

# United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Background Guide Topic:

**Reinventing International Drug Policies**



## Directors' Note

Dear delegates,

As a director, I am honored to introduce you to the Intermediate 1 committee of JMMUN 2024. My name is Ayako Irita, and I am a 10th grade student at N High School; I am an alumna of Senzoku Gakuen Junior High School. I lived in Charlotte, North Carolina for three and a half years, and I came back to Japan at the age of five. At Senzoku, I was an active member of the English debate and Model United Nations clubs—two activities I still enjoy doing. My MUN background includes experience as a delegate for JMMUN 2021 and 2022, HMUN 2023, and AJHSMUN 2023, as well as chairing experience for JMMUN 2023.

Our committee will be covering the issue of drugs. The opioid crisis is considered less significant compared to the public health crisis SARS-CoV-2 created. Yet, the number of addicts has actually increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, and recent developments in Afghanistan, Ukraine, and Sudan have affected the illicit drug market in an unfavorable way. As much as our sense of justice condemns drug trafficking and substance abuse as evils, we have to acknowledge the hard truth: substances are traded and misused in the status quo because we have done little to mitigate poverty and uphold mental health. There are also rights which demand protection: the rights of drug addicts, the rights of criminals, and the right to unhampered recreation (or, as the Bible puts it, the “freedom to indulge” [Galatians 5:13]). Taking into consideration the controversy surrounding this topic, we would like to see a simulated UNODC with delegates respecting other nations’ stances and embracing diverse opinions.

Model United Nations is challenging. Yet, it is also quite enjoyable. We hope this conference helps you build long-lasting connections with other delegates and foster a deeper understanding of international affairs.

If you have anything, please contact me at [200032ar@senzoku-gakuen.ed.jp](mailto:200032ar@senzoku-gakuen.ed.jp) and I will be more than happy to address your questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Ayako Irita  
Co-director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime  
Senzoku Gakuen Model United Nations Club  
Japan Metropolitan Model United Nations



Dear delegates,

Welcome to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime of Japan Metropolitan Model United Nations 2024! My name is Karin Kanazawa and I will be chairing this committee along with three other chairs. I am currently a 10th year student at Senzoku Gakuen High School and a member of the Model United Nations Club at Senzoku Gakuen. I have participated in JMMUN 2020 and 2021 as a delegate, and it is my second year of chairing.

I have spent a major part of my childhood abroad, as I have lived in the United Kingdom for three years and in Panama for six years. Looking back at the time I lived abroad, there were times when global issues such as poverty were familiar issues that I saw and heard about often. This experience reminds me that the issues we discuss in Model United Nations are significant and that it is impossible to ignore these topics.

In this year's Intermediate 1 committee, delegates will discuss drug policies and the issues they face in the current world. With Russia's invasion of Ukraine along with the scorching heat caused by climate change in the world and the COVID-19 pandemic, issues concerning drugs have unfortunately been overlooked recently. The fact that the drug crisis can be related to people's health signifies the importance of revising drug policies to the current world. We hope that this conference will be a great chance for delegates to rethink drug policies and come up with creative resolutions!

Model United Nations could be challenging but at the same time, it can be enjoyable. We look forward to seeing your creative ideas and active participation in the conference in March!

Sincerely,

*Karin*

Karin Kanazawa  
Co-director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime  
Senzoku Gakuen Model United Nations Club  
Japan Metropolitan Model United Nations



# Introduction of the Committee

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was established in 1997<sup>1</sup> as the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention.<sup>2</sup> This was part of former Secretary-General Kofi Annan's efforts to reform the organization to "[consolidate and enhance] United Nations activities" in the field of criminal justice, which resulted in the merging of two entities: the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme (established in 1991) and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (established in 1990). The resulting organization was renamed in 2002 to the UNODC we know today.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Annan, K. (1997). Renewing the United Nations: A Programme for Reform. In *Security Council Report* (A/51/950). United Nations Security Council. Retrieved August 8, 2023, from <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCE9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FE9%7D/SGE%20A-1997-51-950.PDF>

<sup>2</sup> Annan, K. (2004). The Secretary-General's bulletin on the Organization of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. In *Dag Hammarskjöld Library* (ST/SGB/2004/6). United Nations Secretariat. Retrieved August 8, 2023, from <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N04/272/92/PDF/N0427292.pdf?OpenElement>

<sup>3</sup> Dag Hammarskjöld Library. (2022, August 12). *How was the UN Office on Drugs and Crime*

UNODC is mandated to lead the global war against illicit drugs, transnational organized crime, and corruption and to uphold United Nations conventions related to criminal justice.<sup>4</sup> Collaborating with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), this organization also protects the human rights of those behind bars and facilitates their social reintegration.<sup>5</sup>

## Key Terms

### Psychoactive Substances

Psychoactive substances are any chemicals which are capable of producing abnormal psychological effects (hallucinations, highs, etc.) in users and intended to produce such effects in users.<sup>6</sup> Note that this definition does include the consumption of alcohol,

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*(UNODC) established? - Ask DAG!* Retrieved August 8, 2023, from <https://ask.un.org/faq/211917>

<sup>4</sup> UNODC Southern Africa. (n.d.). *About us*. Retrieved August 9, 2023, from <https://www.unodc.org/southernafrica/en/sa/about.html>

<sup>5</sup> UNODC. (n.d.). *UNODC Strategy 2021-2025*. United Nations : Office on Drugs and Crime. Retrieved August 11, 2023, from <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/strategy/index.html>

<sup>6</sup> *Psychoactive drug*. (n.d.). APA Dictionary of Psychology. Retrieved August 15, 2023, from <https://dictionary.apa.org/psychoactive-drug>



nicotine, or caffeine intended to serve a non-dietary purpose, such as the accompaniment of cannabis consumption by tobacco.

### Natural Psychoactive Substances

These substances occur naturally and are commonly found in plants and fungi. More often, this term is used to connote naturally occurring hallucinogenic organisms which are consumed whole, not through refining the hallucinogen. Some of the less well-known—yet no less potent—natural psychoactive substances include cathinones (in khat), mescaline (in psychoactive cacti), and psilocybin (in psilocybin mushrooms).<sup>7</sup>

### Inhalants

Inhalants are volatile substances which produce chemical vapors which are inhaled to induce psychoactive effects. Common inhalants include nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O, also known as laughing gas), aromatic/aliphatic hydrocarbons (benzene, toluene, hexane), and alkyl nitrites (amyl nitrite, butyl nitrite, cyclohexyl nitrite).<sup>8</sup> Note that these

substances are perfectly legal for ordinary citizens to sell, buy, and own in the present situation because they are legitimate constituents of glues, correction fluids, felt-tip markers and other household items, in addition to being found in organic solvents and gasoline.<sup>9</sup>

### Narcotics

In scientific nomenclature, “narcotics” means opiates and opioids.<sup>10</sup> Opiates refer to the three major psychoactive alkaloids harvested from the opium poppy (*Papaver somniferum* and *Papaver bracteatum*): morphine, codeine, and thebaine.<sup>11,12</sup> Diacetylmorphine (colloquially known as heroin) is also commonly listed as an opiate. Opioids refer to the psychoactive substances which are partially or fully synthesized from

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<https://www.camh.ca/en/health-info/mental-illness-and-addiction-index/inhalants>

<sup>9</sup> What are inhalants? | National Institute on Drug Abuse. (2022, September 29). National Institute on Drug Abuse. Retrieved August 24, 2023, from <https://nida.nih.gov/publications/research-reports/inhalants/what-are-inhalants>

<sup>10</sup> U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. (2020). *Drug Fact Sheet: Narcotics*. Retrieved August 16, 2023, from <https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2020-06/Narcotics-2020.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> Gray, T. (2014). *Molecules: The Elements and the Architecture of Everything* [Print]. Black Dog & Leventhal.

<sup>12</sup> Offermanns, S., & Rosenthal, W. (2008). Opiates. In *Encyclopedia of Molecular Pharmacology* (2nd ed., Vol. 1). Springer Science & Business Media.

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<sup>7</sup> Gonçalves, J. et al. (2021). Psychoactive substances of natural origin: toxicological aspects, therapeutic properties and analysis in biological samples. *Molecules*, 26(5), 1397.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/molecules26051397>

<sup>8</sup> Center for Addiction and Mental Health. (n.d.). *Inhalants*. CAMH. Retrieved August 25, 2023, from



opiates. Notable examples of opioids include oxycodone, hydrocodone, and fentanyl.<sup>13</sup>

### Synthetic Drugs

Synthetic drugs (also known as novel psychoactive substances [NPSs]) are artificial substances which are made to mimic the effects of natural psychoactive substances. Examples of synthetic drugs include artificial cannabinoids and artificial amphetamines.<sup>14</sup>

### Prescription Drug Abuse

This subset of substance dependence occurs when one uses prescribed drugs or over-the-counter medication to induce psychoactive effects not intended by the manufacturer. These medications include those with psychoactive substances as ingredients, such as Vicodin/Norco (active ingredient: hydrocodone) or Oxycontin (active ingredient: oxycodone). Painkillers,

sedatives, and stimulants are examples of commonly abused medications.<sup>15</sup>

## Current Situation

Drug abuse and illicit trafficking have persisted through history as a humanitarian crisis, leading to the deteriorating health and untimely deaths of millions around the world. Beyond reducing the security of global health, drug abuse and illicit trafficking cripple economies and the economic power of users, in addition to exposing vulnerable populations to even greater risks.

The drug crisis was particularly bad a couple of years ago. The 2020 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) World Drug Report notes the use of illicit drugs has increased by 30% since 2009. Likewise, the production and trafficking of illicit drugs, such as heroin and synthetic drugs, are at record highs. It is still going on a small scale.

Overdose deaths remain a leading cause of injury-related death in the United States.

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<sup>13</sup> State of Oregon. (n.d.). *Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission : Opiates or Opioids — What's the difference? : State of Oregon*. Opiates or Opioids — What's the Difference? : Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission. Retrieved August 18, 2023, from <https://www.oregon.gov/adpc/pages/opiate-opioid.aspx>

<sup>14</sup> Department of Health & Human Services. (n.d.). *Synthetic drugs*. Better Health Channel. Retrieved August 25, 2023, from <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/synthetic-drugs>

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<sup>15</sup> Mayo Clinic. (2022, October 25). *Prescription drug abuse - Symptoms and causes - Mayo Clinic*. Retrieved August 25, 2023, from <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/prescription-drug-abuse/symptoms-causes/syc-20376813>



The majority of overdose deaths involve opioids. Deaths involving synthetic opioids (largely illicitly made fentanyl) and stimulans (such as cocaine and methamphetamine) have increased in recent years.

For every drug overdose that results in death, there are many more nonfatal overdoses, each one with its own emotional and economic toll. People who have had at least one overdose are more likely to have another.

## Case Studies

### Subtopic I: Production of Drugs

Drugs are often produced through two types of methods: horticulture and laboratory synthesis. Countries, especially developing countries, have been identified as major countries that produce these drugs.

#### *Case Study 1: Cocaine production in Colombia*

Colombia is known to be the largest cocaine producer in the world. The total cultivated coca land has reached a record with 204,000 hectares of cultivated land in 2021, a 43% increase from the previous year.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Noriega, C. (2023, January 24). Colombia shifts strategy in drug war away from coca eradication.

Under these circumstances, actions have been taken to encourage farmers who produce cocaine to switch to other legal crops. Since 2000, the United States has invested a part of the 11.6 billion dollars in Colombian aid to eradicate cocaine production. This large investment is mainly due to the fact that 90% of cocaine consumed in the United States originates in Colombia and that the United States accounts for around 30% of the cocaine consumed globally.

However, due to this, farmers in Colombia face other issues. Although they were able to escape from the dangers of producing illegal crops, their incomes have decreased largely, making their lives harsher than prior to the change in the crop they produce.<sup>17</sup>

#### *Case Study 2: Opium production in Afghanistan*

Opium accounts for a major sector of Afghanistan's weak economy. In 2020,

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*Drugs News | Al Jazeera.*

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/1/24/colombia-shifts-strategy-in-drug-war-away-from-coca-eradication#:~:text=The%20country%20is%20the%20world's,to%20its%20production%20in%202021>.

<sup>17</sup> Dickinson, E. (2021, March 5). Opinion: To End The Drug War, Help Coca Farmers Find A Way Out. *NPR*.

<https://www.npr.org/2021/03/05/972469104/opinion-to-end-the-drug-war-help-coca-farmers-find-a-way-out>



Afghanistan used to produce about 85% of the global opium production. Despite this, the Taliban has completely prohibited the production of opium. According to the United States Institute of Peace, the area of opium poppy cultivation has been cut from 129,000 hectares in 2022 to only 740 hectares in 2023. Especially in Helmand, the heartland of the opium production, the opium cultivated area decreased by more than 99% from 2022 to 2023. Though this result could be considered as a success to eradicate opium cultivation, it is said that the economic shock in the country will exceed the expected positive result.<sup>18</sup>

According to the BBC, in Afghanistan farmers have been forced to change the crops they produce. There have been reports of the Taliban charging into the farmers' lands armed. As an alternative, they are forced to produce legal but cheap crops such as wheat. This has led to a decrease in their income and some farmers have no other choice but to produce opium secretly. Though this action can be seen as a positive action to eradicate illegal drug production, this action has been said to lead to problems

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<sup>18</sup> *The Taliban's Successful Opium Ban is Bad for Afghans and the World*. (n.d.). United States Institute of Peace. <https://www.usip.org/publications/2023/06/talibans-successful-opium-ban-bad-afghans-and-world>

such as the worsening of poverty in the country.<sup>19</sup>

### ***Case Study 3: Manufacture of synthetic drugs in Southeast Asia***

Though synthetic drugs (further explained in *Key Terms*) have been produced as substances that could mimic the effects of natural psychoactive substances, its safety has been a concern. Southeast Asia, especially China, has become a significant producer of synthetic drugs.<sup>20</sup>

### **Subtopic II: Consumption of Drugs**

An astonishing number of people become victims of drug overdoses and drug-related complications; every year, illicit drug use and drug use disorders kill more than 500,000 people (see chart).<sup>21</sup> Considering the fact that the word “drugs” in the sense of psychoactive substances encompasses legal

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<sup>19</sup> Limaye, B. Y. (2023, June 6). Inside the Taliban's war on drugs - opium poppy crops slashed. *BBC News*.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-65787391>

<sup>20</sup> Staff, P. (2013, September 5). China becoming significant source of synthetic drug production. *Partnership to End Addiction*.

<https://drugfree.org/drug-and-alcohol-news/china-becoming-significant-source-of-synthetic-drug-production/>

<sup>21</sup> *Deaths attributed to tobacco, alcohol and drugs*. (n.d.). Our World in Data. Retrieved September 5, 2023, from

<https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/substances-risk-factor-vs-direct-deaths>

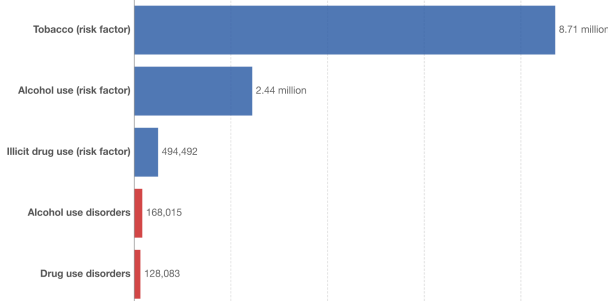




drugs (alcohol, nicotine, and caffeine), inhalants, and prescription/over-the-counter medications as well as contraband substances, it is logical to assume that many more people have their lives affected in some way because of these substances.

Deaths attributed to tobacco, alcohol and drugs, World, 2019

In blue are shown the estimated annual number of deaths attributed to tobacco, alcohol and drugs. In red are shown the estimated annual number of deaths from drugs and alcohol. The difference between both is that they relate to indirect and direct causes of death, respectively.



Source: IHME, Global Burden of Disease (2019)

OurWorldinData.org/illlicit-drug-use • CC BY

Note: Illicit drugs are drugs that have been prohibited under international drug control treaties. They include opioids, cocaine, amphetamines and cannabis.

It is imperative, therefore, that we consider the cultural aspects of drug consumption, as this guide will do in the upcoming sections.

### Cultural aspects of psychoactive substances

Human history and psychoactive substance use are intertwined. Marc-Antoine Crocq of the Centre Hospitalier de Rouffach points out that psychedelic mushrooms have been used as ceremonial garnishes since 4000 B.C.<sup>22</sup> and are still part of indigenous

<sup>22</sup> Crocq, M. (2007). Historical and cultural aspects of man's relationship with addictive drugs. *Dialogues in Clinical Neuroscience*, 9(4), 355–361. <https://doi.org/10.31887/dens.2007.9.4/macrocq>

religions in Mexico,<sup>23</sup> while alcohol has continuously been in use since 4000 B.C. (and possibly even further back in time). In many cultures, such mind-altering substances had ceremonial or medicinal uses and were commonly subject to taboos which kept their use in check.<sup>24</sup> It is only in the past few centuries that psychoactive substances gained notoriety as a form of recreation and, consequently, formed a new culture of its own.

### Case Study 1: Cocaine consumption in Latin America and the Caribbean

Since the coca plant (*Erythroxylum coca*) is native to South America, it is not surprising that the region with the highest prevalence of cocaine abuse is this region. We can also see the withdrawal of traditional psychoactive substance culture and the rise of illicit drug circulation most prominently in this area.

<sup>23</sup> Lott-Schwartz, H. (2021, May 4). 5 of the world's most mind-bending drug cultures. *National Geographic*. Retrieved September 5, 2023, from <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/article/drug-culture-around-the-world>

<sup>24</sup> Abbott, P., MD, & Chase, D. M., MD. (2020, November 16). Culture and Substance abuse: Impact of culture affects approach to treatment. *Psychiatric Times*. <https://www.psychiatrytimes.com/view/culture-and-substance-abuse-impact-culture-affects-approach-treatment>



Coca leaves have been chewed for its medicinal properties for centuries, first by indigenous people and now by tourists—the former population is increasingly giving up traditional practices and moving to cities.

### **Subtopic III: Drug trade**

Technological advancement has made it possible for people to come a step closer to solving countless social and environmental problems over the past few decades. Despite this, drug trade remains lively all across the world, with millions of people still living by drug production and allowing drug traffickers, smugglers, and cartels to use such drugs to gain mass profit. As a major percentage of the profit is given off to the country itself, it is challenging to eliminate all drugs cycling on a worldwide scale as enormous economic damage can be expected.

#### ***Case study 1: Taliban and the restriction of drug production***

Afghanistan was once, according to the United Nations, accounted for about 85% of the global opium production in 2020. Known as Afghanistan's largest economic sector, opium production provided full-time employment to over half a million people living in Afghanistan. People in Afghanistan heavily relied on drug production in order to live. However, after the country was taken

over by the Taliban when the United States withdrew from Afghanistan in August of 2021, the production of drugs began to be restricted by the Taliban. According to the BBC, a Taliban spokesman mentioned that they imposed the ban because opium has harmful effects, and it goes against their religious beliefs.<sup>25</sup> When researchers entered Afghanistan to check the decrease in drug production, they found out that the Taliban were successful in decreasing almost 90 percent of the opium production and cultivation. However, the successful elimination of opium production in Afghanistan brings a new problem to the surface. Because the Taliban continuously ignored the economic impact drug production and cultivation has on the country and the citizens of the country, suppressing opium production without offering economic alternatives caused a detrimental effect on the country's economy and forced millions of Afghanistan citizens out of their work, with not enough money to feed their families.

Close to 90% of the population are poverty-stricken, but the humanitarian aid

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<sup>25</sup> *Inside the Taliban's war on drugs-opium poppy crops slashed*  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-65787391>



that is given to such people has been decreasing over the years and with the people under the control of the Taliban, it has become even harder for people to receive humanitarian aid from other countries.<sup>26</sup>

### ***Case study 2: Drug trafficking in the “Golden Triangle”***

Where the borders of Thailand, Myanmar, and Laos meet, also known as the “Golden Triangle”, is one of the most dangerous places in which drugs are trafficked to markets all across Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Myanmar, a country with borders that are open and easily accessible, once had a high production level of heroin, opium, and other synthetic drugs such as methamphetamine, which then were moved across the borders of Thailand and Laos, afterwards spilling out across the entire globe. However, in recent years, due to the military takeover in Myanmar, the country has begun to change the drugs which they produce. Over the last three to four years, the production of traditional plant-based drugs has dropped significantly, and the production of synthetic drugs is rising

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<sup>26</sup> *How the Taliban Suppressed Opium in Afghanistan and Why There’s Little to Celebrate*  
<https://time.com/6294753/taliban-opium-suppression-afghanistan/>

rapidly.

The production of such drugs has been organized by crime networks, which have been migrating their operations from other parts of Myanmar in order to avoid getting caught easily. Moreover, such crime networks have begun to invest in building large drug producing facilities in order to allow a more productive method of synthetic drug production to occur.<sup>27</sup> Many of the production of synthetic drugs are believed to be located in Shan’s mountainous areas in which approximately 190,000 households cooperate with the drug production. With the mountainous and wild hinterland allowing crime networks to hide themselves from government officials and drug detectors, it is unlikely that the mass production of synthetic drugs in Myanmar will be eliminated in the next few decades.<sup>28</sup>

### ***Case study 3: The relationships between Mexico and drug trade***

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<sup>27</sup> *Policing one of the world’s ‘biggest drug trafficking corridors’*

<https://www.unodc.org/roseap/2023/06/biggest-drug-trafficking-corridors/story.html>

<sup>28</sup> *Drugs flow where the rivers meet: Myanmar’s drug economy before and after the coup*

<https://www.twai.it/articles/myanmars-drug-economy-before-after-coup/>



Since 2006, Mexico has seen more than 360,000 homicides due to the government's aggressive efforts to eliminate drug cartels. As Mexico's border allows millions of drug cartels to spill out drugs into markets all over the world, the United States has begun to partner closely with Mexico, providing billions of dollars in order to reform Mexico's judicial system, security forces and fund development projects, which aim to curb the migration at the southern border of Mexico.

Over the past few decades, Mexico's drug cartels have grown at a high speed, forging new groups and making larger alliances, constantly fighting over territorial boundaries and larger land in order to enable more drug production. Though the threats of drug cartels remain high, it is difficult for government officials to completely reject all drug cartels as their vast profits are often used to pay off judges, officers, and politicians. Moreover, some drug cartels cooperate with government officials to assassinate journalists and public servants who are deemed harmful for the country. Many of the drugs produced in Mexico continue to enter the United States, with drug traffickers employing multiple tactics in order to evade detection by U.S. authorities. For instance, such drug traffickers are successful in smuggling drugs

into the United States by hiding or disguising drugs in vehicles, machine vessels, through underground tunnels, and flying them over the border barriers by using drones and numerous types of aircraft. Once the drugs are successfully smuggled into the large nation, drug smugglers and street gangs manage to distribute the illicit drugs throughout the country and even across the ocean to other countries' gangs and drug traffickers.<sup>29</sup>

## Past Actions

In 1946, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) created the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) as a central agency that deals with international drug-related policies.<sup>30</sup> The CND has adopted the 2019 Ministerial Declaration in order to encourage countries to strengthen ties with other countries and discuss the drug problem at regional and international levels. By doing so, CND aims to accelerate the

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<sup>29</sup> *Mexico's Long War: Drugs, Crime, and the Cartels*  
<https://www.cfr.org/background/mexicos-long-war-drugs-crime-and-cartels>

<sup>30</sup> Anamaria Cobucci. (n.d.). *UNODC and the response to drugs*.  
<https://www.unodc.org/lpo-brazil/en/drogas/index.html>



implementation of joint commitments among countries.<sup>31</sup>

In 2009, UNODC-WHO Programme on Drug Dependence Treatment and Care was launched as a programme that brings together the two organizations, UNODC and WHO, to work on such issues around the drug crisis. The two organizations have come together to discuss the connection the drug crisis has with people's health, by taking advantage of the field of expertise each committee has.<sup>32</sup>

Additionally, in order to monitor the current situation concerning drug issues, UNODC publishes the UNODC World Report annually. Through this, UNODC ensures that the most updated information is known among people.

Countries around the world enforce laws that restrict drug use. However, due to the overwhelmed prisons, with many drug-related criminals around the world, the

UN has called for the decriminalization of drug offenses to combat this issue.<sup>33</sup>

### **UNODC Youth Initiative**

The UNODC Youth Initiative is an action that aims to promote young people's health and prevent the use of psychoactive substances. UNODC has encouraged young people around the world to connect with each other by sharing their experiences and ideas with each other.<sup>34</sup>

## **Tips from the Chairs**

We wrote this background guide to supplement your research as a delegate. It is recommended that you thoroughly read this document (and we will be more than happy if you actually do so). However, you will need to conduct additional research to be a competent delegate. The work that UNODC does is exasperatingly elusive, with the topic of drugs being more so than other fields of law enforcement. It is your duty to clarify the actions the international community and

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<sup>31</sup> *The Commission on Narcotic Drugs*. (n.d.). United Nations : Office on Drugs and Crime. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/index.html>

<sup>32</sup> *UNODC and WHO launch joint drug dependence treatment programme*. (n.d.). United Nations : Office on Drugs and Crime. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/unodc-and-who-launch-joint-drug-dependence-treatment-programme.html>

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<sup>33</sup> *Drug policies - Penal Reform International*. (2022, August 24). Penal Reform International. <https://www.penalreform.org/global-prison-trends-2022/drug-policies/>

<sup>34</sup> *Youth Initiative*. (n.d.-b). United Nations : Office on Drugs and Crime. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/prevention/youth-initiative.html>



your assigned country have taken, are taking, and/or are planning to take; your nation's interests concerning drug issues; and, ultimately, the proposals you should make and the stance you should defend throughout the conference.

## Questions to Consider

- What kind of substances (opioids, cocaine, cannabinoids, etc.) are commonly abused in your country? Why?
- Are drugs (natural and artificial) produced in your country? If so, what kind of people are the producers of the substances? Why?
- What kind of people (e.g. poor people, people of a certain ethnicity) abuse drugs in your country? What motives do these people have?
- What role do drugs play in your country's economy?
- How do addicts in your country obtain drugs?

- Is the recreational use of drugs legal in your country? If so, why? If not, why not?
- What punishment does your country's laws stipulate for drug offenses? To what extent is drug possession punished?
- Has your country taken positive action towards the protection, rehabilitation, and social reintegration of addicts?

## Guidelines for Position Papers

Position papers must clearly articulate the current situation of your country, briefly explain the past actions it has taken, and further denote possible solutions. Papers may also include international resolutions and strategies to combat the issue discussed in your committee; however, the main focus **must** be on your country. When developing your position papers, please focus on information that directly relates to the topic. General information about your country, such as its geographical location, major cities, or major trade exports, should not be included to lengthen your report. Remember that delegates and chairs do not have a lot of



time during the conference to read the position papers. If you want to successfully press the case of your country, you want your position papers to get to the point quickly and persuasively.

## Closing Remarks

We would like to thank you again for your participation in JMMUN 2024. Position papers, a great amount of research, and occasionally stressful caucusing await you on your journey as a delegate. These are not insurmountable; you can overcome them. Good luck, and we look forward to seeing you in March.

## Works Cited

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