

---

## Supply Side Programmes and Policies

---

The next area for concern in the drugs field that the conference addressed itself to was programmes and policies that would reduce the supply of drugs to young people.

### Format

This section of the conference began in plenary. Four of the participants highlighted, from their own personal perspective, appropriate actions that they believed governments could take to control the supply of drugs.

On the following morning, participants met in the main hall in a series of small buzz groups (4-6 people). They were asked to reflect on yesterday's contributions, identify two key problems that needed to be addressed and to identify two actions that they would take if they were the Minister responsible for Drug Abuse in their country. Each group briefly reported these back to the plenary.

After refreshments everyone met in regional groupings to draft a set of programmes that they would propose for adoption by policy makers in their region. Some groups further divided into sub-regions for this discussion.

The focus on the Demand side was completed with a plenary session in which each group reported the results of its work.

### Opening Contributions

Four people made opening contributions to a plenary. Some of the points they made included:

- Papua New Guinea is an ideal place for the trans-shipment of Drugs, so it is necessary to tighten up on surveillance techniques in order to prevent trafficking taking place.
- Though illicit drugs are a primary concern there is also a major worry over the misuse of licit drugs, in particular medicinal drugs available through pharmacies. There is, therefore, a need for regulations to control the importation of such goods.
- Regional co-operation is obviously of major importance and a regional forum for the island nations to exchange ideas and information about the supply of drugs would be valuable.
- Singapore is close to Thailand which is the main source of narcotics in the region, so extreme vigilance is required.
- The Singaporean view is that all it has, as a country, is human resources. It is necessary to treasure those resources. Drugs are a threat to them, so harsh laws, in particular the death sentence, are required.
- Countries need to consider harsh penalties so that, with each country playing an active role, there are no hideouts for drugs' traffickers.
- These harsher penalties should also include criminal law detention (detention without trial). It is considered necessary to detain people who the State do not

have enough evidence to prosecute but whom they are convinced are involved in drugs trafficking.

- Lastly, detection skills are needed and the USA Drug Enforcement Agency staff should be called upon to run courses to equip local staff with the necessary skills.

The Chair stressed issues of legislation and up-to-date equipment as necessary needs, highlighted the fact that there is a debate about the death penalty and asked people to remember, in the course of the discussion that was to follow, that drugs kill.

### **Contributions to the ensuing discussion included:**

- The fact is that the drugs situation boosts the economies of a lot of these countries so how realistic is it to expect governments to stop the supply when it benefits the economy?
- Drugs trading can also provide personal security. It provides money for cars and houses and a source of income for single mothers. This is wrong, but it is not possible to wipe the trade out without being realistic about the implications.
- The concentration has been on illicit drugs but the supply of legal drugs is also a problem. Such issues as:
  - i) Alcohol available through an increasingly wide range of outlets.
  - ii) Pricing policies concerning alcohol and tobacco, where there is evidence that increased costs result in decreased use by adolescents.
  - iii) How the money raised from taxation on alcohol and tobacco is used.
  - iv) The need to 'fight' the propaganda of the alcohol and tobacco industries.
- The wealthy countries should be giving more technical assistance to the poorer countries, which are often the trans-shipment ports to wealthier countries. Necessary up-to-date equipment and the technical skills to operate them are particularly important.
- In some countries the skill levels are so low that even officials struggle to tell the difference between sugar and heroin and there are no trained dogs to sniff out drugs supplies. This leaves a country, particularly one close to the golden triangle, particularly vulnerable.
- There is often a mismatch. The trans-shipment points are through 'developing' countries whilst the resources are in developed countries.
- Westerners, including airline personnel, have often misused their wealth and privileges in developing countries to introduce drugs. Therefore, for developing countries they are legitimate, priority groups for attention.
- With regard to the Death Penalty, who is it that is executed? Often it is the courier, a person who, in the eyes of the major trafficker, is expendable anyway. The major players in this field never get caught.
- It is vital for participants to lobby their governments to accede to and ratify the UN Conventions against illicit trafficking.

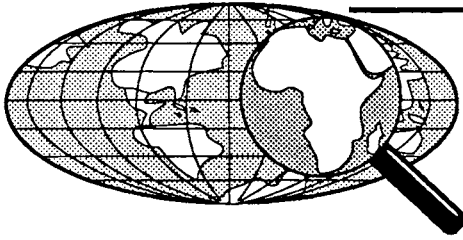
- Why not hang the importers of alcohol and cigarettes? They do more harm!
- Should human rights exist for drugs traffickers? After all, they interfere with other people's human rights. Amnesty International, and other organisations such as that should concentrate on the Human Rights abrogated by drugs dealers rather than the governments trying to control drugs.
- Need to look at the issue of human rights subjectively and protect the rights of people who are subjected to drugs. The death penalty may not be appropriate in a small country because one life in a country of 8000 is more important than one life in a country the size of India.
- In the end cocaine addiction is much more destructive than alcohol.
- In my country, 80% of deaths are caused by tobacco, 17% by alcohol and 3% by others. So who sells misery?
- There is a problem with detention laws. A basic human right requires that someone is proven guilty.
- Question—Whose rights most need protecting?  
Answer—The local people in any country.

**The ideas developed in the buzz group discussions, included:**

- Increased surveillance, through liaison between country's customs services, airline and shipping companies, on a national, regional and international basis.
- Directing the proceeds of taxation directly to surveillance, treatment, education and related programmes.
- Enforcing asset seizures. Property or goods should be sold and money used for education, treatment and surveillance.
- Enforcement of levies on alcohol and tobacco.
- Compulsory capital punishment.
- Restricting the sale of licit drugs, even by registered pharmacies.
- Prosecuting heavily suspected drug dealers irrespective of the cost. If this is known it acts as a deterrent to others.
- Formation of national drug control boards to supervise the actions of law enforcement agencies.
- Forbidding the sale of alcohol to minors.
- Harsher incarceration penalties for dealers and traffickers.
- More attention to the religious convictions of the community.
- Advocating uniform and mandatory drug penalties.

---

## The Regional Groupings developed the following packages:




---

### African Region

---

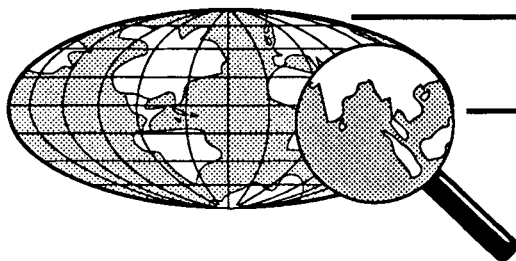
We the participants of the Commonwealth African Region recognise the present drug situation that affects the African region especially substance abuse/trafficking among our people, particularly the young.

We therefore invite the attention of our fellow participants at this conference to the following key components of any supply side policies and programmes.

1. National Police and Customs should receive:
  - Proper remuneration and incentives to discourage corruption.
  - Proper equipment.
  - Specialised training & education.
  - Support for International co-operation and feedback including:
    - i) Inter-regional drug squads on the same lines as Interpol
    - ii) International co-operation with countries in Europe
  
2. All governments should start to address the drug issue as a national security risk other than a social issue.
 

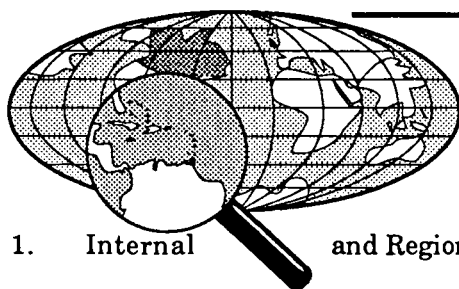
So they must institute:

  - i) proper legislation
  - ii) severe punishment that should include seizure of the assets/properties of drug dealers and/or the introduction of a Criminal Law Detention Act.
  - iii) the formation of a specialised drug squad
  - iv) the accession to and ratification of the Vienna Convention on Illicit Trafficking
  - v) consideration of the South African issue. There is a problem here as no bi-lateral relations exist, but South Africa acts as a transit region for drugs to other parts of Africa.
  
3. Formation of Drug Control Committees, on national and regional levels, to control and monitor the outlets of psychotropic drugs.
4. Review of the position regarding diplomatic immunity for Embassy Staff.
5. Encouragement of parental education through religious organisations, schools, radio and other media. This could act as a deterrent.
6. There should be research on existing international bodies present in the African region with a view to co-ordinating their activities on drugs issues.



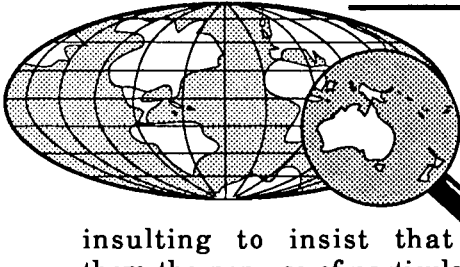
## Asian Region

1. Regional co-operation to curb the problem.
2. Exchange of experiences to accelerate anti-drug supply programmes.
3. Government should ban all advertisements of cigarettes, alcohol, etc.
4. Cigarettes or alcohol should not be sold to those who are below 18 years of age.
5. Ban on smoking and drinking in public places.



## Caribbean Region

1. Internal and Regional Co-operation should be encouraged through:
  - i) Formulating Regional Treaties.
  - ii) Seeking assistance from other developing countries.
  - iii) Ratifying the United Nations Convention in order for it to be implemented.
  - iv) Asking the U.N. Fund for Drug Abuse Control for further assistance to help get the equipment we require to enhance drug control.
2. Internal Mobilisation
  - i) Drug Education for the general public including family and friends through schools and Drug Awareness weeks, etc.
  - ii) Governments could offer programmes to control the problems associated with unemployment in order to reduce this as a reason for drug use.
  - iii) Incentives should be offered to enforcement agencies to increase their vigilance in apprehending traffickers.
  - iv) Increased fines and penalties should be implemented to eliminate the importation of drugs.
  - v) Anti-Corruption Squad should be formed.
  - vi) Increased penalties for law enforcement officers who are involved in drugs trafficking should be enacted.
  - vii) Commissions of 'decent people' should be constituted to monitor the drugs problem and advise government on appropriate actions to stem the flow of drugs.



## South Pacific Region

**NB** The group consider it would be insulting to insist that Pacific Island Countries have imposed on them the non-use of particular substances that are used for traditional ceremonies.

1. Eliminate the targeting of the advertising of alcohol and tobacco and other drugs on young people, in particular, reduce advertising that relates to sporting and social functions.
2. There is a need to effectively control the supply and use of various substances through legislation, but this has to be done at a national level.
3. Effectively use the current networks within the community and strengthen the different groups in the community to take appropriate action, Women's, cultural, youth and church groups provide an ideal base for this action.

**The final plenary reflected on a number of these issues, but in particular the following debates emerged.**

- a) The importance of the death penalty as an appropriate punishment for drugs traffickers. It is argued that drugs dealers cause death to others and that this is a deterrent act.

v.

A fundamental belief that no human being had the right to take the life of another, no matter what they had done. At a pragmatic level there is an objection to capital punishment because mistaken convictions do happen and the 'big players' never get caught.

- b) A belief that harsh prison style regimes are necessary to develop the self-discipline in young people that is necessary to equip them with the skills to say 'no' to drugs.

v.

An understanding that if you take people out of their community any programme becomes an artificial one. When they are placed back in that community the same pressures on them and the reasons for their drug use will still exist. The root causes of the problem will not have been tackled.

- c) An acceptance that drugs are such a threat that normal rules of justice (e.g. the onus of proof is on the prosecution and habeus corpus) can be suspended.

v.

Such practices are dangerous when allowed in the hands of any government.

- d) An assumption that major drug traffickers are essentially evil people who do not deserve to be treated as ordinary human beings.

v.

No-one is born a criminal, including traffickers. For a number of reasons, people come to act that way. It is, therefore, necessary to understand the reasons why and tackle the root cause rather than the presenting problem.