte d'Ivoire is cooperating closely with national and international non-governmental organizations in order to wipe out this scourge.

As far as prevention is concerned, with the help of UNDCP, the inter-ministerial committee for the anti-drug campaign has already held several meetings to provide information to and raise awareness in towns and schools, as well as in cities in the interior of the country. However, this committee needs revitalization.

The training unit to combat drugs in Africa has also organized several training seminars and programmes for psychiatrists, pharmacy inspectors, judges, law enforcement personnel, journalists and other officials involved in the campaign against drugs in the subregion.

Within the framework of West Africa, Côte d'Ivoire, in June 1993 and November 1994, hosted two meetings of Ministers who coordinate the anti-drug campaign. Those meetings, held under the aegis of UNDCP, led to the definition of a subregional campaign platform.

Côte d'Ivoire also took an active part in drawing up the regional plan of action that was approved in August 1997 at the twentieth session of the conference of heads of State and Government of West Africa.

Côte d'Ivoire expects a great deal from this special session. It voices the hope that this conference will provide a new impetus to international cooperation against drug abuse and illicit drug-trafficking. To this end, it calls on those States that have not yet done so to ratify the various international instruments in force and to take steps to ensure their effective implementation; urges States to bring their laws into line with the international provisions in force in the areas of both licit and illicit drug trade; appeals to the international community to step up technical and financial assistance for the effective implementation of the regional plan of action of the anti-drug campaign; calls upon States to strengthen subregional, regional and international structures to combat organized crime; requests States to create a central databank to centralize all the transborder information on criminal activities; envisions the establishment of a special subregional fund to hold the assets confiscated from criminal activities which could then be used to implement preventive and repressive measures to combat the traffic in and illicit use of drugs; encourages direct contacts and close cooperation among the various police, gendarmerie, health, justice, foreign affairs and other services; and urges the international community to provide assistance to the African countries to establish a centre for the treatment and social reintegration of drug addicts.

In conclusion, I would like to recall that only concerted action and real commitment on the part of the international community will make it possible to make real progress towards a drug-free society.

**The Acting President** (*interpretation from French*): I thank the Minister for Presidential Affairs of Côte d'Ivoire for his statement.

I now give the floor to by His Excellency Dr. Mikhail Wehbe, Chairman of the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic.

**Mr. Wehbe** (Syrian Arab Republic) (*interpretation from Arabic*): I would like to congratulate the President on his election to preside over the twentieth special session of the Assembly, and I would like to express, on behalf of my delegation and on my own behalf, our appreciation for the wisdom with which he has been guiding this session in order to ensure the success of its work and to achieve our goals. I would also like to express our great appreciation to the Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, to the preparatory body and to the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme for the efforts they have made so that this special session of the Assembly could be held and to ensure its success.

The international community is unanimous in acknowledging that drug abuse and illicit drug-trafficking lead to a rise in various criminal activities among drug addicts.

The scourge of drugs is murderous to the human spirit and to societies. In particular, it has an impact on the movement and development of youth, who represent the greatest human resource and national wealth. This scourge destabilizes nations because it undermines their social and health-care systems. It also has an impact on the dignity of millions of individuals and their families, which represent the very core of the State.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, which has adopted a firm policy against the use, cultivation, marketing, production and all forms of drug-trafficking, is doing all that it can in order to eradicate that scourge and its associated perils. Here, allow me to emphasize first of all that in Syria there are no drug crops, nor is there any processing of drugs or narcotic substances. In my country, drug abuse is extremely limited — virtually non-existent, since there are only 127 drug addicts per million inhabitants. There are, to be sure, limited crimes that are associated with drugs, but those crimes are relatively few in number.

My country, however, does suffer from the problem of drug transit because of its key position as a bridge between Asia and Europe and between the producer and the consumer countries. In addition, our land and marine borders are long, which facilitates drug transit from production to consumption zones. But despite that, my country is doing all that it can, in cooperation with other States and competent international bodies, to neutralize the effects of that scourge.

Secondly, in the context of political, social and spiritual values, Syria in 1993 promulgated Law No. 2, which provides severe penalties for all crimes involving drugs and illicit drug abuse. But that law also provides for humane treatment for drug addicts. In fact, it provides them with the possibility of treatment and rehabilitation, and does not consider them as criminals.

On the other hand, this law provided for severe penalties especially for any kind of cultivation, smuggling, production and illicit trade in drugs. This is a serious international contribution within the framework of the international campaign against narcotic drugs.

Thirdly, in 1987 we established a higher National Commission on Drugs. That commission is entrusted with formulating a general policy on drugs and a specific policy for combating drug abuse. That Commission is headed by the Minister of the Interior. The Ministry of Health, for its part, regulates the import of precursors through laws adopted in 1992, under a legislative mandate that is in conformity with the most recent international norms in force.

As to the phenomenon of money-laundering, it is totally insignificant in Syria. Despite that, the tribunals have been given expanded jurisdiction in the area of bringing to trial and indicting those engaged in money-laundering.

Fourthly, Syria strengthened the agency designed to combat drug abuse which has been upgraded from a branch to an entirely expanded bureau.

Fifthly, Syria continues to be engaged in consciousness-raising information, educational and cultural campaigns through the media, through the establishment of schools and institutions, and through the holding of conferences and seminars. We are establishing treatment centres for drug addicts, their rehabilitation and ensuring them humanitarian treatment.

On the Arab and international front, Syria has adopted the following measures.

First, it effectively participated in drawing up the 1986 Arab strategy to combat drugs and also adopted interim plans that flow from it, and it is seeing to the full implementation of that plan. Secondly, Syria also has acceded to all Arab and international conventions regarding drugs. In 1989, it joined the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East. Syria is also an effective participant in the meetings of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

Thirdly, Syria has also actively participated in conferences, meetings and international seminars dealing with drug problems.

Fourthly, we have concluded bilateral cooperation conventions in the area of the drug campaign with numerous Arab and other countries. We are also cooperating with other States in the area of the control of drug-related crimes and exchange of information, above all regarding the extradition of those who have committed such crimes.

This session reflects the commitment of the international community to find effective solutions to eliminate the drug scourge. This session is also like a passageway linking the significant progress already made in the past to the needs and challenges of the twenty-first century. We have followed with much interest the interventions made during this session, which all emphasized and stressed the fact that the illicit demand for drugs is a pivotal factor in the growth of the illicit drug trade. But in our view, enormous efforts will be required to reduce the demand, which is the major impetus for the drug problem. The campaign against the spread of drugs should not be limited to control of drug-related crimes and to measures taken by the competent bodies, but should focus on the treatment of the actual and varied causes at the root of these crimes.

The Government of Syria once again declares that it wishes to closely cooperate and to the maximum extent possible with all other States to combat drugs. Only such a cooperation can mitigate the suffering of the international community. It is also our view that the only body that can coordinate international cooperation in this area, assess the progress made and draw up international plans for the anti-drug campaign is the United Nations, through its competent agencies, and above all through the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the International Narcotics Control Board. This should be accomplished through the allocation to these bodies of the necessary financial resources so that the United Nations could best accomplish the tasks entrusted to it.

Finally, we have no illusions regarding the difficult road that lies ahead in coping with this problem. It is a difficult social problem.

That path will become clear only when a vigorous and effective strategy is implemented and translated into an effective and conclusive change, taking into account that the Political Declaration and other documents before us here at this session for adoption represent a bundle of new promises and commitments undertaken by States. However, the implementation of these promises and commitments may be difficult to achieve if not coupled with the genuine political will to combat drugs and to attain a world free from the catastrophes of drugs and psychotropic substances.

**The Acting President** (*interpretation from French*): I thank the Chairman of the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic for his statement.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Narendra Bikram Shah, Chairman of the delegation of Nepal.

**Mr. Shah** (Nepal): The convening of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly devoted to countering the world drug problem together is a timely event. The international community must remount its fight against illicit drugs — which have increasingly posed a threat to the health, well-being, safety, peace and security of the peoples of the world — by reaffirming its commitment to eradicating this problem. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the preparatory body of this session, deserves our unqualified praise for its outstanding work. The task of facilitating and coordinating the implementation of the Plan of Action within the United Nations system rests with Mr. Pino Arlacchi, the Executive Director of the United Nations Drug Control Programme, who has already made a mark of distinction in the very short time he has been with the United Nations.

The consensus reached on nearly all issues, from the identification of problems to remedial measures and the modality and means of implementation, is a matter of great satisfaction. My delegation is confident that this special session will come up with an agreed plan — a basic minimum necessity, especially in terms of shared responsibility — which is endowed with adequate resources in our total war against narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and which can prove to be a credible framework for effective international cooperation.

The links between illicit drug production and trafficking and the involvement of terrorist groups, criminals and transnational organized crime have made it virtually impossible for any one nation, big or small, but especially smaller developing nations, to come to grips with the problem, much less to prevent it. The strong action taken by many countries, including mine, against the illicit cultivation of crops such as cannabis has sadly been negated by the increasing manufacture and trafficking of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors. Without there being a balance between the two sources of drug supply or between supply and demand, our crusade against illicit drugs could largely prove to be an exercise in futility. Given the symbiotic relationship between poverty and drugs, the shrinking flow of official development assistance is a telling reflection on our commitment to the eradication of both poverty and drugs globally.

Effective drug demand reduction policies and programmes provide a strong first step in the containment of the illicit drug trade. Information exchange, legislation

and national control systems, measures to promote judicial cooperation, and countering money-laundering are the necessary strategies that must be fully utilized in our fight against drugs. The strong support provided by the Group of 77 and China to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme's alternative development mechanism in its effort to end illicit crop cultivation is a clear manifestation of our concerted resolve against the problem of drugs. Our responsibility must also extend to the relief and rehabilitation of the victims of drug abuse.

In addition to being a State Party to United Nations Conventions on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, Nepal is a founding member of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation's Convention on the control and eradication of drug abuse and trafficking in South Asia. Our national drug control acts conform to these international Conventions. A new drug control policy and a new drug demand reduction strategy are an important feature of Nepal's Five-Year Plan, which encourages the participation of international and other non-governmental organizations and civil society in general in the field of drug control and eradication.

**The Acting President** (*interpretation from French*): I thank the Chairman of the delegation of Nepal for his statement.

I now give the floor to Mrs. Sonia Leonce, Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of Saint Lucia.

**Mrs. Leonce** (Saint Lucia): It took the cries of millions held captive, of millions murdered in cold blood, of millions of hopeless addicts, millions of diseased and dying, and millions of destroyed lives and families to get us to take this decisive step of addressing the drug problem head on. While we sound serious and determined, the noble ideals and goals of this special session will be meaningless if we fail to attack the problem at the root.

Although they are all useful and necessary, neither more stringent legislation, treaties, conventions or declarations; nor more policemen, armies or prisons; nor even more advanced technology will solve the deep-rooted drug problem. These are only pruning, corrective and preventative measures, but they are inadequate to uproot and solve what I consider the most destructive plague to inflict mankind.

What are the root causes? What is feeding this menace and allowing it to thrive so lavishly despite the onslaught of arsenals unleashed on it worldwide? I am not here to unearth any secret or disclose classified information, nor to reveal some new and startling statistic that would jolt us to face reality. I am here, rather, to turn our ears in the direction of the centuries-old cry for our attention.

When three quarters of the world's wealth is controlled by one quarter of its population; when the majority live in poverty and the minority live in excess; when a high percentage of many developing countries' income goes into servicing debt instead of human development; when unfair trade, cloaked as globalization and trade liberalization, callously destroys the economic and social foundations of the small and vulnerable, reducing the standard of living of their peoples and accelerating poverty; when the fight against drugs in itself is a multi-billion dollar industry, busy building prisons and arresting youths instead of educating, feeding and healing, we will always be fighting and not solving, seeming to address while in fact we are perpetuating the problem.

There is a direct correlation between poverty and the drug problem. Is it a coincidence that, right here in the United States, the areas that are perceived to have the greatest drug problems are the areas of dire poverty, mainly in the inner cities?

In the documentation before us, fact sheet number 6 of the special session press kit of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), entitled "Eradication of illicit drug crops and alternative development", it is reported that,

"In the rural areas of Asia and Latin America, about 700,000 families, or around 4 million people, depend on income derived from the cultivation of coca leaf and opium poppy. Most of them live below the poverty line and rely on this activity for some 50 per cent of their income. Although the drug trade often helps them to cope with food shortages and the vagaries of agricultural markets, economic dependence on illicit crops is not sustainable in the long run. The cultivation of coca leaf and opium poppy leaves farmers wide open to exploitation at the hands of ruthless middlemen. They also face the constant threat of forced eradication of their crops. In countries such as Colombia, many eke out a miserable existence on large-scale commercial farms owned by drug traffickers. Most of the 700,000 families would

willingly switch to other sources of income, given suitable alternatives."

Could it be that, if given market access, stable prices for their crops and fair trade — or as the special session calls it, alternative development — the same would hold true for most of the millions involved in the production, trafficking and consumption of illegal drugs?

In my own region, the Caribbean — which, relatively speaking, does not even figure in the *World Drug Report* as a producer or a consumer, but is part of the problem nonetheless because of its location and because we are used as trans-shipment routes — we nevertheless expend our limited resources to contribute to the solution of the drug problem. The control of illicit drugs continues to occupy a key position on the agendas of the Governments of the Caribbean. We have joined forces to share information and to take collective action in the area of drug control and have intensified our intra-regional cooperation with the assistance of UNDCP. The establishment of the Caribbean Regional Drug Training Centre in Jamaica represents a significant achievement in cooperation with UNDCP.

Saint Lucia is constantly striving to achieve sustainable development and to provide a decent standard of living for its people the legal way; yet we face strong initiatives to push our fragile banana industry into fiercer competition by way of the World Trade Organization ruling, enticing our banana producers into the more viable illegal practice of cultivating marijuana plants and other illegal substances to avert poverty and unemployment.

If that were not enough, thousands of seasoned criminals are dumped on our societies, which are already under the stress of coping with their share of challenges. What are these criminals going to do on these islands — seek jobs as bank clerks, civil servants or hotel workers? No. Many of them do not even have homes or families in the region. They are going to develop and continue their criminal activities, including trading in drugs. If they cannot be dealt with here, with all the resources and technology available, how are we to deal with them in the region but as crudely as our resources allow, only to be accused of human rights violations.

We are forced to make a transition from dependence on primary production, with its hopelessly declining terms of trade, to more diversified sources of revenue. An option for many of us in the Caribbean is the financial services sector. Again, despite the relative insignificance

of the amount of "bad" money flowing through the region compared to other regions, and despite our efforts to improve our capacity to prevent money-laundering, the Caribbean is falsely portrayed as a haven for money-laundering.

What options are then left for us to achieve sustainable, balanced development if we cannot sell our bananas, our people cannot migrate to better opportunities and our diversification efforts are stifled?

It is this lack of sensitivity, equity, fairness and democratization that is nourishing the drug problem. The desperation and hopelessness that this breeds in people fertilizes the roots of the drug problem, and it will remain alive and well until we decide to pour maybe just half of the billions of dollars that we spend fighting the drug war into poverty alleviation, human development, education and health care.

Of course, as the slogan says, "A drug free world: we can do it". We can do it if we choose to lift the debt burden off the shoulders of crippled economies in order to meet the United Nations standard of directing 0.7 per cent of gross national product towards official development assistance. We will be able to do it when we engage in fair trade and when the strong accept the responsibility of protecting the weak and vulnerable and share more of their information and technology.

This historic session is a defining one. The drug lords will continue their mockery of world leadership and of the United Nations if we fail to achieve the lofty goals of shared responsibility and of equally addressing demand and supply and if we fail to genuinely address the serious social and economic concerns that breed and feed the drug problem.

Saint Lucia remains committed to working with the Caribbean Community and the world body to make this world drug-free. In this effort we are seized of the importance of involving our entire community in the fight against drugs. The church, the police, political leaders, parents and teachers must all show a determined face against the drug culture. We must be supported in this struggle by a sensitive international community which will not take advantage of our vulnerability to bleat about human rights. No one has the human right to destroy the brain cells of our children.

We must also be supported by removing the convenient link between military involvement and counter-narcotic efforts.

Words sometimes get lost in the translation into action. In facing the drug menace, I sincerely hope that the United Nations will be stronger than the words heard here today.

**The Acting President** (*interpretation from French*): I thank the Chairperson of the delegation of Saint Lucia for her statement.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Matri, representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

**Mr. Matri** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (*interpretation from Arabic*): I would like to congratulate the President on his assumption of the presidency of this special session devoted to the subject of drug abuse. We are confident that the work of this session will be crowned with success, thanks to his well-known experience and skill in conducting the affairs of the General Assembly during the past months.

Despite all the efforts made at various levels, national, regional and international, to combat the scourge of drugs, the problem is getting worse. That is why the convening of this session is timely, as it is an important occasion for the international community to reaffirm its determination to fight this scourge until it is totally eliminated.

One of the essential conditions for the success of this endeavour is the achievement of international cooperation based on respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, non-resort to force or threats of the use of force and refraining from exerting pressures on States. Such international cooperation must be built on the sharing of responsibilities with a view to having a comprehensive view of all the stages of this phenomenon, including production and distribution. All the participants in that cooperation must be treated equally. It would be unacceptable to have unilateral measures taken by certain States that give themselves the right to supervise and certify the conduct of others even though they bear the main responsibility for the problem of drugs at the international level, serving as havens and money depositories for drug smugglers and traffickers.

In this context, we welcome the affirmation in the draft Political Declaration that combating drugs is a common and joint responsibility requiring the application of an integrated and balanced plan that is fully consistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

Libya is not a producer of drugs. However, its geographical location has turned it into a transit area. That is why our national policy is based on criminalizing illicit traffic in and use of drugs and imposes severe penalties on drug traffickers, including capital punishment and life imprisonment, as well as the payment of prohibitive fines and the confiscation of money earned from such illicit drug-trafficking. Libyan law has expanded the scope of substances that may be considered drugs or psychotropic substances. Libya has also sought full cooperation from all neighbouring countries through bilateral agreements or arrangements for joint action in combating this scourge.

Furthermore, efforts are being made at all levels to draw attention to the dangers posed by drugs. This is being achieved through information campaigns that specifically target the most vulnerable groups, such as young people and students, and in which non-governmental sectors and civil society are participating. In addition, several centres have been established in hospitals and clinics to treat and rehabilitate addicts and reintegrate them into society.

National efforts alone will always fall short of achieving the objective of eradicating the scourge of drugs unless they are coupled with international cooperation and the strict application of international agreements and programmes, especially relating to the criminalization of the illicit traffic in and use of drugs and psychotropic substances. In this respect, we reject all calls for the decriminalization of drugs expressed here and there, and in particular the legalization of drugs by certain countries.

Furthermore, new technologies, in particular the Internet, should be used to combat drugs and to call for the criminalization of their illicit use, instead of being used to promote drugs and call for their decriminalization, as is the case at present. At the same time, developing countries in which a large portion of the population depends on drug crops should be assisted in implementing alternative projects.

Effectively combating the illicit traffic in and use of drugs requires judicial cooperation by all countries on the basis of equality and reciprocity for the pursuit, apprehension and trial of criminals. This cannot be achieved unless the differences between various legal systems are taken into account and bilateral agreements concluded to facilitate information exchange, assistance and cooperation in investigations, to overcome procedural and legal difficulties and accelerate the process of resolving them. However, all of this should be based on respect for the sovereignty of States and their legal systems and the cessation of the practice of enacting extraterritorial laws. Such measures would only complicate matters, while the objective should always be the pursuit and trial of criminals, rather than the imposition and application of local laws on other countries.

A real and effective effort must be made to limit demand, as the pursuit only of the reduction of supply would not in itself reduce the world consumption of drugs. Rather, it would mean higher prices, which would be an added incentive for greater illicit production.

On this occasion, we cannot forget to pay tribute to the great efforts made by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, which urgently requires greater material and human resources. We call upon all countries to increase their voluntary contributions to the Programme so that it can provide technical assistance to the countries that need it in their endeavours to eradicate illicit trafficking and use of drugs.

The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, while expressing its readiness to cooperate with the international community in every effort to limit the negative effects of drugs and psychotropic substances, hopes that our declared intentions aimed at combating this scourge, the elements agreed upon in the draft Political Declaration and the decisions that will be adopted at the end of this special session will be implemented in good faith and with the cooperation and participation of all.

In conclusion, I should like to draw the attention of the Assembly to a phenomenon that greatly concerns all of us, including Libya. The security measures being taken at this special session though we fully appreciate them and recognize their importance, indeed, their necessity — when they are excessive they become counter-productive. When security is such that some members of delegations, including the heads of delegations, are prevented from reaching United Nations Headquarters in their authorized vehicles, are forced to walk and are subjected to physical inspection which at times exceeds the limits of

appropriateness, when doors are closed and elevators are dismantled, such measures are excessive and unacceptable. We seriously call for an end to this situation and ask that such actions not be repeated.

**The Acting President** (*interpretation from French*):  
I thank the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for his statement.

*The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.*