

TRAFFIC IN NARCOTIC DRUGS

In 1984 the United Nations General Assembly requested that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs begin to prepare a new draft convention on illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. In 1986 the Commission identified 14 items to incorporate in a draft proposal that would be sent to the governments for their comments. In February 1987, the Commission examined the draft convention and the governments' comments.

In May 1987, the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations asked the Secretary-General to prepare a working paper combining the draft convention, the observations submitted to date by the governments and the results of the work done by the Commission on the draft proposal. The working paper should include a draft preamble, a section on the proposed implementation mechanism and proposed final clauses. The Council also decided that an intergovernmental group of experts of unrestricted composition would meet in 1987 to examine the working paper, to reach an agreement on the articles of the convention whenever possible and to prepare a revised working paper.

The intergovernmental group of experts met in Vienna from June 29 to July 10, 1987, during which time it studied eight of the 14 articles in the draft convention, began to examine a ninth and decided to rewrite a tenth, as a basis for its work at the next meeting. Finally, it engaged in an exchange of viewpoints on the articles concerning the application and the final clauses of the draft convention. During its second meeting, to be held in Vienna, the intergovernmental group of experts will continue its examination of the draft convention.