

GECMUNIV

UNODC

**BACKGROUND GUIDE:
COCAINE TRAFFICKING IN
CENTRAL AMERICA AND NARCO-
TERRORISM PREVENTION**

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIRS

Greetings dear delegates. My name is Jane Park, a grade 12 student from Branksome Hall Asia. I am so honored to be able to serve you all as a chair for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). I love the energy and passion that build up throughout the debate during MUN. I look forward to meeting you all and listening to your opinions and solutions for narco-terrorism in Central America and the Caribbeans.

This is your chair Hyunwoo Kim, a grade 12 in Branksome Hall Asia. We wholeheartedly welcome you to GECMUN IV and UNODC. This chair hopes that all the delegates who participate in the conference can have fruitful debates and pay more attentions to narco-terrorism, as well as other world issues in various dimensions.

Dear delegates, this is your chair Sejin Park, grade 12 from Branksome Hall Asia. It's my honor to be a chair of UNODC in GECMUN IV. I am looking forward to having a great discussion about narco-terrorism and hope all the delegates to participate in the debates with passion.

As the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, we share a common goal of preventing and solving drug abuse, international terrorism, and political corruption through the means of coordinated and comprehensive responses. In order to yield effective and practical solutions, all of the delegates should have enough researched background knowledge. Through this chair report, we aim to provide you support and guidance during your preparation before the MUN conference. We chairs believe that this GECMUN IV UNODC committee will have a successful conference with all fellow delegates!.

Best Regards,
Jane Park, Hyunwoo Kim, and Sejin Park

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

UNODC is a committee that mandated to aid member states regarding illicit terrorism, drugs, and crime. It was established in 1997 by combining Center for International Crime Prevention and UN Drug Control Program. The committee deals with various matters, which includes drug trafficking, human trafficking, international terrorism, etc. UNODC's goals are to prevent terrorism by holding international conventions and implementing appropriate protocols. The policies implemented from UNODC are targeted towards the police, public prosecutors, judiciary, and prisons in each member state.

Through this conference, UNODC seeks universal measures to protect involved nations and the entire global community from negative effects of narco-terrorism. Consequently, all delegates are encouraged to consider the political, social, and economic impacts of drug trafficking through the course of the debate. As narco-terrorism is a universal issue, delegates are recommended to search for past related incidents in other parts of the world, even though the committee will focus on Central America and the Caribbeans.

GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS

Drug Cartels

Any criminal organization with the intention of supplying drug trafficking operations

Drug trafficking

Illegal transports of illicit narcotics

Narco-terrorism

Terrorism financed by profits from illegal drug trafficking

Narco guerrilla

A guerrilla who is benefited from narco-trafficking operation by being part of it

AGENDA

INFORMATION

Narco-terrorism is terrorism associated with illicit drugs. Unlike other simple drug trafficking issues, narco-terrorism involves narcotic traffickers, also known as transnational criminal organizations, who influence politics through violence and intimidation. As these drug cartels maintain close relationships with governmental bodies, narco-terrorism poses a significant threat to the national security and political stability of related nations.

Historical Background and Status Quo

UNODC responds to illicit drug trafficking within the Regional Programme for Central America. They organized a Regional Experts meeting in Costa Rica in 2009 with the aim to have an action in Central America between 2009 - 2011. In the Ministerial Conference in Managua, Nicaragua on June 23-24, 2009, the "Programa de UNODC para el reforzamiento del plan de acción de la estrategia de seguridad en Centroamérica y México" was adopted by the seven member states of the Central American Integration System (SICA). Through this conference, Costa Rica was chosen as the observer and the Dominican Republic as an Associated State to SICA and Mexico.

Network of Central American Anti-Organized Crime and Drug Prosecution Units (OCN) was established by prosecuting officials in participating countries who work for narcotic unit and specialized organized crime units. The aim is to enable the prosecuting authorities to handle complex cases including drug trafficking and other forms of crime. Furthermore, it will enhance regional and inter-regional operation and judicial cooperation.

UNODC and the National Institute of Statistics of Mexico (INEGI) established a regional Centre of Excellence on government, security, victimization and Justice statistics in Mexico. The objective of centres of excellence is to support government to deal with illicit trafficking, drug abuse, organized crime and enhance the rule of law. Moreover, they also assist government with providing research and analysis and developing effective programs.

STANCES OF UN MEMBER STATES AND PARTIES

Mexico

Mexico, due to its geographical location of being the northern tip of the Latin America and directly on the border of the United States of America, is the most prominent country that is involved in the narco-terrorist action in both Latin America and the international community. A large number of drug cartels in Mexico are armed with military weapons that overwhelm Mexican authorities. With such strong influence on politics, the drug cartels and Mexican international crime organizations are getting away with drug trafficking to Columbia and USA. Drug-related violence is also spreading to neighboring countries of Mexico. A famous example of Mexican drug cartel is Joaquín “El Chapo” Guzmán. Mexico is in urgent need for political and social reform to reduce the drug and crime rate.

Brazil

With a great threat from Colombian narco-terrorist groups and Tri-border area between Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay, the Brazilian government is seeking for an effective solution to decrease illegal drug consumption and the rate of growth of narco-terrorism. According to the UNODC 2005 Report, Brazil is labeled as a Typical Transit Zone Country because it placed seventh in the consumption of ecstasy and tenth in the consumption of cocaine and amphetamines worldwide.

Honduras

Honduras is ranked as the most dangerous nation in the world with having the highest homicide rate. The biggest contributor to this record-setting state of Honduras is Central America’s street gang group called “Maras”. They are drug-trafficking, cartel-connected gang that has been increasing in size and getting more violent. They are known to be the world’s most dangerous gang. It is crucial for Honduras to remove the roots of this problem to ensure safe and healthy lives of their citizens.

USA

The United States of America remains as the largest and the most reliable market for the Colombian illegal drug trade. According to John P. Walters, the Director of the US Office of National Drug Control Policy in 2002, Americans spend over \$60 billion a year in purchasing illegal drugs. Due to its close proximity to the Central American nations, illegal drug trafficking and narco-terrorism rate in US is increasing every year. Despite the attempts of Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to control drug usage and supply of the drugs in the nation, it was impossible to eliminate all of the sources and related problems. US continues its war against drugs, narco-terrorism, and other forms of crimes.

Chile

Chile, one of the Core Central American country, it is deeply related to the narco-terrorism and issues related to illicit drugs. The nation is suffering from drug smuggling over its shared border with Peru and Bolivia. In response, the Chilean government introduced the Northern Border Plan, which is an initiative that uses the advanced technology -mobile X-ray systems and thermal imaging cameras- to

inspect vehicles and detect drugs hidden in tight spaces. Its counter-narcotic fights had been successful so far, and it is seeking for additional ways to bolster narcotics and terrorism.

Germany

Along with Canada, Netherlands, and Spain, Germany is one of the consumer states of illicit drugs. German government's solutions towards drug trafficking and narco-terrorism presents another way to fight against such transnational problem. As the consumer of drugs, health care, detoxification center and treatment programs are well developed to decrease the rate of negative side effects, such as drug addiction, and prevent the spreading of the drug use in the country. In addition, as narco-terrorism is closely related to politics, implementing strict law enforcement and counter-narcotics policy is a fundamental aspect of Germany's solution.

Costa Rica

As the narcotic crime rate has been significantly increased, the rate of associated violent crimes has also increased in Costa Rica. Gangs who fight for control the drug trafficking trade pushed up the murder rate in Costa Rica; the Homicide rates had increased by 9.7% from 2010 to 2016. The government is developing counter-narcotics program and also enlarging supports on law enforcement agencies.

Cuba

Cuba was used to known as global drug market because it is located in the middle of drug traffickers' route from South America to U.S. In these days, domestic production and consumption of narcotics in Cuba remains low due to strict policies, harsh penalty, and educational programs. Cuba has strong relationship with U.S about drug trafficking as they share information and joint regulation.

Guatemala

Over the past decade, the homicide rate of Guatemala has doubled, and one of the major causes of this phenomena is narcotics-related murder. Because of its lack of security, Guatemala has 300 well-developed security service companies.

Colombia

During the 20th century, Colombia was known as the country that suffered from a large number of attacks by narcotic traffickers. Accordingly, the government reinforced the military with supports from U.S., which resulted in the nation becoming a battlefield for narcotics. These days, they are still dealing with associated issues with neighboring nations. US designated four terrorist groups as foreign terrorist organizations with drug-trafficking and other drug-related terrorist actions, and three of those four -FARC, ELN, AUC- are from Colombia.

Ecuador

During the past decades, Ecuador has maintained state policies regarding to narcotics. Despite the strict policies, the rate of drug trafficking and homicide rate has been significantly increasing these days. The government of Ecuador proclaimed martial law in 2017, because drug cartels held the locals and had armed conflicts. There is a permanent fear that narco-guerrillas in Colombia may come across the border and join forces with local dissidents.

Nicaragua

Nicaragua is a primary transit route for drug trafficking. In Nicaragua, crime statistics and unemployment are worse than national average and this form a environment to form international

group to traffic drugs, weapons and people. The Government of Nicaragua updated Citizen Security plan for 2015 to prevent narcotics trafficker to enter the country (Retaining Wall).

El Salvador

El Salvador is one of the the places where narco guerillas transport and store their drugs, especially cocaine. The country is known for high rate of murder, but the rate of murder decreased and they started to respond to drug trade and trafficking. The drug from El Salvador traded to Mexico and the United States. However, they didn't support the the initiative proposed to discuss the possible regulation of drug market from the President of Guatemala.

Jamaica

Jamaica is known as the mecca of cannabis, even though the cultivation, selling and consumption of cannabis as well as all other drugs have been illegal since 1913. However, in 2014, the Jamaican government announced that they will allow marijuana possession for personal consumption and religious and medical use by end of the year. After a year later, Justice minister Mark Golding established a cannabis licensing authority to regulate cultivation, sale, and distribution for medical purpose.

Dominican Republic

Dominican Republic is an important transit country for illicit drugs for USA and Europe. The maritime routes are main method of drug trafficking. The rate of the narcotics - related violence has been increased so the country cooperate with US in 2014 to reduce the narcotics - related crimes. The United States put lots of efforts to dismantle criminal organizations and The Dominican government warn youth about the danger of drugs.

France

Cannabis is the most consumed illegal drug in France. In 2010, about 13.4 million people between age of 11 and 75 had tried the drug at least once. France has strict anti - drug policies among European countries. People who used drug will have at least one - year prison sentence or fine up to 3,750 euros and need to participate in a compulsory awareness course about the dangers of narcotics.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Reinforcing Border Security

As most of the drugs are traded with the organization from outside of the country, it is important to enhance the security of border, so that the country can prevent drug trafficking. The military of the country can provide the security. If this solution is successful, it will decrease the inflow of drug to the country and eventually reduce the narco terrorism.

Holding Peace Talk with terrorist organization

Some of terrorist organizations is approachable. For example, FARC wants political reform, which means they might agree to talk and recognized by government and people. Therefore, it would be possible to have a peace talk with some of terrorist organization and negotiate with them by accepting their needs.

Official Investigation from Government

The corruption of government can be one of the instigators of narco terrorist success. Therefore, it is important to investigate local governments of countries pertinent to narco-terrorism to remove any connection with drug cartels, terrorist organization and legislature. This can also lead the elimination of possible support and funding.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- How can the financing of terrorism organization be controlled and regulated by government?
 - How can the organization or people who help terrorism be punished?
 - How can the UNODC prevent the creation of new terrorism organizations?
 - How can UN and NGOs be used to effectively combat narco-terrorism?
 - How can the government solve financial problems caused by implementing new policies to solve narco-terrorism?
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