



# JejuMUN X

## Background Guide

### Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee

1 | Strengthening international cooperation against  
the world drug problem

SDG: 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities, 16. Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, 17.  
Partnerships to achieve the Goal

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November 24th–25th, 2023

Last updated on September 3rd, 2023

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## Committee Introduction

SOCHUM, the Social and Humanitarian Council has long been one of the most important branches of the United Nations. SOCHUM is the branch of the UN that is mainly responsible for the upkeep of human rights around the world by dealing with social, cultural, and humanitarian problems. SOCHUM's resolutions rarely result in violence or any military force of any kind while resolutions often revolve around what can be done to prevent further escalation.

SOCHUM was formed in 1945 to facilitate discussions on a cultural and social scale. SOCHUM is the third of the UN's six main branches, and it meets annually in early October and attempts to wrap up their activities by November. SOCHUM has been an important part of the UN body for almost 80 years.

Some of the major issues that SOCHUM has solved include LGBTQIA+, humanitarian aid in countries with conflicts, and countries facing human rights violations. Specifically, SOCHUM has passed resolutions on organ trafficking around the world and to enhance prisoner protection rights. Since its creation, SOCHUM has been one of the most effective committees in the United Nations.

The delegates in SOCHUM should strive to uphold the values of this committee by attempting to find a peaceful solution that benefits all parties involved.

## Agenda Introduction

Drugs have been, are, and will be a problem. The nearly 110,000 people who died of overdose in 2022 is the highest number ever recorded. From depressants to stimulants, not only is overdose one of the world's biggest causes of deaths, but yearly America alone spends 600 billion dollars(\$) on drugs. While death might be the most noticeable aspect of substance abuse or addiction, around the world, families are being torn apart, lives are being ruined, and savings are being used to buy drugs. It is imperative that countries stand together on the war of drugs.

The issue of drugs has spread across the entire world, it would be nearly impossible to find a country that did not experience a drug problem in the last 50 years.

The world's number one supplier of drugs is Afghanistan, having exported 80% of the world's opium and 90% of the world's heroin. However, Afghanistan cannot be the only country to be blamed. Many countries have been involved in the process of mass producing of drugs. Drug smuggling has become a major part of many countries' economies, with the black market profiting incredibly from the illegal drug trade.

The 98,268 people that died of overdose in America in 2021 is a 781% increase of the people who died of preventable drug related causes in 1999. Around the world, in 22 years, there has been a 781% increase in deaths related to drugs. The increasing rate at which people are dying shows the seriousness of the issue. However, this is not to say that nothing has been done to stop or at least slow the world drug problem.

Needless to say, drugs and narcotics abuse and addiction is a problem that envelops most, if not all, of the world's countries. Yet, while many countries are affected by this problem, one of the many reasons that this problem is yet to be solved is due to the fact that many countries have taken an individualistic approach to this problem, with most countries believing in working alone in this situation. If this problem is not addressed, then this situation will only continue to slip deeper and deeper into despair. International cooperation has been the key to solving many world problems. It could be the key to this one.

# Letter from the Chairs

Dear Esteemed Delegates,

We would like to formally, and warmly welcome you to the tenth rendition of JejuMUN. We are Chan Hee(Harry) Jung, Hyun Woo(Harry Shin), and Noah(Noah) King, serving as your head, deputy, and associate chairs respectively, all currently attending St. Johnsbury Academy Jeju. It is our utmost pleasure to serve as your chairs for SOCHUM this conference. Throughout this conference, we will be aiding in any way possible to help support the flow of debate on our agenda of *strengthening international cooperation against the world drug problem*.

To ensure a positive experience at JEJUMUN X, the chairs of this committee request that all of the delegates familiarize themselves with the background guide and have a general understanding of their countries' positions and the agenda under discussion. In addition, the chairs highly suggest that delegates also come prepared with further research for the best possible experience. The committee background guide is a tool for the delegates to aid in their research, and we hope it proves beneficial to the best of its capabilities.

Participating in MUN has been instrumental in improving our debating, public speaking, and writing skills. Moreover, MUN has provided us with opportunities to forge lasting relationships and create indelible memories. Above all, JejuMUN is a place to have fun—if you're a new delegate, observe and participate; if you're more experienced, assume a leadership role. Our aspiration is for you to learn, have fun, and make memories that you will endure, and that this committee serves you well in the experiences that we have cherished ourselves.

We will try our best to serve and support you in all the ways possible, and effectively moderate debate. Please feel free to contact any of us during your preparation for the conference, and we look forward to seeing all of you soon.

Sincerely,

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# Key Terms

## Addiction

The state of being compulsively committed to a habit or practice or to something that is psychologically or physically habit-forming, as narcotics, to such an extent that its cessation causes severe trauma.

## Cartel

A group of independent market participants who collude with each other in order to improve their profits and dominate the market

## Cannabis

Any of the various parts of the plant, especially the leaves and flowering tops of *C. sativa*, from which hashish, marijuana, bhang, and similar mildly euphorogenic and hallucinogenic drugs are prepared

## Cooperation

An act or instance of working or acting together for a common purpose or benefit; joint action.

## Depressant

Having the quality of depressing or lowering the vital activities; sedative.

## Hallucinogens

A substance that produces hallucinations.

## Psychoactive drug

A habit-forming medicinal or illicit substance, especially a narcotic.

## Trafficking

The practice of dealing or trading in a commodity or service, often an illegal one:

## Illicit

Not legally permitted or authorized; unlicensed; unlawful.

## Opium

The dried, condensed juice of a poppy, that has a narcotic, soporific, analgesic, and astringent effect and contains morphine, codeine, papaverine, and other alkaloids used in medicine in their isolated or derived forms: a narcotic substance, poisonous in large doses.

### **Overdose**

An excessive and dangerous dose of a drug,

### **Stimulants**

A substance that temporarily quickens some vital process or the functional activity of some organ or part.

### **War on drugs**

The war on drugs is a global campaign, led by the United States federal government, of drug prohibition, military aid, and military intervention, with the aim of reducing the illegal drug trade in the United States.

# Historical Background

## **The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961)**

The single convention on narcotic Drugs was the very first international treaty that set control measures for narcotic drugs, such as cannabis, opium, heroin, and cocaine. It aimed to limit the production, manufacture, trade, distribution, and use of these substances to medical and scientific purposes only. It also established an international system of supervision and cooperation on narcotic drugs.

## **The United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988)**

The United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances was the UN's response to the global problem of drug trafficking. It established measures to prevent and combat illicit production and trade of drugs, such as extradition, mutual legal assistance, and law enforcement cooperation. It also required countries to criminalize drug-related activities.

## **Creation of The Drug Policy Alliance(2000)**

In 2000, The Lindesmith center, founded by Ethan Nadelmann in 1994, merged with the Drug Policy Foundations to form the Drug Policy Alliance. This alliance is today's leading drug policy reform organization that aims to end the global drug war and reduce the harms of both drug use and drug prohibition.

## **The Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (2009)**

This was a document adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations. Its purpose was to reaffirm the commitment of member states to the pre-existing drug conventions and outline a comprehensive strategy to address the drug problem in all its aspects: demand reduction, supply reduction, and overall international cooperation. It also set specific targets and indicators to be reached by 2019.



## Current State of Affairs

The world drug problem is one of the most pressing challenges faced by the United Nations in the 21st century. According to the World Drug Report 2021 published by the United Nations, about 5.5% of the global population have used drugs at least once in 2021, while 13% of the total number of people who use drugs, suffer from drug use disorders. The COVID-19 pandemic has also increased the risks and harms associated with drug use and trafficking, making this global issue more harmful and serious.

In 2016, member states of the SOCHUM committed to implementing a comprehensive, balanced, and evidence-based approach to drug policy based on the information from international drug control conventions. The commitment also recognized the need to respect human rights, promote alternative development, and enhance international cooperation between governments and NGOs.

Because of its complex nature, the world drug problem is an issue that a lot of UN committees regularly deal with. SOCHUM, being one of the main UN committees that deal with the world drug problem, focuses on the social and humanitarian effects of drugs. The committee will have to work together to find effective and sustainable solutions to this global challenge. The delegates should strive to separate this committee from other UN committees that also deal with a similar agenda.

# Stances of Parties

## Afghanistan

Afghanistan has long been the world's number one supplier of illicit drugs. Not only does Afghanistan produce around 90% of the world's opium, but many routes used to trade and transport illicit drugs worldwide are within Afghan borders. Recent Taliban decisions has led to a reduction in poppy and opium that leaves the country. Despite this, Afghanistan (and the Taliban) have a long history of drug trading. In previous years Afghanistan has declined the opportunity to work with other countries to solve the international drug problem.

## Argentina

Recently, there has been growing violence in Argentina's numerous drug cartels, with Argentina becoming one of the world's largest importers of drugs. Per a 2019 report from BBC, Argentina has the world's 3rd largest cocaine consumption rate per person. Argentina's drug problem is slowly but surely becoming one of the biggest problems that their government is being tasked with solving. Currently, the Argentine government is eager to work with other countries to solve their growing problems.

## Australia

While Australia's drug problem may not be as pressing as the issues in other countries, 43% of Australians age 14+ have used an illicit drug in the past year. Australia is open to working with any countries to solve the drug problem within their country, and are also happy to help other countries with their growing problems including the construction of rehabilitation facilities.

## Azerbaijan

Areas in Azerbaijan have long been used as routes for drug smuggling, often for drugs being smuggled to and from European nations. Azerbaijan has always been a major country, not necessarily in the production of drugs, but as a transit point for other countries' drugs to pass through. Azerbaijan's drug trade is also a major part of their economy and would prefer not to have all illicit drug operations be shut down.

## Brazil

Brazil (along with other countries) involvement in drug cartels and drug production is leading to Latin America becoming one of the biggest areas for drug production in the world. Recently, Brazil's drug problem has become very serious. Brazil's government is open to working with other countries to aid in their own drug problems, but also is eager to help other countries in Latin America with their drug problems.

## **Bangladesh**

Bangladesh's recent drug war spanning from 2018 to the present is a campaign being run by the Bangladeshi government to stop the trafficking of drugs, specifically, a South-East Asian produced 'yaba'. However, Bangladesh's methods in achieving their goals of eradicating drug trafficking have been, at best, controversial, and, at worst, a human rights violation. The Bangladeshi government would prefer to work alone in their quest to stop the trafficking of drugs within the country.

## **Cambodia**

Cambodia has a significant black market of illicit drug trade, most prominently featuring cannabis and methamphetamine. Cambodia's current law states that anybody carrying more than 80 grams of illicit drugs can be imprisoned for life, and this solution has been moderately successful. Cambodia is open to working with other countries to solve their drug problem.

## **Canada**

Canada is still suffering from major drug problems, specifically in areas such as Vancouver. More specifically, Vancouver's downtown has become the home of many drug addicts. Canada, unlike many other countries, does not have a nation-wide drug problem, and has no history of illicit drug trading. Canada is happy to work with any and all countries to end the world wide drug epidemic once and for all.

## **Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

North Korea(DPRK)'s illicit drug trade under the black market is a point of concern. Methamphetamine has a large presence in the illegal black markets of North Korea. North Korea has no interest in the assistance of other countries to aid in their drug problem.

## **Denmark**

Denmark has one of the lowest drug use rates in the world, however, there is still a small percentage of Dutch who are addicted to drugs, and the country is feeling the effects. Denmark is open to working with any countries, and aiding other countries to solve their problems.

## **France**

France is one of the countries with the highest number of drug users, especially cannabis, which is consumed by 41% of the population at least once in their lifetime. The country has adopted a harm reduction drug policy, which includes providing substitution treatment, needle exchange programs and supervised injection sites for people who suffer from. However, drug use and possession are still criminal offenses in the country. The French government has also taken measures to combat drug trafficking and production directly, too. France seized 64.5t of cannabis, 17.5t of cocaine and 1.4t of heroin in the year 2020 . The

French government has also announced its intention to invest more in prevention, education and research on drug-related issues, in order to protect future generations from the danger of drug addiction.

## **India**

India is the world's most populous country facing various challenges including the world drug problem. According to the World Drug Report 2021, India accounted for 28% of the global seizures of heroin and also reported a high prevalence of cannabis use. India has been working to control drug production, trade, and usage based on the principles of prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation. India has also taken several measures to strengthen its legal and institutional framework, such as enacting the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act in 1985 and establishing the Narcotics Control Bureau in 1986. India's future plans against drugs include enhancing its capacity to monitor drug trends and assess drug demand, expanding its network of rehabilitation centers to support de-addiction, and promoting alternative development programs.

## **Kazakhstan**

Kazakhstan is a country that faces serious challenges related specifically to drug trade and consumption. The majority of drug users in Kazakhstan are injecting heroin, which can lead to a high risk of HIV and hepatitis infections. Kazakhstan has adopted a comprehensive national drug strategy, which aims to reduce the supply and demand of drugs and minimize the harm done by drugs. Kazakhstan also emphasizes the importance of regional and international cooperation between countries, especially within the framework of the Paris Pact Initiative. The country's position as one of the biggest drug traders in the world makes it especially important for Kazakhstan to work with other countries and come up with a sustainable solution to the world drug problem.

## **Luxembourg**

Luxembourg is neither a major drug producer nor a drug consumer. However, the country has a lot of unique policies and strategies regarding the world drug problem. The government of Luxembourg aims to prevent drug use and addictive behaviors, reduce drug-related harms and improve public health, public security and social cohesion. In 2019, Luxembourg adopted a law to decriminalize the possession of small amounts of cannabis for personal use, while maintaining sanctions for trafficking, cultivation and sale. Luxembourg also focuses on developing education programs for future generations to provide accurate and useful information about drugs. The government's stance on the drug problem is based on evidence. Luxembourg's drug policy not only deals with the current situation but also plans ahead for the future.

## **Malaysia**

Malaysia is one of the countries that addresses the world drug problem in a balanced and comprehensive manner. According to the World Drug Report 2021, Malaysia reported a recognizable decrease in the number of drug users from 2015 to 2019 as a result of the government's drug policy. Malaysia has implemented various policies and programs to prevent and treat drug use disorders. This includes the National Anti-Drug Agency (NADA), the Cure and Care Rehabilitation Centres (CCRC), and the Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST). Furthermore, Malaysia participated in the ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD) meeting in 2020, where it shared its best practices and challenges in responding to the drug situation amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Looking ahead, Malaysia aims to achieve a drug-free society by 2025, as envisioned by its drug policy. Malaysia continues to enhance its efforts to adopt evidence-based and human rights-oriented approaches to address the growing challenges and threats posed by the drug usage.

## **Mexico**

Mexico is one of the most affected countries by the world drug problem, both as a transit and a source country for illegal drugs being used all around the world. Mexico experienced a battle against drug cartels for more than a decade, and as a result, the Mexican government is deeply connected to the issue of drug production, trade, and consumption. Mexico must work with other countries in many different positions to improve the country's current situation.

## **Myanmar**

Myanmar is one of the major supplying countries of illegal opium. In the 21st century, the country is increasingly becoming a supply source of many illegal drugs not only limited to opium. The massive amount of drug production also leads to an increase in the number of drug users in the country, which has a negative effect on its internal political system. Fully aware of this, the government of Myanmar implemented a drug control plan aiming to reach a drug-free country. This drug control plan focuses on supply reduction, and more specifically, reducing the supply of opium. Myanmar would have to talk to other countries about the subject of supply reduction because of its position as a major drug supplier.

## **Pakistan**

Pakistan is one of the countries that experience serious drug use issues. The UN estimates that more than 7 million of the country's population are taking drugs in Pakistan. The rate of injection drug abuse is noticeably increasing, which leads to the danger of the HIV epidemic. Furthermore, the use of prescription drugs for non-medical purposes is also increasing. However, governmental response to the drug problem has been very minimal in Pakistan. Very few drug response programs are active in the country, and even those have made no significant difference in the country's situation. Pakistan's main focus in this

conference is to find a solution to the national drug addict issue by talking to other countries and cooperating with them.

## **Peru**

Peru has been fighting a war on drugs, yet its outcomes are far from successful. Part of the reasons for its slow progress is the fact that most people are forced into production due to poverty and lack of opportunities in the legal economy. For 40 years, policies in Peru have prioritized forced eradication of coca leaf under intense pressure from the US government. Weak economies, farmers turned into outlaws, and human rights violations are the result of this militarized crop and drug control strategy. Coca production has not shrunk overall, merely shifting its location, often through extensive replanting, which aggravates deforestation. Peru remains the second largest producer of cocaine in the world.

## **Russia**

Drug use became a massive problem in Russia after the collapse of the Soviet Union, when there was a huge influx of drugs from hubs such as Afghanistan. The government introduced tough measures to fight drug use, treating users more like criminals instead of people in need of treatment; Russia's rather draconian law, for instance, allows authorities to sentence people caught with a couple of grams up to 15 years in jail. Further aggravating Russia's drug problem, police officers are incentivized to hunt down drug addicts to fulfill quotas as arrests entail bonuses.

## **Saudi Arabia**

Saudi Arabia is becoming the drug capital of the Middle East, driving demand and becoming the primary destination for smugglers from Syria and Lebanon. The kingdom is one of the largest and most lucrative regional destinations for drugs, and that status is only intensifying. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), between 2015 and 2019 more than half of all Captagon—addictive amphetamines— seized in the Middle East was in Saudi Arabia.

## **Singapore**

Drug abuse in Singapore is mainly dominated by methamphetamine, heroin, and cannabis. Methamphetamine is the most commonly abused drug since 2015. About 92 per cent of the drug abusers arrested in 2021 used at least one of these three drugs. Singapore has a zero-tolerance policy for illegal drugs and imposes long jail terms on convicted users. It also has hanged hundreds of people, even including dozens of foreigners, for narcotics offences over the past few decades

## **South Korea**

South Korea is developing a teen drug problem, and its size is difficult to estimate. One indication: over 100 million individual purchases every year of drugs from overseas, according to the Supreme Prosecutor's Office. Importing, manufacturing, trading, buying, selling, transporting, possessing, and using drugs are all considered drug crimes in Korea. The current Yoon Suk-yeol administration is assembling a task force to fight the drug trade and the use of drugs. The initiative comes as Korea faces a flood of illegal substances from overseas and as the use of drugs becomes more widespread in a society once known as essentially "drug-free".

### **South Sudan**

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), South Sudan has undergone protracted conflict before and since gaining independence in 2011. More than 8 million of the country's 13 million people will need humanitarian assistance in 2021 as a result of intensified intercommunal and sub-national conflict and violence, major flooding and the COVID-19 pandemic. Government funding for health is low at less than 2% of the national budget, and out of pocket spending accounts for around 54% of total health expenditure. There is an acute shortage in the health workforce, inadequate health infrastructure and poor health service utilization.

### **UAE**

UAE has been reported that drug abuse is a growing problem in the country. The government has been taking measures to combat drug trafficking and abuse. In 2020, the UAE Ministry of Interior announced that it had seized 1.2 tonnes of drugs worth AED 1.8 billion (\$490 million) in the first half of the year.

### **United Kingdom**

The overall prevalence of drug use reported in the UK has remained relatively stable throughout the last decade. However, the most recent surveys covering England and Wales, and Scotland reported the highest prevalence of drug use in the past 10 years. From the most recent surveys, the prevalence of any drug use in the last year was 9.4% in England and Wales, 12% in Scotland, and 5.9% in Northern Ireland. Drug use among 15 year olds has risen over the past 5 years. In 2018, 38% of 15 year olds in England, and 21% of 15 year olds in Scotland, said that they had ever used drugs.

### **USA**

Drug overdose deaths continue to impact communities across the United States. Despite many efforts from the federal level to local NGOs working to treat addicts, from 1999 to 2019, nearly 841,000 people died from a drug overdose. In 2019, nearly 71,000 people died from drug overdoses. It was a leading cause of injury-related death in the United States.

Overdose deaths involving opioids like prescription opioids, heroin, or synthetic opioids (like fentanyl) account for over 70% of overdose deaths.

## **Yemen**

Yemen's most pervasive drug problem is one that is rooted in cultural acceptability going back 500 years or more. And that is the chewing of khat or qat, the leaves of a shrub that grows in the country, that possess mild narcotic qualities. As much as 90 percent of adult men and 25 percent of the women store these leaves in their cheeks and slowly chew them throughout the day. The Ministry of Agriculture further reckons that a third of agricultural land and a third of water for farming is taken up with growing the drug.



## Possible Solutions

### **Working with neighbors and allied countries to form structured treatment programs and rehabilitation facilities**

Working with neighbours and allied countries to form structured treatment programs could be beneficial to countries looking to solve their countries drug problem but without the available resources to do so. Working to build programs or other solutions with countries with the necessary resources to solve the internal drug problems could be an efficient way for countries to solve this issue. Working with organizations outside the country such as the UNODC, WHO, and other UN branches to solve the illegal drug trade and use of drugs could be helpful, as well as organizations not tied to the UN. These organizations could help in building rehabilitation facilities and also with possibly cracking down on the illegal drug trade.

### **Finding solutions to abuse and overdose within own country**

Working within national borders to find a solution to abuse and overdose issues is a viable solution to countries with the necessary money and resources to solve their internal problem, or countries uninterested in working with other countries to solve their problems. From a cultural perspective, this would be the easiest solution. Working with organizations within the country to build facilities for abuse and overdose would be helpful for solving the overall drug problem.

## Questions to Consider(All three)

1. What are the benefits of working internally(within country) to solve drug problems?
2. What are some possible historical, social, or cultural reasons why drugs are a problem?
3. What are some previous actions that have been taken by UN member states to try to solve the drug problem?
4. To what extent should the delegates in the committee consider the effect that illegalizing drugs would have on countries economies and other drawbacks that illegalizing drugs may have?
5. What are some historical biases or beliefs that affect drug use?
6. Should SOCHUM view drug addicts and users as criminals of the law or patients?

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