International Criminal Police Organization

MUNUC CHINA ONLINE 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAIR LETTER.....3

HISTORY OF COMMITTEE.....5

TOPIC: DRUG TRAFFICKING IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.....8

Statement of the Problem.....8

History of the Problem.....14

Past Actions..... 22

Possible Solutions..... 25

Bloc Positions.....28

Glossary.....30

Bibliography.....34

CHAIR LETTER

Dear Delegates,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to MUNUC China Online 2021, INTERPOL! I'm Katherine DeLong, a fourth year student at the University of Chicago. I'm excited to serve as your Chair this year and to work with you as you debate these pressing, real-world issues!

I'm currently studying Biology with specializations in Endocrinology and Genetics. I work in a lab to study the development of neurological connections, and I TA for various introductory and higher level biology courses. Although my schoolwork is predominantly STEM-focused, I'm passionate about using those skills to think about general policy, from health to farming. I am a Chair for MUNUC's Chicago conference, on the 'Roman Republic 1848' committee; I am Director-General of ChoMUN, our collegiate conference; and I compete on our top-ranked travel team.

I can't wait to see what perspectives and ideas you all bring to our conference this year. You will be discussing the challenges of drug trafficking in the western hemisphere, and I encourage you to think about the political and societal impacts that these discussions and agreements can cause. Dive into your nation's history and try to understand each facet of our topics. Most importantly, remember to listen to others and have a good time!

Model UN is often not intuitive, and it's easy to feel stuck while researching or trying to understand past policies. Research is a skill that is developed over time, and here at MUNUC we hope you get a taste of that while preparing for the conference! We're here to help. If you have any questions, whether about dress code, parliamentary procedure, policy, or committee structure, please reach out to me at cso@munuc.org. I volunteer for MUNUC because I love to share my passion for debate with others, and I'm happy to help however possible!

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at MUNUC China Online 2021.

Best,

Katherine DeLong

HISTORY OF THE COMMITTEE

The **International Criminal Police Organization** (**ICPO** or **INTERPOL** for short) is an international police force which fights cross-border crime. Interpol is not a traditional law enforcement organization because it is not responsible for enforcing the laws of a particular city, state, nation, or region. Rather, its aim is to enable and facilitate cooperation between separate police forces among its 190 member nations.[1] As a result, it focuses on crimes whose scope spans national borders. It does so through four major pathways. First, Interpol maintains an international crime database which is used to share information with cooperating law enforcement agencies.[2] Second, Interpol provides various forms of support to these agencies such as providing crisis response teams and developing their capabilities. Third, Interpol supports research and innovation of new tools and services to bolster law enforcement effectiveness. Fourth, Interpol identifies crimes and criminals and shares this information with relevant enforcement bodies. Notably, Interpol cannot arrest people except in very specific cases. It can only share information to regional law enforcement bodies which are then responsible for arresting criminals.

Interpol was conceived during the First International Criminal Police Congress in 1914. Held in Monaco, the Congress was a meeting of police officers, lawyers, and judges from 24 countries.[3] They met to discuss arrest procedures, identification techniques, centralized international criminal records and extradition proceedings. Their efforts led to the formal establishment of the International Criminal Police Commission in 1924 under Dr. Johannes Schober in Vienna of present-day Austria.[4] The organization effectively crumbled when it fell under the control of Nazi Germany during World War II until it was reestablished in Paris, France. in 1946. In 1956, Interpol became a fully independent body by collecting dues from its members and maintaining investments to sustain itself financially. In 1990, Interpol moved its General Secretariat, or headquarters, to its present location in Lyon, France.[5] Since then, Interpol has made several advances to better handle and use developing technologies. These changes include the creation of the I-24/7 online communications system and

[1] "Overview," About INTERPOL, accessed July 01, 2016, http://www.interpol.int/About-INTERPOL/Overview.
[2] "Priorities," About INTERPOL, accessed July 01, 2016, http://www.interpol.int/About-INTERPOL/Priorities.
[3] "History," About INTERPOL, accessed July 01, 2016, http://www.interpol.int/About-INTERPOL/History.
[4] Ibid.
[5] Ibid.

database, the creation of a 24/7 Command and Coordination Centre in 2003, and the opening of the Global Complex for Innovation in Singapore.[6]

The organizational structure of Interpol is divided into three parts based on their functions. First is the strategic arm which consists of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee. The General Assembly consists of delegates from each member state and is responsible for creating the policy actions for the organization. As delegates at MUNUC, you will be representing member countries in our simulation of the General Assembly. The Executive Committee is elected by the General Assembly and is responsible for general oversight, long-term policy considerations, and implementations of the General Assembly's policy measures. The second general piece is the implementation arm, consisting of the General Secretariat and the National Central Bureaus. The General Secretariat is the central headquarters of Interpol from where worldwide operations are coordinated. The National Central Bureaus are institutions in each member country run by each nation's law enforcement bodies. They are responsible for linking regional police with Interpol's global network and are particularly important for contributing to the international crime database. The final branch of Interpol is the oversight branch which consists of advisers and the Commission for the Control of Interpol's Files (CCF). Advisers provide guidance and the CCF ensures that Interpol's data collection operations do not violate ethical standards of fundamental human rights.[7]

National Central Bureaus play a key role in the organization's intelligence operations. National Central Bureaus link the international collaborative and intelligence capabilities of INTERPOL with national police and investigative forces on the ground. They contribute to Interpol's criminal databases and cooperate on international operations, investigations, and arrests. They are focused on regional work because combining the resources of several member nations dedicated to the same problem can greatly increase the effectiveness of the effort to combat crime.[8]

Interpol has faced criticism through its history for several reasons. People have accused its operations at times of corrupted by nations looking to advance their political agendas. The Russian

[6] Ibid.
[7] "Structure and Governance," About INTERPOL, accessed July 01, 2016, http://www.interpol.int/About-INTERPOL/Structure-and-governance.
[8] "National Central Bureaus," About INTERPOL, accessed July 01, 2016, http://www.interpol.int/About-INTERPOL/Structure-and-governance/National-Central-Bureaus.

government issued a "Red Notice" against a government protestor for "hooliganism" in 2010 which led to his arrest in Spain. It took six months for the charges to be dropped.[9] The organization in the past was considered a model of the failures of bureaucracy: slow, inefficient, and outdated. While this has certainly changed for the better in the last two decades, the concern remains that Interpol might fall behind as crime becomes increasingly sophisticated.[10]

Interpol is not a true global police force because it notably does not have the power to arrest people, but rather works to coordinate efforts between sovereign police departments. It must operate under the laws of the countries within which it works on each mission and supports the law enforcement of that nation in making arrests. Nonetheless, its scope is truly global. Between 2013 and 2016, Interpol coordinated with law enforcement bodies in 103 countries to halt the illicit online sale of medical substances and devices. Operation Pangea IX saw the seizure of 53 million USD of goods consisting of 12.2 million fake and illegal medicines and 270,000 illicit medical devices. These enormous numbers show a massive operation which spanned the borders of at least half the countries in the world. Interpol's importance in coordinating this operation through information gathering and sharing cannot be understated.[11] Interpol has a distinguished history and with the exponential growth of the Internet and rise of globalization, its importance in the fight against crime can only continue to increase.

[9] Jake Simons, "Interpol: who polices the world's police?" The Telegraph, May 8, 2014, http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/books/10801997/Interpol-who-polices-the-worlds-police.html.
[10] Gary Feinberg, "New Structures, Problems and Prospects in Policing," Criminal Justice International, May 2000, http://www.cjimagazine.com/archives/cjic1fb.html?id=209.
[11] "Online Sale of Fake Medicines and Products Targeted in INTERPOL Operation," INTERPOL News and Media, June 09, 2016, accessed July 01, 2016, http://www.interpol.int/News-and-media/News/2016/N2016-076.

TOPIC: DRUG TRAFFICKING IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Statement of the Problem

Drug trafficking is the "global illicit trade involving the cultivation, manufacture, distribution and sale of substances which are subject to drug prohibition laws,"[12] and the Western hemisphere deals with all of these facets in some capacity. No country, even the wealthiest and most secure, is immune to drugs and their consequences. Trafficking threatens the ability of states to govern, enforce laws, and ensure legitimate economic activity. For developing countries, drug trafficking exacerbates security issues and makes building viable and strong political and economic institutions difficult.[13] For developed states, drugs particularly create issues for public health and well-being. Whether primarily producing, transporting, or consuming drugs, all countries are forced to deal with the violence and health ramifications associated with the drug trade.

The Flow of Trafficking

In the Western Hemisphere, the drug trade is segmented. The flow of trafficking typically runs from Central and South America, where illicit drugs are predominantly produced, to North America, where the majority of illicit drug consumption occurs.[14]

Central and South America are predominantly responsible for drug production. In fact, South America is the sole producer of cocaine for all markets across the globe.[15] In addition to cocaine, Latin America produces many of the opiates that are later consumed in the United States.[16] In addition to heroin, Mexico and Columbia are major centers for cannabis production.[17]

[12] "Drug Trafficking," United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, n.d., accessed May 30, 2017, https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/drug-trafficking/.
[13] "Thematic Debate of the 66th session of the United Nations General Assembly on Drugs and Crime as a Threat to Development On the occasion of the UN International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking," United Nations, June 26, 2012, http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/66/Issues/drugs/drugs-crime.shtml.
[14] Clare Ribando Seelke et al., "Latin America and the Caribbean: Illicit Drug Trafficking and U.S. Counterdrug Programs," May 12, 2011, accessed May 4, 2017, https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R41215.pdf.
[15] Ibid.
[16] Ibid.
[17] Ibid.

Cartels operating in Mexico and Central American countries are primarily responsible for transporting drugs from their source of production to their ultimate locations of consumption. For example, approximately 95 percent of the cocaine that enters the United States is shuttled through Mexico or its controlled waters.[18] Similarly, large amounts of opiates, marijuana, and methamphetamine also travel through Central America before reaching their ultimate destination.[19]

The Caribbean is also a center of drug trafficking. About 60 to 100 tons of cocaine are trafficked through the Caribbean each year.[20] The Dominican Republic and Haiti are major trafficking centers. They receive most of their drugs from Venezuela, which has access to Caribbean waters.[21] Around 95 percent of drugs transported through the Caribbean are sent via container ships, non-commercial vessels, pleasure boats, sailboats and fishing boats.[22] Some shipping boats use high-speed technology to try to evade law enforcement. Water trafficking has proven highly efficient. However, it is estimated that 25 percent of cocaine is indicted across the globe, with many seizures occurring on water.[23]

While most of the drugs trafficked in the Western Hemisphere are transported through Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean, drugs also are sent to European markets via West Africa. About 25 to 30 percent of cocaine produced in South America is sent to Europe through African trafficking routes.[24] Drug trafficking has stimulated economic activity in West Africa and has augmented the region's national incomes. However, the drug trade also reduces other investments in the area due to the instability and violence produced by trafficking.[25]

Once drugs are produced and trafficked through Latin America, the majority is smuggled into the U.S. The U.S. is the largest market for illicit drugs in the entire world. In 2010, the RAND Corporation

[18] Ibid.
[19] Ibid.
[20] "Drug smuggling in Caribbean surges again, so border agents take flight to fight it," Fox News, September 10, 2015, http://www.foxnews.com/world/2015/09/10/drug-smuggling-in-caribbean-surges-again-so-border-agents-take-flight-to-fight.html.
[21] Ibid.
[22] "How do cartels get drugs into the US," BBC, December 3, 2015, accessed May 3, 2017, http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-34934574.
[23] Ibid.
[24] Ibid.
[25] "West Africa and Drug Trafficking," Africa Economic Development Institute. n.d., http://www.africaecon.org/index.php/africa_business_reports/read/70.

estimated that the U.S. spent $109 billion dollars on marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine, and heroin.[26] The vast majority of drugs consumed in the U.S. originate from Latin America, with Mexican cartels maintaining a firm grasp on the U.S. drug market.[27]

Most drugs consumed in the United States originate from other countries. However, due to the drug trafficking chain, much of the money spent on drugs in the U.S. stays in the U.S. Cocaine, for example, costs about $20,000 per kilogram when it first arrives in the U.S. By the time it is sold to consumers, one kilogram of cocaine is worth around $150,000.[28] The inflated price results from the added expenses and risks that midchain suppliers and dealers incur. Suppliers need to invest in safe houses to store their shipments, transportation to move drugs down the supply chain, and general measures to hide activities from law enforcement. While the risks associated with trafficking and selling drugs in the U.S. are high, the financial reward associated with the inflated worth of drugs provides lucrative opportunities for people to engage in the drug trade within the U.S.[29] Further, cartels need midchain traffickers that have legal access to the U.S. and can more readily tap into consumer markets. It is important to note that, while anti-drug trafficking measures are most concentrated on the U.S.-Mexico border, there is also drug smuggling into the U.S. from Canada. In recent years, border control in the U.S. has increased surveillance along the Canadian border.[30]

Health Consequences of Drugs

Like drug trafficking, drug consumption also creates problems of governance as states have to deal with the health ramifications associated with drug abuse. In the U.S., it is estimated that 40 million people over the age of 12 have a drug addiction, and another 80 million are categorized as "risky substance users," meaning that, while not addicted, they pose risks to public health and safety. The consequences of drug use are apparent; in 2010, more than 38,000 people died from drug overdose

[26] John Tozzi, "More Pot, Less Cocaine: Sizing Up America's Illicit Drug Market," Bloomberg, March 10, 2014, https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2014-03-10/more-pot-less-cocaine-sizing-up-america-s-illicit-drug-market.
[27] Ibid.
[28] Ibid.
[29] Christopher Woody, "NARCONOMICS: 'The real drugs millionaires are right here in the United States,'" Business Insider, March 16, 2016, http://www.businessinsider.com/where-drug-money-goes-2016-3.
[30] "Canada's border is drug war's second front," The Washington Times, July 26, 2009, http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2009/jul/26/canada-border-is-drug-wars-2nd-front/.

in the United States alone.[31] Particularly concerning is the 137 percent increase in drug overdoses in the United States since 2000.[32]

Drug use also remains an issue for the world at large. The United Nations' World Drug Report 2016 shows that global drug use has not declined. In fact, 1 in 20 adults around the globe used a drug in 2014.[33] Health consequences abound, especially for people who inject drugs, since viral diseases can easily spread through involuntary blood transfusion. For example, of people who inject drugs, 1 in 7 has HIV and 1 in 2 has hepatitis C.[34] Despite efforts to combat drug trafficking and abuse for years, the issue remains a cause for concern.

Major Cartels

Drug trafficking has reached an impressive magnitude of both influence and infiltration among varying regions and groups. This magnitude can be largely attributed to the immense proliferation of drug cartels that operate most specifically and prevalently in Latin America. Recent data collected by the Mexican Attorney General's Office concurs that the cartels have expanded their operations recently in order to most effectively minimize legal risks both nationally and internationally.[35] Mexican cartels alone operate in approximately sixteen Latin American countries.[36] Though there are several prominent cartels in Mexico, the one with the greatest presence is the Sinaloa cartel; the Sinaloa cartel operates in thirteen countries across the hemisphere.[37] In addition to presence in virtually all Latin American countries, excluding Nicaragua and Panama, the Sinaloans also control large areas of the drug trade in the United States, Canada, and several countries in South America.[38]

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[31] Lloyd Sederer, "A Blind Eye to Addiction," US News, June 1, 2015, https://www.usnews.com/opinion/blogs/policy-dose/2015/06/01/america-is-neglecting-its-addiction-problem.
[32] Rose A. Rudd, MSPH; Noah Aleshire, JD; Jon E. Zibbell, PhD; Matthew R. Gladden, PhD, "Increases in Drug and Opioid Overdose Deaths — United States, 2000–2014," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, January 1, 2016, https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6450a3.htm.
[33] "World Drug Report 2016," United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2016, https://www.unodc.org/doc/wdr2016/WORLD_DRUG_REPORT_2016_web.pdf.
[34] Ibid.
[35] "Canada's border is drug war's second front," The Washington Times, July 26, 2009, http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2009/jul/26/canada-border-is-drug-wars-2nd-front/.
[36] Elyssa Pachico, "Mexico Cartels Operate in 16 countries: Report," InSight Crime, September 19, 2012, accessed May 3, 2017, http://www.insightcrime.org/news-analysis/mexico-cartels-connections-abroad.
[37] Ibid.
[38] Ibid.

The second largest Mexican cartel, the Zetas, also have a rather large stake in illicit drug trafficking, as the cartel operates in nine countries.[39] Apart from the Sinaloa and Zetas cartels, there are a number of other cartels that have less distinguished control in areas across the globe, with the Juarez, Tijuana, Familia Michoacana, and Knights Templar cartels operating in countries such as the United States, Peru, and Columbia.[40]

The proliferation of cartels across national borders requires a coordinated approach by law enforcement. Because issues in one state are directly tied to issues in another, INTERPOL can benefit the region by acting as a mediator between the various governments and police forces. This ensures that cartels are better monitored, and policing is better coordinated.

Policing Cartels

Due to the complexity and vast reach of cartels, several issues have inhibited effective policing of these drug trafficking groups. Cartel violence and competition is one of the chief issues that inhibits control. Since 2015, cartel related homicides have begun to increase in Mexico after a three year decline, with over 15,000 deaths in that year alone.[41] Due to Mexico being situated between the main consumption markets, namely the United States and the production countries, it serves as a hub of the drug trade and suffers the negative consequences. However, it is important to note that, though Mexico is often called into the spotlight for its immense and gruesome drug wars, it does not boast the highest cartel-induced homicide rate. Honduras and Venezuela, among others, fall ahead of Mexico when it comes to the number of cartel-related homicides per year.[42]

In addition to the cartel violence that proliferates across nations, namely in Latin America, the structure of cartels makes them especially difficult to police. Cartels are structured in such a way that elevates "kingpins" as the leaders of each individual group; the real issue comes into play when a kingpin is removed. With the death of a key kingpin at the head of a particular cartel, new factions tend to emerge. Not only does this increase the presence of that cartel in its given region, but it also

[39] Ibid.
[40] Ibid.
[41] Mariano Castillo, "Drugs, money, and violence: The toll in Mexico," CNN, March 27, 2017, accessed May 3, 2017, http://www.cnn.com/2016/02/15/world/mexico-drug-graphics/.
[42] Ibid.

incites immense violence.[43] For example, when the leader of the Sinaloa cartel was killed in 2006, the Beltran Leyva Organization diverged to fill the power vacuum in place of the Sinaloa drug lord.[44]

Another difficult issue that is brought about by the attempted policing of drug cartels in what is known as "the balloon effect." When law enforcement is successful in one area, this simply drives the cartel to a different region. In a way, it makes cracking down on the cartel much more difficult; the balloon effect forces cartels to change their cultivation patterns, alter their production techniques, and adapt their trafficking routes.[45] All of these alterations drive the cartels further underground, making them more elusive to even attempt to control.

As a committee, INTERPOL will be responsible for understanding all facets of the drug trade, including the production, transportation, and consumption aspects of the issue. The drug trade and cartels are not operating strictly within state borders. It should be clear that drug trafficking is a transnational issue; cooperation will be paramount, especially the coordination between countries to promote effective policing of cartels. INTERPOL acts as a mediator between these countries, ensuring a coherent framework between nations to eliminate illicit drug trafficking.

[43] Ibid.
[44] Ibid.
[45] "Thematic Debate of the 66th session of the United Nations General Assembly on Drugs and Crime as a Threat to Development On the occasion of the UN International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking," United Nations, June 26, 2012, accessed May 4, 2017, http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/66/Issues/drugs/drugs-crime.shtml.

History of the Problem

Drugs have existed for as long as humanity. However, the need to inhibit the production, transportation, and consumption of drugs is a relatively modern issue. In the Western Hemisphere, anti-drug tactics have primarily stemmed from the "War on Drugs." Over four decades ago in June 1971, President Richard Nixon of the U.S. began the War on Drugs. He pronounced that drug abuse "was public enemy number one."[46] The hardline response coincided with the increase in recreational drug use that emerged during the 1960s, particularly among young middle class white adults.[47] Nixon's War on Drugs has continued today, with total spending surpassing the $1 trillion mark.[48] Despite the massive efforts to combat illicit drugs, the efficacy of the war has been contested. While advocates believe that punishment for drug offenses is necessary to eradicate the drug trade, opponents argue that the war has unfairly targeted minority populations and has done nothing to effectively mitigate drug production or consumption. Some opponents believe that the legalization of drugs is a more optimal strategy. Yet, special interest groups, such as the pharmaceutical industry, stand to benefit from opposing legalization, because they profit from people seeking legal access to mind altering substances. The drug trade is a multifaceted issue with many parties involved, which makes a solution complex and difficult.

War on Drugs: Supply and Demand

Despite over 40 years of attempting to eradicate the drug trade, the numbers suggest that there has been relatively little improvement. In fact, the UN estimates that overall drug consumption has been relatively constant, with five percent of the world population consuming drugs for the last 20 years.[49] In the U.S., teenage drug consumption, a primary target of the War on Drugs, has risen since the 1990s, even though it is still below its peak levels from the late 1970s.[50] Further, the U.S. drug addiction rate has remained stable at approximately 1.3 percent since the 1970s, despite the $1.5

[46] Ed Vulliamy, "Nixon's 'war on drugs' began 40 years ago, and the battle is still raging," The Guardian, July 23, 2011, accessed June 13, 2017, https://www.theguardian.com/society/2011/jul/24/war-on-drugs-40-years.
[47] Ibid.
[48] Ibid.
[49] Vanda Felbab-Brown, "Counterarcotics Policy Overview: Global Trends & Strategies," Brookings Institute, October 2008, accessed June 13, 2017, https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/counternarcotics_policy_felbabbrown.pdf.
[50] Ibid.

trillion dollars spent to curb the drug trade. While the U.S., Canada, and Western Europe have the greatest drug consumption rates, there is evidence that drug consumption, particularly cocaine consumption, has been increasing in Latin America in recent years.[51]

On the supply side, efforts to inhibit production usually take on a three-pronged approach: eradication, interdiction, and alternative livelihoods.[52] Eradication destroys the crops that are transformed into illicit substances. Interdiction is the intentional interference with drug transport channels. Alternative livelihoods policies provide avenues for people to make an adequate living without depending on drug cultivation. The U.S. has led various campaigns across Latin America that implement these various approaches. However, the results remain mixed. In the 1980s, the War on Drugs targeted Bolivia and Peru as the main suppliers of cocaine.[53] The eradication measures yielded success in the two countries as production dramatically declined. However, the efforts in Peru and Bolivia pushed coca cultivation, the plant from which cocaine is produced, into Colombia.[54] By 2000, Columbia produced about 90 percent of the global cocaine supply.[55] In response to the rise of drug production and violence in Colombia, the U.S. funded Plan Colombia, an intervention strategy aimed at augmenting the Colombian military to combat the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), a rebel guerrilla army that controls much of Colombia's drug trade.[56] Production in the region initially declined. However, in the last few years, coca production has increased.[57] The net impact on Colombian coca production is zero, as the country produces the same amount of illegal coca as it did in 1998 when Plan Colombia was created.[58] The balloon effect, where cartels move

[51] Clare Ribando Seelke, Liana Sun Wyler, June S. Beittel, and Mark P. Sullivan, "Latin America and the Caribbean: Illicit Drug Trafficking and U.S. Counterdrug Programs," Congressional Research Service, May 12, 2011, accessed June 13, 2017, https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R41215.pdf.
[52] Vanda Felbab-Brown, "Counterarcotics Policy Overview: Global Trends & Strategies," Brookings Institute, October 2008, accessed June 13, 2017, https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/counternarcotics_policy_felbabbrown.pdf.
[53] Bruce Bagley, "Drug Trafficking And Organized Crime In The Americas: Major Trends In The Twenty-First Century," Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, August 2012, accessed June 13, 2017, https://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/BB%20Final.pdf.
[54] Ibid.
[55] Ibid.
[56] Nick Miroff, "'Plan Colombia': How Washington learned to love Latin American intervention again," The Washington Post, September 18, 2016, accessed June 13, 2017, https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/plan-colombia-how-washington-learned-to-lovelatin-american-intervention-again/2016/09/18/ddaeae1c-3199-4ea3-8d0f-69ee1cbda589_story.html?utm_term=.6791fa2b3664.
[57] Ibid.
[58] Ibid.

drug trafficking operations to new locations in response to anti-trafficking interventions, appears to remain a prominent issue. As intervention pushed coca cultivation from Bolivia and Peru to Colombia, recent intervention in Colombia has pushed the production back into Bolivia and Peru. Greater intervention in these three countries could force coca cultivation into other South American locations such as the Amazon, which would contribute to the proliferation of the drug problem throughout the region.[59]

Further evidence that the War on Drugs has not mitigated the drug trade comes from the overall decline in the price of drugs over the last thirty years. In 2008, heroin and cocaine were both approximately five times cheaper than they were in 1980.[60] Since drug use has remained relatively stable, the reduction in drug prices across the board suggests that production has increased over the years. Because drug use has remained constant, drugs become cheaper when there are greater quantities readily available. If drug prices increased, it would appear that drug production has decreased and would support the notion that the War on Drugs has been successful. However, while the numbers point to the failures of the decades long War on Drugs, proponents of the war maintain that production and drug use would be greater had there been no active intervention.

War on Drugs: Criminalization

When Nixon coined the War on Drugs, he linked the issue of drug abuse to the issue of crime. To Nixon, moral degeneration was the underlying cause of both, and drug offenders were the perpetrators of crime that plagued the entire country.[61] As such, the solution was not social reintegration and public health but rather stricter punishment and criminalization of drug offenses.

[59] Bruce Bagley, "Drug Trafficking And Organized Crime In The Americas: Major Trends In The Twenty-First Century," Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, August 2012, accessed June 13, 2017, https://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/BB%20Final.pdf.
[60] Harold Pollack, "The most embarrassing graph in American drug policy," The Washington Post, May 29, 2013, accessed June 13, 2017, https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2013/05/29/the-most-embarrassing-graph-in-american-drug-policy/?utm_term=.e68be79ce30b.
[61] Emily Dufton, "The War on Drugs: How President Nixon Tied Addiction to Crime," The Atlantic, March 26, 2012, accessed June 15, 2017, https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2012/03/the-war-on-drugs-how-president-nixon-tied-addiction-to-crime/254319/.

The administration's approach framed the consequences of drugs as being a result of personal depravity instead of social or economic conditions.[62]

While Nixon was the trailblazer of stricter enforcement of drug laws, incarceration of drug offenders did not drastically increase until Ronald Reagan became president of the U.S. Today, the current incarcerated population is around 2.2 million in the U.S., which is a 500 percent increase over the past 40 years.[63] Before the 1970s and Nixon's declaration of a war on drugs, the prison incarceration rate was relatively stable. After the War on Drugs began, the incarceration rate has increased each year, especially after Reagan increased focus on the initiative in the 1980s. In fact, in 1980, around 41,000 people were incarcerated for drug crimes.[64] In 2014, that figure reached 488,400, a staggering 1000 percent increase from the 1980 number.[65] While a direct causal relation between the War on Drugs and incarceration is difficult to ascertain, most experts agree that the war on drugs is a large contributor to the growing prison population.[66]

While the War on Drugs has fostered stricter enforcement of drug policies, many people argue that it disproportionately targets minority populations. While black and Hispanic people constitute 30 percent of the U.S. population, they constituted 58 percent of the sentenced inmate population in 2013.[67] Research suggests that criminal sentencing by race is also disproportionate. A black person who commits the same crime and has a similar criminal history to a white person is more likely to be sentenced. Pew Research Center finds that this disparity may be as much as a factor of six for black men compared to white men, meaning black men are six times as likely to be sentenced to federal and state prisons and local jails.[68] The gap between whites and blacks is particularly concerning in terms of the drug war. Black and white people have similar rates of drug consumption, and white

[62] Ibid.
[63] Lauren Carroll, "How the war on drugs affected incarceration rates," PolitiFact, July 10, 2016, accessed June 15, 2017, http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/statements/2016/jul/10/cory-booker/how-war-drugs-affected-incarceration-rates/.
[64] Ibid.
[65] Ibid.
[66] Ibid.
[67] Ibid.
[68] Bruce Drake, "Incarceration gap widens between whites and blacks," Pew Research Center, September 6, 2013, accessed June 15, 2017, http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2013/09/06/incarceration-gap-between-whites-and-blacks-widens/.

people are more likely to sell drugs.[69] These rates would suggest that the two groups should have roughly equally sentencing rates, with white people more likely to be sentenced for the illicit sale of drugs. However, this is not what research finds. Rather, black people are 3.6 times more likely to be arrested for selling drugs and 2.5 times more likely to be arrested for drug consumption compared to white people.[70]

People have also argued that drug policies unfairly impact minority groups. For example, in response to the "crack epidemic" of the 1980s, legislators imposed harsher sentencing for crack cocaine relative to powder cocaine. To receive a similar sentence, powder cocaine offenders needed to have a much greater quantity than crack cocaine offenders. For first-time offenders, a minimum five-year sentence is imposed on the trafficking of over 5 grams of crack cocaine, while the same sentence for a powder cocaine offense requires over 500 grams.[71] The U.S. Sentencing Commission shows that cocaine is the most racially skewed drug. In 2009, 79 percent of sentenced crack offenders were black. Only 10 percent were white. Powder cocaine sentencing is less skewed: 17 percent of offenders were white, 28 percent were black, 53 percent were Hispanic.[72] The greater punishment for crack cocaine means that black offenders are disproportionately harmed by drug policy and enforcement. The awareness of unfair sentencing led to bipartisan support for new legislation under the Obama administration. In August of 2010, Obama signed the Fair Sentencing Act, which aims to decrease the gap in sentencing between crack and powder cocaine offenses.[73] The Obama administration took many steps to change drug policy from its punitive focus to an emphasis on the public health aspects of abuse.

Despite recent efforts, the persistent War on Drugs has maintained criminalization across all classes of drugs. The U.S. Sentencing Commission finds that marijuana is the most common drug offense. From October 2012 to September 2013, 27.6 percent of sentenced drug offenders were imprisoned for crimes associated with marijuana. Powder cocaine and methamphetamine were the next most

[69] Lauren Carroll, "How the war on drugs affected incarceration rates," PolitiFact, July 10, 2016, accessed June 15, 2017, http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/statements/2016/jul/10/cory-booker/how-war-drugs-affected-incarceration-rates/.
[70] Ibid.
[71] Danielle Kurtzleben, "Data Show Racial Disparity in Crack Sentencing," U.S. News, August 3, 2010, accessed June 15, 2017, https://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2010/08/03/data-show-racial-disparity-in-crack-sentencing.
[72] Ibid.
[73] Ibid.

common, both making up 22.5 percent of the sentenced population during that same period.[74] The criminalization of drugs is responsible for over 50 percent of the incarcerated population in U.S. population.[75] Opponents of the war on drugs criticize the criminalization of nonviolent drug offenders. In 2015, almost 1.5 million people were arrested for drug offenses. 84 percent of these offenders were arrested for possession only, meaning that most drug offenses are nonviolent.[76] Many argue that by putting these offenders behind bars, which is necessary under many current mandatory minimum sentencing requirements, more money is spent on incarceration with little social benefit as it is more difficult to reintegrate offenders into productive positions in society once they are released.

War on Drugs: Violence

When drugs are made illegal and offenses result in criminalization, the outcome is an illicit black market. Removed from government control, the underground black market produces criminal organizations that compete for control of the drug market. This competition breeds violence between groups. The current drug policies aim to inhibit cartel organizations by removing the kingpins, the leaders of each group. The limitations to this approach have manifested in Mexico. Despite several years of decline following a homicide peak in 2011, Mexico has experienced a resurgence in homicide rates associated with drugs in the last couple years. Leading news organizations in Mexico estimate that 40 to 50 percent of homicides are due to organized criminal groups and their escalating levels of drug violence since 2006.[77] Some highlight the success of drug policy aimed at removing cartel leaders. Others point to cartel fragmentation and the balloon effect, which is when efforts to mitigate drug trafficking in one region push cartels into surrounding regions, as sources of violence that the drug war only exacerbates. The notion that current policy hasn't stemmed the operations of drug cartels is corroborated by the relatively stable profits from the drug trade received by cartels over the years, which is estimated by the amount of smuggled money

[74] Kathleen Miles, "Just How Much The War on Drugs Impacts Our Overcrowded Prisons, In One Chart," The Huffington Post, March 10, 2014, accessed June 15, 2017, http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/10/war-on-drugs-prisons-infographic_n_4914884.html.
[75] Ibid.
[76] "Drug War Statistics," Drug Policy Alliance, n.d., accessed June 15, 2017, http://www.drugpolicy.org/drug-war-statistics.
[77] Mariano Castillo, "Drugs, Money, and Violence: The toll in Mexico," CNN, updated March 27, 2017, accessed June 15, 2017, http://www.cnn.com/2016/02/15/world/mexico-drug-graphics/index.html.

seized at ports of entry.[78] In other Central American countries -- despite yearly fluctuations -- homicide rates have continued to rise since 2000 in countries such as Honduras, El Salvador, and Costa Rica, all which have been linked to greater cartel presence.[79]

In the U.S., the focus on criminalization has increased the number of cases in the judicial system. The same amount of resources must be divided amongst the various cases, making prosecution more difficult and sentencing offenders less likely. In fact, homicide clearance rates, the percentage of homicides in which a charge is laid, has decreased significantly in many major cities. In recent years, Detroit neared a clearance rate in the single digits, and Chicago reported a 30 percent clearance rate in 2009.[80] Federal statistics show that drug offenses is the largest category of court cases in the district court system, which many experts point to as a contributing factor to greater violence and inauspicious prosecution. According to economists Brendan O'Flaherty and Rajiv Sethi, when the government is unable to charge violent offenses, violent offenses increase. A cycle is created in which criminalization of drugs begets more crime and violence.[81]

Case Study: The Sinaloa Cartel

The Sinaloa Cartel is "the most powerful drug trafficking organization in the world".[82] First established in the mid-1980's, the Sinaloa Cartel has grown to control not only its city of origin, Culiacán, Sinaloa, but also has expanded influence over areas of the globe as far reaching as China. Sinaloa, Durango, and Chihuahua, known as the "golden triangle", are the three main states of operation in Mexico for the Sinaloas.[83] Chiefly, the Sinaloa Cartel is a producer of cocaine, but also

[78] Ibid.
[79] Adriana Beltran, "Children and Families Fleeing Violence in Central America," Washington Office on Latin America, February 21, 2017, accessed June 15, 2017, https://www.wola.org/analysis/people-leaving-central-americas-northern-triangle/.
[80] Danielle Allen, "How the war on drugs create violence," The Washington Post, October 16, 2015, accessed June 15, 2017, https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/how-the-war-on-drugs-creates-violence/2015/10/16/6de57a76-72b7-11e5-9cbb-790369643cf9_story.html?utm_term=.503546803 89d.
[81] Ibid.
[82] Alicia A. Caldwell, "U.S. Intelligence Says Sinaloa Cartel Has Won Battle for Ciudad Juarez Drug Routes," CNS News, April 9, 2010, accessed June 17, 2017, April 9, 2010, http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/us-intelligence-says-sinaloa-cartel-has-won-battleciudad-juarez-drug-routes.
[83] Ibid.

produces and distributes heroin, methamphetamine, and marijuana.[84] Over 200 tons of cocaine have reportedly been transported from Mexico to the United States alone, from 1980 to today.[85]

Joaquín Guzmán, otherwise known as "El Chapo," is the former head of the Sinaloa Cartel. After escaping twice from prison in Mexico, he was expedited to a New York prison in January of 2017. This cartel kingpin oversaw "a logistical network that is as sophisticated, in some ways, as that of Amazon or U.P.S.", according to a previous New York Times article.[86] Under "El Chapo's" rule, the Sinaloa Cartel became a global operation with deadly repercussions for Mexico and moving more cocaine than ever.[87]

[84] Ibid.
[85] Patrick Keefe, "How a Mexican Cartel Makes its Billions," New York Times, June 15, 2012, accessed June 17, 2017, http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/17/magazine/how-a-mexican-drug-cartel-makes-its-billions.html.
[86] Ibid.
[87] Ibid.

Past Actions

As the illicit drug trade has grown increasingly problematic, widespread, and dangerous, the United Nations has taken action in hopes to both suppress and, hopefully, eradicate the issue of the drug trade and cartels across its member countries. A key resolution made in 2009 by the General Assembly detailed international cooperation against the world drug problem.[88] This resolution involved a commitment by member states to reduce the supply of drugs, thus targeting supplier countries in the fight to reduce and eventually eliminate drug trade, particularly in the Western Hemisphere. Such a reduction in drug supply is intended to be achieved through consistent cooperation between members of the United Nations and through the implementation of consistent and ongoing cross-border cooperation and drug demand reduction programs.[89] These programs, per General Assembly Resolution 64/182, include early intervention, treatment, and social reintegration for those found participating in such illegal drug activity.

INTERPOL has taken additional action in issuing resolutions and agreements that are intended to contribute positively towards the UN's collective and cooperation-focused approach to tackling the issue of the world drug trade. At the 25th Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the INTERPOL Secretary General and the UNODC Executive Director met and signed an agreement with a sharp focus on organized crime and terrorism—this relates specifically to the eradication of the drug trade, as it hinges on the success of such organized crime that the UNODC-ICPO agreement attempts to dissolve.[90]

Another notable effort in the ongoing fight against illicit drug trafficking is INTERPOL's contribution to the UN General Assembly Special Session of 2016 on the world drug problem. Here, INTERPOL and other member states again reinforced the need to facilitate reductions on the supply side of the drug trade. One particular operation that was discussed and thought potentially beneficial was the seizure of drugs moving from Latin American supplier countries to Europe, where most countries are

[88] "Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 2009," United Nations, March 30, 2010, accessed May 6, 2017, https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N09/472/75/PDF/N0947275.pdf?OpenElement.
[89] Ibid.
[90] "INTERPOL Contribution to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on the World Drug Problem," United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, November 19, 2015, accessed May 6, 2017, http://www.unodc.org/documents/ungass2016//Contributions/IGO/INTERPOL_Input_to_UNGASS_19NOV2015.pdf.

purchasers and consumers of such drugs. This was to be done through Africa via an INTERPOL operation.[91]

Besides actions taken by INTERPOL specifically, or even the United Nations, there has been a history of both national and international actions against the drug trade that has affected all areas of the world. The United States attempted to counter the drug trade with the "War on Drugs," started by President Nixon in the 1970s.[92] It was at this time that the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) was established.[93] The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has had some negative consequences in the effort to combat the drug trade. NAFTA has made the drug flow harder to detect by allowing easier and less critically regulated trade between border countries.[94] To counter this, the United States launched Plan Colombia in 1999, which was signed into law in 2000; Plan Colombia aims to decrease drug trade in Colombia chiefly through targeting structural dismantling of the production side of the drug trade in the country, but has also brought upon the country many unfortunate consequences, such as environmental backlash caused when drug crops are destroyed.[95]

Latin American action against the drug trade includes the decriminalization of drugs in Argentina, Uruguay, México, Colombia, Chile, as well the Mérida Initiative, a partnership between Mexico and the United States to eliminate organized crime.[96] However, there is much debate as to whether either of these strategies have had actual benefits to ending the illegal trafficking of drugs. Those in favor of the Mérida Initiative, chiefly lawmakers and upholders of civil institutions, would argue that the initiative is beneficial to countries as it strengthens domestic institutions, while those opposed believe the plan fails to address the criminalization side of the issue and contributes to the militarization of Mexico.[97]

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[91] Ibid.
[92] Ibid.
[93] Ibid.
[94] Ryan Grim, "NAFTA And The Drug Cartels: "A Deal Made In Narco Heaven" — Exclusive Excerpt and Live Chat at 3pm EST," Huffington Post, August 1, 2009, accessed May 7, 2017, http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ryan-grim/nafta-and-the-drug-cartel_b_223705.html.
[95] Natalio Cosoy, "Has Plan Colombia really worked?," BBC News, February 4, 2016, accessed May 7, 2017, http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-35491504.
[96] John M. Ackerman, "It's Time To Reset U.S.-Mexico Relations," Politico, January 6, 2015, accessed May 7, 2017, http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2015/01/us-mexico-relations-reset-113998.
[97] Ibid.

As past actions have had varying effects on the actual limiting of the international drug trade, countries around the world, including those in the United Nations and INTERPOL, continue to devise possible solutions in hopes to further eradicate this pressing issue.

Possible Solutions

While there has been much notable past action by the United Nations as a whole, its member states, and local governments worldwide, there has not yet been found a concrete solution to the global and dangerous issue of the illicit drug trade. This being said, the strategies implemented thus far have not all proven unsuccessful; there is value in how the issue is currently being addressed that provides insight into other possible solutions to the illegal trafficking of drugs, especially in the Western Hemisphere.

As mentioned previously in this background guide, most countries involved in the illicit drug trade fall into one of two larger categories; they are either a producer country or consumer country. Given that the issue is largely two-sided, there are essentially two angles to come at tackling the illegal trafficking of drugs. Plans in the past have strategized to put an end illicit drug trafficking by targeting either the supplier or consumer side of the issue.

The main action taken from a producer country side would be the very controversial move to legalize certain drugs that are currently illegal.[98] This of course would be a greater benefit to producer countries than to supplier countries, as producer countries stand to gain much more from the legalization of illicit drugs. However, this argument is multifaceted, as it possesses public risk and potential backlash.

Those in favor of legalizing drugs, such as marijuana, opiates, and cocaine, would argue that it is largely the fault of the legislation against such drugs that drives up public consumption.[99] It is estimated that nearly 5% of the world's adult population consumes illegal drugs; this is a number that has stayed relatively the same for decades, despite the increased efforts by bodies such as the United Nations in more recent years, specifically the twenty first century.[100] In other words, the legislation presently in place across the globe, specifically in the main producer and consumer

[98] Douglas Husak and Peter de Marneffe, The Legalization of Drugs: For & Against, Cambridge University Press, 2005, http://ndpr.nd.edu/news/the-legalization-of-drugs-for-against/.
[99] "How to Stop the Drug Wars," The Economist, March 10, 2009, accessed July 10, 2017, http://www.economist.com/node/13237193.
[100] Ibid.

countries, is not proving acceptable, or even noteworthy, results in the UN crusade against the illegal drug trade.

In addition to a lack of general decline in drug consumption of cocaine and increase in the usage of cannabis, there is the massive cost that illegal drugs impose on countries such as the United States. The US alone spends roughly $40 billion a year to prevent citizens' usage of illegal drugs and to eliminate the dangers of gangs and other methods of illicit drug trafficking.[101] The cost of attempting, largely unsuccessfully, to stop the illegal drug trade is not only monetary but also comes in the form of many citizens being incarcerated for illegal drug usage, possession, or sales. Though obviously important that citizens abide by the law, and those who do not are removed for society, many of those imprisoned for drug use, such as marijuana, do not pose a direct threat to civil society. In fact, marijuana users are imprisoned for unfairly long sentences, such as life without parole, for nonviolent crimes.[102] Many of these arrests and imprisoned members of society could be decreased if countries passed legislation that either regulated illegal drugs less heavily or made such drugs legal.

The illegal drug trade generates billions of dollars across the globe each year. This money could flow back to society and social improvement if drugs were legalized.[103] In the current system, this money is perpetuated in a cycle of illegal activity associated with the drug trade, but if regulated could be used to improve health and wellness strictures within society.

On the other hand, a consumer country might be in greater favor of a possible solution that hones in on the production aspect of the drug trade, thus attempting to prevent drugs from ever even reaching their border.[104] This would involve limiting shipment and cutting off distribution channels,

[101] Ibid.
[102] "The Injustice of Marijuana Arrests," The New York Times, July 28, 2014, accessed October 5, 2017, https://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/29/opinion/high-time-the-injustice-of-marijuana-arrests.html.
[103] Douglas Husak and Peter de Marneffe, The Legalization of Drugs: For & Against, Cambridge University Press, 2005, http://ndpr.nd.edu/news/the-legalization-of-drugs-for-against/.
[104] "Illegal Drugs", The Global Issues Network, n.d., accessed June 10, 2017, http://globalissuesnetwork.org/learn-about-our-global-issues/illegal-drugs/.

which can be very difficult given the fact thwarting one method of distribution is nearly always followed by a new method taking its place.[105]

As far as INTERPOL-specific possible solutions are concerned, it is possible that the methods, procedures, and technologies in place be heightened in the fight against the illegal drug trade. This could involve increased usage of INTERPOL technology by member states, the recommendation of further action to the UN for sanctions against governments supporting cartels and drug trafficking, and the increased coordination and information sharing amongst member states.[106]

However, your role as an INTERPOL delegate will not be to directly implement any of the possible approaches to solutions to the illegal drug trade. The ICPO can only recommend action to governments of member states. It will be our goal to debate upon and eventually reach a comprehensive agreement as to the best practices of preventing the illicit trafficking of drugs with the hopes of passing a resolution.

[105] Ibid.
[106] "Drugs", INTERPOL, n.d., accessed July 10, 2017, https://www.interpol.int/en/Crime-areas/Drugs/Drugs.

Bloc Positions

The drug trade requires a multilateral effort; no country can mitigate its effects alone. However, while all countries in the Western Hemisphere deal with drug trafficking in some capacity, states fall into roughly one of three distinct categories: producing states, transporting states, or consuming states. As a committee, ICPO will work to address the various facets of drug trafficking. The focus of any individual state at conference will largely depend on what part of the drug trade is most pertinent to that state. For this reason, bloc positions will follow according to the three state categorizations previously listed. It is important to note, though, that some countries may deal with issues that range across categories, and, therefore, will need to work together on a larger scale approach.

Producing States: South America

Producing states, namely those in South America, aim to reduce drug production while simultaneously creating sustainable economic opportunities for the populations that rely on cultivation for their livelihood. For example, cocaine is derived from the coca plant, a plant that many people in countries like Colombia and Bolivia cultivate and sell as their main source of income.[107] In the past, the U.S. has led efforts to fumigate coca land by spraying areas with an herbicide called glyphosate.[108] However, many human rights advocacy groups claim that fumigations have adverse environmental impacts and strip away the livelihoods of many coca cultivators in the region.[109] In fact, coca has legal uses outside of illicit cocaine, such as being an ingredient in Andean tea that combats altitude sickness.[110] Countries that have large populations dependent on coca production will need to work together at conference to address the economic issues that production reduction creates.

[107] Adam Isacson, "As Its Coca Crop Increases, Colombia Doesn't Need To Fumigate. But It Needs To Do Something," Washington Office on Latin America, September 23, 2016, accessed July 14, 2017, https://www.wola.org/analysis/coca-crop-increases-colombia-doesnt-need-fumigate-needs-something/.
[108] Ibid.
[109] Ibid.
[110] Kevin Lui, "Bolivia Nearly Doubles the Area Allowed for the Legal Planting of Coca," Time, March 8, 2017, accessed July 14, 2017, http://time.com/4696338/bolivia-coca-cocaine-grow-morales/.

Transporting Countries: Central America, Mexico, West Africa

The drug trade exists because there are transport channels that move drugs from their source of production to their final consumption destination. Countries in Central America, the Caribbean, and West Africa, as well as Mexico, primarily deal with problems associated with transportation.[111] As previously discussed, drug cartels undermine legitimate governance and create a violent atmosphere that threatens the wellbeing of local communities and economic viability. Therefore, mitigating the authority and power of cartels will be a primary focus for transport countries at conference. Shutting down trafficking channels and containing cartels are two of the major aims that need to be addressed.

Consuming States: U.S., Canada, Europe

This bloc consists of the wealthier states that consume the majority of drugs produced in the drug trade. In addition to focusing on drug demand reduction, these states often wield the greatest economic and political resources. As such, they often organize anti-drug efforts from the top-down and assist more developing nations in their efforts to combat the drug trade. This bloc also makes sense from a policy perspective. The U.S., Canada, and Europe have strong political and economic ties, which creates a climate conducive to working together at conference to address the drug trade and its consequences.

[111] Ibid.

Glossary

Addiction - defined by the National Institute of Drug Abuse as "a chronic, relapsing brain disease that is characterized by compulsive drug seeking and use, despite harmful consequences."[112]

Alternative livelihoods policies - policies aiming to provide avenues for people to make an adequate living without depending on drug cultivation.[113]

Balloon effect - the process that occurs when law enforcement pushes back against cartels and forces cartels into neighboring regions; it forces cartels to change their cultivation patterns, alter their production techniques, and adapt their trafficking routes.[114]

Beltran Leyva cartel - founded as a branch of the Sinaloa cartel that operates in Mexico and the United States.

Black market - the illegal, underground market in which criminal organizations traffic and sell drugs.

Cannabis - also known as marijuana, a stimulant drug containing the psychoactive compound THC, tetrahydrocannabidinol.

Cartel fragmentation - the organizational segmentation that often ensues after cartel leadership is removed from power; when kingpin leaders are removed, rival factions may compete for power within the cartel.

Clearance rate - the percentage of crimes in which someone is charged/indicted.

[112] "The Science of Drug Abuse and Addiction: The Basics," National Institute on Drug Abuse, n.d., accessed July 17, 2017, https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/media-guide/science-drug-abuse-addiction-basics.
[113] Bruce Bagley, "Drug Trafficking And Organized Crime In The Americas: Major Trends In The Twenty-First Century," Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, August 2012, accessed June 13, 2017, https://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/BB%20Final.pdf.
[114] "Thematic Debate of the 66th session of the United Nations General Assembly on Drugs and Crime as a Threat to Development On the occasion of the UN International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking," United Nations, June 26, 2012, accessed May 4, 2017, http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/66/Issues/drugs/drugs-crime.shtml.

Cocaine - an addictive stimulant drug made from the coca plant in South America.

Criminalization - a punishment-based approach that incarcerates drug offenders.

Drug cartel - a criminal organization with the specific mission to make profits from the illicit sale of drugs by trafficking drugs from their sources of production to their ultimate destinations of consumption.

Drug trafficking - defined by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as the "global illicit trade involving the cultivation, manufacture, distribution and sale of substances which are subject to drug prohibition laws"[115]

El Chapo - Joaquín Guzmán, the former head of the Sinaloa Cartel; after escaping twice from prison in Mexico, he was expedited to a New York prison in January 2017.[116]

Familia Michoacana cartel - a Mexican drug organization that has been largely replaced by the splinter Knights Templar cartel.[117]

FARC - the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, a former rebel guerrilla army that, at their peak, controlled much of Colombia's drug trade.[118]

Fumigation - spraying areas with an herbicide called glyphosate to reduce the land available for plant cultivation required for the production of illicit drugs.[119]

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[115] "Drug Trafficking," United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, n.d., accessed May 30, 2017, https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/drug-trafficking/.
[116] Patrick Keefe, "How a Mexican Cartel Makes its Billions," New York Times, June 15, 2012, accessed June 17, 2017, http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/17/magazine/how-a-mexican-drug-cartel-makes-its-billions.html.
[117] "Familia Michoacana," InSight Crime, updated November 27, 2015, accessed July 17, 2017, http://www.insightcrime.org/mexico-organized-crime-news/familia-michoacana-mexico-profile.
[118] Nick Miroff, "'Plan Colombia': How Washington learned to love Latin American intervention again," The Washington Post, September 18, 2016, accessed June 13, 2017, https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/plan-colombia-how-washington-learned-to-lovelatin-american-intervention-again/2016/09/18/ddaeae1c-3199-4ea3-8d0f-69ee1cbda589_story.html?utm_term=.6791fa2b3664.
[119] Adam Isacson, "As Its Coca Crop Increases, Colombia Doesn't Need To Fumigate. But It Needs To Do Something," Washington Office on Latin America, September 23, 2016, accessed July 14, 2017, https://www.wola.org/analysis/coca-crop-increases-colombia-doesnt-need-fumigate-needs-something/.

Heroin - an opioid made from morphine, a substance derived from the poppy plant, that is often injected for its euphoric and pain-relieving effects.[120]

ICPO/INTERPOL - the International Police Organization, an international organization that aims to help police make the world safe.

Illicit drug - any drug used for non-medical purposes prohibited by law.

Interdiction - the intentional interference with drug transport channels.[121]

Juarez cartel - a Mexican drug organization that trafficks drugs into the U.S.

Kingpin - the leader of a cartel organization.

Knights Templar cartel - a splinter drug organization from the Familia Michoacana that has had several leaders removed from power in recent years.[122]

Legalization - an approach to inhibit the drug trade by reducing the demand for illicit drugs sold by cartel organizations.

Mérida Initiative - sometimes referred to as "Plan Mexico," a U.S.-led security cooperation agreement between the U.S., Mexico, and Central American states modeled after Plan Colombia to reduce drug trafficking in the region.[123]

[120] "Heroin," National Institute on Drug Abuse, updated January 2017, accessed July 17, 2017, https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/heroin.
[121] Bruce Bagley, "Drug Trafficking And Organized Crime In The Americas: Major Trends In The Twenty-First Century," Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, August 2012, accessed June 13, 2017, https://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/BB%20Final.pdf.
[122] "Knights Templar," InSight Crime, updated June 22, 2017, accessed July 17, 2017, http://www.insightcrime.org/mexico-organized-crime-news/knights-templar-profile.
[123] John M. Ackerman, "It's Time To Reset U.S.-Mexico Relations," Politico, January 6, 2015, accessed May 7, 2017, http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2015/01/us-mexico-relations-reset-113998.

Methamphetamine - a highly addictive crystalline powder that acts a stimulant in the central nervous system.[124]

Opiate - a class of drugs derived from the opium poppy plant characterized by its pain-relieving effects.

Plan Colombia - the U.S.-led initiative to inhibit the drug trade in Colombia.[125]

Sinaloa cartel - the largest Mexican drug organization that also has significant operations in Nicaragua, Panama, the U.S., Canada, and parts of South America.[126]

Tijuana cartel - a Mexican drug organization that has a significant presence along the U.S-Mexico border; recent leadership arrests and deaths have reduced the power of the cartel in the last couple decades.[127]

War on Drugs - the large-scale effort to combat drug abuse led by President Nixon beginning in 1971.[128]

Zetas cartel - the second-largest Mexican drug organization.[129]

[124] "Methamphetamine," National Institute on Drug Abuse, n.d., accessed July 17, 2017, https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/methamphetamine/what-methamphetamine.
[125] Natalio Cosoy, "Has Plan Colombia really worked?," BBC News, February 4, 2016, accessed May 7, 2017, http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-35491504.
[126] Elyssa Pachico, "Mexico Cartels Operate in 16 countries: Report," InSight Crime, September 19, 2012, accessed May 3, 2017, http://www.insightcrime.org/news-analysis/mexico-cartels-connections-abroad.
[127] "Tijuana Cartel," InSight Crime, updated November 17, 2015, accessed July 17, 2017, http://www.insightcrime.org/mexico-organized-crime-news/tijuana-cartel-profile.
[128] Ed Vulliamy, "Nixon's 'war on drugs' began 40 years ago, and the battle is still raging," The Guardian, July 23, 2011, accessed June 13, 2017, https://www.theguardian.com/society/2011/jul/24/war-on-drugs-40-years.
[129] Elyssa Pachico, "Mexico Cartels Operate in 16 countries: Report," InSight Crime, September 19, 2012, accessed May 3, 2017, http://www.insightcrime.org/news-analysis/mexico-cartels-connections-abroad.

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