



# UNODC

Question of preventing and  
eliminating illicit trafficking of  
drugs



ATAYURT  
MODEL UN CLUB

## **Table of Contents:**

1. Welcoming Letter of the Secretary Generals
2. Welcoming Letter of the Chair-board
3. Committee History & Introduction
4. Key Terms & Definitions
  - 4.1. Drug
  - 4.2. Narcotics
  - 4.3. Illicit Drugs
  - 4.4. Drug Trafficking
  - 4.5. Drug Manufacturing
  - 4.6. Narcoterrorism
  - 4.7. Drug Lords
  - 4.8. Drug Cartel
5. Historical Background
  - 5.1. Early Opium Trade in the United States
  - 5.2. Mafia Drug Smuggling
  - 5.3. The Vietnam War and Drug Trafficking
  - 5.4. Pablo Escobar and the Medellin Cartel
  - 5.5. Manuel Noriega and the Panamanian Drug Trade
5. 6. The Cali Cartel
6. Types of Drugs Traded in Global
  - 6.1. Heroin
  - 6.2. Marijuana
  - 6.3. Cocaine
  - 6.4. Khat
7. Effects
8. Latin America
9. Drug Trafficking: Today
  - 8.1. Online
  - 8.2. High Profile Online Drug Trafficking Cases
  - 8.3. Online Trade
10. Impacts of Drug Trafficking
  - 9.1. The Impact of Online Drug Trafficking on the Overall Drug Trade
  - 9.2. Corruption
  - 9.3. Terrorism
  - 9.4. Youth
  - 9.5. HIV
11. Cases
12. Laws Against Drugs

- 13.CRIMJUST
- 14.Resolution Should Cover
- 15.Bibliography



## **Welcoming Letter of the Secretary Generals,**

Most Honourable Participants,

As this year's Secretaries-General, we are more than honoured to welcome you to our conference. As the pandemic wore down we were able to establish the social connections which were desired for years with our last conference, ATAMUN21. We wholeheartedly believe that our last conference was the spark that was needed to revive the social events and other model united nations programs. We proudly take the honour of our last conference. With that honour bestowed, we are delighted to declare ATAMUN22, which again will be a momentous milestone. Now is the chance to reconnect with the individuals missed fondly and experience the awe once again.

Since its establishment, ATAMUN has been the voice of the youth, assembled and directed by the youth. It is such an awe-inspiring institution that withstood the crises provoked by various challenges and was competent to thrive in its darkest hours. It brought people with diverse cultures, identities, and most prominently ideas. This time it shall excel even further with its outstanding team driven by enthusiasm and ambition. Experiences from our past have enlightened us about organizing such an event and with that knowledge, passion, and ambition we ensure that it shall be a delightful and compelling experience.

To achieve such an experience, we have been working vigorously on our topics and committees which could be seen on our website. We believe that these agenda items which will be debated will be considerably propitious to your thinking and understanding of the globe. With our incredible academic team, we shall be entertaining 1 joint crisis committee, 1 junior committee, and 4 various committees to enrich the vision of the youth. These committees shall follow the rules of the Harvard procedure and the joint crisis committee will possess special rules of procedure.

Lastly, as Secretaries-General we would be more than pleased to see you in June  
on  
ATAMUN22.

Kind Regards,  
Taha Kağan Güneş  
Ekin Özdöngül

## **Welcoming Letter of the Chair-Board,**

Before going into our subject in-depth, as the chair board, we wish you a warm welcome, specifically to the UNODC committee. It will be a great pleasure for us to lead you throughout the conference. As Chairboard, we anticipate seeing all of you on our committee with great excitement, and we are eagerly looking forward to this June.

As you know, to be able to discuss the issue and write a resolution is extremely important for us, that your pre-committed preparation is efficient. So, we have prepared this Study Guide that we will work on our agenda, illicit drug trafficking. We believe that the topic we have chosen is an interesting one, and we hope you share the same opinion as we do. In the following pages, we have tried to summarize the subject as simply, concisely, and fundamentally as possible, and we believe this guide will be a good starting point for you to research.

If you have any inquiries or questions please feel free to contact us via:  
melisnilaysu26@gmail.com

Best regards,

Melis Nil Aysu, Pr Chair  
Deniz Karaca, Co-Chair

## **Committee History & Introduction**

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was established in 1997 after the merger between the United Nations Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention. Nowadays, it is regarded as a “global leader in the fight against illicit drugs and international crime”. It has offices spread out all over the globe. 90% of its budget relies on voluntary contributions, which are mainly given by Governments.

UNODC’s mandate is to “assist the Member States in their struggle against illicit drugs, crime, terrorism and transitional crime in asking its dimensions” as stated in the Millennium Declaration.

The Office could divide its work programs into three different types of aid:

- Field-based technical cooperation projects that can help the Member States counteract critical situations



- Research and analytical work to increase understanding of everything of concern to the Office
- Normative work to aid national Governments in implementing international treaties and declarations, but also to suggest the development of local legislation.

Programs led by UNODC can cover different areas, such as:

- organized crime and trafficking of any sort to help the Member States with the instability caused by these types of crimes, but also with cybercrime of environmental crime;
- corruption to work together with the public and private sectors or the civil society itself to help dismantle corrupted “empires” or to recover assets stolen by corrupted officials;
- crime prevention and criminal justice reform to promote the adoption of measures that guarantee a fair criminal justice system that always bears in mind the respect for human rights ;
- drug abuse prevention and health to reshape the perception of drug usage at all levels thanks to educational campaigns and scientific research;
- terrorism prevention to effectively assist entities that are involved with cases of terrorism.
- 

## **AGENDA ITEM: QUESTION of ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING**

### **Key Terms and Definitions:**

#### **Drug**

Some definitions that can be found regarding the word “drug” are:

“ a chemical substance that affects the processes of the mind or body; any chemical compound used in the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of disease or other abnormal condition;”

#### **Narcotics**

As narcotics definition, one could consider the following points:

“an agent that produces insensibility or stupor, applied especially to the opioids, to any natural or synthetic drug that has actions like those of morphine.”In other words “any drug derived from opium or opium-like compounds with potent analgesic effects associated with both significant alteration of mood and behaviour and with potential for dependence and tolerance.

## **Illicit Drugs**

Illicit drugs can be met as “street drugs”, as well. Therefore, street drugs are defined as

“a substance purchased from a drug dealer; maybe a legal substance, sold illicitly (without a prescription, and not for medical use), or it may be a substance that is illegal to possess.” More importantly, an illicit drug is considered “a substance taken for nonmedical purposes. Street drugs comprise various amphetamines, anaesthetics, barbiturates, opiates, and psychoactive drugs, and many are derived from natural sources (for example, the plant *Papaver somniferum*, *Cannabis sativa*, *Amanita pantherina*, *Lophophora williamsii*).

## **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.” More than that, “drug trafficking is considered the smuggling, distribution, and sale of illegal drugs”, which constitutes a crime in most the countries’ domestic legislation.

## **Drug Manufacturing**

Drug manufacturing could be considered “the crime of being involved in any step in the drug production process. The term (drug) manufacturing encompasses a broad range of activities related to the production of drugs. While producing illegal substances in an in-house lab is drug manufacturing, the crime also targets those who sell necessary precursor chemicals, specialized drug production equipment, or provide other operational support.”

## **Narcoterrorism**

Narcoterrorism can have two meanings. Firstly, it is “the financing of terrorist activities through illegal drug trafficking”. Secondly, it is connected with “violent criminal actions relating to the trade in illegal drugs”.

## **Drug Lords**

A drug lord is “a criminal who controls the distribution and sale of large quantities of illegal drugs”. They are “the head of an organization or network involved in illegal drug trafficking and, in other words, the leader of a cartel or gang that illegally traffics in drugs”.

## **Drug Cartel**

A drug cartel is considered “an illicit group formed to control the production and distribution of narcotic drugs”.

## **Historical Background**

Drug trafficking in the United States dates back to the 19th century. From opium to marijuana to cocaine, a variety of substances have been illegally imported, sold, and distributed throughout U.S. history, often with devastating consequences.

### **Early Opium Trade in the United States**

During the mid-1800s, Chinese immigrants arriving in California introduced Americans to opium smoking. The trading, selling, and distribution of opium spread throughout the region. Opium dens, which were designated places to buy and sell the drug, began to crop up in cities throughout California and soon spread to New York and other urban areas.

Before long, Americans were experimenting with other opiates like morphine and codeine. Morphine was especially popular for use as a pain reliever during the Civil War, which caused thousands of Union and Confederate soldiers to become addicted to the drug.

The Harrison Act of 1914 outlawed the use of opium and cocaine for non-medical purposes, but the illicit drugs continued to circulate. In 1925, a black market for opium opened up in New York's Chinatown. At this time, there were about 200,000 heroin addicts in the United States.

The distribution of opiates continued during the Jazz Era of the 1930s and 1940s. Marijuana also became a popular recreational drug in some communities during this era.

### **Mafia Drug Smuggling**

American Mafia families were caught smuggling and selling illicit drugs as early as the 1950s, in addition to gambling and other illegal activities. These organized groups paved the way for future drug cartels that focused on drugs for their revenue. The Mafia's participation in the drug trade was sometimes known as the "French Connection" because smugglers in New York City would seize shipments of Turkish opium that arrived from Paris and Marseilles, France.

### **The Vietnam War and Drug Trafficking**

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.

Drug use among Vietnam soldiers was widespread. In 1971, reports showed that 15 per cent of active soldiers were heroin addicts, and many more smoked marijuana or used other drugs.

The number of people dependent on heroin in the United States soared to 750,000 during these years.



## **Pablo Escobar and the Medellin Cartel**

In the late 1970s, the illegal cocaine trade became a major moneymaking opportunity throughout the world. The Medellin Cartel, an organized group of drug suppliers and smugglers based in the city of Medellin, Colombia, began operating during this time. In 1975, Colombian police seized 600 kilos of cocaine from a plane. Drug traffickers retaliated by killing 40 people during one weekend in what became known as the “Medellin Massacre.” The event triggered years of violence that led to assassinations, kidnappings, and raids.

The Medellin cartel surged to power in the 1980s. It was run by brothers Jorge Luis, Juan David, and Fabio Ochoa Vasquez; Pablo Escobar; Carlos Lehder; George Jung; and Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha.

During the peak of its reign, the Medellin cartel brought in up to \$60 million a day in drug profits.

Importantly, the U.S. and Colombian governments ratified a bilateral extradition treaty in 1981. This treaty became a significant concern for Columbian traffickers.

## **Manuel Noriega and the Panamanian Drug Trade**

In 1982, Panamanian General Manuel Noriega allowed Medellin drug lord Pablo Escobar to ship cocaine through Panama. Around this time, Vice President George H.W. Bush created the South Florida Drug Task Force to combat the cocaine trade through Miami, where violence involving traffickers was steadily increasing.

After learning of the Medellin cartel’s undertakings in Panama, a Miami federal grand jury indicted the group’s top leaders in 1984. A year later, U.S. officials found out that the Medellin cartel had a hit list that included American embassy members, their families, journalists, and businessmen.

## **The Cali Cartel**

When the Medellin cartel was brought down, the Cali Cartel stepped up. This organized operation emerged in the early 90s and was based in southern Colombia.

Its founding leaders included brothers Gilberto and Miguel Rodriguez Orejuela; Jose Santacruz Londoño (also known as “Chepe”); and Hélmer Herrera (also known as “Pacho”).

At the peak of the Cali Cartel, it was thought to have control over about 80 per cent of the cocaine supplied to the United States. By the mid-90s, the organization became a multi-billion-dollar smuggling business.

In 1995, top Cali cartel members were captured and arrested. A year later, all of the Cali kingpins were behind bars.

El Chapo, Los Zetas and Mexican Drug Cartels

By the mid-1980s, the U.S.-Mexican border became the main transport route for cocaine, marijuana, and other drugs into the United States. By the late 1990s, Mexican traffickers dominated drug distribution and introduced methamphetamine.

## **Types of Drugs Traded Internationally**

A variety of drugs are trafficked through East Africa. The most popular exports are heroin, marijuana, cocaine, and methamphetamine.

### **Heroin**

Since 2006, heroin usage in Africa has increased faster than on any other continent. As of 2017, Africa is currently experiencing its highest increase in drug use, further increasing its demand for heroin. In terms of consumption, East Africans receive about 9% of the heroin trade globally.

### **Marijuana**

Marijuana was first introduced in East Africa during the Middle Ages by Muslim traders from Egypt and the Arabian Peninsula. Across the continent, marijuana is in the process of becoming legalized for medicinal purposes. Malawi is a major producer of the drug; its government is currently allowing trial productions of high-quality strains of cannabis. The government of Malawi plans to eventually legalize marijuana as the first government in East Africa to do so. However, the illicit cultivation of marijuana is still common throughout East Africa because the growth of these crops allows farmers who are facing financial hardship to pursue new economic opportunities.

### **Cocaine**

Cocaine is another drug emerging on the continent. While most of the cocaine trade comes from North Africa, cocaine is a growing presence in East Africa, although the region is far from conventional cocaine smuggling routes. Starting in 2004, there have been numerous high-profile seizures in East Africa. Cocaine seizures have increased by four times from 2005 to 2009–10. Much demand for cocaine comes from the emerging middle class. Many East African governments are worried about the prevalence of cocaine.

### **Methamphetamine**

Methamphetamine has taken over the global drug market in recent decades. It can have devastating effects on communities of all economic situations because almost anyone can afford it. While authorities in East Africa have not discovered any operations to manufacture methamphetamine, they have reported minor confiscations, wherein the methamphetamine is usually in transit to Asia.

## **Khat**

Khat is a plant-based drug native to Ethiopia that is widely consumed in East African countries including Ethiopia, Yemen, Somalia, Djibouti, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. Consumers of khat consider its psychotropic effects to be stronger than that of marijuana. The Somali Civil War and the resulting dispersion of Somali people across not only Africa but also other countries brought public attention to the consumption and trade of khat taking place in East Africa. In Kenya, domestically produced khat is sold across the country as well as exported to neighbouring countries with high demands for khat. While khat consumption and trade are not illicit in countries like Kenya and Uganda, where producers of khat aim to sell for profit, the growing consumption, especially among the youth, has given rise to local movements and efforts to ban trade and consumption.

## **Effects**

Scholarly research regarding the effects of the drug trade on the countries and populations of East Africa is uncommon but has determined that the impacts of the East African drug trade are widespread. African police agencies have few resources and little capacity to record crime statistics; when they do, they often do not differentiate between conventional and transnational criminal activity. Much of the scholarship that discusses the effects of the East African drug trade is derived from a small amount of qualitative data, and case studies that lack quantitative data to substantiate their claims.

## **Latin America**

The illegal drug trade in Latin America concerns primarily the production and sale of cocaine and cannabis, including the export of these banned substances to the United States and Europe. Coca cultivation is concentrated in the Andes of South America, particularly in Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia; this is the world's only source region for coca.

Drug consumption in Latin America remains relatively low, but cocaine, in particular, has increased in recent years in countries along the major smuggling routes. As of 2008, the primary pathway for drugs into the United States is through Mexico and Central America, though crackdowns on drug trafficking by the Mexican government have forced many cartels to operate routes through Guatemala and Honduras instead. This is a shift from the 1980s and early 90s when the main smuggling route was via the Caribbean into Florida. The United States is the primary destination, but around 25 to 30% of global cocaine production travels from Latin America to Europe, typically via West Africa.

The major drug trafficking organizations (drug cartels) are Mexican and Colombian and are said to generate a total of \$18 to \$39bn in wholesale drug proceeds per year. Mexican cartels are currently considered the "greatest organized crime threat" to the United States. Since February 2010, the major Mexican cartels have again aligned in two factions, one integrated by the Juárez Cartel, Tijuana Cartel, Los Zetas, and the Beltrán-Leyva Cartel; the other faction integrated by the Gulf Cartel, Sinaloa Cartel, and La Familia Cartel.

Before the Mexican cartels' rise, the Colombian Cali cartel and Medellín cartel dominated in the late 1980s and early 90s. Following their demise, the Norte del Valle cartel has filled the Colombian vacuum, along with rightwing paramilitaries and leftwing insurgent groups (FARC, ELN).

As a result of the concentration of drug trafficking, Latin America and the Caribbean has the world's highest crime rates, with murder reaching 32.6 per 100,000 of the population in 2008. Violence has surged in Mexico since 2006 when Mexican President Felipe Calderón intensified the Mexican Drug War.

A fully operational submarine built for the primary purpose of transporting multi-ton quantities of cocaine located near a tributary close to the Ecuador/Colombia border that was seized by the Ecuador Anti-Narcotics Police Forces and Ecuador Military authorities with the assistance of the DEA.

#### The United States and Latin American drug control

Since 2008, the U.S. Congress has supported the Central American Regional Security Initiative (CARSI) with approximately \$800 million to "fund programs for narcotics interdiction, strengthening law enforcement and justice institutions and violence prevention through work with at-risk youth". The CARSI offers equipment (vehicles and communication equipment), technical support, and guidance to counter the drug trade.

The program also supports special units that cooperate with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in Guatemala and Honduras to investigate drug cartels, share intelligence, and promote regional collaboration.

A fully operational submarine built for the primary purpose of transporting multi-ton quantities of cocaine located near a tributary close to the Ecuador/Colombia border that was seized by the Ecuador Anti-Narcotics Police Forces and Ecuador Military authorities with the assistance of the DEA.

#### **The United States and Latin American drug control**

Since 2008, the U.S. Congress has supported the Central American Regional Security Initiative (CARSI) with approximately \$800 million to "fund programs for narcotics interdiction, strengthening law enforcement and justice institutions and

violence prevention through work with at-risk youth".The CARSI offers equipment (vehicles and communication equipment), technical support, and guidance to counter the drug trade.

The program also supports special units that cooperate with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in Guatemala and Honduras to investigate drug cartels, share intelligence, and promote regional collaboration.

## **Peru**

The administration has left financing for eradication projects in the Andes largely unchanged, despite the debate over whether such efforts can sharply restrict the supply of cocaine or significantly increase the price in the United States in the long run. American anti-narcotics aid for Peru stands at \$71.7 million this year, slightly higher than last year's \$70.7 million. American anti-narcotics officials operate from a newly expanded Peruvian police base in Tingo María, overseeing Peruvian teams that fan out to nearby valleys to cut down coca bushes by hand.

## **Mexico**

Mexico is estimated to be the world's third-largest producer of opium with poppy cultivation. It also is a major supplier of heroin and the largest foreign supplier of marijuana, cocaine, and methamphetamine to the U.S. market. These drugs are supplied by Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs). The U.S. government estimates that Mexican DTOs gain tens of billions of dollars each year from drug sales in the U.S. alone.

DTOs are continually battling for control of territory in Mexico used for the cultivation, importation, and transportation of illicit drugs.[9] The U.S. government considers groups affiliated with DTOs a significant threat to the safety within the U.S.The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) enforces 'the controlled substances laws and regulations of the US and pursues organizations and members involved in the growing, manufacture, or distribution of controlled substances appearing in or destined for illicit traffic in the U.S.'.The Mexican DTOs that pose the biggest threat to the US, according to the DEA, are the Sinaloa Cartel, Jalisco New Generation Cartel, Juarez Cartel, Gulf Cartel, and Los Zetas Cartel, and the Beltran-Leyva Organization.

In 2007, the U.S. launched the Merida Initiative, a bilateral partnership that supports Mexico's law enforcement, helps to counteract the illegal trade in narcotics, and strengthens border security. The four main focuses of this initiative are 'disrupting organized criminal groups; institutionalizing the rule of law; creating a 21st-century border, and building strong and resilient communities. More recently, the initiative focused on improving security around Mexico's southern border and countering the production and trafficking of heroin and fentanyl. Until March 2017, more than \$1.6bn has been invested in the Merida initiative of which almost \$900,000 was spent on protective equipment necessary for the secured demolishing of narcotic labs. In



Mexico, the DEA combats operations of DTOs by conducting bilateral investigations with foreign counterparts, providing investigative assistance and leads to DEA domestic offices and other agencies, providing training and technical equipment to 'host nation participants to initiate and carry out complex criminal investigations, providing assistance in developing drug control laws and regulations, and providing training and material support to foreign law enforcement counterparts.

### **A Brazilian cocaine production site in the Amazon rainforest:**

Several Latin American and Caribbean countries have at times seen governments actively involved in the illegal drug trade in the 1970s and 1980s.[citation needed] 1978 and 1980 saw "cocaine coups" in Honduras and Bolivia which brought such governments to power (see illegal drug trade in Honduras and illegal drug trade in Bolivia). In Panama, Manuel Noriega, a long-term drug trafficker, was head of the military from 1983 to 1989, with CIA support.

The Colombian parapolitics scandal revealed links between parts of the Colombian establishment and the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC), a paramilitary group responsible for killing tens of thousands of Colombian civilians, which controls over 75% of the Colombian cocaine trade. The illegal drug trade in Peru was 2000 shaped by Vladimiro Montesinos's involvement; he had been head of the country's intelligence service since 1990.

In 2010 it was alleged that the Mexican Sinaloa cartel had used bribery to co-opt the federal government and focus the government's anti-drug efforts on its competitors. According to Peter Dale Scott, "The Guadalajara Cartel, Mexico's most powerful drug-trafficking network in the early 1980s, prospered largely because it enjoyed the protection of the DFS, under its chief Miguel Nazar Haro, a CIA asset."

## **Drug trafficking: Today**

### **Online**

The phrase "drug trafficking" is defined as an illegal trade involving the cultivation, manufacture, distribution, and sale of substances that are subject to drug prohibition laws. Therefore, as you might expect, the concept of online drug trafficking is simply the act of engaging in drug trafficking on the internet.

Those who seek to distribute illegal drugs via the internet must deal with several technological challenges to ensure that the deals do not draw the attention of law enforcement. Oftentimes, online drug trafficking operations employ encrypted messaging applications and cryptocurrencies to hide their illegal activities. Yet, generally speaking, online drug trafficking is the same – and is prosecuted in the same

way – as drug trafficking that occurs offline. The only difference is that the location of the deal is not on the street or by phone, but rather it is over the internet.

### **High Profile Online Drug Trafficking Cases**

One of the first high-profile online drug trafficking cases was known as “Silk Road.” Silk Road was the name of an online platform, launched in 2011, primarily for the sale of illegal drugs. The website was hidden from a casual internet surfer’s view and was thus considered part of the Dark Web.

According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Silk Road was “the most sophisticated and extensive criminal marketplace on the internet at the time,” and it was used by thousands of drug dealers and other unlawful vendors to distribute hundreds of kilos of illegal drugs to well over 100,000 buyers. The site also facilitated the laundering of hundreds of millions of dollars in connection with those unlawful transactions.

In October 2013, the FBI shut down the website and arrested the site’s founder, 30-year-old California resident Ross Ulbricht. Following a trial, Ulbricht was convicted on all counts, including distributing narcotics on the internet and engaging in a continuing criminal enterprise. Ulbricht was sentenced to life in prison in 2015.

The prosecution of Ulbricht, however, did not stop copycat websites from sprouting up after Silk Road was shut down. In fact, after Ulbricht’s arrest, Silk Road 2.0 came online, run by former administrators of Silk Road, but was quickly shut down. In early 2015, Silk Road Reloaded launched with cryptocurrency support and was subsequently shut down; and in May 2019 a similar website out of Germany called Wall Street Market was shut down.

Most recently, the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of Ohio announced this past January the indictment of five members of what is alleged to be the “most prolific online drug trafficking organization in the United States.” The indictment alleges that, since 2013, the five individuals used several Dark Web marketplace accounts and encrypted messaging apps to sell illegal drugs online. The individuals allegedly specialized in the manufacturing and distribution of more than one million fentanyl-laced counterfeit pills and laundered about \$2.8 million throughout their conspiracy.

Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost commented that the conspirators “aren’t street corner drug pushers – this conspiracy allegedly infiltrated our communities and sold fentanyl in the dank depths of the internet and sent it to mailboxes and doorsteps.”

### **Online trade**

Moreover, the rise of Darknet technologies has enabled any individual to access crypto markets that exploit standard postal and commercial shipping services. Finally, the challenge is made even greater by the proliferation of sophisticated concealment measures, corruption, limited resources, complex and diverse port processes, and systems, and a lack of trust and coordination between state agencies and actors in the

private sector. Thus, this situation poses grave dangers to international security and to the international trade supply chain which is vital for sustainable development. "If the enemies of progress and human rights seek to exploit the openness and opportunities of globalization for their purposes, then we must exploit those very same factors to defend human rights, and defeat the forces of crime, corruption, and trafficking in human beings."

## **IMPACTS of DRUG TRAFFICKING**

### **The Impact of Online Drug Trafficking on the Overall Drug Trade**

A fairly recent study on online drug trafficking revealed some compelling conclusions.

Online trafficking is on the rise. Judged against the Silk Road days of 2013, the number of transactions of illegal drugs online has tripled, and revenues have doubled.

Still a niche market. While there has been an overall increase in the level of online drug trafficking since the Silk Road case, estimates of total drug revenue in January 2016 were between \$12 million and \$21.1 million. Given that the total offline market for drugs is estimated to be in the \$2.3 billion range for Europe alone, online drug trafficking appears to be only a small segment of the entire illegal drug market.

Online trafficking might fuel offline trafficking. Online drug purchases tend to be of larger quantities, indicating that such sales are wholesale transactions. Thus, drugs purchased online likely are stocked for offline drug markets.

U.S. vendors have the highest market share. The evidence suggests that online vendors operating out of the U.S. have the highest market share of the illegal online drug trade, followed by the U.K., Australia, Germany, and the Netherlands.

In sum, online drug trafficking is the natural extension of using the internet for all aspects of our lives. Law enforcement is also aware of the increase in drug distribution over the internet, and it is creating special units to go after online drug trafficking specifically.

### **Corruption**

The illegal drug trade is an extremely lucrative venture that encourages corruption in government. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the global heroin market produced US\$61 billion in revenue in 2009. Corruption thrives in

impoverished environments with weak states and incapable law enforcement. The International Journal of Drug Policy finds "extensive evidence of 'drug-corruption' among government officials and employees from numerous countries" throughout Africa, including many countries in East Africa.

Corruption relating to drugs impacts East Africa's development. It allows for the increased flow of drugs throughout East Africa and handicaps counter-narcotic efforts, ultimately strengthening the organizational structures of drug trafficking. Research suggests that corruption caused by the drug trade damages the state's process of development. Scholars argue in the International Journal of Drug Policy that "the drug trade impedes economic growth because this illegal income is rarely transformed into productive capital investments which are necessary for long-term and sustained economic expansion." Corruption undermines the state's capacity to develop robust institutions that are essential for establishing the rule of law and strong economies. Moreover, the Journal of International Affairs reports that Kenya "is well on its way to being captured ... by organized crime groups".

## **Terrorism**

Profits from the illegal drug trade in East Africa are being used to finance terrorist organizations and other insurgent movements; however, the degree to which said groups are funded by the drug trade is unknown. The United States Drug Enforcement Administration claims that a large portion of the organizations that are labelled as foreign terrorist organizations have direct ties to the illicit drug trade. The international nature of the drug trade means that those arrested in East Africa can be prosecuted by the US and other Western countries if a link is found with terrorist groups, even if the arrested people are not transporting the drugs to Western countries.

Additionally, many groups incriminated in the drug smuggling industry have been tied to terrorist groups in East Africa, most notably Al-Shabaab. Other groups related to Al-Shabaab are prominent, such as the Muslim Youth Center of Kenya, which recruits young foreigners to fight for Al-Shabaab. Such terrorist groups have assisted in the smuggling of drugs as well as personnel both into East Africa and between African countries. The drugs fund these terrorist groups and allow them to continue operations. In addition to drugs, these groups smuggle black market sugar and resources such as charcoal.

## **Youth**

Africa is the most youthful continent in the world. While most of the world is experiencing an ageing population, sixty per cent of Africans are under the age of 25. Demand for drugs from youth has caused a proliferation of access to illegal drugs in East Africa. The International Journal of Drug Policy says that "according to World Bank data, illicit drug users in developing countries typically fall within the age group of 15–44, although most are in their mid-twenties." Case studies have produced evidence



to reaffirm the concern that links the proliferation of illegal drugs and the large youthful population. Also, the same journal describes that researchers working in the coastal and interior regions of Tanzania have found that "excluding cannabis, heroin was the most commonly used drug, and was concentrated among young men of working age."The use of drugs in youthful populations may lead to a decrease in productivity, and public health crises.

## **HIV**

Injecting drugs with needles is credited with the rise of HIV in East African countries. In particular, in the countries of Mozambique, Tanzania, Madagascar, and Kenya, those who partake in drugs are more likely to have HIV. Drug users account for 2% of new HIV infections as of 2014.[needs update]Consumers of drugs are more likely to contract HIV before the age of 25 compared to the general population, and statistics point toward a higher rate of HIV infections compared to the general population.

The HIV epidemic has struck some countries harder than others; Kenya has been hit the hardest. Drug use among sex workers is a major cause of the issue. Sex workers inject drugs before or after intercourse. Due to a lack of funds, they are forced to use contaminated needles. Combined with a lack of knowledge about the disease itself, contamination through injection has led to a spike in HIV rates among sex workers, which in turn has led to a proliferation of the disease across the country. Heroin is a particularly notable cause of HIV transmission through injection. In the 21st century, injection became the most popular method of inserting heroin into the body. The International Journal of Drug Policy states that "drug use has been a major factor in the spread of HIV in developing countries, often as a result of syringe sharing and re-use."Few people are aware of the risks involved with the use and reuse of syringes. In addition, in the case of Kenya, 20% of the general population is estimated to be HIV-positive. The combination of the prevalence of HIV, the injection of drugs, and the lack of healthcare and awareness that exists around these dangerous practices suggest a hazardous environment that could contribute to a public health crisis. Researchers in Tanzania and Kenya found that the HIV rate among a sample of heroin users was more than 50%, which is well over the 13% average.

Currently, many countries in Africa, such as Tanzania and Mauritius, are developing methadone programs to stem the tide of drug injections, which are a major cause of HIV. These programs forgo abstinence by offering medicine to alleviate the symptoms of withdrawal. Thousands are now enrolling in these programs to overcome addiction, and avoid the threat of HIV infection due to injection by contaminated needles.



## **Cases**

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.

The three conventions attribute important functions to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the International Narcotics Control Board:

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 concerning 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 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 capacity. The Board monitors the implementation of the conventions and, where appropriate, makes recommendations to States. It also administers the statistical control of drugs based on 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 the Economic and Social Council.

UNODC has an important role in assisting these bodies in performing their treaty-based functions, and in assisting States Parties in the implementation of their obligations under the international drug control treaties.

## **LAWS AGAINST DRUGS**

The UN drug conventions have two core goals: preventing the production, supply, and use of specific drugs for non-medical or scientific purposes, and ensuring a limited supply of those 'controlled' drugs for legal use (e.g. pain relief). International systems of control over opiates, cocaine, and cannabis existed before the conventions were created (starting with the 'Hague Convention' of 1912), but those earlier agreements were superseded by the 1961 UN Single Convention.

### **The 1962 single Convention on narcotic drugs:**

This defined several substances (including opiates, coca-based products, and cannabis) as 'narcotic drugs'. It established a system by which such drugs were ranked according to harm, and placed in one of four 'schedules' reflecting their risks and potential medical benefits. It required all countries to outlaw the production, supply, or transportation of those drugs for non-medical or scientific purposes. It also established systems for ensuring the regulated supply of those drugs for medical and scientific purposes.

The 1961 Convention established the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) as the body responsible for guiding global policy and deciding on future amendments to the treaties. It also established the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), to monitor the implementation of the treaty. The World Health Organization (WHO) was tasked with providing expert input to support decisions on scheduling new drugs, or reviewing and making recommendations for amending the drug schedule.

### **The 1971 Convention on psychopathic substances:**

In the decade following the 1961 Convention, other drugs, including new stimulant drugs and psychedelics became increasingly prevalent. To consolidate control over these newer - and largely more 'synthetic' drugs, a second convention was approved. Like its predecessor, the 1971 Convention established a drug scheduling framework and set out where specific drugs were to be placed within it. Confusingly, the 1971 Convention controls 'psychotropic' drugs, and the 1961 Convention controls 'narcotic' drugs, yet neither term has a coherent scientific meaning. For example, cocaine is regulated under the 1961 Convention while amphetamines are controlled under the 1971 Convention. Cannabis is controlled under the 1961 convention, while THC (the

key psychoactive element of cannabis) is controlled under the 1971 convention. Even the UN Drug Control Programme (forerunner of the UNODC - see below), acknowledged that 'the international classification into narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances according to whether the substance is governed by the 1961 or by the 1971 Convention has no conceptual basis.

The confused definitions, as well as the creation of two parallel schedules, demonstrate the incoherence at the heart of the Conventions.

### **The 1998 Convention against illicit drug trafficking:**

At the heart of the UN, the drug control system sits the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND). It is responsible for deciding on any changes to the schedules or amendments to the treaties, as well as providing policy guidance in the form of resolutions. It is made up of a rotating group of 53 member states, selected by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The Commission meets annually at the UN in Vienna - although 'intercessional' meetings also take place in between the main annual conferences. The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the conventions, as well as for overseeing and monitoring the supply of controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes. It is made up of 13 members selected by ECOSOC, including three from the World Health Organisation (WHO). If the INCB feels a country is failing to comply with the conventions it can 'name and shame' them in its annual report, and by reporting to the CND and ECOSOC. Theoretically, it also has the power to recommend sanctions, including that the CND limit the medical trade in controlled drugs; however, while this power has occasionally been threatened, it has never been invoked.

Through its statements, annual reports, and private communications, the INCB has a significant influence on the general approach to global drug policy that can impact millions of people. For example, how harm reduction may be viewed, the role of human rights in drug policy implementation, or how strongly moves towards decriminalization or legalization may be challenged.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was formed in 1997 through the merger of the UN International Drug Control Program and the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division. It is responsible for advising governments on effective enforcement of global drug laws, as well as for monitoring the global drug situation through its annual World Drugs Report. The views of the UNODC can set the tone for how global drug control is managed, and - as its name suggests - it does so largely through a focus on crime reduction, security, and law enforcement, rather than the promotion of public health and human rights.

The World Health Organization is responsible for providing the core scientific evidence to the CND when it considers changes to schedules or amendments to the treaties. If rescheduling is proposed, the WHO will produce a review and recommendation through its Expert Committee on Drug Dependence. This

recommendation is meant to guide the decision made by the CND. In practice, however, this does not always happen. Over the years, the influence of enforcement-oriented bodies such as the INCB has grown, while the WHO has been increasingly sidelined.

## **The UN System**

At the heart of the UN, the drug control system sits the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND). It is responsible for deciding on any changes to the schedules or amendments to the treaties, as well as providing policy guidance in the form of resolutions. It is made up of a rotating group of 53 member states, selected by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The Commission meets annually at the UN in Vienna - although 'intercessional' meetings also take place in between the main annual conferences. The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the conventions, as well as for overseeing and monitoring the supply of controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes. It is made up of 13 members selected by ECOSOC, including three from the World Health Organisation (WHO). If the INCB feels a country is failing to comply with the conventions it can 'name and shame' them in its annual report, and by reporting to the CND and ECOSOC. Theoretically, it also has the power to recommend sanctions, including that the CND limit the medical trade in controlled drugs; however, while this power has occasionally been threatened, it has never been invoked.

Through its statements, annual reports, and private communications, the INCB has a significant influence on the general approach to global drug policy that can impact millions of people. For example, how harm reduction may be viewed, the role of human rights in drug policy implementation, or how strongly moves towards decriminalization or legalization may be challenged.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was formed in 1997 through the merger of the UN International Drug Control Program and the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division. It is responsible for advising governments on effective enforcement of global drug laws, as well as for monitoring the global drug situation through its annual World Drugs Report. The views of the UNODC can set the tone for how global drug control is managed, and - as its name suggests - it does so largely through a focus on crime reduction, security, and law enforcement, rather than the promotion of public health and human rights.

The World Health Organization is responsible for providing the core scientific evidence to the CND when it considers changes to schedules or amendments to the treaties. If rescheduling is proposed, the WHO will produce a review and



recommendation through its Expert Committee on Drug Dependence. This recommendation is meant to guide the decision made by the CND. In practice, however, this does not always happen. Over the years, the influence of enforcement-oriented bodies such as the INCB has grown, while the WHO has been increasingly sidelined.

## **CRIMJUST**

The CRIMJUST Global program "Strengthening Criminal Investigation and Criminal Justice Cooperation along Drug Trafficking Routes" is implemented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Since its launch in 2016, CRIMJUST has strived to enhance law enforcement and judicial capacities and institutional integrity as well as to strengthen international cooperation to support the implementation of (inter)regional counter-narcotic strategies that go beyond interdiction activities.

CRIMJUST seeks to combat the flow of illicit drugs by enhancing law enforcement and judicial counter-narcotic strategies beyond interdiction activities and by fostering transnational responses targeting each stage of the drug supply chain. It focuses on drug trafficking connecting Latin America, the Caribbean, and West Africa, promoting the implementation of multi-faceted strategies to disrupt the drug trade.

### **Resolution Should Cover**

1. With the power of the internet drug trafficking becomes a bigger challenge to solve as it can reach bigger audiences, what can be the UN's or the international community's response and how it can be achieved?
2. Drugs may be a way for terrorists and other criminal organisations to finance or assist their actions, in order to minimize such actions what may be the ways implemented to solve such problems?
3. It is reported that among the young populace, drug trafficking is a serious problem, this may be linked to psychological, financial and many other factors.

How may the international respond or solve such situations?

4. As illicit drugs are trafficked in illegal ways, such actions have a negative impact on the international markets and domestic economies, what are the ways that can be utilised to eliminate or reduce their effect?
5. During actions to take down the drug cartels or organisations, it may be important to take their leader who is the Drug Lord and reducing their power is



quite important. For that cause, how may the international community act achieve its aims?

## **Bibliography**

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/drug-production-and-trafficking.html>  
<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/drug-trafficking/crimjust/index.html>  
<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/ccp/index.html>  
<https://www.gatewayfoundation.org/about-gateway-foundation/faqs/effects-of-drug-abuse/#:~:text=Seizures%2C%20stroke%2C%20mental%20confusion%20and.lead%20to%20other%20health%20problems>  
<https://www.justice.gov/archive/ndic/pubs11/18862/impact.htm>

