

# KnightMUNXVIII

*United Nations Narcotics Commission*





## Dear Delegates

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Welcome to KnightMUNXVIII ! Our dedicated Knightmun staff, myself included, are very excited to see the diplomatic solutions and creative passion you are going to bring to the latest conference in a long series of evolutionary and engaging learning experiences provided for every high school student willing to place the extra effort.

My name is Amin Kavehzadeh and I will be your Director for the United Nations Narcotics Commission. Though this is my first time being a director of a committee, I have been doing Model United Nations since I was a junior in high school and I have been heavily affiliated with KnightMUN for the past 2 years.

In the past 5 years of doing MUN, I have been lucky enough to travel all across North America, and have experienced some of the greatest lessons I will cherish for the rest of my life. My passion is what fuels my motivation for this committee and my

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number one goal is to instill that very same passion in all of you. This committee will attempt to challenge you in finding a creative solution agreed upon by your represented nation through a morally gray lense. This challenge will be no easy feat but we are here to train you for the collegiate circuit and as so, are more than happy to guide you through the whole process.

If you have any questions please contact me or my assistant chair.

Absolute Best Regards,

Amin Kavehzadeh

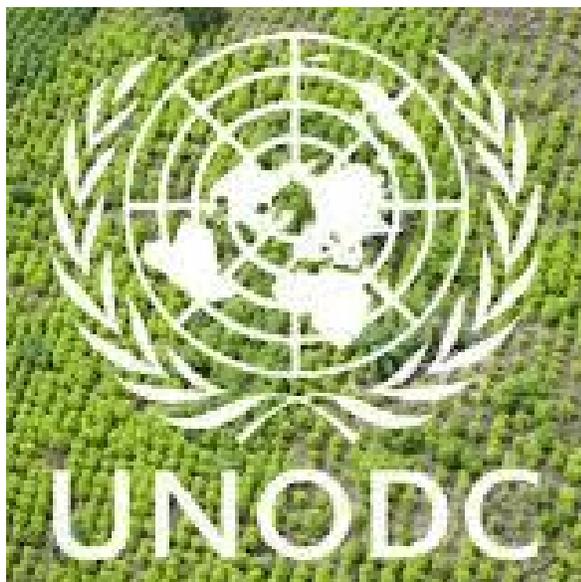
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**UNODC's approach to the drugs issue is multi-faceted and encompasses the most diverse aspects of the subject, with orchestrated and specific actions in the areas of health, education and public safety, among others.**

**-UNODC**

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## Committee History

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Throughout modern history, the narcotics trade has been upheld by numerous organizations that are worldwide in scale. Such organizations have proven to be hard to control for even the most influential nation states. Opiates production, consumption and trafficking are a field of global crime, where an organized effort by the majority of member states can turn out to be extremely successful. In the past, there has been common pressure between member states as to what exactly is the underlying cause of international drug usage. One point brought up is the

local cultures customs in relation to narcotics as well as the trading and transportation of the materials. Producers faulted the Member States that consumed the product and the other way around. By fighting the war against narcotics, rather than blaming individual states, a more secure world can be built.

The challenges of regulating narcotic drugs became apparent following the International Opium Convention of 1925. It presented a structure that controlled the trade of narcotic drugs through licensing and recording of deals. In 1931, a different way of handling narcotics was deliberated in Geneva and Bangkok. The innovative system was applied to restrict the trade of narcotic drugs to medical and scientific purposes, and remove it from circulation for common use. In 1936, narcotics were deemed an illegitimate trade. The reason for many lackadaisical in committee sessions regarding narcotics were due to logistical loopholes and contradictory tactics among nations that could not seem to find a common ground. Finally, in 1946, the agreement on narcotics was so intricate that narcotic drugs were governed by six differing treaties. The system had proven to contain numerous issues due to uncooperative nation states that refused to follow the treaties of the time. Additionally, there was little to no regulation for domestic exchange in the vegetal products such as cannabis, opium, etc. and it's in the hands of the global community and the United Nations to progress the current position of the commission of narcotic drugs.

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## **Topic I Addressing Drug Trafficking and the Financing of Non-state actors**

This topic will be an exciting exploration of the multilateral relationship between terrorism and drug trafficking, if you are a new delegate, you might be surprised how closely tied these issues really are. For years, these crimes have plagued the international community, leaving thousands dead and many living in fear. Each issue has, individually, been beaten to death by other conferences, but few have dared to have a discussion about the relationship between drug trafficking and the financing of non-state actors.

Delegates should consider focusing specifically on combating illicit opiates that have been originating in Afghanistan, which has been the world's top opium producer since 1992. Terrorism and narcotics trafficking are certainly not novel concerns, as the international community has suffered from these problems for decades. Unfortunately, the evolution of these threats has kept pace with the globalization of our society, and one of the principle traits of this development is that terrorist groups have turned increasingly to organized crime, rather than remaining strictly "ideological" enterprises.<sup>1</sup> Two of the most infamous examples of this trend can be found in Colombia and Afghanistan, where the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) and the Taliban, respectively, benefit greatly from the narcotics trade. Among the myriad crimes that these groups are involved in, drug trafficking is without a doubt the most lucrative, particularly in Member States with fewer financial resources.<sup>2</sup> Indeed, the heroin market makes up one-fifth of Afghanistan's total national output (GDP).<sup>3</sup> The cut that goes to the Taliban is well above \$120 million, giving critical assets to the financing of terrorist activities.

The end of the Cold War was a noteworthy movement for terrorist groups, as state sponsorship of terrorism significantly diminished in the years following.<sup>4</sup> Member States became more hesitant to fund terrorist groups, dreading international sanctions, accordingly pushing terrorist factions to look for budgetary assets elsewhere. This was further encouraged by a trend in global organized crime, drug traffickers now looked to expand their businesses past borders and into more lucrative markets. Before, many operations depended on a geologically based hierarchy, for example, the Italian mafia. The globalization of business sectors made the transport of stock quicker, and improved the ease and speed of communication, which allowed for the expansion of legitimate businesses and organized criminal activities alike.

The primary global agreement pertaining to transnational organized crime (TOC) is the 2000 UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), which characterizes organized crime as systematic groups, made up of many individuals that commit offenses for money-related or material benefits.<sup>5</sup> It has been contended that this definition is expansive, and simply addresses criminal groups, rather than TOC itself.<sup>6</sup> Nevertheless, narcotics trafficking

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must be comprehended inside the extent of UNTOC, particularly since narcotics trafficking can have severe global consequences.

Another issue that contributes to the financing of non-state actors is the massive corruption and money laundering that occurs in many lesser developed states that are the source of production for the international narcotics trade. Combating Money-laundering is a fundamental aspect in reducing the illegal trafficking of drugs. Addressing money-laundering is vital because it fuels multinational organized crime, which aggravates the trafficking of narcotic drugs. Preventing Money-laundering involves better organization among Member States, through improved judicial collaboration at the international, regional, and national levels, as well as increased capacity building.<sup>7</sup> The UNODC provides resources for technical support, through the Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism (GPML), to support UN Member States that are vulnerable to money-laundering practices.<sup>8</sup> Additionally, the GPML in collaboration with various other global organizations such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have established new regulation as well as an information sharing system to fight the illegitimate practice of money laundering.<sup>9</sup> Finally, international organized crime is a grave threat to global peace and security. It is necessary that it be addressed to combat the issue of money-laundering and the world drug problem in general.

When considering the purpose of terrorism or the actions of non-state actors, we can see that it is to produce a precise situation in a vulnerable country and society. These actors want to win the support of the public, targeting areas that are plagued with poverty and civil unrest. In this kind of vulnerable society, which suffers from drugs, grassroots programs and Member States should focus on managing the emotional approach that is used by many non-state actors to win the hearts and minds of the local populations by promoting the fight on drugs and its trafficking. That is a consideration of propaganda to influence public opinion towards a more law and order approach.

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<sup>1</sup> Makarenko, *The Crime–Terror Continuum: Tracing the Interplay between Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism*, 2004, p. 130. <sup>2</sup>

Durnagol, *The Role of Drugs in Terrorism and Organized Crime*, 2009, p. 57. <sup>3</sup> UNODC, *The Globalization of Crime: A Transnational Organized Crime*

Threat Assessment, 2010, p. 246. <sup>4</sup> Durnagol, *The Role of Drugs in Terrorism and Organized Crime*, 2009, p. 68. <sup>5</sup> UN General Assembly, *United Nations*

*Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (A/RES/55/255)*, 2000, Art. 2 (a) <sup>6</sup> UNODC, *The Globalization of Crime: A Transnational Organized Crime Threat Assessment*, 2010, p. 25.

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## **Topic II Assessing the Impact of the Global Narcotics Drug Control**

The United Nations and the entire international community have been fighting narcotics, and the organized crime that surrounds them, for decades. They have passed numerous restrictions in order to curtail the free-flow of narcotics all around the world, but in areas such as Latin America and the Middle East, the global community's actions have had little effect. International bodies have yet to place bans on many psychotropic substances, and they are finding it hard to maintain harsh restrictions when advances in technology and chemical techniques are creating new drugs every day, and tweaking the chemical structure of known drugs just enough to stay one step ahead of law. As such, this committee should focus on the social implementation of drug restrictions, and build on the global success of the United Nations efforts to curtail the narcotics trade, effectively attacking the root cause of any trade: demand. This approach will be especially in the areas where the trade in illicit drugs is most prominent: regions where a lack of infrastructure and a history of armed conflict prohibit restrictions from being properly implemented.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted in September 2015, have become effective as of January 2016, with the aim of furthering and eventually bringing to fruition the earlier Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).<sup>10</sup> The SDGs endeavor to free the globe of destitution and hunger, while acknowledging that lesser developed countries (LDCs) will experience unique difficulties in achieving sustainability. Please note that this committee will not be focusing on the SDG's and reiterating these goals into a resolution format will not be tolerated. Although these goals are set up to fit many of the issues that arise from drug trafficking, I am looking for more specific solutions that are directly associated with the implementation of international drug policies. The role of civil society organizations (CSOs) in addressing and resolving the issue of the global drug problem is one of great importance.<sup>11</sup> When examining issues of international concern, the UN General Assembly looks to civil society organizations to contribute, due to their experience with program

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development and implementation. Civil society is comprised of individuals and organizations who are not directly associated with governments or government organizations. CSOs include non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other groups that advocate on specific issues.

Demand reduction is of significant importance in battling the world narcotics. The global community must continue to implement a widespread approach towards decreasing the demand for illegal drugs to completely combat the harmful aspects of this narcotics trade. Member States should further apply national policies that take into consideration the precise challenges that are faced by vulnerable populations.<sup>12</sup> Also, the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 High-Level Review by the CND of the Implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, emphasized the amplified need for education and awareness programs. Furthermore, it highlighted the need for increased global cooperation to strengthen public health programs to reinforce prevention and treatment measures.

Moreover, the 2014 Joint Ministerial Statement acknowledged the intrinsic connection between drug use and the wide spread of HIV/AIDS. They called for increased collaboration among all Member States, the World Health Organization (WHO), UNODC, and UNAIDS, to curtail the harmful public health and social impacts of drug abuse.<sup>13</sup>

## Supply Reduction and Related Measures

Diminishing the illegal trafficking of narcotic drugs is a fundamental attribute towards addressing the world drug problem. One key example of the global response regarding the decrease in the illicit trafficking of narcotics is the joint UNODC / World Customs Organization (WCO) Container Control Programme. The UNODC and the WCO provide technical assistance

<sup>7</sup> "Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 High-Level Review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the Implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action." CND, n.d. Web. 22 May 2015. <[http://www.unodc.org/documents/hlr/JointStatement/V1403583\\_E\\_ebook.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/hlr/JointStatement/V1403583_E_ebook.pdf)>.

<sup>8</sup> Technical assistance against money-laundering. UNODC, n.d. Web. 22 May 2015.

<sup>10</sup> UN General Assembly, Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1), 2015.

<sup>11</sup> UN General Assembly, International cooperation against the world drug problem (A/RES/66/183), 2012.

<sup>12</sup> "Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 High-Level Review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the Implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action." CND, n.d. Web. 22 May 2015. <[http://www.unodc.org/documents/hlr/JointStatement/V1403583\\_E\\_ebook.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/hlr/JointStatement/V1403583_E_ebook.pdf)>.

<sup>13</sup> Horizontal Initiatives. UNODC, n.d. Web. 19 May 2015. <<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/drug-trafficcking/horizontal-initiatives.html>>.

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to Member States to minimize the risk of shipping containers being exploited for illicit drug trafficking, which is provided by the Container Control Programme.

Furthermore, in addition to addressing drug trafficking directly, primary control remains a significant challenge facing the global community concerning the supply of narcotic drugs. Precursor chemicals are chemicals that are used in the engineering of drugs.<sup>14</sup> The main issue with precursor chemical control finding ways to prevent the use of precursors into manufacturing illicit drugs, while instantaneously not stifling the lawful trade of chemicals for industrial and pharmaceutical use. As usual, better global cooperation is required to prevent the diversion of legitimate precursors to illicit users.

### **Alternative development**

The alternative development notion is the idea that drug growing areas are typically zones where poverty is inherent and where local farmers promote illegal drug crops because they are powerless to obtain adequate income from legal activities due to the lack of viable markets and the constant presence of conflict in the area. Other issues include the lack of marginal land and absence of basic infrastructures.<sup>15</sup> Alternative development promotes legal, sustainable alternate occupations to areas that promote illicit drug crops.

UNODC's alternative development involvements also target towards societies that are vulnerable to creating illicit cultivation in the future. Eventually, bigger financial and technical assistance is required from the global community, to entirely implement and achieve alternative development projects in vulnerable societies. An important tool in regards to alternative development is the UN Guiding Principles on Alternative Development. The UN Guiding Principles on Alternative Development are guidelines founded on greatest practices that offer technical assistance regarding the implementation of alternative development programs.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>14</sup> "World Drug Report, 2014." UNODC, n.d. Web. 19 May 2015. <[http://www.unodc.org/documents/wdr2014/World\\_Drug\\_Report\\_2014\\_web.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/wdr2014/World_Drug_Report_2014_web.pdf)>.

<sup>15</sup> Alternative Development. UNODC, n.d. Web. 21 May 2015. <<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/alternative-development/overview.html>>

<sup>16</sup> "UN Guiding Principles on Alternative Development." UN General Assembly, n.d. Web. 19 May 2015. <[http://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CND/Drug\\_Resolutions/2010-2019/2013/A\\_RES\\_68\\_196.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CND/Drug_Resolutions/2010-2019/2013/A_RES_68_196.pdf)>.

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To attain amplified implementation of alternative development programs, in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, increased collaboration among Member States, as well as Non-Governmental Organizations is essential.<sup>17</sup> Ultimately, alternative development principle aims to address supply reduction, and ultimately reduce the illegal trafficking of drugs.

A past session of the General Assembly discussed the world narcotics issue; assembled in June of 1998, the twentieth session drafted an arrangement to fundamentally reduce the worldwide free market activity of narcotics before the end of the decade. Over ten years after the fact, CND built up the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated Balanced Strategy to counter the World Drug Problem in Vienna, in its 2009 High-Level Segment.<sup>18</sup> This archive was published as a follow-up for the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, and it reiterates the global community's dedication to comprehensively understanding and addressing the global drug problem. The document affirms that the collective endeavors of CND and civil society organizations (CSO) will gain ground in the fight to halt the world narcotics exchange at the source. It also expresses that it is imperative to expand development to decrease the supply of illicit drugs while simultaneously creating a need for better healthcare. Particularly, in the framework of the role of CSOs, this document recognizes the beneficial effect that CSO efforts have on tackling the world drug problem.

It is irrefutable that civil society organizations play a crucial role in the war on drugs. The CSOs that have consultative or observer status with the United Nations have direct access to international debates and policymaking when debating the world drug problem. CND relies extensively on the expertise and opinions of CSOs and the individuals they advocate for. We must look at the world's drug problem through the eyes of not only the United Nations or a single state, we must look through the eyes of the entire global community and identify key influences in implementing affective solutions for people around the world.

<sup>17</sup> "Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 High-Level Review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the Implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action." CND, n.d. Web. 22 May 2015. <[http://www.unodc.org/documents/hlr/JointStatement/V1403583\\_E\\_ebook.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/hlr/JointStatement/V1403583_E_ebook.pdf)>.

<sup>18</sup> UNODC, Political declaration and plan of action on international cooperation towards an integrated and balanced strategy to counter the world drug problem, 2009

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### **Committee Recommendations**

The specialized nature of this committee will require a high level of research and analysis from all delegates. It is extremely important that delegates avoid falling into the trap of using clichés in resolutions, and instead strive to make policies that will effectively address the topics of the committee.

### **Questions for Consideration:**

- What effective measures does the UN already have to combat narcotics trade?
  - Which measures can be updated?
  - What solutions benefit the civil societies the narcotics trades are embedded within?
  - Do solutions mean going outside of the UN?
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