DPSH MUN 2024

UNCND

UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON NARCOTICS AND DRUGS

Letter from the Executive Board

Greetings Delegates,

We feel privileged and honoured to welcome you all to the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs at Delhi Public School Model United Nations - 2024. We are looking forward to working with each other and all of you to provide you with a very special experience of constructive debate. We believe in the fact that a conference like this allows you to understand the world and your place in it, better than ever before. We also hope that by the end of the conference, you will have a better understanding of the procedures, rules and objectives and that you will be willing to participate in more such MUNs.

The essence of debate is to understand information; we have designed this background guide as a stepping stone. The Background Guide is a major resource for you but should not provide a hindrance in your external research. The Background Guide will help you get familiar with the agenda and its background but for the committee to progress as a delegate you must carry forward external research. The Background Guide will provide you with very basic and guiding insights. Do not base all of your research from this guide. As mentioned, this is just the basics. For your external research and background research on your country, you can gain valuable advice by contacting important members of your Secretariat or one of us. This Background guide will also aid in understanding the steps to take to do your external research effectively.

We urge all members of the committee to take the time to read the background guide and use it as a starting point for their preparation. We urge every delegate to come to the conference with an open mind, ready to meet and work with new people, and actively participate in the debate in the committee, debate and argue solutions and problems and help form a thorough and effective resolution.

All of us look forward to having an amazing experience with each of you.
Live long and prosper.

Kabeer Bajaj - Tejas
Rama Anvita Bhogadi

Introduction of the committee

The meets annually and adopts a range of decisions and resolutions. Intersessional meetings are convened throughout the year. Towards the end of each year, the Commission meets at a reconvened session to consider budgetary and administrative matters as the governing body of the United Nations drug programme. It is the main policy-making body dealing with narcotic drugs. It relies on voluntary contributions mainly from member states for 90% of its budget.

In 2019, the Commission adopted the Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening actions at the national, regional and international levels to accelerate the implementation of joint commitments made to jointly address and counter the world drug problem. In the Declaration, Member States decided to review the progress made in implementing the policy commitments in 2029, with a mid-term review in 2024. The Commission actively works on the follow-up to the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, to accelerate the implementation of all international drug policy commitments.

The CND has five subsidiary bodies: the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific and Africa, and the Subcommission in the Near and Middle East.

Mandate

The CND reviews and analyzes the global drug situation, considering supply and demand reduction. It takes action through resolutions and decisions.

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) was established by Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution 9(I) in 1946, to assist the ECOSOC in supervising the application of the international drug control treaties. In 1991, the General Assembly (GA) expanded the mandate of the CND to function as the governing body of UNODC. The CND's agenda has two distinct segments: a normative segment for discharging treaty-based and normative functions; and an operational segment for exercising the role as the governing body of UNODC.

The CND is mandated to decide on the scope of control of substances under the three international drug control conventions (1961, 1971 and 1988 Conventions).

Agenda

“Assessment of the World Drug Problem - Supply Reduction of Emerging Drug Threats”

Case Studies

Drug Trafficking in relation to Socio-Economic Situations

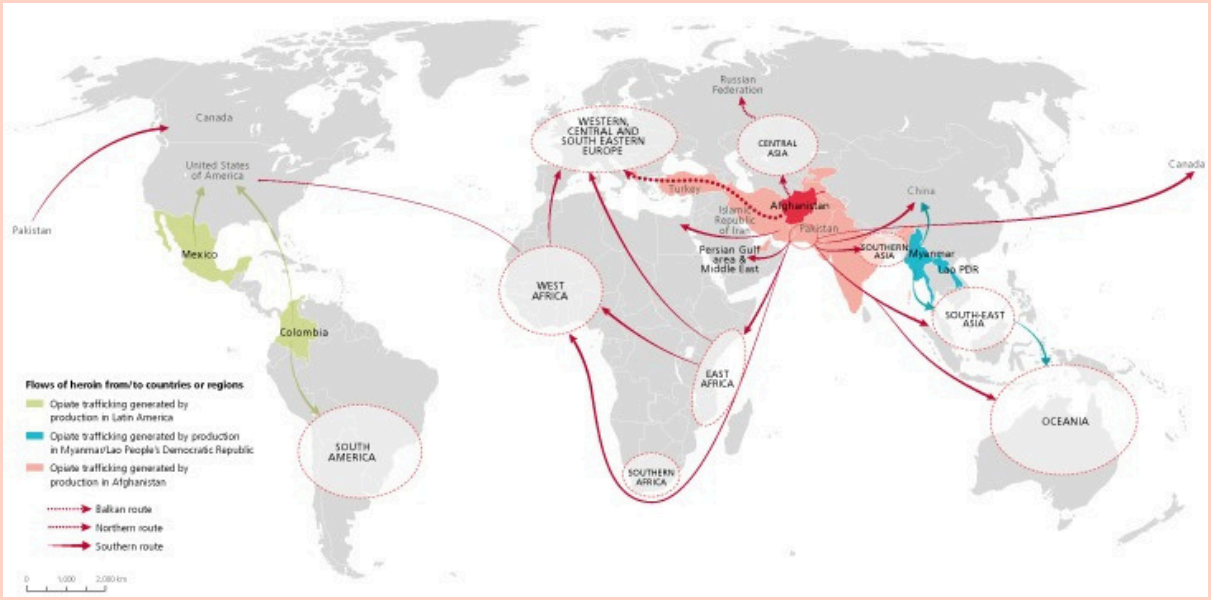
Mumbai, India: The city's rapid urbanization has led to a proliferation of slums, exemplified by areas such as Dharavi and Simon. This provides a fertile ground for drug cartels to infiltrate and exploit the vulnerable populations.

Drug trafficking exacerbates the already dire socioeconomic conditions of these slums. It fuels crime, violence, and gang warfare, as evidenced by the turf wars between rival drug gangs in areas like Nagpada. The illicit drug economy diverts resources away from legitimate businesses and public services, hindering economic growth. Moreover, drug addiction among slum dwellers leads to a loss of productivity, health issues, and broken families.

The socio-economic impacts extend beyond the individual and the community. The prevalence of drug-related crime, such as theft and robbery, increases public expenditure on law enforcement and healthcare, diverting resources from other essential public services. The city's reputation as a hub for drug trafficking can also deter foreign investment and tourism.

Global Drug Production and Trafficking Networks:

Drug trafficking - the global illicit trade involving the cultivation, manufacture, distribution and sale of substances which are subject to drug prohibition laws is estimated to be a $32 billion industry. Drug trafficking flows have global dimensions linking regions and continents, sometimes with dramatic consequences for the countries they affect. The global drug trafficking market is constantly evolving, undermining economic and social development and contributing to crime, instability, insecurity and the spread of HIV.



Rapid, unregulated expansion of the global pharmaceutical and chemical sectors has been a fundamental driver behind what has become, over the last 10 years, but particularly in the last two years, a global explosion in illicit synthetic drug production, trafficking and use. A mass proliferation of chemists and firms producing and vending synthetic substances and their many precursors has helped propel an unprecedented propensity for licit industrial production channels and supply chains being diverted into illicit economic activity. One consequence of all this is the realization that synthetic drugs have become the future of drug trafficking.

One of the most notable trends in illicit synthetic drug markets has been the rapid expansion of online platforms, particularly on the dark web. These anonymous marketplaces provide a convenient and relatively secure environment for the sale and distribution of illicit substances, allowing vendors and buyers to operate with a degree of anonymity. Cryptocurrencies, some boasting of their untraceable digital footprint, have facilitated transactions, enabling actors to evade basic anti-money laundering requirements and law enforcement efforts. Moreover, the globalization of supply chains has enabled the widespread dissemination of synthetic drugs across borders.

Production hubs in countries with lax regulations and enforcement mechanisms serve as primary sources of supply for a diverse array of substances to markets around the world. The decentralization of production and distribution networks complicates efforts to disrupt these illicit activities.

The proliferation of NPS is a major concern. These synthetic compounds are often chemically modified versions of existing drugs, developed to mimic their effects while evading legal restrictions because of their chemical composition. Through its Early Warning Advisory on NPS, and in partnership with voluntary reporting by member states, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has identified over 1 200 NPS from 141 different countries. The rapid pace of innovation in this domain challenges regulatory frameworks, as authorities struggle to keep pace with the emergence of these new synthetic substances, their potential health risks and their potential contribution to wider illicit drug market dynamics.

Designer Drugs:

Designer drugs are synthetic compounds developed to mimic the physiologic effects of other abused drugs. Many designer drugs are chemically similar to other abused drugs but are modified to avoid being classified as illegal. Moreover, they are often altered in ways that render them undetectable by conventional drug screening tests. Most designer drugs try to imitate opiates or cocaine, ecstasy, and other stimulants.

Unfortunately, it is also possible to overdose on designer drugs. The unpredictable pharmacology of these synthetic drugs puts users at risk of dangerous side effects, including overdose and death.2 One of the greatest challenges associated with detecting designer drugs is the fact that they are developed in secret. Therefore, the ingredients, chemical structure, and potency of the drugs are largely unknown. The US Drug Enforcement Administration recognizes 7 different types of designer drugs: cannabinoids, phenethylamines, phencyclidines (or arylcyclohexylamines), tryptamines, piperazines, pipradrols, and N-ring systems. Most laboratories using liquid chromatography–tandem mass spectrometry (liquid chromatography–tandem mass spectrometry) for definitive drug testing are targeting well-known drugs and are not configured to detect or quantify these synthetically modified drugs.

These designer drugs can be detected in urine using newer analytical methods such as time of flight (time of flight) or Orbitrap mass spectrometry. These technologies require more sophisticated equipment and are more labour intensive than definitive methods such as liquid chromatography–tandem mass spectrometry. Currently, the reimbursement for the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code applied to drug screening is only $60. This reimbursement was established for the historic immunoassay screens and the older ToxiLab thin-layer chromatography method. The newer technologies identify over 1000 possible drugs, including designer drugs, but it is a labor-intensive approach to drug testing.3 The current reimbursement is too low to be financially viable for a commercial or hospital laboratory seeking to use more advanced technologies to detect drugs.

“There is a need to create a CPT code that pertains to use of the newer technologies for toxicological analysis so laboratories that wish to include designer drugs in their drug testing panels can be reasonably reimbursed.” - Amadeo J. Pesce, PhD

For some users, these drugs are appealing simply because their legal status is a little unclear. Chemists have worked hard to develop drugs that don’t contain the hallmarks and attributes that drug enforcement communities look for. So that means some drug users can get high with these substances without facing arrest or some other form of consequence.

This is particularly appealing, according to sources quoted by The Post Game, to amateur athletes. These young people could be removed from sports teams if they fail a drug test, but since some drug tests may not pick up synthetic drugs, this use can go undetected.

A second class of users takes designer drugs as part of a multi-drug, pro-drug lifestyle. According to research highlighted in New York Magazine, these drug users scour the Internet for new drugs to try, and they document their experiences to inform others. They may feel that they’re connoisseurs of drugs with enhanced palettes and a boosted sense of what a drug should and should not do. They may take pride in their ability to seek out and try a new drug before anyone else has done so.

To this class of users, designer drugs are appealing simply because they confer status. Unlike other drugs that anyone might take and enjoy, these drugs are unusual and unique, available to only a select few.

Questions to Answer

- What metrics can be used to assess the effectiveness of supply reduction efforts for emerging drug threats?
- How can development aid be used to support supply reduction efforts?
- What legal and policy reforms are needed to effectively combat these threats?
- What challenges exist in collecting reliable data on emerging drug threats?
- How can the long-term consequences of supply reduction measures be anticipated and mitigated?
- What are the challenges and limitations of applying traditional supply reduction methods to new drugs?
- How can international partnerships be strengthened to identify and dismantle global supply chains to prevent the diversion of licit production activities to illicit economic activities?