

General Assembly



Topic B: “The transportation of illicit substances, analyzing supply chains and trafficking methods in America.”

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Welcoming letter

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to this edition of Colegio Fontanar Model of the United Nations. We are very excited to have you at the General Assembly, thank you for choosing this committee.

In this committee we will debate about illicit substances, how they have impacted us, the transportation and other branches of these topics.

We are sure that each and every one of you is going to do a great job giving your opinions and ideas, we wish you all the best for this Model of the United Nations.

Sincerely,

Regina Hurtado and Isabella Aguilar

Moderator and Chair of General Assembly

Table of contents

I. Committee Background

II. Introduction to the Topic

III. Evolution of the Topic

IV. Relevant Events

A. Panorama

B. Points of View

V. UN and External Actions

VI. Conclusion

VII. Committee Focus

VIII. Participation List

IX. References



I. Committee Background

The United Nations General Assembly is the main policy-making organ of the United Nations. Comprising all 193 Member States, it provides a forum for international issues, with each Member State having an equal vote.

The General Assembly also makes key decisions for the United Nations, including:

- Naming the Secretary-General on the recommendation of the Security Council.
- Electing the non-permanent members of the Security Council.
- Approving the United Nations budget.

The Assembly convenes for regular sessions annually from September to December and additionally as needed. It addresses specific topics through dedicated agenda items or sub-items, resulting in the adoption of resolutions.



II. Introduction to the Topic

In the United States the trafficking of illicit substances remains an unresolved problem, largely due to economic disparities and lack of employment opportunities in certain regions.

Mexico is the most involved country in the transportation of drugs.

Cocaine is typically transported from Colombia to Mexico or Central America by sea and then further transported by land to the United States and Canada.

United States authorities estimate that nearly 90% of the cocaine entering the country crosses the United States-Mexico land border, most of it entering through the state of Texas. According to United States estimates, approximately 70% of the cocaine leaves Colombia via the Pacific Ocean.

Many drug traffickers also use other methods of transportation, such as postal and package delivery services to send Mexico and the United States drugs.



II. Introduction to the Topic

To a much lesser extent, couriers and cargo shipments via aircraft, buses, and trains are used as well.

III. Evolution of the Topic

Authorities face significant challenges from traffickers' innovative tactics, such as drones and underground tunnels, which have further disrupted supply chains, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The response includes enhanced port surveillance and international collaboration, even though the persistent demand for illicit substances continues to drive trafficking.

The evolution of drug transportation in the Americas has adapted to legislative changes and increasingly sophisticated criminal tactics, including the use of synthetic drugs like fentanyl.

The Drug Enforcement Administration was established in 1973 to combat these threats.



IV. Relevant Events

A. Panorama

The transportation of illicit drugs across the Americas involves ever-changing supply networks and trafficking strategies.

Driven by insatiable demand and constantly evolving tactics, the desire for drugs such as cocaine, methamphetamine and fentanyl has led to the creation of intricate trafficking networks. These networks originate in South American production centers, pass through transit regions like Mexico and Central America and ultimately infiltrate North American markets.

Drug trafficking organizations employ various methods to evade detection. Despite improved collaboration and intelligence-sharing among governments, challenges persist due to limited resources and corruption.

IV. Relevant Events

A coordinated global effort is essential to dismantle these trafficking networks, disrupt supply chains, and reduce demand.

B. Points of View

Mexico: Mexico's former president stated that he would not fight Mexican drug cartels based on United States' orders, offering the clearest explanation yet of his refusal to confront the gangs. Over the years the ex-president Andrés Manuel López Obrador provided various justifications for his "hugs, not bullets" policy, which avoids direct confrontations with the cartels. He has stated that "you cannot fight violence with violence," and on other occasions, he has argued that the government must address "the root causes" of drug cartel violence, attributing them to poverty and a lack of opportunities.

IV. Relevant Events

China: China's involvement at organized crime in Mexico is largely centered around the production of synthetic drugs, such as fentanyl, methamphetamines and precursor chemicals. Chinese criminal networks, supply these chemicals to Mexican cartels, which are essential for drug manufacturing. Financial connections also play a significant role, as Chinese money-laundering operations help hide cartel profits. Furthermore, emerging cooperation in arms trafficking highlights the growing synergy between Chinese and Mexican criminal organizations.

Colombia: Colombia considers drug legalization as a potential solution to reduce violence and improve public health, aiming to address long-standing issues associated with the drug prohibition regime. President Gustavo Petro advocates for shifting away from punitive measures, which have fueled violence and failed to curb drug addiction.

IV. Relevant Events

Instead, he proposes regulatory frameworks that prioritize health. This approach seeks to weaken cartel power by reducing the profitability of the illegal drug trade and fostering international collaboration for a health-based strategy.

United States: The United States government has spent over a trillion dollars fighting the conflict on drugs, even though, its transportation remains a significant challenge. This ongoing issue is due to a combination of factors, including the complexity of international trafficking networks, evolving smuggling methods and a shift in focus toward criminal justice, rather than addressing the root causes of addiction and poverty.

Moreover, the continued high demand for drugs in the United States sustains supply chains, reducing the effectiveness of interdiction efforts.

V. UN and External Actions

The United Nations, particularly through the Office on Drugs and Crime, plays an active role in combating global drug trafficking by promoting international cooperation, implementing initiatives to reduce illicit drug production and supporting countries in their fight against money laundering. The United Nations advocates for a balanced approach to drug policy, focusing on public health and prevention.

Externally, actions taken by countries and non-governmental organizations, such as the United States Department of Homeland Security and International Criminal Police Organization, include targeting criminal networks, enhancing global partnerships, providing training and operational support to law enforcement and engaging in harm reduction strategies and policy advocacy.



V. UN and External Actions

These efforts have led to significant arrests, drug seizures and the promotion of policies that address the root causes of drug trafficking.

VI. Conclusion

The solution to the transportation of illicit substances is central to combat crime, improve public safety and protect the health of communities, due to the interconnection between it with violence and social issues which demands a coordinated response. Collaboration among governments, international and non-governmental organizations is essential to address the root causes of drug trafficking in the Americas.

VII. Committee Focus

- What specific legislative measures can be proposed to enhance the detection and interdiction of illicit substances at United States transportation networks?
- How can international cooperation be strengthened to disrupt global drug trafficking networks that exploit United States transportation systems?
- What role can technology play in improving the efficiency of drug detection and prevention efforts at ports of entry?
- What measures can be implemented to ensure better coordination among federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies in combating drug trafficking?
- How can community engagement and education initiatives be utilized to reduce demand for illicit substances and support prevention efforts?

VIII. Participation List

- Argentine Republic
- Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
- Canada
- Federative Republic of Brazil
- French Republic
- People's Republic of China
- Plurinational State of Bolivia
- Republic of Chile
- Republic of Colombia
- Republic of Costa Rica
- Republic of Ecuador
- Republic of El Salvador
- Republic of Guatemala
- Republic of Honduras
- Republic of Paraguay
- Republic of Peru
- Russian Federation
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- United Mexican States
- United States of America

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