



CHSVMUN

UNITED NATIONS
COMMISSION ON
NARCOTICS AND DRUGS

BACKGROUND GUIDE

Letter from the Executive Board

Greetings delegates!

We, the Executive Board of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs are excited to have you all with us on board at this edition of CHSVMUN. We are all set to have an amazing time together on this two-day journey to explore the depths of the agenda and constitute a resolution on the same. The nature of the agenda is general, hence we would like the delegates to research in-depth and not completely rely on this background guide.

The Executive Board would like the delegates to first read thoroughly through the Background Guide and then research more keeping the agenda in mind. This committee will, for the most part, be following UNA-USA rules of procedure. All delegates are requested to contact the E.B if they have any queries regarding the agenda, proceedings of the committee, etc.

The Executive Board - UNCND

Hrishikesh, Chairperson

Jaidev, Vice Chairperson

Aadhav, Vice Chairperson

Mandate & Functions:

The Commission on narcotic drugs was established by the Economic and Social Council as one of its functional commissions on 16 February 1946 (resolution 9(II)). The Commission assists the Council in supervising the application of the international drug control treaties. It also advises the Council on all matters pertaining to the control of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors. The CND reviews and analyses the global drug situation, considering the interrelated issues of prevention of drug abuse, rehabilitation of drug users and supply and trafficking in illicit drugs.

International Drug treaties:

1. Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1954 as amended by the 1972 Protocol (<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/single-convention.html>)
2. Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 (<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/psychotropics.html>)
3. United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 (<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/illicit-trafficking.html>)

Introduction to the agenda:

Key terms and definitions:

1) Psychotropic/psychoactive substances:

Psychoactive substances are substances that, when taken in or administered into one's system, affect mental processes, e.g. cognition or affect. This term and its equivalent, psychotropic drug are the most neutral and descriptive term for the whole class of substances, licit and illicit, of interest to drug policy.

2) Cannabis:

Cannabis, also known as marijuana among other names, is a psychoactive drug from the Cannabis plant used primarily for medical or recreational purposes, as permitted by the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs.

3) Drug automatism:

Taking drugs without being aware of the amounts; a state that often occurs with heavy barbiturate use when tolerance has developed. In order to produce sleep, the user takes more of the drug because of an amnesia about the amount previously taken.

4) Polydrug use:

The use of two or more drugs simultaneously. (1) to enhance or potentiate one's drugs effects or (2) to neutralize or counteract undesirable effects of one of the drugs or (3) to achieve a less expensive high by combining an inexpensive drug with a small amount of an expensive one.

5) Drug misuse:

The use of illegal drugs and/or the use of prescription drugs in a manner other than as directed by a doctor, such as use in greater amounts, more often, or longer than told to take a drug or using someone else's prescription.

6) Illicit drugs:

The non-medical use of a variety of drugs that are prohibited by law. These drugs can include amphetamine-type stimulants, marijuana/cannabis, cocaine, heroin, other opioids, and synthetic drugs, such as illicitly manufactured fentanyl (IMF) and ecstasy (MDMA).

7) Narcotic drugs:

Originally referred to any substance that dulled the senses and relieved pain. Some people use the term to refer to all illegal drugs but technically, it refers only to opioids. Opioid is now the preferred term to avoid confusion.

Brief about international drug treaties:

The present system of worldwide drug control is regulated by three international conventions. These are the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drug, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances and the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. As of November 2002, 179 states were party to the Single Convention, or are parties to the Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol. The number of nations signatory to the 1971 and 1988 Conventions is 172 and 166, respectively.

An important purpose of both the 1961 and 1971 Conventions was to codify internationally appropriate control measures to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropics for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing leakage into illicit channels. It is in this connection that the World Health Organization (WHO) is responsible for the medical and scientific assessment of all psychoactive substances and to advise the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND or Commission) about the classification of drugs into one of the schedules of the 1961 and 1971 treaties.

The 1988 Convention was designed to deal with the growth of international trafficking in illegal substances in the 1970s and 1980s, since the earlier international instruments only dealt with the issue in a limited fashion.

Flexibility in the conventions:

It is important to appreciate that all of the Conventions are not self-executing. This so-called “executory” nature means that while the Conventions impose obligations on states to apply international law, such law is not directly or immediately enforceable. Indeed, while often vocal in its criticism of national policy, the INCB, as the body responsible for overseeing the operation of the treaties, has no formal power to enforce the implementation of the Convention provisions. Nor has the Board the formal power to punish parties for non-compliance

Drug trafficking and the dark web:

The pairing of dark web services with cryptocurrencies has led to expectations of a boom in crime. A decade ago, an unknown cryptography expert (with particular

expertise in cracking passwords) who used the alias Satoshi Nakamoto developed the world's first currency and payment network not controlled by a national government: Bitcoin. Originally a niche medium of exchange for the technology community, Bitcoin { [HYPERLINK "https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/01/technology/what-is-bitcoin-price.html"](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/01/technology/what-is-bitcoin-price.html) } in 2011 as the currency of choice for drug dealers conducting transactions on a dark-web site known as the Silk Road. Over the past years, the combination of an encrypted network hidden from most of the world and a transactional currency that is nearly untraceable by law enforcement officials resulted in a small, but significant, marketplace of illicit vendors selling illegal wares.

Narco-terrorism:

Narco-terrorism is one of today's buzzwords in foreign and domestic policy. It should be noted however, that even though the word is frequently used and serves as the foundation of several policy decisions, its definition is ambiguous in that it has different focus and implications depending on what part of the composite word is emphasized. The term narco-terrorism was first used to describe campaigns by drug traffickers using terrorist methods, such as the use of car bombs, assassinations and kidnappings, against anti-narcotics police in Colombia and Peru. However, focus can also be placed on the terrorism part of the composite word narco-terrorism. The United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) has covered this aspect in a part of their definition of narco-terrorism which states "narco-terrorism may be characterized by the participation of groups or associated individuals in taxing, providing security for, or otherwise aiding or abetting drug trafficking endeavors in an effort to further, or fund, terrorist activities"

The several decades long 'war on drugs' and the more recent 'war on terror' have found common ground in countering the threat of narco-terrorism, thus combining two threats that have traditionally been treated separately. The concept of narco-terrorism originates from an understanding that the two phenomena of narcotics trafficking, and terrorism are interconnected and subsequently that a coordination of anti-drug and anti-terror policy can be used, and is necessary, to effectively deal with both threats.

Questions to answer:

- 1) What are the drawbacks of the current international conventions?
- 2) Causatives for the same
- 3) Methods to rectify them

Some Links:

Resolution 9(1):

https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CND/Index/ECOSOC_Res-9I_E.pdf

International Drug Treaties:

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/conventions.html>