

SRI SRI ACADEMY, KOLKATA MODEL UNITED NATIONS
2021



United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime

Agenda: Eradicating illicit transactions emphasizing on products meant for drug abuse with special focus on "The Drug War" since 1930

SSMUN'21 STUDY GUIDE

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Co-Chairperson: Sabdashwa Chakraborty

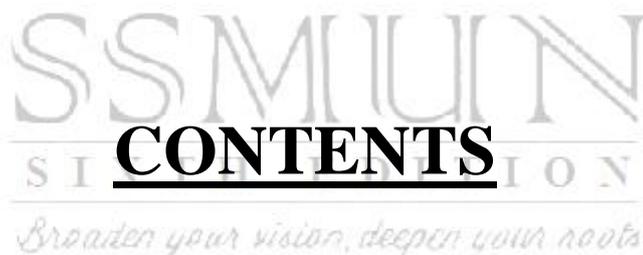
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Letter from the Executive Board

Greetings delegates,

We hope that you're doing well under these unprecedented times. This committee aims to be a more dynamic one than a general UNODC where the delegates are brought closer to the situation of crisis at hand. We hope that you understand the significant role you play as a delegate in this committee and that our objective is primarily to ensure that you consider this an amazing learning experience which hones your leadership skills, while having fun all the way through. Please note this guide is to merely provide you with a basic overview of the agenda, so it is a must that you go beyond this guide and research thoroughly.

The committee session takes place in the present case scenario and expects the delegates to be aware of the agenda's history, relevance and whereabouts, especially when the crime and drug peddling scenario was at its worst. This is **a conventional committee strictly following the UNA-USA Rules of Procedure.**

We also realize that a number of you in the committee are first timers and our advice to you is, never be afraid to speak up and be proactive in the committee. Negotiate and bring up out of the box ideas, as these are some of the best qualities a delegate can have. To those of you, who might have queries, feel free to contact us at unodc.ssmun21@gmail.com and we will get back to you at the earliest.

Yours sincerely,
The Executive Board

Co-Chairperson
Sabdashwa Chakraborty

Co-Chairperson
Sahaj Pundir

Vice-Chair
Devesh Somani

Committee Overview

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was established in 1997 after the United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and the Centre for International Crime Prevention (CICP) merged. The (UNODC) has worked to fight against illicit drug trades, international crime, and terrorism since its creation in 1997.

These three areas include many distinct and varied specializations that UNODC Member States attempt to resolve. The UNODC pursues its goals through three avenues: increasing understanding of issues through research, supporting local governments in fighting issues, and supporting the ratification of treaties regarding issues of international concern. The World Drug Report is annually released by the UNODC to spread awareness regarding what kind of drugs are in production each year and their uses. The UNODC is funded by member states through voluntary contributions. The UNODC is committed to achieving security and justice for all by making the world safer from drugs, crime, and terrorism.

The UNODC Regional Programme supports the governments of the participating countries/territories, bringing global expertise and scope to South Eastern Europe to strengthen both national and regional approaches. Continued UNODC engagement in the region will strengthen country capacity in key sectors, promote the reform agenda needed by the countries to meet EU accession requirements and ultimately reinforce the ability of the governments in the region to more effectively cooperate with the full range of international partners in the global fight against illicit drug trafficking and Organized crime.

Background

Beginning of Drug Networking

Around the time of World War I, extensive drug use in the United States—a combination of morphine, heroin, opium, and cocaine—created a growing fear of drug abuse. The association of opium with Chinese immigrants, cocaine with African Americans, and morphine addiction with careless physicians prompted more and more restrictive legislation and an antagonism to easy access to those drugs. A six-year federal effort to control the distribution of opiates and cocaine led to the Harrison Anti-Narcotics Act of 1914. To assure enforcement of the provisions of the same the Federal Bureau of Narcotics (FBN) was founded in 1930 by the Department of the Treasury.



(Heroin being used as a relieving agent in the late 19th century)

By February 1899, drugs no longer afforded the patient any relief and he was unable to sleep at night. Heroin was then prescribed. The description of the treatment follows:

"February 4. The patient had been given the first dose the evening before. The night was still without sleep, but the cough was looser and effortless. Also, the dyspnoea was not so pronounced. After he had taken the drug, he felt very comfortable and stated that he no longer felt sick. The action of the heart was somewhat more regular. The appetite was better.

"February 5. The patient had obtained some sleep. The sensation of fear that was always with him was gone. The respiratory frequency in the morning was 23. The cough was without difficulty.

"February 6. The patient slept soundly most of the night, in a reclining position. The respiratory frequency in the morning: 20. The action of the heart was regular.

"The heroin was then withdrawn for eight days. The ailments he had suffered before gradually returned. Heroin was again administered and had the same beneficial action as before."

In the early 1920s drug manufacturing was concentrated among European nations, the United States, and Japan. The U.S. Congress had tried to control the export of manufactured drugs in a section of the Narcotic Drugs Import and Export Act of 1922 by requiring exporters of such drugs to possess a proper certificate from the importing country. Congress amended the act in 1924 to prohibit opium importation for the manufacture of heroin. This legislation was meant to serve as a model for other countries but did not prevent the diversion of heroin manufactured outside the United States into illegal international channels. The fall of China after 1915 into a decade of internal strife dominated by regional warlords made efforts to halt poppy growing impossible. Not surprisingly, opium played a vital role in China's economy during the warlord era. As for cocaine, many

urban users switched to heroin as a cheaper drug of choice after scarcity and strict enforcement of state laws combined to drive up black-market prices for cocaine.

1971 War on Drugs

On June 18, 1971 in a Press Conference the then US President, Richard Milhous Nixon, declared “drug abuse to be public enemy number one”. Just a year after the US Congress had passed the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970 on 27th October, 1970. Various Policies were implemented under the Nixon government under the Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970. The phrase ‘WAR ON DRUGS’ was coined on the day of the press conference. The War on Drugs was a global campaign which is still going on and plans to completely eradicate consumption of drugs and drug abuse from this world. According to a report by the Global Commission of Drug Policy released in 2011 the War on Drugs was a complete failure stating: “The Global war on drugs has failed, with devastating consequences for individuals and societies around the world.” The Report suggested various reforms like an end to criminalization, marginalization and stigmatization of people who consume drugs. Many such reforms were suggested including a new model which the government could use to reduce the unorganized crimes that were directly or indirectly related to drug intake and abuse.

The major reason for the failure of the War on Drugs was that it focused on reducing the supply of drugs rather than focusing on decreasing the demand of drugs, that is, reducing the addiction of drugs among the people. Reducing the supply did not favour the US government because the Mexican Cartels were very well developed and had taken the place of the local suppliers. This actually increased

the price of drugs with the demand almost constant. Except for the increase in prices, the number of drug traffickers also increased as the market grew more complex. Another major reason was the criminalization of consumption of drugs which made things worse for the drug addicts as they had no place to go because the government would instead of helping them overcome their addiction would actually arrest them and the laws were so brutal that even someone who had committed a minor crime would be sentenced for many years. Several judges from the US have stated in interviews that it was the law which had forced them to give extremely severe punishments for petty crimes as well.

There were a lot of other problems in society that had increased because of the drug handling and law system of the US. According to a 2012 report from the US Sentencing Commission, an African American though was not significantly more likely to consume drugs or be involved in drug trafficking, they were more likely to be arrested. Further adding to this when convicted with drug related charges they generally faced more harsh punishment than others. According to 2013 National Survey on Drug Use and Health around 9.5% of the whites and around 10.5% of the blacks were involved in crimes connected to drugs whereas according to 2013 FBI Uniform Crime Reports (US Census Bureau) 332 whites and 879 blacks out of every 10,000 residents were arrested for drug-related crimes. This clearly shows the discrimination faced by the African-Americans in US. The 1971 War on Drugs and the various federal laws were one of the primary reasons for the increase in discrimination.

Economically the War on Drugs has badly damaged the US. It is estimated that the US government has spent more than \$1 trillion till now on this war. In 2015 the Federal Government had spent approximately \$9.2 million per day on the prisoners who were charged with drug related crimes.

End of the Cold War

The end of the Cold War marked the crumbling of political and economic barriers that once stood between Communist and Free-market countries. This led to the opening of a large part of the Communist world to trade, capital flows, movement of people and free markets.

Taking advantage of the opening of borders, organized crime syndicates branched out their networks, taking part in illicit activities and financial transactions. Criminals took advantage of the fledgling new democracies that had been introduced in Eastern bloc nations to form quasi legitimate businesses which could conceal activities of smuggling, money laundering, financial frauds etc. The increase in freedom of movement of people, goods and financial transactions allowed criminals to take advantage of new geographical areas and expand their reach. Criminal networks took advantage of the rapid changes in technology which made it easier to protect or access information; this allowed them to carry out illicit activities with a higher degree of sophistication.

Illegal drug trade created regional economic booms in the 70s and 80s. The business involves growers, producers, couriers, suppliers and dealers; and it undermines the economic stability of countries, often destroying communities. Pablo Emilio Escobar Gaviria, a Colombian native, is notorious for being one of the most powerful drug traffickers since the 1980s, as the head of the Medellín Cartel. Known for his ruthlessness with victims including government officials, police officers and civilians, Pablo Escobar has amassed billions of dollars from his lucrative trade and controls over 80% of the cocaine shipped to the United States in the 1980s and early 1990s.

2003 Iraq War

The Drug abuse and trafficking situation was restricted and under control to a great extent during the Saddam years. His regime imposed harsh penalties for both dealers and users, including the death penalty. After the invasion in 2003, the security apparatus collapsed, and Iraq's borders in all directions became open for the trafficking of all kinds of drugs, to be transported to Gulf countries using different methods. The drug problem in Iraq is not limited to smuggling. Security forces occasionally discover small methamphetamine laboratories in central and southern Iraq. However, there are no available statistics on the number of laboratories and the volume they produce.

The Iraqi parliament attempted to curb the growing trade with a law passed in 2017 that downgraded the offense of drug use from a felony to a misdemeanour while maintaining harsh penalties for dealers. However, due to corruption, there has been no court cases related to the funding of drug-related activity through banks or money transfer offices, as Judge Iyad Mohsen Damd stated at a conference.

As of 2020, the rate of drug use had reached 40% as per the governor of the southern city of Diwaniyah. The banning of alcoholic drinks in the central and southern provinces was also believed to have contributed to the increased use of drugs, which are more available than alcohol.

So, the question must be asked, is there no way to eradicate drug abuse in Iraq, the supplier of the Middle East?

PAST UN ACTIONS

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2. https://www.unodc.org/pdf/report_iraq_2003-09-01.pdf

CONVENTIONS

1. The Single Convention of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol
2. The International Drug Abuse Control Strategy of 1981
3. Declaration on the Control of Drug Trafficking and Drug Abuse of 1984
4. Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline for Future Activities (CMO) – 1987 conference
5. The Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988
6. United Nations General Assembly (UNGASS) of June 1998, the UNGASS *Broaden your vision, deepen your roots*
7. 2009 Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs
8. United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development of 2013
9. Thirtieth Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the World Drug Problem at New York, from 19th to 21st April 2016
10. World Drug Report 2015, Chapter II
11. World Drug Report 2018

CASE STUDIES

Afghanistan

Afghanistan is undoubtedly one of the most important countries when it comes to trade and manufacture of raw materials of drugs and trafficking them as well. The Taliban is strongly tied to local farmers, traffickers and governing forces in terms of trade. It is estimated that the Taliban had earned 155 million USD in 2009 using the drugs according to the UNODC. Farmers earned 440 million USD and drug traffickers earned 2.2 billion USD.

Another problem associated with Afghanistan is that the production is even more than the demand leading to huge stocks of opium and morphine. The 2011 threat assessment pegs these stocks at 10,000-12,000 tons over the 2005-2009 period. According to UNODC around 300-500 heroin labs in the country. These collectively contribute up to 400 tons of heroin annually. They operate in areas which have less number of police forces.

Europe is the largest consumer of drugs produced in Afghanistan. In 2009 around 150 tons of Afghan Heroin was consumed by Europe. Seeing the decline in the local opium production in the East and Southeast Asian regions, these markets have started importing Afghan heroin. After the development of the African trafficking route Afghanistan is becoming an even prominent location for drug trafficking.

Switzerland

Switzerland's first legalization on the use of illicit drugs dates back to 1924. This had not become an issue until the “wild 1960s” and the hippie movement as in many other countries. In 1969, 500 notified cases of cannabis were recorded, but very few of opiates. The first illicit-drug-related death occurred in the city of Zurich in 1972, a very few cocaine cases appeared in 1974. The second revision of national drugs laws took place in 1975, and the following years saw a steady rise in the number of drug users.

The people of Switzerland took drastic measures to reduce the number of people dying from opioid overdose. Their approach was effective.

The rising HIV infections, deaths due to drug overdose and the public nature of the drug problem led the Swiss to make some changes in the way they approached illegal drugs and treated people who used drugs. In the year 1994, Switzerland went on to pass one of the most progressive and controversial drug policies in the world, which included the dispensing of Heroin.

To stop the problem of drugs in Switzerland the officials, community members, and law enforcement created the “Four pillars” drug policy. The four pillars of the Swiss law are harm reaction, treatment, prevention and repression.

The resistance among the civil groups forced a national referendum in 1997 challenging the four pillars policy. 70 percent of the Swiss citizens voted in favor of the law.

The Swiss approach included some controversial measures such as legalized drug consumption rooms and heroin- assisted treatment facilities.

Switzerland became the first to legalize prescription heroin in 1994 under the “four pillar drug policy”. The aim of this law was to curb drug overdose and high rates of HIV infections and end the country’s “open drug senses.”

The most controversial part of this policy was the heroin provision. People thought that the heroin provision would cause more drug users or cause more overdose deaths, but nothing like this happened. Since then, the number of drug users has declined. Deaths due to drug overdose have stopped by 64 percent. HIV infections dropped by 84 percent. The Swiss prosecuted 75 percent fewer opioid related cases each year.

The new infections also dropped significantly. In the year 1986, more than 3000 people tested positive for HIV in Switzerland. There were fewer than 500 new positive tests in 2017, in a country of 8.4 million people. The Swiss began mandatory Hepatitis C reporting in 1988. The numbers of reported cases peaked between 1999 and 2002, declining since then.

Mexico

The Mexican Cartels and the Mexican Government are the most important reason for the increase in drug consumption and trafficking in the United States. Mexico ranks 124 in the World Corruption Index. The high level of Corruption in Mexico is the reason why many police officers who try to go against the drug cartels are killed. When these Officers are killed there is no further investigation done after this and the drug cartels are very strong and highly armed in Mexico.

Mexico is one of the largest drugs producing countries and also is the largest transporter of drugs throughout the World. Marijuana and Methamphetamine are mainly supplied to the United States by the major Mexican Cartels. Mexico produces a very small share of heroin consumed in the world but is accountable for a very large share of heroin consumed in the United States. Around 90% of cocaine entering the United States transits through Mexico. The Mexican Cartels earn between \$19 million to \$29 million from the US drug markets.

The Mexican Drug Cartels have started to become powerful since the 1990s. Mexican Drug Cartels control majorly the entire drug market in the United States. When key cartel leaders are arrested there is a lot of violence created by these cartels. Former Mexican President Felipe Calderón had called drug violence a big threat to the Mexican State. Guerra Contra elNarcotráficoen México (war against drug trafficking) started in 2006 and is still ongoing. According to various experts Mexico is currently facing a U-shaped crime recovery which implies that the crime rates in Mexico will tremendously rise after things start to normalize.

Arrest of Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman, the leader of One of the most powerful drug Cartels of Mexico, Sinaloa Cartel

Bloc Formations

Unites States of America

It is important to acknowledge that in UNODC, the role of the United States is relevant. The USA, as a country does not admit or support a legal status of the consuming, production or trade of recreational drugs (even currently there are some states in the USA that support the idea of a legal status or already took the decision). The USA perceives the issue as in a similar way with the French saying; “*Mieux vaut prévenir que guérir.*” Showing that the states support the idea that it is better and cheaper to combat all kinds of drugs than to invest huge amounts of money in health programs to organize the recreational consume of drugs or even worst to attend the rehabilitation or medical attention of the consumers in hospitals, centres or society in general.

Most of the illicit consumption in the U.S. comes from Colombia and Mexico. Collectively, they account for over 90 percent of supply to the United States, most of it entering via Mexican and Colombian traffickers and smugglers.

Mexican production has now overtaken Colombian operations, with the infamous Sinaloa drug cartel in Mexico the single largest provider to the states – controlling “as much as half of the U.S. market”, according to the Washington Post.

Mexican Drug War, in which 511 U.S. civilians, 58 American reporters and nearly 1000 children were killed; Mexican Drug Lord, El Chapo (Joaquín Guzmán Loera) and American term, The War on Drugs should be important to research.

Europe

There's a minimum market retail value of EUR 30 billion per year when it comes to the drug market, this is a major source of income for organized crime groups in the European Union. The availability of both synthetic and natural drugs remains high. The price of these drugs has fallen over the past decade and the drugs are of high purity and potency, and due to the high drug availability, many people are getting their hands dirty. Significant production of cannabis and synthetic drugs takes place within the European Union, making the cocaine market the second-largest illicit drug market in the EU, after cannabis. The key route of entry of these drugs is said to be the Balkan route where most of the trade takes place. Large volumes of drugs at ports are now common and the cocaine seized at the wholesale level in Europe is of high purity, often above 85%. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the movement of bulk quantities of drugs remains largely

Unaffected despite imposed restrictions on movement. However, the lockdown imposed by member states to curb the spread of the virus had a temporary effect on the global drug market. Social distancing too made it difficult for people to acquire such drugs in person.

Organized crime groups in the European Union often play a poly-criminal role; according to reports 1/3rds of these organizations are involved in drug trafficking and 2/3rds have links to activities like money laundering and corruption. So, there is a higher possibility of activities facilitated by organized crime groups to have a poly-

criminal nature which makes individuals who get in contact with these groups highly vulnerable to illegal activities which are unsafe for them. The major known ports, airports and land and entry and exit points in the EU are commonly used as hubs for drug trafficking. The EU Drugs Strategy 2021-2025 is an action plan adopted by the commission to set out priorities for action in the field of drugs.

South-East Asia

Like any business, transnational criminal enterprises seek out conditions that are good for the bottom line, and in Southeast Asia conditions have been favorable. The fact is that while law enforcement and border management in the region are robust in some jurisdictions, they are effectively not functioning in others, and limited cross-border cooperation and corruption are serious problems – key enabling factors for transnational organized crime are unfortunately in-place.

The situation is most vividly illustrated by the growth in methamphetamine production and trafficking, which have reached unprecedented and dangerous levels in the past few years. Profits have grown massively as organized crime groups have synthesized the drug market, consolidated production and formulated their business model. Heroin trafficking remains a problem, and other forms of transnational organized crime are also growing or appear to be growing, including the trade in counterfeit goods and medicines, trafficking and smuggling of people, and the trafficking of wildlife and timber. At the same time, the region's rapidly expanding network of casinos, many of which are lightly or not at all regulated, has emerged as a perfect partner or offshoot industry for organized crime groups that need to launder large volumes of illicit money. Given the heroin market in Southeast Asia is largely confined within the Mekong region, improving border management and intelligence

sharing in the sub-region is necessary, including through strengthening operational capacity and communications of drug law Enforcement at key entry and exit points. Greater resources and capacity building are required to reduce the diversion and trafficking of acetic anhydride and other precursor chemicals to heroin manufacturing areas of Myanmar. Measures are needed to improve the capacity of national authorities to better disrupt diversion of Chemicals at their source and increase interdiction capacity along major trafficking routes, especially at major border checkpoints.

Latin America and Caribbean

Drug trafficking is viewed as a primary threat to citizen security and U.S. interests in Latin America and the Caribbean despite decades of anti-drug efforts by the United States and partner governments. The production and trafficking of popular illicit drugs—cocaine, marijuana, opiates, and methamphetamine—generate a multi-billion-dollar black market in which Latin American criminal and terrorist Organizations thrive. These groups challenge state authority in source and transit

countries where governments are often fragile and easily corrupted. Mexican drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) largely control the U.S. illicit drug market and have been identified by the U.S. Department of Justice as the “greatest organized crime threat to the United States.”

Drug trafficking-related crime and violence in the region has escalated in recent years, raising the drug issue to the forefront of U.S. foreign policy concerns. Since the mid-1970s, the U.S. government has invested billions of dollars in anti-drug assistance programs aimed at reducing the flow of Latin American-sourced Illicit drugs to the United States. Most of these programs have emphasized supply reduction tools, particularly drug crop eradication

and interdiction of illicit narcotics, and have been designed on a bilateral or sub regional level. Many would argue that the results of the U.S.-led drug control efforts have been mixed.

Temporary successes in one country or sub-region have often led traffickers to alter their cultivation patterns, production techniques, and trafficking routes and methods in order to avoid detection. As a result of this so-called “balloon effect,” efforts have done little to reduce the overall availability of illicit drugs in the United States. In addition, some observers assert that certain mainstays of the U.S.-funded counterdrug programs, particularly aerial spraying to eradicate drug

Crops have had unintended social and economic consequences.

Middle East

The Arab region comprises three diverse and culturally distinct geographical areas, namely the Middle East region, the Maghreb and the Gulf States. Across these three sub-regions are displayed considerable disparities and differences in levels of development, economics, politics, legal systems and culture. National capacities, Capabilities and treaty adherence relevant to UNODC's mandates and operations vary from country to country. Moreover, this is a region that has a number of conflicts, post-conflict and fragile states, namely the on-going conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, the continuing instability in Iraq and Sudan, particularly Darfur, which contribute to an environment of violence and unrest both in those countries themselves, but also with considerable negative consequences on neighbouring countries in the region. Throughout the region, the need to strengthen governance, insecurity, conflicts, poverty and economic disparities among and

Within countries of the region are providing opportunities for transnational organized crime, as is reflected in increasing incidences

of illicit trafficking in drugs, persons, money, and arms, and the consequential generation of proceeds of crime and acts of money-laundering.

Due to its strategic location and comparatively weak control measures in some of the countries in the region, illicit activities related to the trafficking of drugs and crimes associated with it, firearms and human beings and migrant smuggling are expanding in the region, and bringing increasing profits to international and local

Criminal organizations. Indeed, the drug and crime control problems are becoming more and more prominent in the region, and have the potential to escalate considerably if countermeasures are not strengthened now, and a clear message is not sent, particularly against trafficking of drugs, human beings and smuggling of illegal migrants and terrorism.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

1. What can UNODC do to spread awareness against drug abuse, trafficking and addiction?
2. How can Online Drug Supply using the Darknet be stopped?
3. How can UNODC reduce drug related violence?
4. Should there be punishments for countries that do not adhere to the protocols and take no too little incentive to combat drug abuse and trafficking?

CITATIONS

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