

# The Organization of American States



## The Elimination of Drug Trafficking

## **ABOUT THIS COMMITTEE:**

The Organization of American States (OAS) is one of the world's oldest regional organizations dedicated to the establishment of various provisions and institutions to ensure territorial integrity, sovereignty, and collaboration between all the American states. It can be traced back to 1826, when Simón Bolívar first called together the Congress of Panama. Using its four pillars - democracy, human rights, security, and development - the OAS has been able to bring together 35 independent states and their governments in a cooperative environment. Goals of the OAS include increasing democracy in the world, promoting peace, fighting for human rights, establishing free trade, and lastly, combatting trade of illegal drugs. This organization also believes that social justice and social security are necessary in order for peace to reign in the region. The OAS works in regions that are especially struggling with development, and works to maintain civil rights and prevent issues regarding drugs, society, and intolerance. As an advanced committee, we will not be having general debate speeches and will commence the committee straight away with substantive speeches. It is crucial that delegates prepare well-developed speeches, give insightful comments, and engage in productive moderated and unmoderated caucuses. The type and length of the caucus will be decided by a vote in the committee. Speeches are usually one minute and thirty seconds, followed by two comments at thirty seconds each. However, the chair has the power to rule the orders dilatory if he or she believes it is best for the committee.

## **BACKGROUND INFO:**

Drug trafficking is an illicit global trade; almost every country is involved in some part of the drug economy. As long as there are people willing to consume drugs, there will be people who accommodate those cravings to make money. This has become a huge problem. For example, heroin and cocaine was used by 16 to 17 million people worldwide in the year of 2008.

The center of the heroin market, Afghanistan, traffics more than 375 tons worldwide per year. Drug trafficking is a predicament that greatly affects the world, and is one of the largest global revenues. As a result of the huge sums of money involved, this illegal profession attracts dangerous people and gives way to violence. It is also a major cause of deaths, shown to have taken the lives of at least 0.2 million citizens annually. Drug trafficking is a huge threat to the development of countries everywhere, and must be contained.

In the development of Latin America, illicit narcotics trade has become an unfortunate obstacle in its growth and image. It creates an unstable environment in law enforcement and civil society, and largely promotes the emergence of violence and destruction amongst the population of these countries. Their history has been greatly involved with networks of cartels and corruption, and the growing rates of violence and drug-related felonies in American states shows that this war against drugs has not progress greatly over the past decades. For example, Honduras has one of the highest global homicide rates in the world, at 82.1 murders per 100,000 inhabitants. Human rights defenders feel fear in these unsafe regions due to the corruption and immense danger created by drug trafficking groups, and the land is extremely unsafe for innocent civilians caught amidst rivaling gangs.

The drug business, especially in Mexico, has involved various aspects of Mexican politics and society, and have continued to thrive amidst the efforts of detainment due to the prevalence of corruption and lack of transparency in the judiciary systems and police forces of South America. Mexican drug cartels make from \$19 to \$29 billion annually from U.S. sales alone, and due to the easy money acquired from this illegal action, numerous different traffickers accomplish their operations through both large and small scale trafficking, acting as a constant jeopardy to the lives of innocent civilians. As recorded in Mexico over a period of seven years, the homicide count has totaled to almost 200,000, approximately 55% as a consequence of cartel and gang violence.

In various American states, drug trafficking has established a foothold in both economic and political sectors. In nations such as Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, and Colombia, an immense growth in the production and trafficking of illegal drugs has been observed throughout the region. For example, Jamaica, considered to be part of Latin America, is the largest production center of marijuana and marijuana-derived goods, as well as an extremely common transit for smugglers of these illicit goods. Through statistics, we can observe that over 5,000,000 pounds of narcotics including cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and methamphetamine are seized at the border each year. Both the demand and massive workforce for making the drug are present, this makes for a massive drug based percentage of the economy with the illegal drug trade in the region rising. For example, in 2013, an estimated 24.6 million Americans aged 12 or older—9.4 percent of the population—had used an illicit drug in the past month.

## **GOAL OF THIS COMMITTEE:**

As the OAS has done before, this committee hopes that delegates will engage in thought-provoking discussion and hear a wide variety of points of views in order to create sound short-term and long-term solutions to solve the issue of drug trafficking and ensure cooperation and benefit these participating nations. Resolutions developed in committee should address all parts of the issue and all the nations of the OAS in which it is prevalent, especially those where it greatly affects the population and government. This committee highly smiles upon delegates who are able to suggest the implementation of unique and unconventional solutions, instead of those typically proposed in other committees with a similar topic. The OAS is very dedicated to combating this problem and has many projects focused on supply and demand reduction and developing stronger anti-drug institutions within individual states.

## **UN INVOLVEMENT**

In order to combat the drug forces the UNODC has enforced the Consolidation and Enhancement of the Border Liaison Office. BLO has expanded its abilities in order to combat the drug export, production, and manufacturing. The UNODC has implemented in office works and law enforcers to be trained on how to eliminate drug trafficking through the global programme on cybercrime. UNODC also conducted a seminar in Kazakhstan to train policy makers responsible for planning and implementing national drug use prevention. There have been drug use prevention interventions and providing drug dependence treatment and care services provided by the UNODC.

UNODC has published a Compilation of Evidence-Based Family Skills Training Programmes. It provides policymakers, programme managers, non-governmental organizations and others interested in implementing family skills. The UNODC recommends this to practitioners, clinicians, and other interested in a programme based on family skill training. Preventing Substance Abuse Among Children and Adolescents: Prevention Enhancement Protocol System (PEPS) published by CSAP is an effective program for preventing substance abuse. The ODCCP assists countries in their fight against Organized Crime and Corruption and has two types of activities, a normative standpoint (to build on already established laws) and technical cooperation activities. INTERPOL could be used to have trained police forces positioned at borders. The fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs encouraged cooperation between developed and undeveloped countries. Acts from the UNODC such as these commissions and other online program are what have brought down opium production in Afghanistan from 22 percent to 18 percent, and this could be done with Southeast Asia as well. NATO and counter-narcotics operations have also helped bring down these numbers. Terms of trade, which make legal food trade more desirable, and introduction to “food zones” promote licit farming.

The single convention on narcotic drugs of 1961 was amended by the 1972 protocol. The convention psychotropic substances took place in 1971. These two conventions were mainly made to ensure drugs could still be used for medical purposes, and to make sure they weren't entering illicit channels. The Law Enforcement, Organized Crime and Anti-Money-Laundering Unit of UNODC is responsible for carrying out the Global Programme against Money-Laundering, The Anti-Money Laundering Unit of UNODC carries out a global programme against money laundering. It eliminates Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, which was established in 1997 in response to UNODC through the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. The Political Declaration and the measures for countering money laundering adopted by the General Assembly strengthened this mandate in 1998; this made the mandate to cover all serious crime, not just drug-related offences. Furthermore, the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, established by the OAS, has been focused on dealing with narco trafficking and drug abuse in the Western Hemisphere. They have focused on the development of various organizations against the production of narcotics and other substances.

## **POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS**

A large cause of this form of criminality is poverty amongst families and people, especially in underdeveloped nations. Drug trafficking provides a large and easy form of income for those in poverty, and therefore, we must focus on the eradication of this socioeconomic disparity in countries. Through a greater implementation of infrastructure within developing nations, jobs will be provided to millions of people, as well as a better system of education and social security for all citizens. These structural reforms will not only benefit the current population, but also inspire younger generations to find alternatives to criminality. Through a path of economic and sustainable growth for these American states, drug trafficking can more likely be eliminated.

Furthermore, a reform of professional forces must be called upon to ensure the avoidance of corruption amongst police officers, the judiciary system, and other legalities. A large problem in various American countries is the unprofessionalism and easily bribed officers. However, with a reform leading to a more investigative and transparent legal system, the trafficking of narcotics and other issues can be stopped.

Another solution includes the greater national security of countries, which encompasses greater border security and more efficient cooperation with intelligence sharing among the main drug-producing and consuming nations in the region. Through an increase of border control and ports to ensure safety and security, drug trafficking can be prevented between countries. A joint-border-management organization will be able to be established in order to facilitate sustainable growth and progress for the entire region of the OAS, as well as prevent the distribution of narcotics amongst the people of these countries.

In order to eliminate drug trafficking you must start at the base of the problem. In many Latin American countries farmers need to grow and sell Opium, Marijuana, Cocoa leaves, etc. in order to support their families. These raw materials are used to make drugs like heroin and cocaine. Countries have implemented campaigns in which they encourage and provide incentives to farmers for trading their illegal crops in while replacing them with other crops. In countries where there have been similar policies like Vietnam, almost all opium farms have been eliminated and been replaced with a new crop. Many of these farmers have enjoyed for profit and a more constant form of revenue with new crops like plum trees.

Small business are essential to combat drug trafficking, first of all they help stimulate economic growth which in turn creates more jobs and a more stable infrastructure. With more job opportunities less people will be willing to partake in illegal activities in order to receive money and support their families. Organizations like Grameen Bank appeal specifically to individuals living in rural areas. Many are not eligible to other forms of Microcredit or Micro Loans due to strict regulations, for example providing an official address and employer, which is something people living in impoverished rural areas rarely have. Grameen bank is more lenient and provides recipients with quicker loans.

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