

NMMUN 2022

UNODC - BACKGROUND GUIDE



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Letter from the Chairs

Greetings Delegates!

We, Krish and Sameeksha, your chairs for the NMMUN'2022, give you a warm welcome to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Council! We know an MUN may seem very intimidating at the first glance, but we are sure that the material we have provided in this background guide along with additional research on your part will be more than enough to prepare you for the council ahead. We wish you all the absolute best in researching and debating in council! We look forward to having you all in the council!

I anticipate finding appropriate and significant answers to the council's issues in my capacity as chair. As delegates, you must conduct thorough research to approach the discussions, debates, and speeches that will be made in the council. It is vital to do so and understand your position and that of your country, but it can also give you an advantage over other delegates if you are also aware of other countries' positions.

Members must resort to using their intellect and wit, while keeping their respective countries, allocated resources, as well as the bigger picture in mind. While delegates are encouraged to come up with unique responses to the issue, the ultimate priority will always be coming to a solution to the issue at hand. If you have any clarifications or questions regarding council proceedings, be sure to check out the delegate handbook. And if you have absolutely any queries or if you need help, you can contact us right away!

While the background guide is a reliable source of information, delegates are advised to not completely rely on it, and do external research as well. Try Your best to not completely plagiarize your way throughout in your content whether it be for your Position Paper or your preparation; You can always come up with your own creative way to present the information along with the facts and statistics.

Be confident, be yourself, Prepare well!

Regards, Krish and Sameeksha
Chairpersons, UNODC

About UNODC.

- UNODC is a global leader in addressing the problem of illicit drug use and transnational crime and is mandated to assist Member States in their struggle against illicit drugs, crime, and terrorism.
- UNODC was established in 1997 because of the merger of the United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme.
- 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.
- The International Narcotics Control Board is a permanent and independent body, consisting of 13 members, who are elected for a five-year term by the Economic and Social Council based on their competence and serve in their personal capacity.

UNODC Mandate and structure.

- The mandates of UNODC include the areas related to transnational organized crime, criminal justice, countering corruption, drug control and terrorism. This allows the Office to provide comprehensive solutions to the interrelated challenges Member States face. Strong institutions that have integrity and accountability will provide effective responses and access to justice. Moreover, effective institutions are also key to promoting a balanced response to drugs.
- The Office helps ensure that efforts to address crime, corruption, terrorism, and drugs are coordinated across national boundaries, facilitating our shared responsibility in addressing these challenges.
- Of relevance to UNODC mandates are human rights related to the areas of justice, security, and health.
- The prevention and reduction of all forms of violence and abuse should be at the heart of any agenda that fully recognizes the

centrality of human security, both as a human rights imperative and as being integral to development.

- The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, composed of 53 Member States elected by the Economic and Social Council for a four-year term, is the central policy-making body regarding drug-related matters, including the monitoring of the global trends of illicit drug trafficking and abuse.
- This functional commission of the Economic and Social Council adopts and recommends for adoption by the Council or to the General Assembly through the Council, resolutions on new concerted measures or agreed policies to better address the drug phenomenon. It decides whether new substances should be included in one of the schedules of the conventions and if changes or deletions in the schedules are required.
- The Board monitors the implementation of the conventions and, where appropriate, makes recommendations to States. It also administers the statistical control of drugs since data supplied by Governments and assesses world requirements of licit drugs with a view to the adaptation of production to those requirements. It gathers information on illicit trafficking and submits an annual report on developments in the world situation to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and to the Economic and Social Council.

Issue 1 - To Prevent the Expansion of Drug Cartels in South America

INTRODUCTION

For organized crime groups, who frequently engage in other serious crimes like the use of guns, modern slavery, and immigration crime, drug trafficking is a significant source of income. Therefore, acting against drug trafficking has a significantly larger disruptive effect on organized crime.

At every stage of the production and supply of class A narcotics, there is intense competition between rival organized crime groups that frequently results in fatalities. Additionally, there is corruption across the entire drug supply chain, including the involvement of dishonest port and airport personnel.

Drug trafficking organizations frequently engage in a variety of other crimes, and the money made from selling illegal narcotics is used to finance these other crimes, such as purchasing illegal weapons and supporting terrorism.

The manufacturing and sale of cocaine and cannabis, as well as their export to the United States and Europe, are the two main components of Latin America's illicit drug trade. The world's only coca source region is the Andes of South America, specifically in Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia, where coca growing is prevalent.

Smoking, alcohol, drug usage kills 11.8 million people each year. Economic integration and democratization across Latin America have produced significant increases in trade flows to and from the region, sometimes making transit of goods more difficult to identify.

IMPORTANT TERMS

Drug cartels: Any criminal organization with the intention of supplying drug trafficking operations.

Narcotics: Any of A class of substances that blunt the senses, as opium, morphine or any controlled substance, being sedative.

Drug mule: A mule or courier is someone who personally smuggles contraband across a border for a smuggling organization.

Drug Cultivation: A type of drug crime that involves the growing of plants which are classified as controlled substances.

CAUSES

Due to the extensive expansion of drug-producing crops grown in southern America, many narcotics are generated in south American nations like Peru, Columbia, etc.

Drug crops including opium poppies, coca, and cannabis are grown in South American poor, disadvantaged, and vulnerable populations as a key source of economic and physical protection. These illegal goods are smuggled in large quantities to the northern region of the continent, where they are sold for very high prices. Countries like Colombia, the United States, and others have made tremendous efforts to stop the sale and smuggling of drugs in their countries.

Inadequacies in U.S. domestic drug and crime control policies; limited successes and unintended consequences of the U.S.-led "War on Drugs"; the spread of cultivation sites and drug smuggling routes; the dispersion and fragmentation of organized crime groups; political reform and state-building efforts that have failed; inadequacies in regional and international drug and crime control efforts; and the increasing globalization of drug consumption are among them.

TIMELINE

1800s

Americans were first exposed to opium smoking in the middle of the 1800s when Chinese immigrants to California arrived. The trading, selling, and distribution of opium spread throughout the region. Opium dens, which were venues designed for buying and selling the drug, first appeared in Californian cities before quickly spreading to New York and other urban areas. American experimentation with other opiates like morphine and codeine didn't take long. Thousands of Union and Confederate soldiers were dependent on morphine during the Civil War because it was so frequently used as a pain treatment.

1970-1980s

The U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War led to a boost in heroin being smuggled into the United States between the years 1965-1970.

During the 1980s, drug cartels operating in South America became the world's largest suppliers of narcotics, particularly cocaine. The rise of the cartels boosted the drug trade worldwide and precipitated major foreign policy disputes between the United States and Colombia, Bolivia, and Peru.

The South American cartels had their origins in the late 1960s and early 1970s, when the United States cracked down on Mexican drug trafficking and thereby opened the market to South American suppliers.

At the same time, demand for marijuana and cocaine increased substantially in the United States. Colombia soon took control of the burgeoning market. Because limited supplies of coca, the plant from which cocaine is produced, grow in Colombia, drug traffickers imported the crop from Bolivia and Peru. The drugs were refined in Colombia and then smuggled into the United States.

The earliest of the Colombian drug cartels was centered in Medellín. Formed in the late 1970s, the Medellín cartel attracted international attention during the 1980s with its ruthless and violent tactics,

including bombings and assassinations of government officials. The Medellín cartel was later joined in the cocaine trade by another group in Cali, and both became targets of the United States. The United States government insisted that Latin American governments shut down the supply of narcotics, while Latin Americans maintained that the market was driven by demand in the United States.

The issue continued to be a source of friction in United States relations with Latin American countries through the 1990s, when drug barons in Mexico became major players in the drug trade as well.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The three major international drug control treaties, the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 (as amended in 1972), the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, are mutually supportive and complementary.

An important purpose of the first two treaties is to codify internationally applicable control measures to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes, and to prevent their diversion into illicit channels. They also include general provisions on illicit drug trafficking and drug abuse.

The 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances extends the control regime to precursors and focuses on establishing measures to combat illicit drug trafficking and related money-laundering, as well as strengthening the framework of international cooperation in criminal matters, including extradition and mutual legal assistance.

RECOMMENDED MODERATED CAUCUS TOPICS/ GUIDING

1. The Causation of The Increase in the Drug Cartels in Latin America.

2. How do you think Smuggling across the boundaries can be reduced?
3. The Laws and Policies that can be incorporated for the reduction of drug cartels.
4. Should Drug Manufacturing and production be banned in the first place?

Issue 2 - The Effects of the Dark Web on Drug Trafficking

INTRODUCTION

The Internet has fundamentally changed ways of doing business, including the operations and activities of illegal markets. While most of the breakthroughs in this area have offered great benefits, unintended negative consequences have also resulted.

According to global surveys, a substantial percentage of participants confessed to buying illicit drugs online.

Law enforcement agencies are constantly undertaking surveillance operations to track and disrupt mass criminals and prevent crime on the dark web. The closure of major online drug trafficking platforms, on the other hand, has a minimal long-term impact on drug sales on the dark web market because customers and suppliers migrate to other trade platforms and overall sales eventually recover, highlighting the importance of a technologically robust intergovernmental regulatory framework.

The main characteristic and comparative advantage of darknet markets is their perceived anonymity, in particular the physical anonymity of those who do business on such markets.

Purchasing drugs on those markets does not necessarily require physical contact, which reduces the inhibitions of some customers who might otherwise be reticent to interact personally with drug dealers. In addition, the customer does not have to go to dangerous places to buy drugs.

Darknet trafficking also overcomes the challenge of sellers and buyers having to be in the same location; thus, organizations that traffic drugs over the darknet do not need to have the critical mass of customers necessary to sustain a local market.

HISTORY

- There are now around 50 online marketplaces on the 'dark web' that trade illegal drugs, novel psychoactive substances (NPS), prescription drugs and other – often illegal – goods and services. These so-called crypto markets are accessible with a normal Internet connection but require special anonymizing software to access. The role of these crypto markets in facilitating the trade of illicit drugs was first highlighted by the success of Silk Road, an online marketplace for the sale of illegal goods. Silk Road was taken down by the FBI in October 2013; however, other very similar crypto markets filled the void within a matter of weeks.
- From 2011 all the way until mid-2017, drug markets on the dark web were estimated to be worth around \$80 million in annual sales. But, in under three years since, there's been a near 300% increase in growth in the size of this market.
- In the first 4 months of 2020 itself, the illegal drug supply offered on the dark web surged by roughly 500%. A government study of approximately 100 dark web sites, found that 92% utilize the U.S mail to ship narcotics. People are increasingly turning to this dark net, encrypted online drug markets to ensure drugs of any sort.

CAUSES

- Two key reasons for this surge are the anonymity of offenders and the diversity of internet-based trading platforms. Recent developments have shown that cybercriminals have made considerable use of the dark web to expand illicit drug trafficking globally, which has become a source of concern. According to global surveys, a substantial percentage of participants confessed to buying illicit drugs online. Law enforcement agencies are constantly undertaking surveillance operations to

track and disrupt mass criminals and prevent crime on the dark web. The closure of major online drug trafficking platforms, on the other hand, has a minimal long-term impact on drug sales on the dark web market because customers and suppliers migrate to other trade platforms and overall sales eventually recover, highlighting the importance of a technologically robust intergovernmental regulatory framework.

IMPACT

- The full impact of the Internet-facilitated drugs trade on the global market for illicit drugs remains inconclusive and unclear. There is evidence to suggest that crypto markets are fueling offline markets for illicit drugs, but more work is required to fully understand the extent to which buyers of drugs online are distributing them offline.
- The Internet has offered opportunities for drug entrepreneurs to create new business models and tap into a new consumer base, while reducing many of the risks associated with offline markets (e.g., violence), and introducing new risks (e.g., postal interception, scams).
- Finally, there are different arguments about the societal impacts of crypto markets. Some have argued that they reduce violence from the drug supply chain, which could be seen as a positive benefit. However, others believe that, by offering a new, often young, consumer base easy access to drug markets, crypto markets have largely negative consequences.

WHAT UNODC HAS DONE TILL NOW?

- UNODC was relevant in addressing transnational crime and illicit trafficking as the custodian of the applicable conventions and their protocols, and other instruments. The combination of its mandates and technical assistance provided the organization with a unique opportunity to engage with governments in policy discussions and undertake implementation on the ground.

However, it did not fully exploit its comparative advantage due to its programmed structure, as well as its funding model. These hampered the harmonization of its efforts and its agility in achieving results on the ground.

- UNODC was effective in strengthening capacities of its counterparts in addressing cross border crime and trafficking activities, although the scope and scale of effectiveness and sustainability were constrained by country contexts, cohesiveness in programming, and funding. UNODC relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency were also influenced by limited integration of sub-programmes at the point of delivery and inadequate dovetailing between global, regional, and country programmes. Overall, UNODC did not have a vertically or horizontally integrated approach to its programming.
- UNODC made efforts to provide equal opportunities to both female and male participants in capacity building and in applying a gender lens to its programming. However, its programmes were not gender transformative. To some extent, UNODC adopted a human rights approach by incorporating the rights of the victims as well as perpetrators in designing its programmes.
- UNODC works closely with countries in the region to respond by increasing awareness, assisting with policy development and cross border cooperation, and improving the capacity for countries to conduct investigations, prosecutions, and adjudications of cybercrime, within a strong human-rights framework.

A CASE STUDY- FIJI

- UNODC delivers a darknet cryptocurrencies investigation training for law enforcement and prosecution agencies in Fiji.
- Suva (Fiji), 29 July 2022 – The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) organized a training course on cryptocurrencies and on darknet investigation of cases involving

pseudo-anonymous cryptocurrencies to traffic synthetic drugs and opioids in Fiji.

- According to the 2020 UNODC Darknet Threat Assessment Report, drugs are one of the most available illicit products on the darknet, making up 68 % of the total marketplace. Darknet marketplaces have become attractive and appealing platforms for drug trafficking. On those platforms, both sellers and buyers of illicit drugs can communicate anonymously, with low chances of detection and prosecution. Different types of cryptocurrencies can be used for pseudo-anonymous payment.
- “The United States Government knows that drug traffickers use virtual currencies because they believe that such transactions are anonymous, making detection by the authorities more difficult. Online marketplaces are also increasingly used for drug trafficking, due to the speed and convenience they offer. Many of these marketplaces are located on the dark web, where buyers and sellers can connect in secrecy”, noted Ms. Rebecca Owen, Acting Deputy-Chief of Mission, U.S Embassy in Fiji.
- It was reported that drug dealing, and consumption have significantly increased in Fiji, as it is located on an international drug trafficking route.
- As a response to this critical threat, specialists from UNODC designed and delivered a five-day training on cryptocurrencies and darknet investigations for Fijian drug investigators, cybercrime investigators and prosecutors. The training aimed to build and share specialized knowledge and skills in investigating clear web, dark web tracing cryptocurrencies transactions, detecting criminal activities, identifying, and requesting electronic evidence, and seizing assets and proceeds stored in cryptocurrency wallets. In this regard, UNODC encourages cross-border cooperation to better deploy both enforcement and prosecution methods.

RECOMMENDED MODERATED CAUCUS TOPICS/ GUIDING QUESTIONS.

- The Root Cause of this illicit darknet drug trafficking.
- Why a sudden rise of drug trafficking through the darknet post-pandemic?
- **Why is Online drug trafficking being preferred over the regular street drug business?**
 - Do you think Drug smuggling over the dark web is much safe and secure than the usual street trafficking?
 - Bringing upon Awareness & getting the attention of the government and henceforth Become a primary concern.

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