



OISMUN 2025

UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Agenda

Deliberating upon the impact of state-sponsored narcotics trafficking

Executive Board

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LETTER FROM THE secretariat

Dear esteemed delegates,

As the fortunate secretariat of this year's OIS MS MUN, we are thrilled to welcome you all to this conference. We are looking forward to seeing diverse and energetic delegates on the day of the event, and hope that all of you will benefit from this conference.

As students passionate about global issues, you possess the power to go on and make concrete changes in the future. This conference is a platform that will enable you to inspire and influence others with your ideas, your voice, and your actions. We hope that you will be able to carry forward this zeal for problem solving into your lives and be able to contribute meaningfully to issues that matter in your communities.

Having been a part of this conference and its organising team numerous times over the years, we can assure you that this conference will be a transformative experience for each and every one of you. Just as each of us left the MUN brimming with opinions and excitement to enact these beliefs, so will you. We hope that you feel a part of this community as much as we did, and leave the conference feeling empowered and inspired, with a deepened commitment to creating positive change in the world.

We encourage you to engage in meaningful and respectful dialogue with one another, throughout the conference, to listen attentively to different viewpoints, and to seek common ground amidst differences in opinion. We urge you to push your limits and challenge yourself, and one another by thinking critically to solve problems on the spot. We would love to see a display of political understanding from each and every one of you, and hope that this conference will be an opportunity for you to not only learn from one another, but also to support and uplift one another as you navigate through the complexities of the world around us.

Thank you for choosing to be a part of this year's Model United Conference. We are excited to see the impact that you will make, both during and beyond this event. We look forward to seeing you there!

With warm regards,
OIS MS MUN Secretariat.

INTRODUCTION TO THE executive board

Ronit Sengupta

Ronit enters every MUN with a bag of props, 4 cups of espresso and sheer determination. He loves to write long winding speeches that end with famous quotes, damning POIs and a reference to at least one movie. He also happens to be incredibly experienced in different specialized agencies ranging from the US Senate to the Futuristic UNSC. His MUN style can be boiled down to a good mix of aggression, statistics and some obscure facts that leaves half the committee googling what he just said. Outside of MUN make sure to take note of his undying love for ice hockey (specifically the New York Rangers), his obsession with Radiohead and Kendrick Lamar's music, All of this coupled with an encyclopaedic knowledge of various stand-up comedians ranging from Bill Burr to James Acaster. Overall, Ronit's unique experiences as a delegate and dedication to MUN and politics will ensure that your experience in one of his committees is one to remember.

Aryan Dodeja

In a committee where the infamous California fires are being talked about, a delegate issues an ultimatum to only save California for the California girls. With his dynamical speeches (which can be dead serious or absolutely dramatic), Aryan is the perfect example of a wild-card delegate. From committees like UNHRC to the UNSC, Aryan Dodeja has a lot of experience when it comes to debating in MUNs. From his perfect blend of theatrics and facts, to his amazing ability to silence an entire room, his voice being the only one heard, Aryan takes all his opportunities. Apart from MUN, Aryan likes to play chess (with an almost CULT-ish love for the game, spending more hours on it than he sleeps) and play the Piano for hours on end. If you let him down and his HIGH expectations, be sure to praise Magnus Carlson or shower love for Eminem to get on his good side. Being an avid reader as well, Aryan reads everything, (having a special place in his heart for Harry Potter). So make sure you play your CHECKMATE move with Aryan, and that you have speeches with a mix of theatrics and statistics. So get ready for a thrilling adventure with Aryan, complemented with fierce and quality debate!

LETTER FROM THE executive board

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The UNODC is one of the UN's specialized bodies dedicated to the fight against criminal activity pertaining to narcotics. We will be exploring this committee through the agenda "deliberating upon the impact of state-sponsored narcotics trafficking". We are eager to see the various perspectives on state-sponsored trafficking of narcotics in this committee spawning intense arguments and innovative solutions. As the executive board, we hope that this conference allows you to gain invaluable experience, public speaking skills, and leadership skills to aid you in the future.

MUN is one of the most unique activities available to students. We hope you are able to leave the conference with some valuable experiences, not just as a delegate but as a person. Being a delegate can be an equally stressful and rewarding experience, we hope you strike a balance by finding unique ways to adapt to new situations and show your true potential in this conference.

We are incredibly excited to be part of your MUN journey and hope to see all of your skills on display over the course of our committee sessions. Please feel free to contact either of the executive board members if any questions or doubts arise. See you soon!

Your Executive Board,

Ronit Sengupta (ronit.sengputa@oberoi-is.net) & Aryan Dodeja
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INTRODUCTION TO THE committee

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was established in 1997 as a specialized body of the United Nations to address the issues of illicit drugs, organized crime, drug terrorism, and corruption.

The mission of the UNODC is to promote justice, international security, and better health for the world. The UNODC collaborates frequently with Interpol, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), and World Customs Organisation (WCO). The committee is responsible for making sure there's worldwide adherence to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)

The UNODC is often guided by past resolutions and decisions made in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)

Resolutions passed in the UNODC are not binding in nature. This doesn't impact the resolution's ability to make an impact in the form of national legislation or international accords. Resolutions in the UNODC often come in the form of strengthening local and national capabilities in areas such as law enforcement and the judiciary for its member states.

Some notable impacts of the UNODC are the Single Convention of Narcotic Drugs which was signed in 1961 as a landmark international treaty regulating narcotics and the Doha Declaration which was signed more recently when it came to highlighting the role of education in promoting justice and reducing drug-related crime.

HISTORY OF THE TOPIC

Opium Wars in the 19th century to the cartels of Latin America. The interference or direct involvement of state actors with narcotics trafficking is vast and storied.

WWII (1939-1945)

Both the Axis and Allied powers had used drugs and drug trafficking to their advantage in this fraught-filled period. They were managed by the government in Nazi Germany, and it was heavily used during the Blitzkrieg offensives.

Benzedrine was the allied equivalent of Pervitin and came in tablet form. These drugs were given to soldiers because they made them more aggressive, alert, and energetic. This was seen in Japan as well, over there it was known as “Shabu” and was even given to civilians to boost overall productivity. In Japan, and other nations that used drugs to enhance their soldiers had to deal with the post-war consequences of drug dependence on former soldiers resulting in several public health crises.

Morphine was initially used for medical purposes to treat the pain from severe injuries. This high demand for Morphine saw a rise in opium cultivation in India, Iran, Burma, Laos, and Thailand. Morphine ended up becoming incredibly addictive and wounded soldiers would often abuse the drug long after it was suitable to take it.

Golden Triangle Era (1940s-1970s)

The Golden Triangle is an opium-producing region that spans Burma, Laos, and Thailand. It is a key hub for opium production and trafficking post-World War II.

The Japanese occupation of the Golden Triangle had led to the coercion of farmers into growing and harvesting opium. This was done to serve as an alternate revenue source for the Japanese government. The opium was distributed in local areas in order to encourage addiction within the local population. This was a form of societal control that allowed Japan to consolidate its power over the region.

After the Japanese had been defeated. The remnants of the Chinese Nationalist Party found themselves in Northern Burma after the Communist victory in their native China. It was in Burma when they began cultivating opium and selling it to fund their anti-communist insurgency. These operations were allegedly supported by the CIA, as they saw the nationalist party as a vital counterbalance to the communists in the region.

Burmese, Laotian, and Thai warlords often had their respective governments' permission to profit from the drug trade as well. It made it easier to maintain control over their respective countries; this phenomenon allowed for further government involvement in the Golden Triangle drug trade.

During the Vietnam War, heroin from the Golden Triangle had been flooding the European and American markets after increased demand from soldiers in the region. This distribution of heroin was very much done despite local government awareness of where it was going.

Rise of Cartels in Latin America (1980s-2000s):

Columbia saw itself in the crosshairs of the rising cocaine trade. The Medellín Cartel had amassed a drug empire worth billions. It grew cocaine in South America and then sent it to the United States, their biggest customer.

The Colombian government had turned a blind eye to this. Similar to the Golden Triangle era in which government officials had been allowing the cartel to operate openly as long as they received a portion of the profits.

Mexico had a similar situation with the Guadalajara Cartel led by Miguel Ángel Félix Gallardo. They often collaborated with the Colombian cartels to ship the drug to the USA and beyond. The DFS, (Mexican Intelligence Agency) was actively involved in the profiteering and protection of the Guadalajara Cartel. There were also accusations that the government may have been complicit in the murder of American DEA agents in the 1980s.

Nicaragua during the 1980s also had similar issues in which the CIA had allegedly established cocaine trafficking to fund the Contra rebels against the Sandinistas.

In the 1990s, The Guadalajara Cartel split into the Sinaloa, Tijuana, and Juárez cartels. They still maintained ties with the government from previous decades. This was combined with the lack of a major Colombian Cartel present as both the Medellín and Cali Cartels had been vanquished.

The vacuum was filled by paramilitary groups that often had government support and continued drug trafficking operations to combat guerrilla groups.

The 2000s saw further militarisation of Mexican Cartels. The military and law enforcement began to be more intertwined with the members of cartels like the Los Zetas which were founded by former military members. This increased collaboration with the police and military led the cartels to become increasingly violent, especially towards the government which attempted to crack down on corruption.

Paramilitary groups in Columbia began aligning with the government more so than in previous decades. This was seen in neighboring Venezuela, where the Cartel of The Suns was founded and had various high-ranking government officials within their organization, this allowed for Venezuelan government resources to be used for trafficking operations.

Research Guidance

The importance of using reliable sources in your research is paramount. Reliable sources provide more information that is commonly understood to be true. It makes you a better delegate and researcher in general.

Here are some resources/websites/databases that can aid you your research

This is a website you can use to learn more about the OPVL or CRAAP method

<https://aswarsaw.libguides.com/p2/evaluation>

UN Articles, Reports, and Resolutions

Often the most credible of sources. It is useful for finding out what the UN has done regarding the agenda, and provides a detailed log of past actions taken by both the UN and other nations. Examples include: UN News, UNODC Resolutions, and UNGA Sessions

Reuters, IMF and the UNODC Website

These are regarded as neutral sources that help provide graphical representations of information in the form of statistics and graphs.

Using these sources and referring to them in committee gives your research more legitimacy and depth

Think Tanks

Think Tanks can help with analysis. This analysis serves as the base for proposed solutions and ways to move the committee forward.

Examples include, The Diplomat (Asia- Pacific), Foreign Affairs Magazine, Foreign Policy, Politico Global Policy Lab and World Politics Review

Government and Declassified Intelligence reports

This helps broaden the information you have. Some of this might be reported on mainstream outlets. It allows for you to have access to more niche information that makes you stand out in committee.

Examples include, The “All Reports” page on the CIA website, National Archives (UK) and the MIDAS (Mexican Intelligence Digital Archives).

JSTOR

Academic databases like JSTOR are useful, it contains thousands of academic papers, books and miscellaneous information which allows for in-depth research into specific parts of the agenda

Other sources

The Guardian, BBC, The New York Times, The Economist, Al Jazeera (funded by the Qatari government) and Bloomberg.

Make sure to have your references handy and double-checked across multiple sources. Whenever you come across information, make sure it is seen in other credible sources. Keep the references in mind, and if you're asked which source you've used, you will be able to answer that question clearly and confidently.

Current Situation

State-sponsored narcotics trafficking consists of situations where governments or officials are involved in the illegal drug trade. Today, we mostly see three different ways of involvement, such as directly producing or trafficking drugs, simply protecting drug networks, or purposely ignoring illegal activities in exchange for financial/political gain. This problem has serious consequences for public health, international security, and global stability. For example, in the twelve months between September 2020 and September 2021, more than 104,000 Americans died due to drug overdose (accredited to addiction and misuse of supply). The majority of these deaths involved opioids. These organizations are operating a \$500 billion industry that fuels corruption, violence, and terrorism around the globe.

Moving on, one of the more urgent examples has to do with China's role in fentanyl production. Fentanyl is an extremely powerful synthetic drug, responsible for thousands of overdose deaths in the United States. Though the Chinese government does not officially condone drug trafficking, some companies in that country supply the chemical ingredients used in producing fentanyl so that their own people can make money. These drugs are sold to the Mexican drug cartels, who produce fentanyl and then smuggle it into other countries. While international efforts are being made to stop this trade, including putting sanctions on Chinese companies, without strict regulation over the export of chemicals, this problem persists. The indirect involvement of Chinese businesses shows how state inaction or weak enforcement can lead to global drug crises.

In Syria, the problem is much more direct. There is a huge production of Captagon, a highly addictive stimulant, in Syria. Production and smuggling of Captagon have become one of the ways for the government to fund its operations during years of conflict. But by permitting - and even organizing - the manufacturing of Captagon, the Syrian regime takes a cut from what is believed to be a \$10 billion-a-year narcotics trade. Smuggled into neighboring countries, particularly in the Gulf, the drug has set off a major addiction crisis there. That qualifies as state-sponsored narcotics trafficking because the government profits directly from the illegal trade.

Mexico is a different case altogether. Strong narcotics cartels such as the Sinaloa and Jalisco cartels have taken over the production and trafficking of synthetic drugs. Although the Mexican government is officially against drug trafficking, corruption in the system usually allows such cartels to operate freely. Sometimes, officials are bribed to either look the other way or protect cartel activities, hence creating a form of indirect state-sponsored trafficking. This has allowed Mexico to become a major hub for the production of drugs, to such an extent that a huge amount of it leaks into the United States via smuggling and causes immense destruction.

Globally, countries like the United States are constantly taking strong action to combat state-sponsored narcotics trafficking. The U.S. has imposed sanctions on individuals and organizations involved in the drug trade and has invested millions of dollars to disrupt trafficking networks.

QARMAS

(Questions a Resolution Must Answer)

- I. Which measures could be taken (practically) against parties involved in the drug trade?
- I. How can global organizations help monitor the chemical supplies used in drug production better?
- I. What are feasible actions that could be taken to support countries impacted by the narcotics trade (eg: Mexico and Syria)?
- I. Do all the education and awareness programs address the issue of reducing drug demand effectively? Is it practical to continue enforcing educational programs in the future?
- I. What penalties or sanctions should be enforced on parties involved in narcotics trafficking?
- I. How can technology be used to monitor trade and reduce the impact of narcotics trafficking?
- I. In what ways can countries come together to stop state-sponsored narcotics trafficking?

Committee Procedure

At MSMUN 2025 we will be following HMUN procedure in committee.

This will see the inclusion of several forms of debate throughout the committee sessions.

General Speaker's List (GSLs)

This will often be at the start of committee sessions or when there are no motions on the floor. The GSL is often a generalised speech pertaining to anything within the agenda. These speeches are often 45 seconds to a minute.

Moderated Caucuses

Moderated Caucuses serve as the bulk of the committee. These operate similarly to the GSL except these are specific topics. When a delegate raises a motion for a moderated caucus they must specify a topic. Only a certain number of speakers are recognised for a moderated caucus, these are decided by the delegate who raises the motion but can be changed by the discretion of the chair.

Here are some examples of what a topic may look like.

“Discussing potential solutions to corruption in government agencies”

“Discussing the impact of wars on the drug trade”

Often these topics should be able to foster debate and allow for different blocs to present different ideas and perspectives which you can deliberate in committee.

Round Robins

Round Robins are an interesting form of debate that keep the committee energetic yet productive. Unlike a moderated caucus this ensures that every member of the committee has to speak for a certain amount of time. Delegates may not change their place in the debate and have to go as per the order.

Round Robins also have specific topics like in a Moderated Caucus, this could be amended by the executive board if necessary.

Open Floor Debate

Open Floor Debate is the most disruptive form of debate. This is a high energy and less formal style of debate than the others. While a certain level of decorum is encouraged, it is certainly not formal.

The order is random and there is no specific topic, however speeches related to the agenda are expected and preferred. There's a certain amount of energy to be contained in these speeches as that is the crux of an open floor debate.

Your speaking time is not guaranteed, it simply depends on the energy and relevance of your speech to the committee. Your speech begins when one of the Executive Board members comes to your desk and taps it with a gavel

Ivls, 2v2s and 3v3s

This form of debate is often common when presenting resolutions. These are often select delegates, (often specified and decided by the delegate who proposed the IvI/2v2/3v3) Those who participate in this debate must be from opposing blocs or perspectives in order to provide fruitful debate.

Usually there's 1 minute allocated to each delegate participating, this can be specified to be longer or shorter however. After each delegate gets a turn to speak, a crossfire presumes.

The crossfire is a period similar to the open floor in which a chaotic debate ensues in which delegates are open to deliberate without waiting for their speaking time. This would be a good time to mention elements you couldn't in your speech and deliver them more informally.

Unmoderated Caucuses (Not a form of debate)

This is the most disruptive motion that can be raised by a delegate. This allows delegates to take a break from debate and engage in other parts of MUN. This time should be used for lobbying other delegates, writing speeches and most importantly of all drafting resolutions.

BLOCS

Proactive Nations

Proactive nations are defined as those that actively fight against state-sponsored narcotics trafficking through international cooperation, enforcement measures, and sanctions. The United States leads this bloc, having been one of the most affected countries by the global drug trade. It has imposed sanctions against countries and individuals linked to state-sponsored trafficking and is in close coordination with countries like Mexico to combat the crisis caused by fentanyl. The European Union also places much emphasis on the strict regulation of chemical exports and border strengthening to prevent narcotics smuggling across its borders. Other European countries, such as Germany and France, are keen on international cooperation in law enforcement. Australia and Canada have also joined this camp as they join in calling/advocating for more rigorous global standards and greater accountability regarding state complicity in drug trafficking and supply.

States Alleged to Support Drugs

Some countries are accused of actively encouraging narcotics trafficking, to either raise money for their activities or as an instrument of state policy. Syria is a strong example of this because it is accused of facilitating the manufacturing and distribution of Captagon, and is said to finance military activities of the regime leading to additional regional instability. China is not considered an official narco-state, though is still often criticized for its role in the supply chain of precursor chemicals used in synthetic drug production. Chinese companies, despite government denials, have been accused of enabling the global drug trade through poor regulation of their chemical industries.

Transit and Affected Nations

Countries in this category are not directly involved in state-sponsored narcotics trafficking but are heavily impacted by it. Mexico is a key transit and production country for drugs such as fentanyl and methamphetamine, where cartels exploit corruption within the government to act with impunity. The Gulf countries, especially Saudi Arabia and the UAE, are among the major destinations of Captagon smuggling from Syria, leading to addiction crises and raising security concerns. The reason being that West African nations like Guinea-Bissau, having weak governance and enforcement capabilities, are always used as a transit for drugs smuggled to Europe.

Neutral or Uninvolved Nations

These countries are less affected by narcotics trafficking and rarely take rigid positions on the issue, yet, they often support world efforts against the drug trade. African and Asian countries not directly involved, such as Kenya and Indonesia, face a growing drug abuse problem by international trafficking routes. Small island nations rarely trade drugs, but their strategic locations have occasionally been exploited as transit points by traffickers.

Closing Remarks

Dear Delegates,

We sincerely hope that our study guide helped you get ready for the upcoming conference.

Please remember that every topic and detail is not covered in the study guide, because this serves as a starting point for your research.

We encourage you to conduct thorough research and be well-prepared for the conference and ensure that you have a wealth of information to support your stance.

As the EB (Executive Board), we are eagerly awaiting to see your contribution and grow as delegates. Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any doubts or concerns.

Warm Regards,

Ronit Sengupta (ronit.sengputa@oberoi-is.net) & Aryan Dodeja (aryan.dodeja@oberoi-is.net)