



Background Paper

Committee: United Nations Office On Drugs And Crime

Topic A: Combating the rise of illicit drugs and weapon trafficking by analyzing its impact on violence

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The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) works to educate the global community on the harmful impact of drugs on individuals' lives. UNODC also strengthens international efforts to combat illegal drug production, arms trafficking, and other forms of organized crime. It aims to address the connection between drugs, arms, and organized crime to reduce violence and improve security in affected regions. Criminal activities have made significant inroads into drug and weapons trafficking, fueling many of the criminal networks responsible for high levels of violence.

The smuggling of drugs and weapons remains an international problem and a serious threat to security and health. Drug and weapon trafficking is a main source used by organized criminal networks and terrorist groups to finance their operations, which further fuels violence making it difficult to restore law & order. The UNODC estimates that global drug trafficking brings in hundreds of billions of dollars a year, and now more substances, namely synthetic opioids, are being pushed into markets strengthening gutting communities worldwide. That is a problem all of us, English-speaking colonies included, need to urgently address due to its deleterious effects on any semblance of global political and social order. Drug and weapon trafficking fuels organized crime as well as violence that riddles the lives of people, local economies, and governance. Some of the worst murder rates in the world can be found (OECD 2023), where drug cartels have effectively taken over large swaths of territory as is the case with a considerable portion of Latin America. In the US as well, thousands of deaths annually are a direct result of synthetic drugs smuggled anonymously over border lines and thus sanctions healthcare payers throughout the economy (UNODC, 2023).

The dangers of this trafficking extend beyond the Colombian borders, as they have been linked to crimes and groups abroad in cases where arms that were trafficked from here are traced back to organized crime or terrorist organizations (Clarke, 2021). Combating trafficking is the key to reducing violence and increasing stability in regions affected by it, as well as protecting public health around the world. Highly adaptive drug and weapon trafficking networks employ technology to evade law enforcement, the report suggests. Cloaked in encrypted online channels and wrapped around cryptocurrency transactions, traffickers make sure the movement of goods and money is untraceable. This group also often exploits established legal proliferation paths—where illicit material may be hidden in ways that appear to simply belong among the sheer volume of total commercial goods, such as electronics or clothing (UNODC 2023).

The UNODC along with its partner organizations has worked towards checking the menace of human and drug trafficking. For instance, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) Strategic Vision for Africa 2030; UNODC(2023) depicts endeavors that have been consolidated to fortify National organizations' capacity in battling trafficking or decreasing violence associated with organized crime. In special reference to drug trafficking, the Global SMART Programme has been entrusted with data on synthetic drugs and built national early warning systems designed to prevent substance abuse by managing associated risks (UNODC 2023). Nonetheless, in addition to the tracing and disrupting of traffickers' funding sources; there is a need for promoting more rehabilitative methods in drug control while also ensuring accountability for those involved.

The debate should focus on finding innovative approaches to dismantle trafficking networks, particularly by addressing the social and economic factors that push individuals into these illicit economies. The committee should also examine how traffickers exploit emerging technologies, such as cryptocurrency and encrypted messaging. Another critical area to address is improving collaboration with countries on intelligence sharing and border protection, while also supporting local programs for drug use prevention and rehabilitation. Taken together, these efforts could make a substantial impact in reducing the violence associated with trafficking, which often radicalizes those vulnerable to crime and fuels conflicts intensified by drug money.

Work Cited:

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