



Eureka Model United Nations

STUDY GUIDE

EUREKA MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2017

Dear Delegates,

We sincerely hope that this study guide helps you understand what our council is and what the topic is about. This study guide shall teach you how to research, how to create resolutions, how to debate and includes debate topics that might help you stimulate debate in committee. It is necessary that you understand your country's foreign policy on the issue and behave in a manner that best serves the interests of the country that you shall represent. It is crucial that the committee come to a consensus on the topic and ensure the interests of countries being served.

Delegates, in the sessions that shall be held, you shall witness heated debates and some light moments that you shall take back. But it is important that you also gain knowledge that makes you stand out in the future. I strongly hope that I perform to the best of my abilities to make this edition of Eureka MUN a memorable one for you.

Please feel free to contact us with any type of questions that you might have on the topic or on the procedure. Good Luck and I hope to see you in October!

Sincerely,

The Executive Board,
Commission on Narcotic Drugs,
Eureka Model United Nations 2017

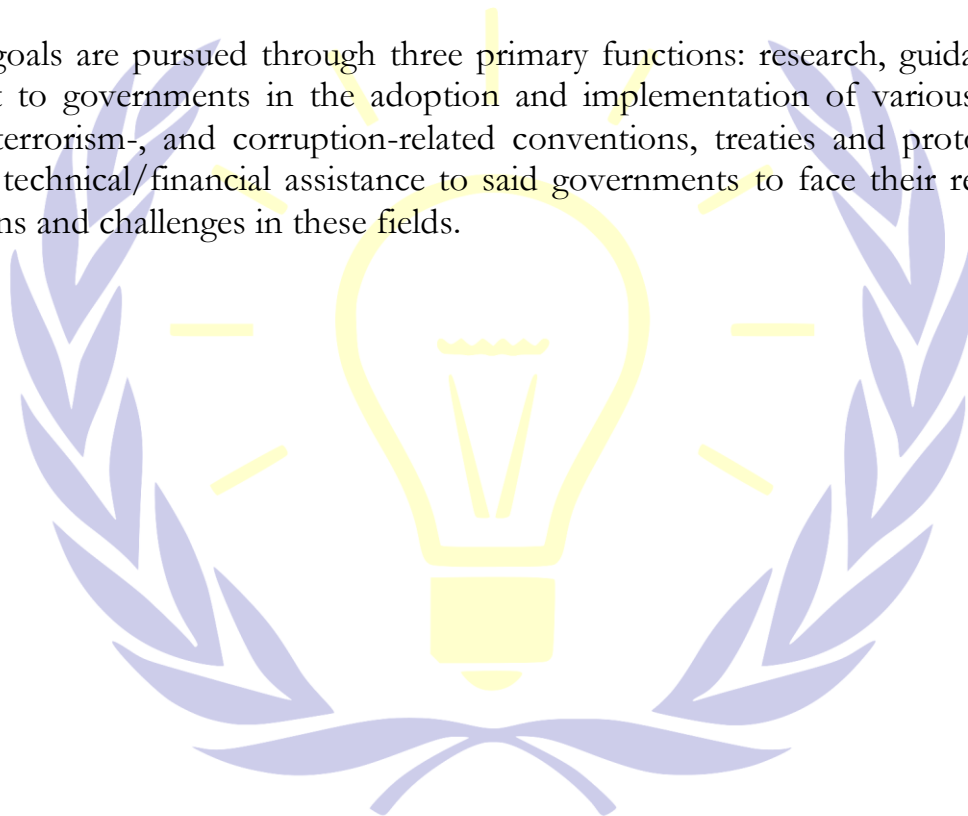


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The Committee

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime was established in 1997 as the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention by combining the United Nations International Drug Control Program and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division. The Office was established to assist the United Nations in better addressing a coordinated, comprehensive response to the interrelated issues of illicit trafficking in and abuse of drugs, crime prevention and criminal justice, international terrorism, and political corruption, to maximise knowledge on these issues among governmental institutions and agencies, and to maximise awareness about the said matters in public opinion, globally, nationally and at community level.

These goals are pursued through three primary functions: research, guidance and support to governments in the adoption and implementation of various crime-, drug-, terrorism-, and corruption-related conventions, treaties and protocols, as well as technical/financial assistance to said governments to face their respective situations and challenges in these fields.



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Agenda: The illegal drug trade and drug control in the Americas

Overview

The 1961 UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs(– the legal basis of the global war on drugs has two parallel functions Alongside establishing a global prohibition of some drugs for non-medical use, it also strictly regulates many of the same drugs for scientific and medical use. In stark contrast to the Convention’s language describing medical use, the rhetoric on non-medical use frames it as a threat to the “health and welfare of mankind”, and a “serious evil” which the global community must “combat”, setting the tone for the drug war that has followed.

The Convention’s parallel functions have also led to parallel markets – one for medical drugs controlled and regulated by the state and UN institutions, the other for non-medical drugs controlled by organised criminals, insurgents, separatists and paramilitaries. There is a striking comparison to be made in the level of criminality associated with production a supply in these parallel trades. The legal medical opiate market, for example, accounts for around half of global opium production but entails none of the organised crime, violence and conflict associated with its illicit twin.

By the mid-80s the emphasis and rhetoric of international drug policy had shifted, from its earlier focus on drug use, towards the growing concern with the problems relating to criminally controlled drug markets. This trend was reflected in law, specifically the third of the UN drug conventions, which focuses on tackling the explosion of the “illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances” since the 1961 Single Convention.

Over the last 50 years, the threat to public health from drug use has been interwoven with the threat to public safety (and national security) from drug war-related crime. “Drugs and crime” have become fused together in political rhetoric.

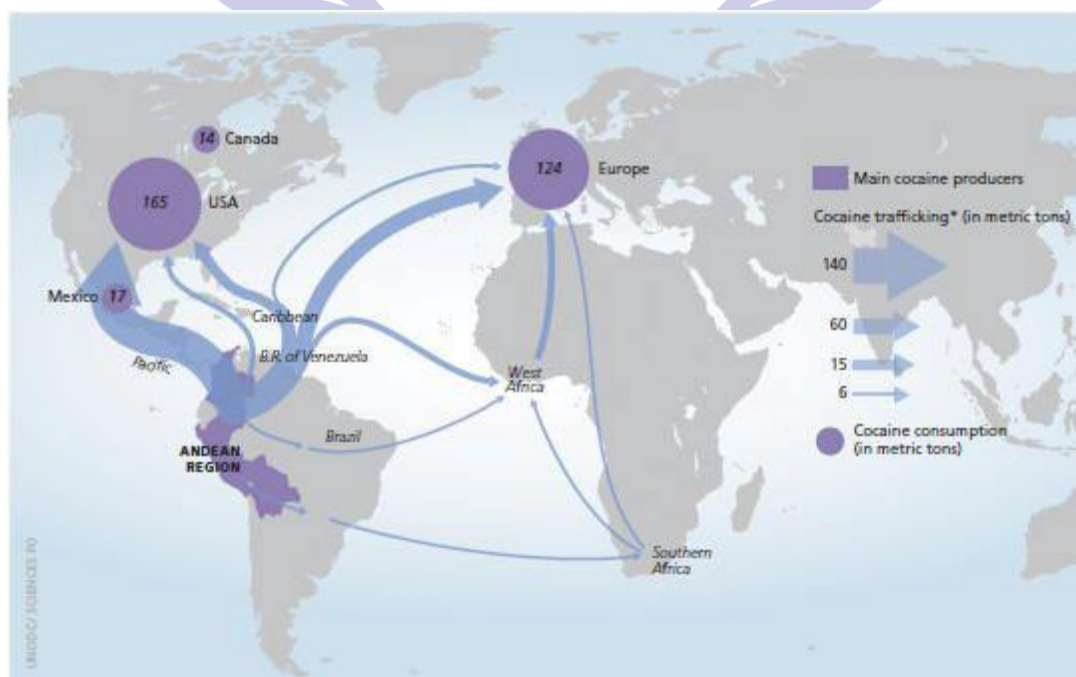


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Background

The drug industry in Colombia is probably the most profound and well known throughout South America. The government's effort to combat drug trafficking and limit its influence in internal politics has been long and bloody. The problem in Latin America is deep-rooted and complex, involving two basic issues (drugs and control of the country in question) and three warring factions (the government, left-wing guerrillas, and right-wing paramilitaries). The drug trade in Colombia developed in 1975 during the time narcotics usage began to spike throughout the Western hemisphere. "Colombia soon was providing as much as seven-tenths of the marijuana being imported into the United States. Using the profits from marijuana, drug leaders—especially from Medellín—diversified to cocaine trafficking, and shipments grew from individuals carrying small amounts to large quantities on boats and low-flying airplanes."

While drug trafficking has historically been an issue in Mexico, the "official" war on drugs began in 2006 when "former Mexican president Felipe Calderón, in conjunction with the United States, launched a massive crackdown against drug trafficking organizations, escalating a conflict that would contribute to the deaths of tens of thousands of people in drug-related violence. While the United States has supplied funding and intelligence to increase Mexico's institutional capacity to address drug trafficking, its primary focus has been on stanching the flow of drugs into the country and domestic law enforcement. Mexico is seen as an international hub for drug traffickers due to its weak judicial and police institutions. It is estimated that the drug trade makes up 3 to 4 percent of Mexico's \$1.2 trillion annual GDP—totalling as much as \$30 billion—and employs at least half a million people.



Current Situation in the region

Role of the internet in drug trafficking

In recent years, drug channels have shifted some as the popularity of the Internet has surged. There are numerous ways to find and order illicit drugs online and even have them delivered by mail to your doorstep. Most common, perhaps, are synthetic and designer drugs that often contain legal and unregulated chemicals. The most popular among these designer drugs are synthetic cannabinoids and synthetic cathinones.

Synthetic cannabinoids, called “Spice,” “K2,” and “fake weed,” contain high levels of tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, although the THC in these dangerous designer drugs is often up to 100 times more potent than what you might find in traditional pot. Spice is sold as “incense” or “potpourri” in local head shops, gas stations, and on the Internet, often escaping regulation due to labeling that markets the plant-based material sprayed with synthetic drugs as “not intended for human consumption.” Synthetic cathinones, called “bath salts,” are hallucinogenic drugs that may mimic LSD or ecstasy, and they are sold as “jewelry cleaner” or “plant food.”

Methamphetamine Trafficking

The popular stimulant drug made from the ephedrine or pseudoephedrine found in cold medications and manufactured into illegal methamphetamine in illicit laboratories may have initially been primarily trafficked by motorcycle gangs up and down the West Coast but concentrated in California. Mexican drug cartels are now heavily involved, and organized crime syndicates both manufacture and distribute the finished product as well as secure the main ingredients for domestic production in numerous smaller labs around the country. Superlabs produce larger quantities of meth at a time and are generally controlled by Mexican drug cartels, regardless of the side of the border on which the labs reside.

Marijuana and the effects of Legalisation

Marijuana is the most popular illicit drug in the United States, as more than 80 percent of drug abusers used marijuana in 2013, and 19.8 million Americans aged 12 and older used marijuana in the month before the 2013 national survey. The legality of marijuana in America has been hotly debated for years. Currently, 23 states and the District of Columbia have voted to decriminalize marijuana and legalize its use for medicinal or recreational purposes.

Domestic marijuana growers may be increasing their production, and the American public seems to prefer the designer strains and more potent domestic pot to the Mexican tightly packed “mota” bricks. Marijuana seizures at the SWB have gone down from 2.5 million pounds in 2011 to 1.48 million pounds in 2016, and the Mexican army confiscated 32 percent less cannabis in 2016.

The legal marijuana industry in America increased 112 percent in 2016, up to \$6.4 billion. The shift to a more local market has caused the Mexican cartels to change

gears and move toward other drugs in an attempt to continue to profit from the drug trade. Heroin and meth seem to be the answer as seizures of both of these drugs at the US/Mexico border increased as marijuana seizures declined.



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International Legal Framework

Currently the main treaties and conventions that regulate drug cultivation, trafficking and consumption are the 1961 Single Convention of Narcotic Drugs, which prohibits the production and supply of certain drugs with cannabis, coca and opium-like effects; the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, which banned many newly discovered psychotropics; and the 1988 Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, which provides additional enforcement measures. The UN has established International Standards on Drug Use Prevention.

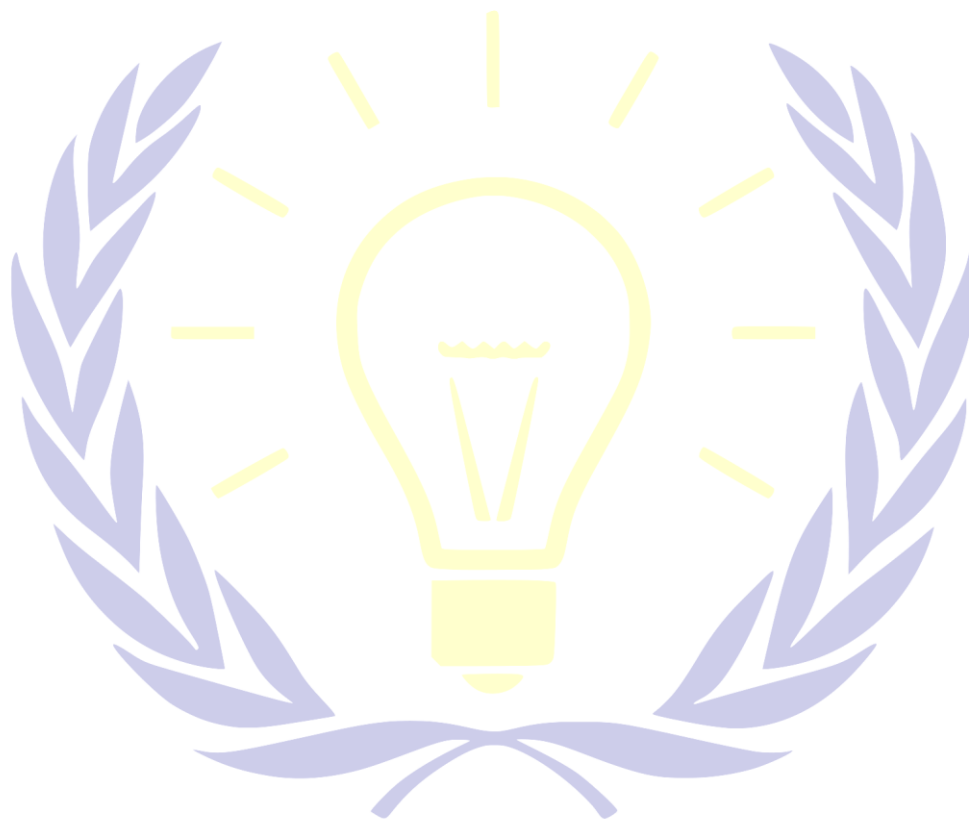
- I. The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961
- II. The Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971
- III. United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988
- IV. United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime



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Questions the committee is expected to discuss

1. Is decriminalisation of certain drugs the way forward in curbing illicit drug trade?
2. What measures can be taken regarding rehabilitation, education and employment of people involved at the various stages of the illicit drug supply chain?
3. How feasible and effective is stricter border control as a solution to the repercussions of the existence of the industry?
4. What alternative development measures can be taken by states to curb the illicit drug trade?



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Conclusion

Drug trafficking operations aren't as clean cut as they are portrayed in Hollywood. The war against drugs continues to be fought on both the front lines and via the political chambers. The endeavor on combating drugs in Latin America has seen victories, such as when authorities finally captured Mexican drug kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman after thirteen years on the run; and defeats, as was the case in May 2014 when the Colombian government reached an agreement with FARC that would allow them to continue their drug operations. Drug trafficking isn't a just Latin American problem but rather an international issue. In turn, it will take an international effort to continue making progress. Significant progress has been made in the recent years as there has been increased cooperation between the governments of the United States and many of the Latin American countries. Whether it's an innocent school girl getting caught in the crossfire of Los Zetas/Gulf Cartel turf war or the millions of Americans that have to battle drug addiction daily, drug trafficking affects millions of innocent people. As devastating as drug trafficking can be, it is hard to ignore that it is seen throughout Latin America as a way of survival for those in the poorer communities. The elimination of a single individual or cartel won't win the war on drugs. The answer lies in showing the producers, exporters, sellers, and users of narcotics that there are better options.



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Further Research

For a complete research into this topic it is important to analyse the perspective of different governments and country positions, different from the western and developed countries that manage the UN, as we previously touched upon. Important tangents that need to be touched during the research are health policies, social background, national position of different countries, questions of security, economy, finances and evidently, politics. It is important to find the perspective of the different political parties of the countries in question from the Americas. The delegate will be surprised to find different doctrines and claims among countries that usually have a “non-flexible” perspective.

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