



PMUNC 2014

UN Office on Drugs and Crime

Chair: Jonathan Liebman

Director:



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Chair's Letter

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of the Princeton International Relations Council, welcome to PMUNC 2014! My name is Jonathan Liebman, and I will be chairing the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) committee at this year's conference. The UNODC committee is an exciting and interdisciplinary organ of the UN devoted to promoting international cooperation and combatting issues of pressing global importance, including the proliferation of drug cartels, human trafficking, organized crime, piracy and more. This year, the UNODC committee will focus on two important issues: human trafficking in Southeast Asia, and the dangerous emergence of new markets and technologies in the 21st century illicit drug trade. It is my hope that this committee will lead to passionate debate, cooperation and conflict, innovative policy proposals, and above all fun as you explore these topics and generate solutions to these important issues.

A few words about me: I am a sophomore from Williston, Vermont, which is about as rural as you might expect—I grew up raising chickens and driving past cows on the way to school. I am majoring in the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and can be found outside of the classroom gorging on free food and working with organizations such as Debate, the Pace Center for Civic Engagement, and of course Model UN. Other interests of mine include traveling (I spent this past summer in Cotonou, Benin doing research on political economy), debating with friends, pretending to be French, musical theater, and Ben and Jerry's ice cream. According to Paul Yang, one of the conference organizers, I also enjoy surfing, although curiously I've never actually been.

Above all, I'm thrilled to be chairing the UNODC committee at this year's PMUNC, and I can't wait to meet all of you and hear all of your ideas. The conference organizers and staff have spent many months working to ensure that your experience at PMUNC 2014 is as memorable and enjoyable as possible, and I'm confident that this year's conference will be the best PMUNC yet. Please come to the conference prepared to debate and having researched the topics at hand, and of course feel free to contact me at liebmanj@princeton.edu if you have any questions whatsoever. Until then, I wish you the best of luck in your preparations, and I look forward to meeting in December!

Sincerely,
Jonathan Liebman

Introduction

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is a special and interdisciplinary UN office devoted to combatting drugs, crime, and terrorism around the globe. Founded in 1997, the UNODC is headquartered in Vienna, Austria and has established itself as a standard-bearer in the global fight against illicit drugs and terrorism. With 20 field offices serving over 150 countries around the world, the UNODC's global reach is matched only by the diversity and complexity of the issues it handles. Indeed, the UNODC deals with subjects as wide-ranging as drug prevention, piracy, money laundering, corruption, human trafficking, and more—an indication of the scope of its mandate and the nature of the interconnected and tenacious issues with which it deals.

In order to conduct its operations, the UNODC works in tandem with various NGOs, UN Member States, and other actors in order to strengthen institutions and the

rule of law, foster transparency and integrity, and facilitate regional and international cooperation. The UNODC's operations can be broadly broken down into three categories: research and analytical work, which seeks to increase understanding of and inform public policy regarding drugs and crime; normative work, which seeks to assist States in ratifying and implementing international treaties as well as developing domestic legislation against drugs and crime; and field-based technical cooperation projects, which seek to strengthen the institutional capacity of Member States in the fight against drugs and crime.

Above all, the UNODC takes an integrated approach to its work, wielding both legal and technical tools in partnership with State and non-State actors in order to effectively confront the growing menace of international crime and drug operations. In a time of ever-greater interconnectivity, the

UNODC's work is crucial in defusing some
of humanity's most malign threats and

promoting a healthier, safer, and more
prosperous world.

Topic A: Technology, Emerging Drug Markets and the Future of Trafficking: Silk Road 2.0

Illicit drug trafficking remains one of the most complex and dire issues that the modern world faces. Worldwide, the human cost of illicit drugs is enormous: the estimated annual death toll of illegal drugs in 2011 was a staggering 183,000 people, while around 243 million people were estimated to have used an illicit drug at least once that year, and 27 million were classified as repeat users or addicts (“problem users”). Beyond the extreme cases of death, millions more are at risk of serious health complications, non-lethal overdoses, diseases such as Hepatitis or HIV/AIDS, and more, making drug control and prevention efforts a core component of the UNODC’s mandate.

Moreover, the nature of the illegal drug trade is such that it is inextricably tied to

organized crime and is at the center of a global network of criminal activity with ties to money laundering, political corruption, and even terrorism. From cartel violence and the ongoing drug war in Mexico—a conflict that has killed well over 100,000 people over since 2006—to Taliban terrorism in Afghanistan half a world over, illicit drug trafficking both funds and fuels criminal violence around the world. In today’s increasingly globalized environment, illicit drug trafficking links together each country in a destabilizing web of criminality that threatens the stability and security of polity. Globally speaking, the global drug trade is a lucrative business worth about \$435 billion each year, making it one of the most profitable—and dangerous—business in the world, and by far the largest component of organized crime—an enterprise with revenues totaling over 1.5% of global GDP.

Given the staggering magnitude of the issue, it is of paramount global importance that illicit drug trafficking be confronted and

challenged wherever it occurs, and by each Member State. In this committee, the UNODC takes aim at emerging markets and new forms of drug trafficking, especially as influenced and enabled by technological advancement. Specifically, the committee will focus on the emergence of online drug trafficking as a global phenomenon, as well as the growth of drug trafficking into previously unexplored markets. Taken together, these issues constitute a novel threat to global health and security, and are in urgent need of innovative and bold solutions.

Online Drug Trafficking

In the 21st century, the fight against illicit drug trafficking is now digital. Indeed, an increasing number of countries and organizations around the world have noted a dramatic rise in the online trade of drugs and precursor chemicals. Most worrying perhaps is the increased usage of the so-called “dark net”, areas of the Internet inaccessible

through simple web search and which used advanced technologies to conceal IIP addresses. On the “dark net”, online eBay-like drug emporia have sprouted through which drugs are shipped through regular postal services and advanced concealment methods stymie the efforts of law enforcement officials to identify website users and operators alike. Such sites have grown significantly in recent years; indeed, the widely publicized takedown of one such site, “The Silk Road”, revealed 200,000 registered users, roughly \$1.2 billion in revenues in just 2-5 years of operations (UNODC xvii). With a 300% increase in cannabis seizures obtained through the postal service between 2000 and 2011—the primary way through which drugs purchased online are delivered to users—it is clear that online trafficking is an emerging phenomenon that demands swift redress.

While online drug trafficking remains just a fraction all global drug trafficking, confined for the most part to North America

and Europe, its emergence and rapid growth raises the specter of a more sophisticated and dangerous form of 21st drug trade that is likely to become an ever more popular mode of trafficking in the years to come. Indeed, some surveys indicate that the scope of the problem is already far larger than commonly recognized: in a recent survey of 17 (mostly affluent) countries, over 11% of respondents reported having purchased drugs on the Internet (GDS2014). Although the self-nominating sample renders these results likely not representative of the global population as a whole, the increasing prevalence of online drug purchases among certain segments of the population, along with the rapid growth of online drug emporia, portend an alarming future of online narcotic contagion.

Situated at the intersection of a raging debate about Internet privacy, online currencies, and the fight against illegal drugs, online drug emporia pose new and urgent challenges to law enforcement

agencies worldwide. While the UNODC and affiliated organizations have recently taken note of this alarming trend and its future potential to challenge drug control efforts, little has been done so far either from a legal or policy perspective to thwart this emerging menace.

Emerging Markets, Emerging Threats

Globalization's increasing spread has brought trafficking to new locales, constituting a new threat in emerging illicit drug markets. Indeed, "over the past decade, established illicit drug markets in the industrialized countries have shown signs of stabilization, while the growth of illicit drug use has continued to accompany socio-economic transitions in developing countries" (UNODC 59). For example, heroin markets have expanded throughout the entire African continent, stocked with heroin chiefly of Afghani origin (WDR 2012). Meanwhile, cocaine use in Eastern Europe and Southeast Asia, with seizures

nearly tripling in the former region and quadrupling in the latter, reflecting changes in both demand and trafficking patterns, and monitors recorded a marked rise in the use of amphetamine-type substances (ATS) throughout West Africa and the Middle East, along with similar reports regarding Ecstasy use. As a whole, drug use in the developing world is on the rise; there are now twice as many illicit drug users in countries not part of the OECD than in it. This spread of trafficking to the developing world has been accompanied by an increase in the use of technology to facilitate drug transfers, notably aided by the proliferation and penetration of mobile phones into even the least developed areas of the world. Indeed, a staggering 78.6% of the world's population has a mobile phone subscription according to 2010 data, compared with just 0.2% in 1990. Aided by SMS messaging and anonymous, pre-purchased subscriber identity module (SIM) cards, mobile technology has also "revolutionized the drug business at all levels" and further frustrated

law enforcement's efforts to monitor, trace, and take down trafficking operations (95).

Ultimately, the emergence of new markets for illicit drugs—whether online or in the developing world—represents a call-to-arms for law enforcement agencies worldwide. Avenues for global progress, as with the spread of online and mobile technologies, pose a concomitant threat to global stability, raising the specter of a new, more virulent and tenacious form of trafficking with tendrils reaching all corners of the world. Moreover, while existing bodies are in place to combat drug trafficking, none have been sufficiently adapted to combat these recent, technology-fueled changes in drug trafficking. UNODC 2014 thus offers a robust international forum on how best to facilitate international cooperation, balance competing concerns, and combat this looming danger.

Active Treaties Dealing With Illegal Drugs

The UNODC’s mandate on resolving issues of drug trafficking largely stems from three complementary treaties enacted by UN Member States regarding drug control: the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 (**SCND**), the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 (**CSP**), and the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Illegal Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 (**CAITIDPS**). Taken together, the treaty regime forms a robust and mutually supportive framework for the combat of illicit drug trafficking, and—with 184, 183, and 189 Member States party to each respective treaty—evinces a profound international consensus on both the gravity of the issue and how it may be confronted.

The SCND and CSP focus primarily on codifying internationally applicable control measures such that licit narcotics and psychotropic substances may be used for legitimate medical and scientific purposes, while working to ensure that these powerful

(and easily misused) substances do not fall into illicit channels. This system, which divides drugs into different “schedules” of control, is currently the international standard for classifying drugs and operationalizing their control for acceptable purposes. The SCND focused primarily on drugs such as opiates, cocaine, and cannabis; the CSP—enacted roughly a decade later—expanded this drug control regime to other classes of psychoactive drugs, such as barbiturates, amphetamines, and psychedelics (e.g., LSD). The treaties also contained more general provisions relating to drug trafficking and abuse, and tasked the UNODC with helping States craft legislation pursuant to the treaties’ aims and stipulations (e.g., the US’s National Controlled Substances Act, which was passed to fulfill the US’s treaty obligations.)

The UN CAITIDPS extends the SCND and CSP to focus more broadly on issues relating to illicit drug trafficking, especially with regard to precursor control, money

laundering, and other activities linked with illegal drug trafficking. Importantly, it also extends and reinforces the international legal framework dealing with cooperation in fighting organized crime, including extradition arrangements and mutual legal assistance.

Related UN Bodies

As specified in the current treaty regime, UNODC works in tandem primarily with two other UN bodies, which help define and enforce the treaties. Specifically, implementation of the treaties is designated to the **Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)** and the **International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)**, which are charged with policy formation and enforcement, respectively. The INCB is an independent and quasi-judicial monitoring body that works to implement the three active UN drug conventions by working with States to ensure that markets for licit drugs operate smoothly (including as regards their

manufacture, trade, and use) and by overseeing national and trans-national efforts at precursor control and the suppression of illicit drug markets. To this effect, the INCB assesses chemicals used in the manufacture of drugs and advises whether or not they should be placed under international control, and issues recommendations for remedial measures to be taken when States fall behind on their treaty obligations.

Working in complement to the INCB, the CND is the governing body of the UNODC and acts as the other primary drug policy-making institution in the UN. The CND is most importantly empowered with the ability to make changes to the schedules of controlled substances, thereby determining which drugs should be considered illicit under the international treaty regime. This duty is exercised carefully and only under advisement of the World Health Organization (WHO). Following the recommendations of the

INCB, the CND also places determined precursor chemicals under international control. The INCB has 13 members serving 5-year terms; 10 are elected from a list of those nominated from Member States, and 3 are selected from the WHO. The CND has 53 members with set seat allocations for different geographic regions.

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M. C. Van Hout and T. Bingham, "Silk

Topic B: Combatting Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is one of the world's most heinous crimes. Defined in one UN document as the "acquisition of people by improper means such as force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them" (UNODC Human), human trafficking effectively operates as a form of modern slavery and impacts countries and people around the entire world. The appalling nature of the crime is matched perhaps only by its shocking magnitude. Indeed, UN studies reveal that at least 12.3 million people worldwide are victims of human trafficking, with a majority of victims forced into sexual servitude, followed by labor and other forms of exploitation, including trafficking in brides, organs, child beggars, and more (UNODC).

These crimes against humanity shock the conscience, yet have often been misunderstood or neglected. This seeming indifference often ties into the precarious

situation of victims of human trafficking, who live on the margins of modern society. Consequently, the vast majority of victims go unidentified and assisted—and the vast majority of traffickers unpunished, a status quo that persists to this day. More alarmingly, human trafficking is also a huge and highly lucrative global trade worth billions of dollars, and as such has deep ties to organized crime syndicates around the world. Human trafficking thus presents a complicated and multifaceted issue that connects with other UNODC priority issues, such as drug trafficking, corruption, organized crime, and more.

Although efforts have been taken in previous years to combat the issue, most notably in the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, trafficking remains "largely a hidden crime which is rarely reported to the authorities," with efforts to combat it often stymied by ignorance, corruption, and lack of

international cooperation, among other issues (ibid). Facilitating international dialogue and cooperation on this issue has proved difficult, and the process of translating principles codified in the Protocol in action has been frustratingly slow. In the meantime, victims languish in cruel anonymity as perpetrators run free.

In this part of the UNODC 2014 committee, delegates are invited to take part in this important and oft-overlooked debate. Given the globalized nature of trafficking, delegates are encouraged to work on solutions to human trafficking in general, as well as with specific regard to one heavily impacted region: Southeast Asia.

Human Trafficking in Southeast Asia

One of the world's most heavily impacted regions by human trafficking is South-East Asia, where labor trafficking predominates. This region is heavily involved in manufacturing and at the bottom of many global supply chains

(such as food, garments, and technology), so the issue of human trafficking here is complex and intersects with broader issues of migrant-worker rights, child labor, and sexual exploitation. Moreover, trafficking in the region takes place in diverse forms, with substantial amounts of victims trafficked overseas as well as intra-regionally and domestically, with many countries serving as both origin and destination countries for trafficking. Trafficked persons, often lured under false pretenses or compelled by force, are exploited in many different sectors, including agricultural, domestic, industrial, construction, and sex work. For an example of the global depth of the issue, according to an NGO report, "the majority of Indonesians identified as trafficked have been women trafficked internationally to Malaysia,

followed by Saudi Arabia, Singapore and Japan.”

Given the fast-changing political and economic conditions in Southeast Asia, human trafficking poses a particularly malign issue to confront. In the region, human trafficking runs the gamut, and facilitating international cooperation is especially difficult. Although all but one of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) States has ratified the UN Protocol against human trafficking—Thailand having signed but not ratified it—many have not ratified related Conventions (like those protecting the rights of refugees) and the ASEAN principle of “non-interference” renders substantive regional cooperation difficult on an issue as contentious and intractable as human trafficking.

Combating human trafficking in Southeast Asia is thus of paramount importance, yet runs into substantial difficulties, including incomplete or inadequate information, insufficient legal frameworks (for example, domestic workers are often excluded from labor laws), shoddy enforcement, corruption and collusion, among a host of other issues. Moreover, care must be taken in order to ensure responses to human trafficking do not further harm victims, as a victim-centric approaches are often absent in many countries’ initiatives.

UN Treaties Dealing with Human Trafficking

The primary international legal convention regarding human trafficking is the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which entered into

force in 2003. The world's first globally legally binding document on the issue with an agreed definition of human trafficking, the Protocol has been ratified by 163 Member States and constitutes an important first step in the international fight against human trafficking.

The Protocol is directed at forming a comprehensive and unifying international conception and approach to human trafficking. The Protocol officially defines trafficking as the

Recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall

include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs (Protocol Article 3).

From this definition, human trafficking can be decomposed into three overlapping components: the act of trafficking itself, the means of trafficking, and the purpose (e.g., sexual exploitation, forced labor, organ removal, etc.). Along with developing a coherent international legal and conceptual framework for combatting human trafficking, the Protocol takes a three-pronged strategy to the issue, with emphasis on the prevention of human trafficking, protection of victims, and prosecution of perpetrators.

As the custodian of the Protocol, it is in the UNODC's mandate to develop and enforce all three components of the Protocol: prevention, protection, and

prosecution. In doing so, the UNODC takes a broad and transnational approach to the issue, described below.

Relevant UNODC Programs

The UNODC works to combat human trafficking encompasses three interconnected and synergistic areas: research and awareness-building, enforcement of the Protocol on human trafficking, and building international partnerships and networks to fight human trafficking. As such, the UNODC is involved in a variety of efforts to combat trafficking, including issuing research reports, providing technical skills and training to criminal justice practitioners. The UNODC also works to facilitate international cooperation and foster a strong and coherent international legal framework to combat human trafficking, in line with its mandate from the 2003 Protocol.

To these ends, the UNODC has undertaken a variety of initiatives, such as the Blue Heart Campaign, which works internationally to promote awareness of human trafficking. The UNODC also works with other UN organizations to operate the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT), which seeks to reinforce the Protocol goals of prevention, protection, and prosecution. In this framework, UNODC works with Member States to advise on appropriate legislation incorporating a strong yet victim-centric approach to human trafficking, and has authored a model law as an example of proper legislation to this effect. However, despite these efforts, it is clear that the world is currently losing the fight against human trafficking. What data are available demonstrate that the problem has likely not lessened, and while public awareness of trafficking and convictions have modestly grown in recent years, it is likely outstripped by increases in trafficking activities. Bold and urgent action is needed to confront nefarious problem, and UNODC

2014 will thus be a forum for nations all around the world to explore this dynamic and difficult issue.

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