

# ETMUN

**Unraveling the Domino Effect**



**Committee:** INTERPOL

**Topic:** Drug Trafficking and Narco-Terrorism in Latin America

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## **Letter from the President:**

Dear delegates,

My name is Saleh Shaban, your president at the INTERPOL committee for this year's version of ETMUN, and it's an absolute honor to have you all here. The unique circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic were responsible for bringing me into the world of MUN's, and 27 experiences in, ranging from AMMUN to Harvard, I've experienced a remarkable journey of growth and discovery, and I'm eager to share some of those insights with you!

Throughout my MUN journey, I have found the most success while bending the rules, and I encourage the spirit of exploration within all of you. Looking for loopholes and gaps is one of the most challenging, yet most fun tasks a delegate may face, and I look forward to a lot of that during our 3 days together.

I want the you, delegates of the INTERPOL, to be the bravest, and most ambitious delegates this conference has. Let the INTERPOL be a first for many things, whether you're a first-time delegate, or a seasoned vet, I request nothing but the best from all of you, dig deep, lead the charge, do the silent research, get out of your comfort zone, and truly, give it your all.

Finally, let us not forget that MUN's are a way to connect with each other, see our friends, have fun, build new connections, and let go of a bit of that high school student stress, so let us not let even the most heated of debate sessions set us apart, and let us enjoy our time regardless of any outcomes. I truly can't wait to see what the delegates of the INTERPOL have to offer, and the chairing panel VOWS to make this the best experience you've ever had.

With the kindest regards and boundless excitement for the days ahead,

Saleh Shaban,

President of the Interpol, ETMUN'23,

## **Introduction:**

Drug trafficking and Narco-Terrorism in Latin America have remained persistent and pressing challenges with far-reaching implications. The region's unique geographical characteristics, political instability, and socioeconomic disparities make it a hotbed for drug production, trafficking, and associated criminal activities. The convergence of these factors has fueled a complex and interconnected issue that demands the attention of the INTERPOL committee.

## **Definition of Key Terms:**

### **Drug Trafficking:**

Drug trafficking is a global illicit trade involving the cultivation, manufacture, distribution and sale of substances which are subject to drug prohibition laws.

### **Narco-Terrorism:**

The involvement of terrorist organizations and insurgent groups in drug trafficking, has become a problem with international implications.

## **General Overview:**

➔ Causes of the issue:

- 1) Geographical Features: Latin America's vast and varied terrain, including dense jungles and long coastlines, offers ideal conditions for drug cultivation, production, and smuggling.
- 2) Political Instability: Many Latin American countries have experienced political turmoil, which has created power vacuums and weakened law enforcement agencies, making them vulnerable to Narco-Trafficking networks. Who's really in power? Who's controlling what? Who's working with who.....
- 3) Socioeconomic Disparities: High levels of poverty and limited economic opportunities drive individuals toward involvement in the drug trade, exacerbating the issue. Smugglers are only getting smarter, making it even harder on law enforcement.

➔ Factors and Facilitators:

- 1) Financing: Drug trafficking provides a significant source of funding for terrorist activities, enabling the acquisition of weapons, recruitment, and logistics.
- 2) Power Dynamics: Control over drug routes and territories has led to turf wars and violence among criminal and terrorist groups, as well as governments.
- 3) Regional Instability: The presence of Narco-Terrorism disrupts governance, threatens state stability, and undermines regional security.
- 4) Lack of Resources: Insufficient resources for law enforcement agencies hinder their capacity to combat drug trafficking.
- 5) Demand: High demand for illegal narcotics in the United States and Europe fuels production and trafficking.

**Major Parties Involved:**

- Drug Cartels: Prominent drug cartels like the Sinaloa Cartel, the Zetas, and the Jalisco New Generation Cartel are key players, controlling vast territories and trafficking routes.
- Insurgent and Terrorist Groups: Organizations such as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) have financed their activities through drug trafficking.
- Corrupt Officials: Corruption within law enforcement and government institutions has facilitated drug trafficking operations. Certain entities turn corrupt for personal gain, some do not have a choice. Either way, they create a safe haven for drug traders.
- Local Communities: Vulnerable communities, often without alternative livelihoods, may be drawn into the drug trade.

**Timeline of Events:**

- ❖ Historical roots: Drug production in Latin America dates back decades, with narcotics like cocaine and heroin being the primary products.
- ❖ Advancements: Over time, drug trafficking networks have evolved in sophistication, exploiting new routes and technologies.
- ❖ Global Impact: The consequences of Latin American drug trafficking reach far beyond the region, affecting international security, public health, and economies.

## **Guiding Questions:**

- How can INTERPOL enhance international cooperation to combat drug trafficking and Narco-Terrorism in Latin America?
- What strategies can be implemented to address the socioeconomic factors that contribute to drug production and trafficking in the region?
- How can the committee work to mitigate the impact of drug-related violence and its spillover/Domino effects into neighboring regions?
- In what ways can INTERPOL support local law enforcement agencies and governments in the fight against drug cartels and terrorist organizations involved in Narco-Terrorism?
- How can member countries and INTERPOL collaborate to dismantle the financial networks that support drug trafficking and Narco-Terrorism in Latin America?
- What strategies can be implemented to disrupt the production and trafficking of illicit drugs at their source, including tackling the cultivation and processing of narcotics in Latin American countries?
- How can information sharing and intelligence cooperation be improved between INTERPOL and national law enforcement agencies in Latin American countries to enhance the tracking and apprehension of drug traffickers and narco-terrorists?
- What are consequences that members of Narc/Terror organizations face shall they be captured?

## **Final Remarks:**

Delegates and the INTERPOL are working hand in hand to help put a stop, or at least, hinder drug production and distribution. Latin America's corrupt politicians, and the complex power dynamic that some of its countries have, creates the perfect safety net for criminals, and the ability for their organizations to prosper. The INTERPOL realizes that an issue of this magnitude cannot be solved overnight, and its intricate aspects only make it tougher to crack down on the root of the issues, and put an end to them, but steps in the right direction are a success, hindering the production of drugs is a success, hindering their distribution is a success, cracking down on corrupt politicians and other steps in the correct direction are simply only the beginning.

Resolutions during the 3 days should aim to achieve such goals, and the well-rounded, feasible resolutions shall pass.