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UNODC BACKGROUND GUIDE



Wesgreen International School
Model United Nations

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WELCOME LETTER

Dear delegates,

It is with open arms that Hatim, Joan, and Noran welcome you into this year's WESMUN 2025 in the decorated and internationally recognized United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). You will be members of the Model United Nations (MUN) delegation and as such you represent the ingenuity and leadership of up-and-coming generations. We as your chairs aim to place stepping stones beneath your feet to lift you to a position where you can apply innovative and positive ideas for the greater good. We look forward to having a meaningful, useful and not to mention fun WESMUN, and we cannot wait to meet you.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is a prominent and vital committee within the United Nations (UN) that is specially equipped to make the world a safer place with a laser focus on any and everything drug and crime-related. UNODC is a committee that tackles much more than just drugs and crime. This is a committee with sights set on decimating crime syndicates and eradicating the threat to social, economic, mental, and physical health and the free world that drugs and criminals pose. UNODC promotes international cooperation between member states as an extremely important aspect of being able to fight drugs and crime effectively.

As a delegate in UNODC, you will gain a new perspective and a fresh insight into events in the past, present, and the future. Furthermore, you will have an inside view of the UNODC's work, accomplishments, and aims and be able to speak your country's opinion on certain topics while working together with other member states to be an effective and important member of the committee. We look forward to seeing you speak on and share insight on past and current events and issues and be able to present your points and opinions excitingly.

During committee sessions, we deeply encourage you to be confident and interact as much as possible in the committee and attempt to be involved in all challenges and debates. The more you participate the more likely you will win an award and we guarantee that the more active you are the more fun you will have. Our committee is no place to be shy so please come with confidence and you will have the time of your lives. We are excited to meet you and see what you are capable of doing. For any questions or information feel free to contact us via our email: unodc.wesmun2025@gmail.com Sincerely, Chairs of UNODC.

COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

For 2 decades since its establishment in 1997 by the Secretary General of the United Nations, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has been making the free world a safer place from illicit drugs, organized crime, corruption, and terrorism and the chaos and destruction they bring. UNODC promotes unity between member states as being a core aspect of being able to tackle these issues effectively and be a deterrent to such threats. It is only with a close-knit relationship between member states that these cancers can be exposed and disposed of.

UNODC and fellow member states are committed to making sure that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals are implemented by any means necessary. This aims to end poverty and hunger, build peaceful societies, the enforcement of fair justice systems, and much more for humanity to prosper. However, this is impossible with the mayhem that drugs, crime, and those who spread it bring. That is the purpose of UNODC, to exterminate the very reasons this world isn't living in peace.

There are 5 areas in which UNODC focuses the most, these are: Strengthening member states capacities to confront threats from **TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME**, Tackling **CORRUPTION** and its catastrophic impact on societies, Strengthening crime prevention and building effective **CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS**, Supporting member states in being able to implement an effective and advanced evidence-based approach to the **WORLD DRUG PROBLEM** that address both supply and demand, countering terrorism and narco-terrorism. These are the areas that, over many years of compiled data, UNODC found to be the core of the spread and prosperity of the virus that is drugs and crime found in every corner of the world.

Not only is UNODC on the front lines in solving these issues, but it is a source of information and hope to the public. Each year there is an annual report released with easy access to the public. In this report, there is vital information not only for the public but for other member states and also to keep track of progress to be able to advance effectively. In 2023, a new global action program was finalized, approved, and began in January of 2024.

This program focuses on trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling. By intertwining existing programs and enhancing them to be more effective, the results are already promising and also building support for trafficking survivors in the form of a global forum.

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, formed on 15 November 2000, is the main international tool in the fight against transnational organized crime. It involves many different protocols that are focused on preventing and punishing human trafficking and preventing migrant smuggling by land, air, or sea. Each year UNODC is successful in confiscating drugs and weapons and crippling the schemes of organized crime syndicates, however, this does not mean that the UNODC isn't advancing and enhancing its capabilities to be evermore effective in bringing peace and order to the world.

TOPIC I

Addressing the impact of Drugs on human trafficking and Migrant smuggling

Introduction:

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is launching a global Action against Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling. “Over the past two decades, there was relative optimism that we could win the fight against trafficking and smuggling globally,” said Ilias Chatzis, Chief of the UNODC Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section. “Then things changed drastically. Progress achieved is today under threat.” “During this time, UNODC has emerged as the leading organization in the fight against human trafficking and migrant smuggling. We remain committed to the eradication of these crimes,” Chatzis said, citing over a thousand technical, legal, and policy assistance activities spanning some 120 countries in recent years. UNODC has trained over 35,000 anti-trafficking and anti-smuggling experts, helped investigate and prosecute hundreds of cases, and supported numerous victims of these crimes.

Human trafficking and Migrant smuggling are complex situations that affect people in different ways. While sometimes they are linked, these are different crimes. Human trafficking involves the recruitment, movement, or harbouring of people for exploitation - such as sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery, or organ removal. Victims can be children or adults, boys, girls, men or women, and are trafficked by the use of improper means such as the threat or use of force, fraudulent schemes, deception, or abuse of power. It can occur within a country or across borders. Human trafficking is therefore characterized by an act (recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of people), specific means (threats or use of force, deception, fraud, abuse of power, or abusing someone's vulnerable condition) for exploitation.

In contrast to human trafficking which can take place both domestically and internationally, migrant smuggling is a crime that takes place only across borders. It consists in assisting migrants to enter or stay in a country illegally, for financial or material gain. Smugglers make a profitable business out of migrants' need and/or desire to enter a country and the lack of legal documents to do so.

International law requires governments to criminalize migrant smuggling, but not those who are smuggled. Since migrants give their consent to the smuggling venture, mostly due to the lack of regular ways to migrate, they are not considered victims in absolute terms. However, smuggled migrants are often put in dangerous situations by smugglers (such as hazardous sea crossings), and might therefore become victims of other crimes during the smuggling process, including severe human rights violations.

Analysis:

When States conflate irregular migration flows with migrant smuggling flows, mistake merely facilitating or attempting irregular migration with the serious crime of migrant smuggling, or even confuse human trafficking with migrant smuggling, an inaccurate picture of migrant smuggling emerges. Some States consider the non-profit facilitation of irregular migration to be smuggling of migrants, while others align their approach with the United Nations Smuggling of Migrants Protocol, explicitly including the “financial or other material benefit element” in their definition of migrant smuggling (UNODC, 2017).

Irregular migration, itself, is a term undefined in international law. It remains inconsistently understood, especially because people fall into and out of irregularity. Different methods of estimating numbers, as well as discrepancies in how data elements are defined, make data incomparable across agencies. The more agencies and departments involved in collecting data, the higher the risk of data misinterpretation.

Most of the existing research on migrant smuggling reflects the interests and perspectives of destination countries. This is because destination countries have stronger funding and institutional capacity, compared to the funding and capacity of origin and transit countries. Additionally, smuggling receives limited attention and funding compared to trafficking in persons. There is insufficient capacity to monitor migrant smuggling in a way that can inform responses and increase preparedness for mass movements. There are also insufficient government statistics on migrant smuggling, and many governments are understandably reluctant to share sensitive data with researchers.

UNODC's work against migrant smuggling will broaden its scope to encompass the protection of vulnerable migrants and the identification of human trafficking victims among migration and refugee flows. Under the Action, UNODC will also expand its on-the-ground presence, deploying resident experts to countries most in need of assistance, while redoubling its commitment to sustainable development and gender equality. UNODC has been at the forefront of the fight against human trafficking and migrant smuggling for over 20 years, since the adoption of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols against these crimes. These instruments have now garnered near-universal ratification since the early 2000s, with 181 states acceding to the Trafficking Protocol and 151 states to the Smuggling Protocol.

“The United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) aims to mobilize state and non-state actors to eradicate human trafficking by (a) reducing both the vulnerability of potential victims and the demand for exploitation in all its forms; (b) ensuring adequate protection and support to those who fall victim; and (c) supporting the efficient prosecution of the criminals involved while respecting the fundamental human rights of all persons. “In carrying out its mission, UN.GIFT will increase knowledge and awareness on human trafficking; promote effective rights-based responses; build capacity of state and non-state actors, and foster partnerships for joint action against human trafficking.”

While identification of trafficked persons needs to get more priority, including among those that enter countries irregularly, La Strada International believes that it remains very important to prevent the conflation between the crimes of human trafficking and smuggling. When addressing smuggling, more attention should be paid to the fact that people often decide to turn to smugglers due to the lack of opportunities to move and cross borders regularly, as well as to the fact that those helping people to cross borders, might not necessarily aim to profit or have a purpose of exploiting people. Recently PICUM reported that between January and December 2023, at least 117 people faced judicial proceedings in the EU for acting in solidarity with migrants. The majority were charged with facilitation of entry, stay or transit or migrant smuggling.

History Background:

UNODC was established in 1997 as a result of the merging of the United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention and the United Nations International Drug Control Program. It was established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to enable the Organization to focus and enhance its capacity to address the interrelated issues of drug control, crime and international terrorism in all its forms. In the same year, UNODC Southern Africa was formed and now covers 11 countries in the region, namely: Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The funding of UNODC's program is fully dependent on the continued support of the donor community.

The widespread contemporary exploitation of men, women, and children is unacceptable to people of conscience the world over. Traditional approaches to preventing the trafficking of human beings, protecting and assisting trafficked persons, and bringing criminals to justice have had some small impact on the global phenomenon, but not enough. That even one young person be denied the benefits of childhood, that one young woman be subjected to the brutal humiliation of sexual exploitation, and that one man becomes the slave of a cruel taskmaster in another country are clear signals that we must renew both our resolve as well as our initiatives to protect those who are vulnerable.

The United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) was born out of a renewed commitment by world leaders in the battle against human trafficking to end this crime, one of the most egregious violations of human rights in the world today. Formally launched in March 2007 by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and made possible by a generous grant from the United Arab Emirates, UN.GIFT is a call to action, reminding Governments, civil society actors, the media, the business community, and concerned individuals of their common commitments to fight trafficking in persons, and that this battle cannot be fought, or won, alone.

As of 4 December 2007, 116 nations had ratified the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, thereby providing a common framework for international efforts. Only by joining forces, pooling knowledge, expanding the scope and number of stakeholders, and cooperating across borders can we hope to eradicate human trafficking.

Acknowledging this need at all levels, UNODC continues to develop the UN.GIFT is in partnership with the International Labor Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Financial crises, armed conflicts, and forced displacement, catalyzed by the pandemic, have strained justice systems, significantly reducing investigations, prosecutions, victim identification, and protection. In 2020 alone, the number of detected victims worldwide fell by 11 percent compared to the previous year. Under its new Action, UNODC will highlight the links between trafficking and smuggling and other forms of organized crime such as cybercrime, money laundering, drug trafficking, firearms trafficking, and corruption. Given the overwhelming number of child victims, more than 30 percent of all victims identified globally, it will prioritize the fight against child trafficking and will give voice to human trafficking survivors.

Between 2006 and 2009, Human trafficking affected every country in the world, as country of origin, transit, or destination, victims from at least 127 countries have been found to be exploited in 137 States. However, probably due to statistical bias and national legislation, sexual exploitation (79%) is by far the most commonly identified form of trafficking in persons, followed by forced labor (18%). As of 2007/08, two out of every five countries covered by the UNODC Report had not recorded a single conviction. The Protocol has inspired a widespread legislative response: the number of countries having anti-trafficking legislation more than doubled between 2003 and 2008; more than half of the responding States have established an anti-human trafficking police unit; and many have launched a national action plan.

UNODC is the guardian of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, which entered into force on 25 December 2003 and supplements the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The purpose of this Protocol is to combat and prevent trafficking in persons, to assist victims, and to promote international cooperation. The Protocol provides the first internationally agreed definition of trafficking in persons. As of 2010, there were 117 state signatories to the Protocol and 141 parties.

The Model Law against the Smuggling of Migrants was developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in response to a request by the General Assembly to the Secretary-General to promote and assist the efforts of Member States to become party to and implement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto.² It was developed in particular to assist States in implementing the provisions contained in the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea, and Air, supplementing the Convention. UNODC Study on Smuggling of Migrants: published in 2018, the first UNODC study on the smuggling of migrants shows that migrant smuggling routes affect every part of the world.

2 July 2024 - The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) have signed a Statement of Partnership to strengthen strategic cooperation between the two organizations on transnational organized crime related to migration. The partnership aims to facilitate collective efforts and improve the efficiency of programs in the priority areas of human trafficking, migrant smuggling, border management, and border security, terrorism prevention, as well as the collection, analysis, and use of data to better serve migrants, Member States and other partners.

Questions a Resolution Paper Must Answer:

1. How can international laws be strengthened to address the overlap between drug trafficking and human trafficking?
2. What specific actions should be taken to dismantle criminal networks involved in both drug and human trafficking?
3. How can countries better protect migrants from being exploited by traffickers and drug cartels?
4. What immediate measures should be taken to reduce the demand for illegal drugs that fuel human trafficking and migrant smuggling?
5. How can the international community improve cooperation to prevent drugs and human trafficking along migration routes?

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- <https://www.iom.int/news/iom-and-unodc-join-forces-tackle-human-trafficking-and-migrant-smuggling-0>
- <https://www.unodc.org/southernAfrica/en/sa/about.html#:~:text=UNODC%20was%20established%20in%201997,Nations%20International%20Drug%20Control%20Programme>
- https://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/Model_Law_Smuggling_of_Migrants_10-52715_Ebook.pdf
- <https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/secondary/human-trafficking-and-migrant-smuggling.html>

Subtopics:

1. The Syrian Civil Refugees War: Drug Smuggling and Exploitation of
2. The Mexico-US Border Crisis: Drug Cartels and Human Trafficking
3. Protecting Migrants from Exploitation by Traffickers and Cartels
4. The Nicaragua-U.S. Connection: U.S. Involvement and the Flow of Drugs and Migrants
5. Improving Border Security to Prevent the Cross-Border Flow of Drugs and Trafficked Persons

Topic 2: Enhancing Global Resilience Against the Threat of Transnational Organized Crime Syndicates

Introduction:

Transnational organized crime syndicates (TOCs) are a significant global threat, impacting economies, governments, and societies in ways that are difficult to ignore. These criminal organizations operate across national borders, engaging in illicit activities such as drug trafficking, human trafficking, arms smuggling, money laundering, cybercrime, and environmental destruction. Their influence weakens states, fuels corruption, and drives violence, often making it harder for governments to maintain control and offer basic services.

The UNODC estimates that TOCs generate billions of dollars in illicit profits every year, creating challenges for both developing and developed countries. Despite international efforts to limit their influence, TOCs have become more sophisticated, adapting to technological advancements and exploiting global vulnerabilities. To effectively tackle this threat, countries need to cooperate more closely, improve their legal frameworks, and strengthen enforcement efforts.

Analysis:

The global landscape has shifted in recent decades, and organized crime has kept pace with these changes. Globalization, technological advances, and greater connectivity have made it easier for criminal organizations to expand their operations and evade law enforcement. In some parts of the world, the effects of TOC are especially visible.

Regional Impacts of TOC:

- Latin America: The region is one of the most impacted by TOC, with drug cartels dominating the trade. Mexican cartels, such as the Sinaloa and Jalisco New Generation Cartels, generate billions annually by trafficking drugs into the United States, according to UNODC estimates. The violence associated with this trade is staggering; Mexico recorded over 30,000 homicides in 2022, with an estimated 70% related to organized crime.

- Southeast Asia: Human trafficking in Southeast Asia is among the most severe globally, with an estimated 11.7 million victims in the Asia-Pacific region forced into labour or sexual exploitation, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO). Countries like Myanmar, Thailand, and Cambodia are hotspots for cross-border trafficking. UNODC data shows that human trafficking generates up to \$150 billion annually worldwide, making it one of the most profitable TOC activities. Syndicates exploit poverty, lack of legal enforcement, and weak border controls to perpetuate their operations.

Exploitation of Technology

Technological advancements have drastically changed how TOCs operate, enabling them to scale their activities while evading detection. Cybercrime is now a cornerstone of TOC, generating between \$1 trillion and \$2 trillion annually, according to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). This includes a range of activities such as ransomware attacks, phishing scams, identity theft, and breaches of critical infrastructure.

- Cryptocurrencies: Digital currencies like Bitcoin have revolutionized money laundering by providing anonymity and decentralization. An estimated \$10 billion was laundered via cryptocurrencies in 2022, where criminals use blockchain technology to transfer illicit funds across borders, making it harder for law enforcement to trace transactions.
- Dark Web and Encrypted Platforms: The dark web and encrypted messaging apps, such as Telegram and Signal, allow TOC groups to communicate, recruit, and trade illicit goods with minimal risk of detection. INTERPOL has identified over 2 million active listings for illegal goods on dark web marketplaces, ranging from drugs and firearms to forged documents and child exploitation material.
- Targeting Infrastructure: TOC groups have escalated their attacks on critical infrastructure, including hospitals, power grids, and financial institutions. In 2020, the Evil Corp hacking group launched a ransomware attack on multiple U.S. government agencies, highlighting the growing threat of organized cybercrime to national security.

Economic and Governance Impacts

Economic and Governance Impacts

The influence of TOC extends beyond the immediate harm caused by criminal activities, deeply undermining global economies and governance systems:

- **Shadow Economies:** TOCs create shadow economies by offering goods and services outside the legal framework, distorting markets and reducing tax revenues. UNODC estimates that the shadow economy fuelled by TOC is worth \$870 billion annually, representing about 1.5% of global GDP. This weakens the formal economy, discourages investment, and suppresses job creation, particularly in developing nations.
- **Corruption and Governance:** Criminal syndicates often infiltrate government institutions, offering bribes and engaging in corrupt practices to ensure impunity.

Transparency International reports that 40% of fragile states experience significant corruption linked to TOCs. This erosion of public trust in governance undermines the rule of law, creating environments where criminal networks can flourish. For instance, in West Africa, TOCs have funnelled millions into corrupt regimes to secure control over natural resource exploitation.

- **Economic Losses:** The illegal trade in resources such as gold, diamonds, and timber causes enormous economic losses. Africa alone loses an estimated \$31 billion annually to resource-related crime, according to INTERPOL. These losses deprive nations of the revenue needed for development, perpetuating cycles of poverty and instability.

Effectiveness of Current Measures

Global efforts to combat TOC, such as the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and INTERPOL's Project Millennium, have provided frameworks for international cooperation. However, enforcement remains inconsistent, and significant challenges persist:

- **Jurisdictional Issues:** TOCs exploit differences in national laws and enforcement capabilities, making it difficult to pursue coordinated actions. For example, INTERPOL's 2023 operation "Trigger IX" revealed gaps in border controls, leading to the seizure of over \$120 million in contraband but highlighting weaknesses in customs enforcement across African nations.
- **Resource Constraints:** Many countries lack the resources and expertise required to tackle TOC. Developing nations, in particular, are vulnerable due to underfunded law enforcement and weak judicial systems. According to UNODC, over 60% of law enforcement agencies in low-income countries report being ill-equipped to combat TOC effectively.

Broader Implications

The rise of TOC exacerbates global challenges such as poverty, inequality, and insecurity. TOCs often exploit fragile states where governance is weak, drawing vulnerable populations into illicit economies. For instance, in West Africa, drug trafficking syndicates fund terrorist organizations like Boko Haram, fuelling regional instability and displacing millions of people. Similarly, in Latin America, cartel violence has contributed to a 70% increase in migration from Central America to the U.S. over the past decade, according to UNODC.

By distorting economies, weakening institutions, and encouraging violence, TOC presents a multidimensional threat that undermines efforts to promote peace, human rights, and sustainable development.

Historical Background:

Transnational organized crime (TOC) has deep historical roots, evolving alongside the development of trade, migration, and the expansion of global networks. Its origins can be traced back to the 18th and 19th centuries when smuggling and piracy were prevalent along major trade routes such as the Silk Road, the Mediterranean, and the Atlantic. Early criminal networks capitalized on weak enforcement in border regions, trafficking contraband goods like spices, textiles, and opium.

One of the earliest significant examples of organized crime operating across borders was the opium trade in the 19th century, particularly in Asia. Criminal syndicates collaborated with colonial powers and private merchants to smuggle opium into China, fueling the Opium Wars (1839–42 and 1856–60). These wars highlighted the lucrative potential of illicit trade and the exploitation of weak or complicit states. As industrialization advanced, criminal networks adapted, using improved transportation and communication technologies to expand their operations.

The early 20th century saw the rise of powerful criminal organizations, including the Italian Mafia and the Japanese Yakuza, which grew out of social and economic upheavals in their home countries. Many of these groups relied on the migration of their members to establish criminal networks in new regions. For instance, the Mafia capitalized on Italian migration to the United States during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, gaining influence through activities like bootlegging during Prohibition (1920–33).

Similarly, Chinese Triads and Southeast Asian syndicates expanded globally, leveraging diaspora communities to build networks involved in trafficking drugs, people, and counterfeit goods.

The post-World War II period marked a turning point for TOC as globalization began to reshape the world economy. Rapid urbanization, increased cross-border trade, and the weakening of colonial powers left governance gaps in many regions. Criminal groups exploited these gaps, engaging in drug production in regions like the Golden Triangle (Southeast Asia) and the Golden Crescent (South Asia). The international drug trade flourished, with criminal syndicates establishing complex supply chains that spanned continents.

By the late 20th century, the collapse of the Soviet Union (1991) and subsequent instability in Eastern Europe created fertile ground for TOC. Russian organized crime syndicates emerged as powerful players, engaging in arms trafficking, money laundering, and cybercrime. Similarly, the expansion of free trade agreements and porous borders in regions like Latin America allowed cartels to dominate the global drug trade.

In the 21st century, TOC has become a globalized and technologically advanced threat, leveraging digital tools and exploiting weak governance structures in fragile states. While its forms have evolved, its historical roots reveal a consistent ability to adapt to socio-economic changes and exploit vulnerabilities in governance and law enforcement systems. TOC today builds on a long history of criminal innovation and global interconnectedness, making it one of the most resilient threats to international peace and security.

crime to flourish. The Colombian and Mexican cartels dominated the drug trade to the United States, while Eastern European and Russian criminal groups took advantage of the collapse of the Soviet Union to expand their influence in both Europe and the U.S.

The rise of the internet in the late 20th century added a new dimension to TOCs, allowing them to operate in the digital space. Cybercrime has become a major issue, with criminal groups targeting everything from financial institutions to personal data. Today, TOCs operate in an increasingly complex and globalized environment, making it difficult for law enforcement agencies to keep up.

Current Challenges and Opportunities:

One of the main challenges is the lack of coordination between countries and agencies. While international treaties like the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime provide a framework for cooperation, enforcement remains uneven. Additionally, many countries lack the necessary resources or expertise to effectively combat TOCs.

On the other hand, technological advancements offer opportunities to improve efforts against organized crime. Innovations in data-sharing, AI, and blockchain can help track illicit activities and disrupt criminal networks. Increased international cooperation, information-sharing, and capacity-building will be key to improving resilience against TOCs.

Major Parties Involved:

- UNODC: The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime works to promote international cooperation and provides technical assistance to countries in combating TOCs.
- INTERPOL: The International Criminal Police Organization helps coordinate law enforcement efforts across borders to tackle organized crime.
- World Customs Organization: Facilitates international cooperation to prevent the smuggling of illicit goods.
- World Bank: Focuses on strengthening anti-corruption measures and promoting good governance.
 - National Governments: National governments play a critical role in implementing laws, providing resources, and cooperating with international partners to combat TOCs.

Questions a Resolution Paper Must Answer:

1. How can countries improve cooperation to tackle transnational organized crime more effectively?
2. What role can technology play in combatting cybercrime and the use of digital currencies in illicit activities?
3. How can governments strengthen laws to prevent money laundering and disrupt TOC operations?
4. What are the best ways to address the root causes of organized crime, such as poverty, corruption, and weak governance?
5. How can international efforts ensure the protection of victims of human trafficking and other forms of exploitation?

Past Resolutions on the Topic:

- United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), 2000. Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, UNTOC is the most comprehensive international legal framework to combat TOC. Also known as the Palermo Convention, it provides a universal definition of organized crime and emphasizes international cooperation in areas such as extradition, mutual legal assistance, and information sharing. The convention includes three protocols addressing specific crimes: human trafficking, migrant smuggling, and illicit firearms trafficking. By 2023, 190 UN member states had ratified the convention, showcasing its global acceptance. However, its implementation remains uneven, particularly in resource-constrained regions.
 - UN Security Council Resolution 2482 (2019)
This resolution highlights the nexus between transnational organized crime and terrorism. It calls for member states to strengthen border controls, disrupt financial flows to criminal and terrorist organizations, and enhance intelligence-sharing mechanisms. Resolution 2482 also encourages the use of technology to track illicit financial transactions, underscoring the need for public-private partnerships. The resolution has been pivotal in addressing organized crime's role in funding terrorist activities, particularly in regions like the Sahel and the Middle East.
 - Resolution 55/25 (2000)
Adopted during the 55th session of the UN General Assembly, this resolution was instrumental in establishing the framework for UNTOC. It underscores the need for technical assistance and capacity-building in developing countries to effectively combat TOC. The resolution has been praised for recognizing the disparities in enforcement capabilities across nations and for its focus on addressing vulnerabilities in weaker states.
 - Kyoto Declaration (2021)
Adopted during the 14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Kyoto Declaration emphasizes crime prevention and international collaboration to combat organized crime. It highlights the importance of addressing emerging threats like cybercrime, money laundering, and environmental crime. The declaration also calls for gender-sensitive approaches to address human trafficking and other crimes disproportionately affecting women and children.

- INTERPOL Resolutions and Initiatives

While not formal UN resolutions, INTERPOL has passed significant resolutions at its General Assemblies, focusing on enhancing international law enforcement collaboration against TOC. INTERPOL's "Project Millennium" and "Operation Trigger" have successfully disrupted organized criminal networks by seizing illicit goods, tracking down fugitives, and strengthening regional enforcement capabilities.

These past resolutions represent important milestones in the fight against TOC. However, challenges remain, particularly in ensuring effective implementation and addressing evolving threats like cybercrime and the use of cryptocurrencies. Enhanced cooperation and capacity-building will be critical to achieving sustained progress against TOC in the future.

Subtopics:

1. Global Intelligence vs. National Sovereignty: Balancing the need for international intelligence sharing with concerns over national security and sovereignty.
2. Tech as a Double-Edged Sword: Should the rise of digital technology be seen as a solution to transnational crime, or is it enabling new forms of criminal activity?
3. The Role of the "El Chapo" Case in Global Drug Trafficking: Analyzing the impact of Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán's capture and trial on global drug trafficking networks and the effectiveness of international drug control measures.
4. The Collapse of the Panama Papers and Global Corruption: How the Panama Papers leak exposed global money laundering practices, and what it reveals about the links between transnational crime and political corruption.
5. Global Intelligence vs. National Sovereignty: Balancing the need for international intelligence sharing with concerns over national security and sovereignty.
6. Tech as a Double-Edged Sword: Should the rise of digital technology be seen as a solution to transnational crime, or is it enabling new forms of criminal activity?
7. Cracking Down on Dirty Money: Is the global financial system doing enough to stop the flow of illicit funds, or is it facilitating organized crime?
8. The Role of Weak States in Crime Networks: How can international efforts support states with weak institutions in preventing organized crime from thriving within their borders?

9. Economic Development vs. Crime Prevention: Can economic development in vulnerable regions be a true solution to stopping transnational crime, or does it merely shift criminal activity to new areas?

Recommended Resources:

- UNODC Reports on Transnational Organized Crime
 - INTERPOL's Annual Crime Reports
- World Bank Anti-Corruption Publications
 - Journal of Crime and Justice

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- Key Terms:
- Transnational Organized Crime (TOC): Criminal activities that span multiple countries and involve networks operating across borders.
 - Money Laundering: The process of concealing the origins of illegally obtained money through complex transactions and financial systems.
 - Drug Trafficking: The illegal production and distribution of drugs across borders
 - Human Trafficking: The recruitment, transportation, and exploitation of people for forced labour or sexual exploitation.
 - Cybercrime: Criminal activities carried out online, including hacking, data theft, and online fraud.