



THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIMES

SHSMUN'20





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Introduction to the committee

The UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) is a global leader in the fight against illicit drugs and international crime. Established on July 14, 1997 through a merger between the United Nations Drug Control Program and the Centre for International Crime Prevention. UNODC operates in all regions of the world through an extensive network of field offices. The UNODC was established to assist the UN 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. UNODC serves the member states that ask for support with capacity-building of the key actors in crime prevention and with making the prevention systems more effective and attentive to vulnerable groups. The actions that were taken by the UNODC include the improvement of the investigative capacity of the Federal Police, the efforts to control chemical precursors used in the manufacture of illicit drugs, the acquisition of high-tech equipment, and the elaboration of studies to support the work of the Federal Police. The UNODC has the jurisdiction to stop smuggling and trafficking illegal drug trades from multiple angles rather than one perspective. It might be wise for the UNODC to implement obligatory acts and establish laws. The UNODC is the committee that will limit illegal trade on a global scale.



Topic A The global issue of illegal drug trade

1. Introduction to the topic

The global issue of illegal drug trade involves the production, distribution, and cultivation of drugs which, unfortunately, has been an ongoing and growing process. Drug trafficking is often associated with other forms of crime, such as money laundering or corruption. Trafficking routes can also be used by criminal networks to transport other illicit products. Consumption of illegal drugs is widespread globally and the illegal drug trade is thought to be directly linked to violent crimes, such as homicide, especially in developing countries. About 85% of cocaine is processed and distributed from South America, making this the world's largest drug trafficking network.

Recently, drug distributors have been coming up with new creative ways of disguising illegal drugs, making them more accessible to people, henceforth, the increase in profit results in the manufacturing of more drugs. Illegal drug trade opened room for a lot of problems such as starting illegal drug markets online, initiating drug transit routes, creating new affordable synthetic drugs. According to the UN, the global drug trade generated an estimated 321 billion US dollars in profits, and in 2003. With a world GDP of 36 trillion US dollars in the same year the illegal drug trade may be estimated as nearly 1% of total global trade. Currently, it is the most wide spread and profit-making crime operation in the United States, accounting for 40% of the country's organized crime activities and increasing the annual income to about \$110 billion. Yet the numbers simply don't add up since a lot of illegal drug trade accounts for hidden fees that are hard to trace. The large impact of illegal drug trades on the global market should not be seen as "profits" or gains. At least 15.3 million people have drug use disorders and this is in the EU alone. Drug trafficking is a profit-making crime and countries shouldn't be interested in the profits it accounts for and neglect the health risks citizens are exposed to.



2. The Golden Triangle

While Afghanistan is now the biggest cultivator of opium poppies in the world, the Golden Triangle used to be the largest until eradication efforts in the late 1990s brought cultivation plummeting. However, production has been on the rise once more due to a better transport infrastructure as well as an increasing number of heroin users in the surrounding countries.

Thailand, Myanmar, Laos and China launched a program to the illegal trafficking, with each nation realizing that the problem could not be handled by each country alone. Thailand now hosts the Safe Mekong Co-ordination Centre (SMCC) in Chiang Mai town, which helps coordinate investigations between the four nations.

3. Illegal Drug Markets Online

With the rise of cryptocurrency and online banking, the drug market has taken advantage of the internet by selling drugs online to a larger audience. The internet has become, literally, an online market place for drug trafficking. The rapid spread of online drug trade resulted in the formation of “the dark web”- a home for dealers showcasing high end drugs in exchange for cryptocurrency (e.g. Bitcoin). The dark web is accessible not through traditional search engines but by way of special browsers and software that conceal IP addresses and make users harder to trace. For police, they pose a challenging front in the fight against several crises one of which is the opioid crisis. Dealers are in favor of online drug trade since law enforcement agencies around the world employ new tactics to stamp out anonymous markets, only to see new ones pop up, making it very challenging to track down dealers.

4. Drug Trafficking Across Eastern Africa

West African syndicates, with their experience in cannabis and heroin smuggling, are actively networking in Latin America, and are responsible for the emergence of cocaine trafficking and abuse in eastern Africa. Although the volume of cocaine seized in Africa is still relatively small, the situation is changing as trafficking groups extend their highly-organized networks. In most countries in the Eastern region it is possible to purchase pharmaceutical products on demand without presenting a valid prescription. Many of these products, sometimes imported without authorization, are sold by hawkers in street-markets. Unfortunately, the situation has been



worsening in the last 10 to 15 years. In the majority of the countries in the Eastern Africa region, control and monitoring of the national drug supply and distribution channels, including precursors, are inefficient. This results not only in the ineffective control of pharmaceutical products, but also in the circulation of counterfeit medicines. Together these pose serious health and socio-economic problems, they undermine law enforcement activities and confidence in public health services.

5. Synthetic Drug Markets

As for the global synthetic drugs market, the 2017 Report shows that it is more complex to study for a number of reasons. For instance, the information on synthetic drug manufacturing is more limited than that available on plant-based drugs (cocaine, opiates and cannabis) and this is largely due to the fact that synthetic drugs can be manufactured anywhere, as the process does not involve the extraction of active constituents from plants that have to be cultivated in certain conditions for them to grow. The challenges in tracking synthetic drug production prevents an accurate estimation of the volume of the corresponding market worldwide. Nevertheless, data on synthetic drug seizures and drug use suggest that the supply of synthetic drugs is expanding.

6. History of the Topic

At the beginning of the 20th century, concern about opium and heroin trade in the Far East and the extensive use of opiates and cocaine in patent medicines, resulted in international agreements in the 1920s to limit the sale of these substances to medical purposes. UNODC's approach to the drugs issue is multifaceted and encompasses the most diverse aspects of the subject, with orchestrated and specific actions in the areas of health, education and public safety, among others. On one side, in order to contribute to demand reduction, UNODC implements projects for prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of addicted subjects, as well as for preventing transmission of the HIV virus associated with drug use. On the other side, seeking to reduce supply, it promotes programs to combat money laundering associated with the illegal drugs market, to monitor illicit crops and to strengthen governments' capacities to intercept and restrain drug trafficking. In order to advance this work, UNODC undertakes efforts in promoting studies and analyses on drug production, traffic and consumption, in order



to offer grounds for the implementation by the countries of interventions that are adequate to each national context. UNODC also offers legal assistance to countries for the implementation of the UN's conventions and treaties for drug control, with the necessary adaptations to national legislations. On the prevention area, UNODC promotes the construction of strategies directed towards information and knowledge to allow people, particularly the young, to develop their capabilities and to have the opportunity to make decisions that favor their quality of life. UNODC publishes annually the “World Drug Report”, which gathers the main data and trends analyses on production, traffic and consumption of illegal drugs worldwide. The data are compiled by UNODC from questionnaires sent to the Member States and compose a reference document to guide global policies on drugs.

7. International Actions

- The Paris pact Initiative represents the international community determination to combat trafficking of opiates originating in Afghanistan in a balanced and comprehensive manner.
- The Triangular Initiative, aims to unite Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan to increase combined efforts, as joint operations limit cross-border flows of narcotics. As part of the initiative, a Joint Planning Cell has been established in Tehran to facilitate intelligence sharing. The three countries have also identified locations on their shared borders to place Border Liaison Offices, a strategy which promises to allow for a rapid and coordinated inter-agency response to trafficking between the three states. Since their establishment in 2009, there have been 11 joint operations between the three countries, one of which, in March 2011, resulted in over three tons of drugs being seized.
- In 1998, the UN established the United Nations Convention against Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. The purpose of this convention was to discuss the topic of drug trafficking and create countermeasures to limit and stop drug trafficking throughout the world. The General Assembly held its 20th Special Session on international control over drugs in Vienna from 8 to 10 June and conjointly recognized that illicit drug relations are connected to poverty, isolation, and several other factors.



8. Questions to consider

1. Is your country involved in any drug trade?
2. Has your nation previously taken actions towards the topic? Have they been successful?
Why not?
3. Did your country participate in any conventions concerning this issue?
4. What economical aspects in your nation are there that may prevent you from effectively carrying out a specific solution?
5. What type of trafficked drug is your region responsible for?
6. How can we stop illegal drugs from moving around the world?
7. Is the law that your country abides by the most beneficial?
8. Despite geographical locations, how can your country stop drugs from being illegally manufactured and cultivated?



Topic B: The question of Piracy

1. Introduction to the Topic

The practice of attacking and robbing ships at sea is called marine piracy. Pirates take advantage of hard workers and steal their prized possessions and livelihoods. Pirates could be common thieves, instruments of war, deserters seeking riches, desperate and unskilled workers, and even entire civilizations. The most notable of historical civilization pirates were the Vikings, ruthless, vicious warriors tamed in a barren land who resorted to steal, pillage, and rob from their wealthier neighbors to survive. They found stability and much success in their crimes. Deserters and instruments of war include pirates from the golden age of piracy, mercenaries or “privateers” tasked to pillage and steal from enemy civilizations and nations to boost their superiors’ influence and power. Some of these pirates may have seen riches that the Vikings experienced and would have deserted their duties as employed pirates and would have turned on their masters. Common thief pirates include Chinese peasants who found prosperity stealing from the rich and capable. All pirates throughout history searched for one concept, wealth. Money and riches are a man's strongest motivator and motivated people well over the centuries and even today. Pirates of today include internet pirates, counterfeit pirates, data pirates, hard-disk pirates, and pirates of old. Today’s pirates have turned from unorganized and chaotic piracy and now have become their own businessmen. Pirates have a stock market, investors, portfolios, strategies, technology, arms, and families. Current pirates cannot be dealt using the same strategies as previous pirates. The three strategies of collaborate, suppress, or tolerate no longer function. To collaborate with pirates like the British Empire did would be a felony today. Suppressing pirates today requires a strong power with time and dedication to suppress them and to evolve into stronger pirates. To tolerate pirates like the United States of America did, is to allow criminals to roam free and scavenge without fear of retaliation. Today’s pirates are no longer civilizations or deserters, thieves or instruments of war. Today's pirates are desperate people and the people who take advantage of such people. Let’s take Somalia, a country ravaged by total civil war, little to no natural resources to export, and poverty across the entire country. The one thing that Somalians value is



being taken away from them. Somalia has the longest coast of any country in Africa and can have a very big fishing industry, yet they are being deceived. Illegal foreign fishermen with vastly superior industrial technology steal 3,000,000 US Dollars' worth of fish yearly. The Somalians' primitive technology can no longer compete. The Somalian waters are also being polluted by local factories ruining the marine life, destroying the Somalian industry even more. An average Somalian citizen makes 28 cents per day, the least among any other country in the world, leaving them desperate and needy for opportunities. A wealthy Somali citizen gathers 3 to 5 investors on every pirate raid to invest in the raid. They pay for weapons, boats, and munitions. A Somalian citizen is much more prone to commit a crime involving 2.7 million dollars than to starve. Money is split between all the instigators and a 10,000 US Dollar bonus is given to the first person to board a ship. Somalian pirates are even more dangerous than other pirates. Somalian pirates hunt for people, not cargo, and then ask for a ransom in return. People's lives are put in danger. Over the years, piracy has flourished throughout the Malacca straits, South China Sea, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Guinea, Benin, Nigeria, Somalia, Indonesia, Arabian Sea, and Indian Ocean. The UK was tasked with leading missions against piracy prior to Brexit, and now Spain has taken the responsibility. Articles 101 to 103 of the United Nations convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) (1982) contain a definition of piracy according to international law which describes piracy to be only on international waters/high seas while the majority of piratical acts occur in the jurisdictions of countries and thus some might not have the means to apprehend the pirates. According to Oceans Beyond Piracy (OBP) around 6.6 to 6.9 billion dollars is the average cost for shipping expenses per year. A number so big that the end of piracy, even just in the Gulf of Aden, might allow poorer communities to afford more food and water for themselves. Insurance companies according to the German institute for Economic research have profited vastly by charging premium prices for insurance. Even with 15 failed attacks in 2017, pirates hijacked 4 ships. This indicates that pirates are still capable of making criminally sophisticated attacks. After the gross decrease of piracy from 2011 to 2016 piratical incidents rose by 100% in 2017, indicating that desperate people will return to piracy given the chance. Off the coast of the horn of Africa there were 97 incidents, 21 of which were kidnapping incidents, with



only 1 cargo theft incident. The people's safety is in danger from these pirates. The UNODC's counter-piracy programme has been effective for a while at solving maritime piracy, but it is evident it will not last. Pirates are becoming more sophisticated, cautious, and dangerous. UNODC continues to support trials in Kenya and Seychelles, as well as the humane and secure imprisonment of convicted pirates and has completed the first phase of the Mogadishu Prison and Court Complex, which will be handed over to the Somali Government shortly. The Security Council renewed measures to combat piracy in Somalia with resolution 2446 in 2015, then to adopt resolution 2383 in 2017, and adopts resolution 2442 in 2018. Piracy is evolving.

2. Countries Involved:

Somalia:

The country of Somalia is in total instability. A civil war is raging and the citizens have had enough. It lies in a desert and semi-desert, two very harsh climates. The only natural resource they have is fish, which also doubles as their food. The thing is foreign fishermen with much more superior and industrial technology illegally steal and fish about 3,000,000 US Dollars' worth of fish from Somalia's oceans. Also the recent sewage is hurting that already low number of fish. Without a central government, a comfortable environment, and jobs Somalia is in distress and desperation. The average citizen earns 28 cents per day, not nearly enough to support themselves, let alone their families. This has caused the Somalians to turn to piracy and mostly take people hostage for a ransom, which is an easier business to maintain. The Somalians are suffering with their humanities.

Venezuela:

Venezuela currently has the biggest inflation rate of any country, ever. It is more profitable to use money as tissue papers than currency. That with a decentralized government has started to make Venezuelans weary, weary enough to turn to piracy. Venezuela seems to be the next Somalia and a major piratical player in the Caribbean. Investors with the desperation of Venezuela might create an armada of pirates in the Caribbean. Venezuela might be a menace to all.



Nigeria:

Nigerians Pirates are seen to be more sophisticated than any other pirates the world has encountered. They are single handedly draining 200 billion dollars of expenses from shipping companies and seem to be much more violent. They seem to have no compassion and won't hesitate to turn to violence. The surprisingly sophisticated tactics and technology of the Nigerians might have stemmed from wealthy investors taking advantage of Nigeria's manpower. The Nigerians have also been seen to target crude oil instead of high value targets, as the Somalians. Attacks have recently been reduced but as seen, piracy can only be suppressed not silenced.

Indonesia:

Indonesia is a country that borders the Strait of Malacca, the most pirate infested waters as seen by people. The waters are very dangerous as a result of the vast poverty of Indonesia and the desperation of the people as previously described. The pirates target most ships that pass through the strait, such as Chinese ships. Pirate activity in the area has decreased significantly and is not as threatening. Piracy will always be threatening as long as it is a factor in trade.

3. Questions to consider:

1. Can the UNODC act alone?
2. Can certain aspects of trade be changed?
3. Can piracy be solved without damaging the economy?
4. Can piracy end peacefully?
5. Is poverty a cause of piracy?
6. What can countries do to stop the growth of piracy?
7. How can piracy be stopped without already paying more for transportation and protection fees?
8. How can investors be tracked?
9. Should countries interfere with affairs of others to prevent piracy?
10. Should maritime laws be changed to adhere to piracy?
11. Are treaties viable in piratical situations?
12. What countries have the most pirates?
13. How do pirates conduct their business?



4. Recommendations:

During the debate of this topic, you will be asked individually about your country's stance, decisions, and opinions about illegal drug trade noting that this particular topic is of great importance and should be given full attention from all delegates in the conference.

Over and above that, delegates are expected to arrive at the debate session fully prepared with sufficient research since participation of all delegates is a must in order to end the chaos and all misdemeanors that countries in the UNODC are going through.

Democracy, loyalty, and fairness that the global market once exercised, shall be restored. End the chaos and all misdemeanors that countries in the UNODC are going through.

Delegates should be able to mark his/her stance towards either topic. Note that every country has a social, political, and economical policy that may suggest other options concerning both topics

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