



PRESIDIUM *for* **CHANGE**

FOR A BETTER WORLD

PRESIDIUM MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE 2024

UNODC

BACKGROUND GUIDE



**UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE ON DRUGS
AND CRIME**



AGENDA:

Enhancing Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice with special emphasis on Drug dealing in the Global South.

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Greetings,

We welcome you all, in the capacity of the members of the Executive Board of 9th Edition of Presidium MUN taking place on 18th & 19th October 2024. Since this conference shall be a learning experience for all of you, it shall be for us as well. Our only objective shall be to make you all speak and participate in the discussion, and we pledge to give every effort for the same.

How to research for the agenda and beyond? There are several things to consider. This background guide shall be different from the background guides you might have come across in other MUNs and will emphasize more on providing you sources where you find matter for your research than to provide you matter itself, because we do not believe in spoon-feeding you, nor do we believe in leaving you to swim in the pond all by yourself. We promise that if you read the entire set of documents, you shall be able to cover 70% of your research for the conference. The remaining amount of research depends on how willing are you to put in your efforts and understand those articles and/or documents. So, in the purest of the language we can say, it is important to read anything and everything whose links are provided in the background guide.

What to speak in the committee and in what manner? The basic emphasis of the committee shall not be on how much facts you read and present in the committee but how you explain them in simple and decent language to us and the fellow committee members. The entire conference aims at analyzing your understanding of the agenda and not how much you have studied. So, kindly focus upon analysis and explanation, because we are interested in knowing how much you know and remember that you will know only if you read and work.

We wish you all the very best and feel free to ask doubts, if any.

Regards,

Executive Board

9th Edition of Presidium MUN

Presidium School, Gurgaon

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INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

Official Website: [United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime](#)

The United Nations Office On Drugs and Crime established in 1997 primarily focuses on pressing global issues related to illicit drugs, crime prevention, and counter-terrorism. With a mandate focused on promoting security, justice, and health worldwide, UNODC plays a vital role in shaping international efforts to combat drug trafficking, organized crime, and terrorist activities.

UNODC provides technical assistance, research and normative support to member states to help them develop and implement comprehensive, evidence-based solutions to complex and interconnected threats concerning illicit drugs and criminal activities. UNODC lies in the center of global crime prevention via its collaborative efforts with governments, international organizations and criminal activities. The committee derives its mandate through 2 key international instruments which are the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

Among the key areas of focus for the UNODC is its role in combating illicit drug trade. UNODC aims to reduce production, trafficking and consumption of illicit drugs thus decreasing their negative consequences on public health. Moreover illicit drug trade often serves as a source of funding for terrorist activities and transnational crime syndicates. Thus there is a clearly defined link between illicit drug trade and criminal violence.

UNODC's mission is to contribute to global peace and security, human rights and development by making the world safer from drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism. This Strategy for the next five years will equip UNODC to deliver effectively, efficiently and with accountability, elevating our support to Member States to build just, inclusive and resilient societies that leave no one behind.



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INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA

Agenda: Enhancing Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice with special emphasis on Drug dealing in the Global South

The Prevention of Crime ECOSOC resolution 2002/13, Annex establishes crime prevention as consisting of strategies and measures that seek to reduce the risk of crimes occurring, and their potential harmful effects on individuals and society, including fear of crime, by intervening to influence their multiple causes.

Thus effective crime prevention necessitates that actors in the Justice system collaborate with those in other sectors to address the root causes of disputes and avert conflict, violence and human rights abuses, indicating a shift from punitive measures to evidence based prevention to reduce violence. Therefore UNODC assists member states to enhance the capacity of crime prevention by focusing on sectors that interact with offenders and victims, which includes social workers, prosecution authorities and defense attorneys.

Source: [ECOSOC Resolution 2002/13 Action to promote effective crime prevention](#)

CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- Strengthened access to justice for all, particularly the most vulnerable
- Effective, community and knowledge-based crime prevention
- Better prevention of violence and increased access to gender responsive justice - Strengthened prevention of and responses to violence against children
- Reforms to ensure safe and humane custody of prisoners

Flexible and wide-ranging partnerships are critical for ensuring that we can continue to deliver assistance to counter the social and health effects of drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism when and where needed; to build national and local ownership and sustainability and maximize impact. This Strategy is premised on political and financial partnerships, transparency and continuous engagement.

The commission on crime prevention and criminal justice established by ECOSOC- Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/1 acts as the principal policy making body of the UN in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

Source: <https://ecosoc.un.org/en>

Geographic Focus:

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The Global South includes regions such as Latin America, Africa, and parts of Asia, where drug trafficking often intersects with poverty, political instability, and corruption.

Crime Prevention

Crime prevention is the effort to reduce and deter criminal acts and behaviors. It can include actions taken by governments, communities, or society to: Enforce the law, Maintain criminal justice, discourage individuals from committing crimes, and Evaluate laws and regulations to prevent crime.

Criminal Justice

the system of laws, policies, institutions, and procedures that are involved with crimes before, during, and after they are committed. It also includes the people who work to ensure that criminals are punished and victims are helped.

Illicit Drugs

An illicit drug is one that is illegal to have (for example, cannabis, heroin, and cocaine), and the non-medical use of drugs that are legally available such as painkillers and sleeping pills.

Drug Trafficking

Drug trafficking is a global illicit trade involving the cultivation, manufacture, distribution and sale of substances which are subject to drug prohibition laws. UNODC is continuously monitoring and researching global illicit drug markets in order to gain a more comprehensive understanding of their dynamics.

Illicit Drug trade in the Global South

South Asia by virtue of its proximity to Asia's two principal areas of illicit opium production, those being the Golden crescent (Central, South and West Asia) and Golden Triangle (parts of southeast Asia such as Burma, Laos and Thailand) acts as the epicenter for illicit drug trade. The volume of illicit opium trade through this region has already resulted in higher rates of opiates consumption. As per the annual report of the International Narcotics Control Board 2023, 39% of the world's opiate users reside in South Asia.

According to the 2011 International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) Report, there has been an increase in the abuse and trafficking of prescription drugs and over-the-counter pharmaceutical preparations containing narcotic drugs in South Asia. Many of these drugs are obtained in local pharmacies. **Source:** [INCB](#)

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Afghanistan is the world's largest illicit opium-producing country, accounting for more than 90 percent of global output. This has increased the availability and use of illicitly produced opiates in South Asia. For many years, drug trafficking in South Asia has been the most lucrative form of business for criminals. Drug markets have evolved, and the region is now witnessing challenges such as bulk trafficking in heroin, rise in methamphetamine manufacturing and trafficking, diversion of controlled substances from licit to illicit channels, smuggling of pharmaceutical preparations containing narcotic and psychotropic substances, and inadequate coordination between various drug enforcement agencies in the region. A recent phenomenon in the region is the rise of trafficking and abuse of ATS and setting up of clandestine laboratories. The challenge in containing precursors is that they are used both for legitimate and illegal purposes. The emergence of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) has posed a difficult challenge for governments as well as law enforcement agencies in the region. The information on the NPS trafficking and its abuse patterns and trends is very limited and not widely available to the policy makers for taking informed policy decisions.

Precursor control has intensified the problem further. The term 'precursor chemicals' refers to chemicals that are essential to manufacture drugs and are incorporated at molecular level into a narcotic drug or psychotropic substance. Precursors are legally produced chemicals which are legitimately used in industries and research. However, drug trackers divert them from legitimate trade and use them to produce illicit drugs.

Source: [What are NPS? Precursor Chemicals](#)

Past International Action

1. Drug Abuse treatment:

UNODC has been working with Governments and civil society organizations on a broad range of areas, including research, evidence generation, quality assurance, advocacy and policy advice, pioneering of Opioid Substitution Treatment (OST), capacity building and training of service providers in the field of drug treatment, HIV prevention and overdose management.

Source: [Part 1: introducing opioid substitution treatment \(OST\) - GOV.UK](#)

2. Transnational efforts:

UNODC, in consultation with the Governments of South Asian Member States, has envisioned the creation of a regional mechanism known as South Asian Regional Intelligence and Coordination Centre on Transnational Organized Crime (SARICC-TOC) with the aim of facilitating criminal intelligence collection and analysis as well as to coordinate law enforcement efforts.

Source: [India: South Asian officials and experts extend support to UNODC's regional intelligence sharing initiative](#)

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3. Maritime efforts:

The heavy reliance on maritime transportation by trackers necessitates the involvement of National customs authorities and international organizations dealing with customs. UNODC has actively been working with the World Customs Organization (WCO) to implement container control programmes. This also calls for flexible and sustainable enforcement structures of sea ports and greater maritime security.

Source: [World Customs Organization](#)

For further research/Questions

Given that the agenda focuses on both the legal and technical aspects of illicit drug trade in south asia as well as their consequences on public health and security. Additionally due to the lack of policy cohesion among South Asian nations, Delegates are advised to focus on their existing legal and maritime infrastructure in order to create a unified legal and technical framework to deal with the complexities of illicit drug trade.

Key research areas thus would include, research on one's own respective criminal justice infrastructure as well as developing research, analysis and sharing of information with regional partners and state actors with special emphasis on drug abuse, maritime drug smuggling and developing adequate policy instruments to meet emerging challenges such as the legality of precursor chemicals.

Case Study: This case study illustrates the complexities and potential solutions to drug dealing in the Global South, emphasizing the need for comprehensive and multifaceted approaches to crime prevention and criminal justice.

Colombia, historically known for its role in the global drug trade, particularly cocaine production, presents a complex case study of crime prevention and criminal justice efforts in the Global South. Recent initiatives have focused on addressing the underlying causes of drug dealing while promoting social justice and public health.

Historical Background: Colombia has faced decades of violence related to drug trafficking, leading to significant social and economic challenges. Major cartels, such as the Medellín and Cali cartels, dominated the cocaine trade in the 1980s and 1990s, contributing to widespread corruption and violence.

Current Situation: Although drug trafficking remains a critical issue, Colombia has seen a shift in strategies over the last decade, particularly following the peace agreement with the FARC guerrilla group in 2016.

- Integrated Development Programs: The Colombian government and international partners have implemented integrated rural development programs aimed at providing

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alternative livelihoods for communities involved in coca cultivation. These programs focus on agricultural development, education, and infrastructure improvements.

- **Public Health Approach:** Emphasizing harm reduction, Colombia has adopted strategies to address drug addiction through public health interventions rather than solely punitive measures. Initiatives include providing treatment and support services for drug users.
- **Community Engagement:** Local communities have been involved in decision-making processes, helping to tailor programs to their specific needs and concerns. This grassroots approach fosters trust and collaboration between law enforcement and community members.

Challenges Faced

- **Ongoing Violence:** Despite progress, violence related to drug trafficking and disputes over territory continues, particularly as new armed groups emerge to fill the power vacuum left by disbanded cartels.
- **Stigmatization of Drug Users:** Social stigma surrounding drug use complicates public health efforts, making it difficult to reach and assist those in need.
- **Corruption:** Corruption within law enforcement and judicial systems persists, undermining trust and effectiveness in crime prevention strategies.

Successful Legal framework and Strategies

The National Integral Program for the Substitution of Illicit Crops (PNIS): This program aims to support farmers in transitioning from coca cultivation to legal crops. It includes commitments to provide technical assistance and economic support to farmers willing to abandon coca.

Harm Reduction Policies: Programs like the "Red de Apoyo" (Support Network) provide resources for drug users, including access to clean needles, overdose prevention education, and rehabilitation services. These initiatives have been critical in reducing health-related risks associated with drug use.

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Sources for Research

1. [ECOSOC Resolution 2002/13 Action to promote effective crime prevention](#)
2. [Transnational Organized Crime: A Growing Threat to National and International Security | The White House](#)
3. [Drug trafficking - National Crime Agency](#)
4. [Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs - United States Department of State](#)
5. [Strengthening global cooperation in crime prevention and enhancing criminal justice systems: highlights from the 33rd Crime Commission](#)
6. [GLOBAL CHALLENGES POSED BY ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING AND ORGANIZED CRIME, AS THIRD COMMITTEE CONCLUDES DEBATE | OHCHR](#)

NOTE: Kindly note that this Background Guide is not exhaustive in nature and is merely a vessel to guide your research procedures by hinting at a few of many key focus areas and the degree of the technicality and analysis that is expected out of every one of you. Research should not be limited to the background guide and the links provided here, delegates are encouraged to go beyond and research all relevant information.

With this, we wish you all the best and anticipate two days of exemplary academic deliberations!