

Committee/Council: Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (GA3)

Issue: Countering the World Drug Problem

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Position: Co-chair

Dear Delegates,

My name is Lorinc Juhasz and I will be taking the position of co-chair in the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee in this year's upcoming Campion School Model United Nations conference. I have participated in a number of Campion MUN conferences and have enjoyed all of them. Although, this is the first time that I am taking part in any conference as a chair, I am looking forward to meeting you and am excited and honored to take part in this conference as a chair.

My fellow student officers, Fonia Mitsopoulou (Chair) and Maria Patouna (Co-chair) and I have been given the responsibility of ensuring free flowing and organised lobbying and debates. We have been tasked to solve any potential problems and deal with any issues that may arise during the course of the conference. We will also be ensuring that the conference runs according to the correct rules of procedure. Finally, our main aim is to help provide all delegates a memorable experience in our committee.

Throughout the conference we shall discuss two topics in this committee, the first one being the "Anti-immigration Sentiment" and the second one, and what this study guide is on, "Countering the World Drug Problem". Both topics seem very interesting to me, and I'm hoping you think so too. I am positive that they will both provide fruitful debates and resolutions. I hope this study guide helps in introducing the topic and giving you an idea of what will be discussed. However, bear in mind that this is not the only piece of information that you can rely on. You will have to research your country's stance on the issue, it is also recommended that you research what has already been done in the United Nations regarding the issue. If there are any problems or you need assistance with anything regarding the topics we are more than happy to provide you with the help you need.

I am going to try make this study guide as helpful and interesting as possible. I am truly looking forward to meeting you and working with you and I am sure my fellow student officers also agree.

Regards, Lorinc Juhasz Co-chair of the Social Humanitarian and Cultural Committee Contact: ljuhasz@campion.edu.gr

INTRODUCTION

Narcotic drugs have been a pressing issue around the world for decades, and for a number of reasons. Besides the major effects narcotics have on physical and mental health, the illegal production and distribution of drugs is a source of great income and has become an attractive option for criminals around the world, starting from cocaine producers in South America to heroine in the Middle East. This may lead to violence between rival gangs or cartels, and in some cases between the criminals and the government, leading to murders and even terrorist attacks. Arguably the main issue concerning drugs is the large illegal network they create due to the long chain of people leading from the consumer to the producer who are all involved in illegal activities and the acquiring of illegal income.

It is important to note that most of the production process and distribution take place in developing countries while most of the demand for narcotics tends to stem from more economically developed countries. More renowned producers include Colombia (leading producer in cocaine), Bolivia (cocaine), Mexico (Cannabis, cocaine) and Afghanistan (opium). Despite most of these countries falling under the category of developing countries, the more economically developed countries have helped in countering drug problems in these countries. Notable involvements include the United States' involvement in the hunt and eventually killing of Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar in the late 20th century. More recent events include the United States' involvement in the capture of Mexican drug lord Joaquin Guzman, more commonly known as El Chapo.

One of the reasons why LEDCs are more liable to drug production than MEDCs is that cartels offer local farmers higher prices for the planting of illegal drug plants than agricultural companies offer for traditional crops. Cartels also prefer LEDCs for the overall lower prices and in some cases, bribing by local governments may occur. Furthermore, locals could be more willing to work with cartels for means of employment or other socioeconomic issue in which some cartels offer housing and a stable income to families with low incomes. However, producers also have manufactories in MEDCs as well, not solely LEDCs.

In 1997 the United Nations combined the United Nations Drug Control Program and Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to establish the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime¹ with the aim of aiding the United Nations in creating more comprehensive responses to issues of illicit trafficking in and abuse of drugs, crime prevention and criminal justice, international terrorism, and political corruption. The UNDCP carries out its aims through guidance, research and support to governments regarding the acceptance and implementations of policies and treaties involving drugs and the fight against drugs. On September the 29th 2003, the UNODC introduced the Convention against Transnational Organised Crime through which countries commit to combating transnational organised crime.

To make the most of this topic, I advise you research not only your country's stance on the issue, but also whether there is any drug production taking place within the country, and what has been done by the country to combat the issue.

¹ [United Nations General Assembly](#) Session 51 Document 950. *Renewing the United Nations: A Program for Reform A/51/950*

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Narcotic: a drug which is addictive and affects behaviour and mood, especially an illegal drug. “an addictive drug affecting mood or behaviour, especially an illegal one: *cultivation of a plant used to make a popular local narcotic.*”²

Cartel: a group of producers or suppliers who work together with the purpose of maintaining high prices for products and restricting competition. “an association of manufacturers or suppliers with the purpose of maintaining prices at a high level and restricting competition: *the Colombian drug cartels.*”³

Trafficking: “deal or trade in something illegal: *the government will vigorously pursue individuals who traffic in drugs.*”⁴

DEA: Drug Enforcement Agency, a United States Federal Law Enforcement Agency, part of the US Department of Justice. Although its aim is to combat drug use in the US, the DEA has taken part in international operations as has been mentioned.

UNODC: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Extradition: the action of handing over (a person accused or convicted of a crime) to the jurisdiction of the foreign state in which the crime was committed.⁵

Narco State: A state / country in which narcotics producing gangs control the economy and have great political power.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Drugs have been used by humans for centuries, dating back to 5000 B.C. Until recent times, before the criminalization of drug use, drugs were a source of trade and were transported around the world as a regular good. Opium was transported to Europe from China, while narcotics such as Cannabis were transported from Egypt. However, at the time certain substances were prohibited, such as Tobacco in Bavaria and Zurich (1650) as well as the Ottoman Empire where there was even a death penalty for smoking tobacco. In China, opium was prohibited in 1792.⁶ 1839 saw the first Opium War take place between China and the British Empire which lasted until 1842. The second

² Oxford Dictionary of English

³ Oxford Dictionary of English

⁴ Oxford Dictionary of English

⁵ Oxford Dictionary of English

⁶ <https://inpu.d.wordpress.com/timeline-of-events-in-the-history-of-drugs/>

Opium War took part between 1856 and 1860 where the British fought to legalize the trade of opium. In the 20th century further bans and prohibitions were introduced including the prohibition of alcohol in the United States from 1920 to 1933.

In the following decades, the popularity of drugs increased whereby a United Nations estimate in 1951 claimed that there were about two hundred million marijuana users around the globe. As the number of drug addicts around the world increased, more people requested action against the issue. 1956 saw the establishment of the Narcotics Control Act, which introduced the death penalty, if recommended by judge, for the sale of heroin to underaged individuals. Throughout the course of the twentieth century, drug production developed and as it developed, increasingly more drugs were criminalized and made illegal. Governments also started focusing more on drugs and drug abuse. In 1971, United States' President Richard Nixon declared that "America's Number one enemy is drug abuse."⁷ The second half of the century also saw the rise of drug trafficking and smuggling and the eventual rise of drug lords and cartels. Newer drugs such as cocaine gained popularity, leading to the rise in its production in South America, most notably Colombia, which is still the leading producer of cocaine worldwide. Smugglers made the most of this and soon established drug empires, such as Pablo Escobar of Colombia who established the famed Medellin Cartel, and was among the top ten richest men in the world in the eighties. Other famous cartels include the Sinaloa Cartel of Mexico, led by Joaquin Guzman, and the Cali Cartel, a rival cartel to Escobar's Medellin Cartel in Colombia. As cartels grew and gained more power, violence also grew with rival cartels taking on each other in order to gain more influence over the narcotic market. Moreover, governments also started to get involved and eventually the violence spread to a national level in some countries.

One of the most well-known examples of this is Pablo Escobar's Medellin Cartel and the Colombian government. Escobar started his 'business' as a smuggler, illegally exporting goods and small amounts of narcotics such as marijuana. However, his empire grew following the introduction of cocaine. In fact, his entire empire grew rapidly throughout the late seventies and eighties through trafficking cocaine to the United States, namely Miami. It is estimated that at the peak of his operations over 15 tonnes of cocaine were trafficked into the United States every day. This attracted the attention of the Colombian and United States governments. As the governments worked on taking down the empire, violence increased, thousands were murdered and even terrorist attacks occurred. The Colombian and United States governments worked together in which American agents from both the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) were deployed in Colombia and eventually took down Escobar in 1993, after decades of chasing him.

The early twenty first century saw a number of new laws passed against drug use and an increasing number of governments started taking more action against the issue. More awareness was also raised on the issue of drug abuse with the use of the internet. In more recent years, Cannabis has been legalised in a small number of countries and in American states such as Colorado and California. The movement to legalise cannabis on a wider scale is gaining support rapidly.

⁷ [The New Public Enemy No. 1, *Time*, June 28, 1971, p. 18]

COUNTRIES AND MAJOR ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED IN THE ISSUE

The majority of member states are involved with the issue in question, which therefore makes it impractical to list all the countries involved. However, there are a number of states and key organisations which are known to have taken major roles in international operations. If your country is listed, it is still worth doing extra research as this shall not provide adequate basis for your resolution.

United States of America

The United States of America is heavily involved in combating drugs not only within its borders but also internationally. Domestically, the United States relies on federal police forces and agency such as the DEA to tackle illegal drug production, trafficking and consumption. Medicinal narcotics are widespread in the United States, such as medicinal cannabis. Moreover, a number of states, namely Colorado and California have legalised low class drugs, most notably Cannabis.

Mexico

Mexico is notorious for the amount of drug production and trafficking that happens within its borders. Mexico is one of the leading exporters of drugs to the United States and has been ravaged by violence from the battles between rival gangs, and gangs and authorities. Mexico was also home of one of the best known drug lords of recent times, Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman. “El Chapo” was amongst the top 60 most powerful people in the world between 2009 and 2011, according to Forbes. At the time of his arrest in 2014 he had exported over 500 tons of cocaine to the United States alone.

Colombia

Colombia is the leading producer of cocaine worldwide and is also notorious for its gangs, producers and traffickers. During and after the 1980’s, Colombia became what is known as a narco state. Gangs and violence took the country by storm, namely the Medellin Cartel and the Cali Cartel. Pablo Escobar, the leader of the Medellin Cartel became one of the richest and most wanted men in the world during that time and although his death in 1993 saw the end of his drug empire many smaller and arguably more effective gangs took control and kept Colombia at the top of the cocaine production charts.

South American / Central American Countries

A number of South American countries are involved in the production of drugs and the governments of these countries are involved in the issue. The countries are the following: Colombia (leading producer in cocaine), Bolivia (cocaine), Mexico (Cannabis, cocaine), Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela. These countries are involved in illegal drug production and trafficking in various levels,

with some, most notably Mexico, Colombia and Peru producing more than others. Besides the illegal production of narcotics, the above countries are also involved in a different way. The governments of these countries are working against the producers and traffickers and are trying to stop them.

Bolivia

Bolivia is well known for being the one of the top cultivators of Coca, the plant used to produce cocaine. After being cultivated in Bolivia the plant is then exported to countries such as Chile and Colombia where the production starts.

Ecuador

Ecuador is geographically situated within South America's main drug hub, neighbouring two of the region's leading producers, Colombia and Peru. The country is not as well-known as its neighbours for production and trafficking, but instead it has recently introduced new laws which make personal drug use legal in an effort to combat the increasing drug problem in the area.

European Countries

Although European countries are not known for producing drugs on a large scale, production still occurs. As expected most narcotics are illegal in most European countries, however some have more lenient punishments for cultivation, production, possession and selling.

The United Kingdom

In recent years the United Kingdom has become notorious for the amount of amount of exposure that teenagers have gained to narcotics. In 2014 31% of the United Kingdom admitted having at least once consumed an illegal drug.

The Netherlands

The Netherlands is famous for having lenient laws against cannabis, most notably the 'coffee shop' law which legalizes cannabis consumption in 'coffee shops'. Laws vary from country to country but most do condone all drug cultivation, possession and selling.

Other Countries / Regions separate Afghanistan/ Pakistan, and India and the Bahamas and/or Jamaica

South America and Central America have the most producers and traffickers; however, other regions and countries also produce illegal drugs. The Middle East and Central Asia are also known for production, namely, Afghanistan which is notorious for Opium production and trafficking, and Pakistan. Other Asian countries include Laos, Myanmar, and India, all of which produce various narcotics at various levels. Caribbean countries also participate in the production and trafficking of

drugs. Most notably, the Bahamas, and Jamaica. Again, the governments of these countries are combating drugs and the production of drugs.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan is well known for poppy cultivation and opium production. Around 380 tons of heroin and morphine have been produced solely from Afghan opium.⁸ Afghanistan is also notorious for being a key link between Asia and Europe in the drug trade.

Jamaica

Jamaica is notorious for its drug culture and has led to misconceptions on issues surrounding the state of drug problems in Jamaica. In recent years Jamaica has been countering the issue of drugs in the same fashion as most countries, drugs are illegal and controlled. However, in 2010 the issue was more serious as the violence around drugs spread to the streets of Jamaica's capital, Kingston. Gang violence increased for a short period of time as authorities tried combating them. Fortunately, in recent years the violence has died down.

International Organisations and Agencies

International organisations and agencies have also been involved in the issue and combating it. The United Nations is active in the matter and has established the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes. The United States also have a number of Agencies working both within the United States and internationally. These agencies include the Central Intelligence Agency and the Drug Enforcement Agency, both of which played crucial roles in tracking and taking down Pablo Escobar in Colombia. The DEA focuses explicitly on drug enforcements while the CIA is involved in more of the United States foreign and internal affairs, including espionage, law enforcement, etc.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
5000 BC	First records of drug use. Sumerians use heroin. ⁹
1000 AD	Opium is widely used in China. ¹⁰

⁸ <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/drug-trafficking/>

⁹ [Alfred R. Lindesmith, *Addiction and Opiates.* p. 207]

¹⁰ Alfred A. Lindensmith, *The Addict and the Law*, p. 194]

1800	Napoleon returns to France from Egypt, introducing cannabis.
1839-1842	First Opium War fought between the British Empire and China.
1856-1860	Second Opium War fought between the British Empire and China.
1920-1933	Alcohol is prohibited in the United States of America.
1951	United Nations estimates show that there are over two hundred million marijuana users around the world.
1956	Narcotics Act enacted, which (small summary or explanation?)
1961	The United Nations' "Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 10 March 1961" is ratified. ¹¹
1971	United States President Richard Nixon declares that drug abuse are the United States number one enemy.
1980's	Search for Escobar in Colombia escalates.
1984	United States seize ten thousand pounds of marijuana on Mexican Border. ¹²
1993	Pablo Escobar is shot dead by Colombian forces in Medellin.
1997	United Nations combined the United Nations Drug Control Program and Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to establish the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ¹³ with the aim of aiding the United Nations in creating more comprehensive responses to issues of illicit trafficking in and abuse of drugs, crime prevention and criminal justice, international terrorism, and political corruption.
2003	UNODC introduce the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime
2016	On the 21st April 2016 the United Nations General Assembly conducted a session on countering the world drug problem

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

The possible solutions written here are here in order to aid you in your resolution writing. However, as has been noted throughout, it is strongly advised that extra research is done in order for you to include your own solutions within your resolutions.

¹¹ United Nations Bulletin on Narcotics*, 21:1-12 (April-June), 1961]

¹² [the San Francisco Chronicle, Saturday, November 24, 1984]

¹³ [United Nations General Assembly](#) Session 51 Document 950. [Renewing the United Nations: A Program for Reform A/51/950](#)

Education

A possible solution could be educating the public on the effects of drug use in an effort to decrease the demand for narcotics. This can be done in a number of ways, methods range from the traditional schooling method to more modern methods, namely the internet. Theoretically, a reduction in the demand for narcotics would decrease the profits gained by producers therefore making it a less attractive option for them to produce.

Legalisation of low class drugs

Low class drugs, such as cannabis, have been legalised in a small amount of countries around the world with the aim of not only generating more money for the state, but also reducing violence around the drug. If production is legalised then it is easier to monitor and regulate the use of drugs.

Raising more awareness to the issue

Besides education, another possible solution could be raising more awareness to the issue of drugs. This can be done in a number of ways, such as campaigns, adverts and even events, and would be easily available to the public. This would be effective as, while education only offers information to younger societies, more of the society would gain from this.

Restricting the supply of narcotics

A possible solution could be lowering the supply of narcotics by force, this would lead to less narcotics being available to the public, however it runs the risk of increasing the already existing violence around narcotic trade. Possible methods include providing further finances to police forces or border patrol to reduce the supply of narcotics entering countries.

Strengthen international cooperation

Strengthening international cooperation could lead to the establishment of further United Nations committees and international agreements. This could then lead to the reduction of both the production and the trafficking of narcotics.

Increasing the financing of rehab centres

Drug addiction and overdosing are huge issue regarding the world drug issue, thus a possible solution could be financing rehab centres which deal with these two issues. Reducing the number of addicts could lead to the reduction in the demand for drugs and an improvement in society. Overdosing is another serious issue which can lead to serious consequences and in many cases even death, further financing medical centres could help reduce the amount of deaths caused by overdoses and could help raise awareness to the issue.

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