

**105 & 106: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice & International Drug Control ..... Mr. S. Ramachandra Reddy, M.P. on October 04, 2000**

**Mr. Chairman,**

**Let me begin by thanking the Secretary General for the reports on the Agenda item before us as well as Mr. Pino Ariacchi for his introductory statement.**

**The Millennium Declaration committed member states to redouble their collective efforts to counter both the world drug problem and transnational crime in all its dimensions. We need to translate that commitment into action that yields results.**

**We note with satisfaction that, in less than two years the ad-hoc Committee on the Elaboration of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, has finalized a 'Draft Convention against Transnational Organized Crime'. The draft completed at its tenth session in Vienna held between 17 to 30 July, 2000 should now be adopted by the General Assembly. We expect the Ad hoc Committee to work as productively on the draft protocols to the Convention which it has now taken up.**

**General Assembly resolution 54/127 also tasked the Ad-hoc Committee to consider the possible elaboration of an international instrument on the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking to explosives. In our region, the joint Ministerial statement of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial seminar on 'Building Capacities for fighting Transnational Organized Crime', held in Bangkok in March this year, signaled our political will and determination to combat transnational crime, including, by enhancing regional cooperation. My delegation looks forward to the outcome of the Committee's work.**

**The Ad-hoc Committee was given the additional responsibility, in GA resolution 54/128 to pronounce itself on the desirability of an international instrument against corruption and it has said that this was desirable. A resolution, adopted by the ECOSOC and recommended to the General Assembly, is before us, to prepare the ground for the terms of reference for this instrument. We would urge the broadest inter-governmental consultations as the Ad-hoc Committee takes up this task. On the one hand, these should take into account the requirements of domestic judicial system on the other, they must consider external linkages, not least with money laundering.**

**Developing countries need assistance to build their capacity to prevent transnational organized crime from occurring and to tackle it when it does.**

**We note that the Centre for International Crime Prevention has undertaken projects for technical cooperation in seven countries and is doing fairly good work. However, the Global Programme to counter trafficking human beings requires more support.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

**The adoption of the Political Declaration by the General Assembly at its 20<sup>th</sup> Special Session was a land mark event. An important gain was that member states agreed to a timetable of actions to achieve goals and targets through 2003 and 2008. The significant agreement related to paragraph 18 and 19 of the political declaration in which the member states affirmed the need for a comprehensive approach to the elimination of illicit narcotics crops and committed themselves to working closely with the UNDP to develop strategies with a view to eliminating or reducing significantly illicit cultivation of the coca bush, cannabis plant and opium poppy by the year 2008. These are important goals. Most countries are moving steadfastly towards achieving these targets. Regrettably, Afghanistan under the Taliban remains defiantly home to 75% of the world drug output. The priority crop in Taliban controlled areas, this year, as in previous years, has been opium poppy.**

**It is not surprising that Afghanistan under the Taliban has been unable to move away from its dependency on narco-revenue. Drug money melds well with the rogue ideology of war and terror, which has directly contributed to the ethnic and sectarian cleansing. The victims of Taliban terror are, however, not exclusively Afghans. Taliban-Afghanistan encouraged by its ideological benefactors are emerged as a world leader in export of drugs and terrorists. Taliban trained terrorists now seep across borders to cause alarm, instability and insecurity beyond its borders. The growing threat posed by Taliban drugs and terror is unlikely to diminish unless Taliban's benefactor withdraws its ideological, financial and arms support.**

**The proximity to India to major producers of illicit exposes it to the dual danger of drug abuse and international narcotic crime and terrorism. To Meet these challenges India is committed to domestic vigilance and international cooperation centered on UN organizations.**

**According to estimates, India has more than 3 million drug abuses in a population of about a billion people. The drug abuse trend has moved from traditional abuse of opium and cannabis to heroin and more recently to synthetic drugs. These new drugs, together with increasing injecting drug use, are posing new challenges for service providers and policy planners. While the consequences of drug abuse on the individual community and country are serious even more disturbing are the trends indicating that the**

**age of onset of drug abuse is getting lower i.e 12 to 17 years. There are over 11 million street and working children in India. Nearly 45% of its populations is below 19 years of age and demand reduction programmes are being directed towards this populations which is specially vulnerable. Efforts are being made to ensure that drug abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation schemes are available for children and youth, especially those in high risk groups.**

**For the treatment of all addict, a family needs to spend between US\$ 200 to 1000. In a country where the average per capita income is less than US\$ 350, and where an addict spends between US\$ 200 to 1000 annually, the entire household's food education and health suffers. Then there is the increasing threat of AIDS. According to some estimates nearly 30% of the addicts report injecting at least once in their life time which increases the vulnerability to HIV/AIDS.**

**UNDCP and India started 2 projects in 1999 for an initial period of three years. UNDCP's contribution was supposed to be US\$ 5.6 million and India's US\$ 15.3 million. While India's financial commitment is assured with US\$ 3.69 million already having been spent, there is some uncertainty regarding UNDCP's commitment. We would urge UNDCP to pronounce itself on this matter one way or the other.**

**Despite the increasing problem of drug abuse in India, UNDCP's inadequate presence reflects lack of understanding of the magnitude of the problem. If immediate attention is not paid to the drug problem by UNDCP by fulfilling its commitment to the projects, the problem may acquire alarming proportions.**