

TOPIC SYNOPSIS

Advanced African Union



The Illicit Drug Trade in West Africa

POSITION PAPERS

Position papers are due by midnight, January 12th. Please send to the email address below. Identify your committee and assignment on the subject line and in the text of the message. Include your position paper as an attachment in .PDF format. If you choose, you can also include it as a Google Doc, but remember go give access to the Secretariat.

The position paper format can be found [HERE](#).

Email your position paper and any questions you might have to: whsmunafricanunion19@gmail.com

IMPORTANT COMMITTEE POLICIES TO BE AWARE OF

- Speaking time for speeches will not be lowered to anything shorter than a minute-thirty seconds. Lowering a speaking time below this does nothing to facilitate debate;
- Comments on speeches cannot be lowered below 30-seconds;
- Moderated caucuses have a set time of 20-minutes. They can be extended for two extra 10-minutes sessions afterward;
- Unmoderated causes can be set for 10, 15, and 20 minutes with one 10-minute extension permitted;
- There is no yielding of speaking time to other delegates;
- No pre-written resolutions will be accepted;
- The use of national flags, pins, or any other national emblem in committee is discouraged, as the United Nations does not allow them either in committee;
- Handouts or briefing sheets are not allowed to be distributed in committee as gives an unfair advantage to delegates who don't have them and is in conflict with the spirit of no pre-written resolutions;
- Computers and phones are not permitted for non-committee related activities such as chatting, gaming, non-conference related web browsing, etc.
- All committee rooms are open to adult advisors including during voting blocs. Student advisors can be kept out during voting blocs;
- Recently, we have discovered that some delegations have been relying on chat groups with adult and student advisors writing speeches and comments for delegates in order to help them with committee awards that they could not on their own. The use of using chat to, in essence, cheat, is prohibited. This does not mean that advisors cannot send general advise to their delegates such as "get yourself on the speaker's list" or "raise your placard more." This is just to keep delegates being fed speeches or comments on information they did not research themselves.

Delegates found to be in violation of these restrictions will lose diplomacy points and may be excluded from any recognition. In addition, they will be reported to their advisors.

Topic Background

West Africa has been increasingly used as a transit route for drugs and this is due to many factors. Latin American and North American countries have reinforced security along

traditionally used drug routes. Due to these improvements, drug cartels have looked to countries with fewer restrictions to continue their business, and have opted to transfer operations to West Africa. West Africa also has well-established local drug trafficking cartel groups, porous borders, disunified governance, corruption and a geographic landscape that makes it difficult to detect and screen for drugs. West Africa has also been used as a route to traffick Afghan heroin to Asian countries, where there is high demand.

West Africa suffers from the consumption of heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine as a result of widespread corruption. Opiates originating from Afghanistan are trafficked by organized crime groups through African countries with weak to no security. This serves as a hub to be sent to most countries in the world. Across the African continent, locals suffer from drug abuse, facilitating the spread of diseases including HIV through intravenous drug injections and coming into contact with infected blood.

Major ports in Djibouti, Eritrea, Kenya, and Tanzania receive large amounts of heroin and cannabis resin from south-west Asia. Southwest and Southeast Asia. Important international airports serving capitals of Ethiopia and Kenya are used as transit points for illegal drugs. There are also few regulations for the distribution of prescription medicine; some are imported without any authorization and some are sold on the black market. West African drug dealers have recently been networking in Latin America, resulting in an increase in cocaine trafficking.

West African politicians have also been heavily involved in Drug Trafficking which has made it easier for cartels to establish themselves. Powerful cartels have also been able to infiltrate the government and through criminal networks, resulting in a power struggle between these organizations and federal efforts. Due to government corruption, low-level offenders and drug user receive punishments while powerful drug traffickers are rarely arrested or prosecuted.

In 2011, A political candidate from Edo state in Nigeria was arrested in Lagos at the Murtala Mohammed airport. He was attempting to smuggle 2 kilograms of cocaine into Frankfurt and use the proceeds to fund his election campaign, but was able to dodge the consequences. There is also the case of a serving Nigerian lawmaker who was indicted for heroin trafficking in the United States. However, he was pardoned by the past Nigerian administration because he was considered to be a strong political party leader.

United Nations Involvement

The President of the Security Council expressed growing concern about the serious threats posed by drug trafficking and related transnational organized crime to international peace and stability in West Africa and the Sahel region. He further emphasized the need to enhance interregional cooperation and coordination. A number of initiatives, including the African Union Plan of Action and the ECOWAS Political Declaration and Regional Action Plan to Combat Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organized Crime and Drug Abuse in West Africa, have been launched over the past years to tackle these multifaceted threats. On this basis, UNODC developed its Regional Programme for 2010-2014, which constitutes the main framework for the delivery of technical assistance and capacity building in the region. UNODC future assistance will also be closely tailored to the needs of the region and will be developed based on an evaluation of the current Regional Programme and in support of the ECOWAS plan of action. UNODC provides supports through a broad range of regional, sub-regional and national projects, including the West Africa Coast Initiative (WACI), the Airport Communication Project known as AIRCOP, the Global Container Control Programme, the strategy for the Sahel and the Gulf of Guinea, the Sahel Judicial Platform and the West African Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors. All initiatives are implemented in close consultation with the concerned Member States, and in

cooperation with other partners in the region. In October 2017, an International Donors Conference in Abidjan that was organized by ECOWAS, UNODC, and UNOWA, and hosted by Côte d'Ivoire, reconfirmed the international community's commitment to West Africa. Despite this progress, much more support is needed to stop illicit drug trafficking and transnational organized crime networks in the region and pursue the proceeds derived from drug trafficking and other crimes, as well as to address demand and facilitate quality treatment and rehabilitation services. If West Africa is to receive sustainable results, the response to drugs and crime must be made a part of wider efforts to address challenges in the region, including corruption, governance and the rule of law, poverty, and youth unemployment.

In a General Assembly, regarding the Debate on Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice, Drug Control, Nigeria's representative highlighted the work of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Inter-governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA) and called on the entire international community to intensify efforts in that direction. The United Nations has attempted to make more resources available to the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders. However, the funding from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank has been insufficient to fund the Institute for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders. The institute said it was encouraging that nearly a quarter of the countries in Africa had contributed to its functioning. Nevertheless, the institute's board had found it necessary to call on the Secretary-General to increase funding to the Institute from the United Nations' regular budget and he asked the Committee to consider recommending an increase to its "subsidy", to help pay for the salaries of the main administrative officers.

Key Solutions

1. The African Union can pass measures to replace corrupted officials with representatives elected by the people in order to reduce corruption and the permissive attitude of these corrupt officials towards the illegal drug operations in West Africa.
2. The African Union can finance the military securing and legislative enforcement of anti-drug trafficking policies with funding from subsidies granted by the United Nations. Meanwhile, the initiation of public works and developmental projects in the region would help bolster the economy in the region to diminish the financial reliance on the drug trade.
3. The African Union can form a continental alliance partnering with the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances to carry out anti-drug trafficking measures and regulations such as the extradition of perpetrators, legal persecution, raids, and confiscations.

Questions to Consider

1. Because the coast of West Africa is so vulnerable to the illicit drug trade, how can nations address the issue of strengthening and securing of the vulnerable roads and pathways exploited by drug traffickers in a region with comparatively little financing to enforce it?
2. What are major ports for drug trade, how can these be secured to reduce the import and export of drugs?
3. Why are drug in such high demand within the West African Region?
4. What has the UN done, in your country, to prevent the production and consumption of illicit drugs?

5. What has your country done in the past to minimize the negative effects of Drug Trafficking?
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Works Cited

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