

AN OVERVIEW OF THE CONVENTIONS AND AGREEMENTS CONCLUDED DURING THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS PERIOD

Recently, the thirty-third World Health Assembly adopted a resolution on "Action in respect of International Co-operation on Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances", and it affirmed that drug abuse was still rampant in many parts of the world.¹ More recently, through its programme of 'Health for All by the Year 2000' the World Health Organisation requested its Member States to give serious consideration to the question of drug abuse and develop their national strategies. In its resolution WHA.33.27, the World Health Assembly requested the Director-General of the World Health Organisation "to promote the initiation and strengthening of national and international programmes for the assessment, scheduling, control and appropriate use of narcotic and psychotropic substances, including those of plant origin, and to support such programmes by the development of appropriate guidelines in consultation with the U.N. Division of Narcotic Drugs, International Narcotics Control Board and other U.N. Organs concerned."²

Although various international regimes of drug control have been in operation since 1912, the success of international Conventions in relation to control of drug abuse and illicit traffic in drugs has not unfortunately been spectacular. There are various reasons for the limited success of such regimes, but it is undeniable that more co-operation amongst nations is necessary for the success of any international regime for the control of drug abuse and illicit traffic in drugs. It is of utmost importance that international drug control policies are in conformity with the provisions of various international drug Conventions and that they have adopted effective control machinery.

In December 1981 the U.N. General Assembly adopted a resolution³ entitled International Drug Abuse Control Strategy re-emphasizing the need for adopting a guideline for the implementation of the two most important international drug Conventions now in force, the Single Convention of Narcotic Drugs, 1961 as amended by the Protocol of 1972 and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances 1971. The International Drug Abuse Control Strategy aims at the following:

- (a) Improving the drug control system
- (b) Achieving an equilibrium between demand for and supply of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for licit purposes
- (c) Eradication of illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances
- (d) Prevention of inappropriate use of narcotic and psychotropic substances obtained through licit sources; and
- (e) Treatment, rehabilitation and re-integration of drug addicts and abusers.

In this Accession Kit an attempt has been made to give an account of the kind of control machinery and co-operation that would be expected of the Convention Parties to make the efforts of the U.N. successful. To this effect model legislation has also been drafted (Annex 1).