



From the Secretary General

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of the Secretariat, it is my honor to welcome you all to the 8th edition of PeruMUN, the largest and oldest high school MUN conference in our country.

In PeruMUN we believe in creating the citizens our country needs. Citizens who don't only ask for change, but lead the way to change through innovation, creativity and diplomacy. We are committed to make this PeruMUN truly memorable. Expect high quality academic content, a competitive climate and distinguished experts from international organisations, who will provide insights on the topics addressed in each committee. At PeruMUN, delegates will have the opportunity to share ideas, contribute solutions and promote change, all of this in a supportive learning environment provided by our wonderful team of Directors, Assistant Directors and Moderators.

Our mission as Secretariat is to provide an international level experience and give you the tools to achieve academic and personal growth. We strive to do our best to close the ever expanding education gap through an equal opportunity environment, where delegates from different backgrounds can share their own experiences and enrich each other with their own cultural heritage.

As Secretary General, I hope PeruMUN will raise awareness on the different subjects that plague our country today, such as: corruption, gender inequality, domestic abuse and xenophobia. Furthermore, I hope that this newfound awareness can translate into change through concrete actions. As Malala Yousafzai and Greta Thunberg have taught us, it is never too early to advocate for better policies and demand a response from our political representatives.

If I can assist you with further questions or comments, do not hesitate to contact me.

We are excited to meet you and see you soon!

Sincerely,

Alessandra Pinto Secretary-General

Peru Model United Nations 2019



SOCIAL, CULTURAL & HUMANITARIAN COMMITTEE

Topic Area: The Effects of Drug Trade In Latin America

Dear Delegates,

My name is José Ignacio Morelli and I will be your Director for the 2019 edition of PeruMUN. To let you know a bit about myself, I'm a second year student at Universidad del Pacífico studying Business Management. I've had a share of experiences when it comes to MUN, I started by participating in several conferences when in school, as a delegate, AD and Director; then I pursued further when joining the Peruvian Universities MUN team. With them, I've participated in four national MUNs at a college level and two international ones organized by Harvard. I had the pleasure of traveling with both of your Assistant Directors and your Moderator to compete in Harvard's World MUN in Madrid earlier this year, and we are more than keen on bringing that energy to this conference.

If I'm being honest, my MUN "career" started as simple fun and a way to get CAS hours for my IB diploma; however, it turned out to be one of the best experiences of my life. It helped me develop my soft skills amongst a wide range of peers and I'm sure it will help you quite a bit as well.

The chairs and I are all very excited for this committee and hope you will handle a topic as pressing as this is in an energetic and diplomatic manner. Personally, I had the opportunity to debate this topic in Madrid through the eyes of the UNODC, and I can assure you that, with the considerations of the SOCHUM committee, it will be a very fruitful and demanding one. It will take lots of research, hard work and creativity to handle it, but it promises a good quality of debate and definitely lots of fun.

I can't wait to meet you all and I wish you the best of luck. Feel free to email me to the mail attached below if you have any questions regarding the topic or the committee itself. See you at the conference!

Saludos,

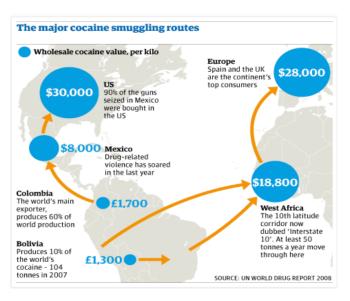
Jose Ignacio Morelli
Jose Ignacio Morelli
Director, SOCHUM
Peru Model United Nations 2019

INTRODUCTION

In contrast to most of conflicts and social problems discussed in the United Nations, Drug Trafficking cannot be tracked to a specific moment at which it became the global crisis we know today. Nevertheless, it is known that the drug trade of illicit substances came to a small scale start in the late nineteenth century. Currently, it is the second largest illicit economic market, just behind the illegal arms trade. The UNODC estimated on 2005 that, only during 2003, the illicit drug trade revenue was around US\$321.6 billion, and now they believe it has grown.

Latin America is best known for its production of cocaine; given that it is the only place in the globe able to produce coca leaves due to the conditions found on the Andes. However, Paraguay and Mexico combined produce a third of the global supply of Marijuana. Also, it is estimated that 10% of the world's heroin supply is also produced in the region. Globalization has been determined as one of the key factors that contributed to the fast expansion of the trade on a global scale. The CND reflects that the political incapacity of efficient reform and state-building, combined with insufficient international action, sets the ground for the continuously growth of drug empires and, therefore, facilitate illicit trafficking.

Even though this committee focuses on the Latin American region, it cannot be ignored that this is a global issue as illicit substances reach every corner of the Earth. Therefore, it is imperative that the committee functions in a collaborative manner in order to work with different perspectives, experiences and goals in the light of achieving the development of holistic solutions.



The SOCHUM committee this year shall work to relieve the Latin American region from all the negative repercussions the drug trade brings to it, but it should have a secondary goal of relieving nations across the globe from the problems harnessed by the trade. For this, we will have to explore the economic impact, the social issues, the human rights violations, and several other consequences rooting from the matter at hand.

HISTORY OF THE COMMITTEE

The Social Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM) is the third General Assembly committee of the United Nations and it is currently at its 74th session, chaired by H.E. Christian representative of Luxembourg. It was established in 1947 and works in line with the Charter of the United Nations. Since its founding, the committee has been dedicated to making recommendations regarding social, humanitarian, and cultural problems that are affecting our world today. These include, but are not limited to, the advancement of women's rights, the protection of youth, the right against social and racial discrimination, the improvement of the criminal justice system, and the prevention of drug use and trafficking.

SOCHUM is the most representative organ of the United Nations, representing 193 Member States. In addition, non-member states and other entities recognized by the UN as permanent observers may attend and participate in meetings, however, they cannot vote, unlike member states. The committee is in charge of overseeing special procedures and reports of the Human Rights Council, carrying out studies and promoting the upholding of human rights and freedoms by providing policy making recommendations. This differs from the UN Security Council, whose actions are legally binding.

One of the Committee's most valuable assets is the contribution it receives from a series of actors worldwide which include special rapporteurs. independent experts, and chairs of working groups, among others. It also has a vast array of technological tools at its disposal, as well as several social media accounts such as UN Web TV, which is used to broadcast live meetings either in their original language or the six official languages of the United Nations: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. It is therefore essential that this Committee makes the best use of all the already existing tools it is presented with and to allocate current resources efficiently to pave the way for a comprehensive resolution on the issue of drug trafficking in Latin America.

HISTORY OF THE TOPIC

Statement of the problem

The concept of Latin America was born in the XIX century: more than just being described as a geographical area, it was a collection of countries which experienced European colonialism, which had an official romance derived language, and most importantly, which were in a developing stage. The latter factor is very much present in today's context, meaning there is notable social inequality, high poverty levels and vulnerable populations. There is an ongoing debate on which are the main causes to these problems; nevertheless, there is one which always makes it to the list: drug trafficking. Not only is it described as a cause of the endurance of these conditions, but it is described to have a cyclical relation with these factors. In the same way it causes them, they set floor for the development of the drug trade as we know it nowadays in the region.

Drug trafficking is defined by the United Nations as "a global illicit trade involving the cultivation, manufacture, distribution and sale of substances which are subject to drug prohibition laws." This definition mainly focuses on: Cocaine, Cannabis, Amphetamine-type stimulants, opiates and hallucinogens.



Modern day drug trafficking in Latin America can be separated into four main periods. Firstly, since the late Nineteenth century up to the end of the Second World War, Peru controlled the global exports of cocaine and Mexico controlled the trade of opium and marijuana. Secondly, from 1945 up the 1960's, Drug Trafficking Organizations grew on professionalism networking. Thirdly, from this stage until 1984, Colombia surfaced as the main cocaine and marijuana producer after the Mexican government started to take severe action, with the aid of the USA, to reduce drug supply. This period also witnessed a drastic rise in violence related to drugs. Finally, since 1984 to the

present, Mexico has returned to be the overall top producer of drugs. This occurred mainly because of its illegal trade with its neighboring country, the US, and due to the connections established with DTO' in Panama and Caribbean countries which allows for worldwide shipping. Moreover, the rates of violence, criminal activity and the overall effects of the trade have worsened.

Over the twentieth century, several domestic approaches and international treaties were designed to aid in the controlling of production, trade consumption of illegal substances. Since establishment of the United Nations, there have been three major conventions solely dedicated to addressing international drug control. In 1961, the first convention was carried out; it focused on reducing the supply and demand of drugs. Ten years later, in 1971, and then in 1988, the following conventions widened their focus on penalizing drug-related criminal activity on an international level as the drug market became more globalized. The latter convention established what is known as the "War on Drugs Strategy", and, for the first time, referred to drug abusers as criminals. Latin American states were on board with this change because this would supposedly divide responsibility between producing and consuming countries and therefore it was expected to increase cooperation against the trade.

While these international agreements have led to a greater collaboration, seized billions of dollars in products and increased the importance given to combating this issue, they have done so in a criminal justice approach and never have addressed it as a public health crisis. The longstanding and harsh regulation and criminalization has unintentionally become the cause of the massive black market that this committee will have to address. In 2008, the United Nations carried out a study to learn about unintended consequences of the actions taken by the international community. One that stood out was described as the "Balloon Effect": the relocation of drug activity once action was taken against it directly. For example, in Colombia, when the army was successful at locating and destroying production sites, it didn't take long for it to be relocated in another place and continue supplying its consumers. Also, it was discovered that the harsh pursue and criminalization of consumption lead to stigmatization and marginalization of consumers and abusers. Therefore, this committee should seek to deal with the matter at hand considering its public health implications.

Considering all of the above, the main focuses of this debate will be addressed in three subtopics that will give a general insight into the problems that we will have to design solutions for. Firstly, how the international community will deal with drug trafficking, and crime specifically, should be a main concern. Secondly, the effects the drug trade has on social unrest and human rights will have an imperative focus given the concerns of the SOCHUM committee. Finally, Narcoterrorism is imperative to discuss, as it is described to be one of the main causes of the violent outbreaks related to the trade and its implications with growing terrorist activities.

Drug Trafficking, Crime & Development

In the past, countries thought that an effective way to combat Drug Trafficking Organizations was to intercept and take legal actions against both traffickers and consumers. However, this lead to several side effects which were not planned for.

In a first instance, it was never intended to cause social repercussions for people who were either forced to take part in drug-related crime or had no other option than to do it. This was mainly the case for areas experiencing high levels of poverty and close to production sites or DTO's hideouts. For example, farmers in the Andes, and therefore in developing countries, have extensive and intensive labor hours; nevertheless, they receive extremely low salaries which are barely enough to subsist. Taking this into account, when they are approached by DTO's, they are offered to win a much higher pay if they start growing coca leaves instead of their traditional crops. The usual approach was to reach these farms and seize the production in order to reduce the supply, but this lead to cases of violent abuse and the burning of fields, further victimizing families or individuals which were already in distress and leaving them without any financial possibilities.

Furthermore, there have been reported cases in mainly consuming countries where drug-related crime has been mainly combated against with judicial punishment, in other words, incarceration. This has mainly lead to over incarceration in countries such as France and Thailand, which eventually led to extremely poor conditions in prisons. Also, this has caused two other notorious side effects: inflated sentences for petty crime and extremely high costs from prison and police intervention.

Considering the factors mentioned, approaches taken by member states should take into account the difficulty of dealing with the issue without worsening poverty levels and unjustly punishing for small trade or consumption.

Social Unrest & Human Rights

The third committee of the General Assembly has a high focus on social aspects of a problematic; therefore, it is imperative to analyze how the drug trade leads to social unrest and the perpetration of human rights. In the Latin American context, drug trafficking has been recognized as having a direct relationship with other social repercussions such as: forced labor, forced prostitution and general abuse of nearby populations. On the other hand, as mentioned earlier, the simple pursue to deal with the trade by the hand of governments tends to cause social unrest as well and can end up causing even more harm than good. If this is not the case, direct action tends to be inefficient due to the lack of information sharing between countries, and the insufficient jurisdiction agreements to pursue international criminals.

One possible solution to tackle this issue could be the enhancement of Ameripol functions and have specially trained task forces which would fight drug trafficking more efficiently and would be prepared to avoid negative side effects on the population.

Narcoterrorism

The subtopic of narcoterrorism is perhaps one of the most difficult to address within bounds and limits of this committee's jurisdiction; nonetheless, within the scope of SOCHUM, there is still a lot that can be done to deal with this serious threat. The sharing of information between Latin American member states and Western Allies is a starting point for future possible solutions. It is not uncommon for states to have separate law enforcement agencies when it comes to the subjects of counterterrorism and large-scale drug crime – this could pose as a complication at the moment of drawing



connections between the two. This body could suggest as a possible solution that nations create task forces with the sole purpose of combating the issue of terror finance from drug trade or narcoterrorism holistically. In addition, this committee could also consider the option of creating a regional task force to face the present situation on the region.

Another possible way to deal with this problem could be encouraging Latin American states to foment cooperation between their law enforcement agencies and Western allies with the purpose of achieving a better understanding of large-scale operations and allowing said nations to start cooperative training programs between their law enforcement agencies and those of other states. This could allow for the better equipment of agencies to face organizations that do not limit themselves to the boundaries of nations.

Case Study: Colombia

Colombia's history with drugs dates back thousands of years with its indigenous people growing and chewing on coca. However, it wasn't until the 1960's that this problem became more prominent when the demand of psychoactive drugs worldwide rapidly increased. Given that Colombia had a weak state, which was very susceptible to corruption and provided good terrain conditions for the growth of marijuana, drug trade flourished.

The United States concentrated most of its efforts in fighting smuggling through the Mexican border, which made it easier for the Colombian drug lords to smuggle their drugs through the Caribbean and establish themselves as the United States' major marijuana supplier. To counter this issue, the United States' government, in coordination with the Colombian government and other countries, started the "War on Drugs": a campaign against drug trafficking. Furthermore, the Colombian government put into action several capacitation programs for drug officials and law enforcement personnel. Nonetheless, these actions weren't effective enough mainly because of local resistance and because government agencies are still greatly underpaid and understaffed, which makes it likely for them to engage in bribery.

Marijuana wasn't the only problem the Colombian government had to face. During the 1980's, the Colombian drug lords shifted from the production of marijuana to the production of cocaine. The reasoning behind this change was purely economic, the cultivation of marijuana requires more work, hence the income has to be divided between more people. On the other hand, cocaine is much easier to cultivate.

Currently, approximately 70% of the cocaine consumed globally comes from Colombia. One of the most well-known Colombian drug cartels that operated through the 1970's and 80's was the Medellin Cartel, founded by Pablo Escobar. It supplied at least 80% of the United States' cocaine market for a long time and was greatly fought by the Colombian and United States government for many years.

One of the most well-known and dangerous opposing rebel groups in Colombia is the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, also known as FARC. This guerrilla group is the oldest and largest group among Colombia's left-wing rebels and is one of the world's richest guerrilla armies. Founded by Pedro Antonio Marin, the FARC mainly profits from illegal trade, kidnappings, extortion schemes, and an unofficial "tax" it levies in the countryside for "protection" and social services. It supplies approximately 50% of the world's cocaine and is considered a terrorist organization by many countries. In the last decade, the fight against the FARC has been very active and the government even got them to sign an agreement to bring an end to the conflict. Nevertheless, this last year some FARC leaders have started to show interest in going back to their armed ways. Other well-known guerrilla groups include the "Ejército de Liberación Nacional" (ELN) and "Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia" (AUC); all unique, but equally threatening.

The effects of drugs in Colombia are various. Economically, some say they present themselves as an opportunity for growth: they create jobs and expand production. However, all of this economic activity is completely informal and, although the repatriation of money equivalent to 3% of the GDP is considerable, it is not overwhelming enough to counter the negative aspects, as this money is not usually invested in local economy nor has it had a strong impact on the exchange rate. Moreover, because of the economic benefit of this business, the lands are used more and more for marijuana cultivation and less for the development of the local food industry. Apart from this, the drug business has resulted in a great deal of drug related violence and the disintegration of police and judicial institutions through corruption and bribery. As the drug networks grew, drug lords were successful in their attempts to gain political power in order to benefit themselves and counter the growing battles with the government. Drug lords such as Pablo Escobar were loved by the people; in fact, he was elected as an alternate congressman on a liberal party slate and Carlos Lehder created his own political party. Furthermore, many drug lords became politically active, backing certain congressional and presidential campaigns.

As we can see, the presence of drugs in Colombia has impacted the culture in every aspect and has resulted in a great deal of conflict within the country. It is crucial that this issue is tackled from all of its angles so that the solutions presented in this committee will be efficient at helping the international community succeed in dealing with one of the most complicated situations it has ever faced.

PAST & CURRENT ACTIONS

The first two major UN drug conventions on 1961 and 1971 set the grounds for the international collaboration. However, it was the third and last convention on psychotropic substances of 1988 that set up the basis on which we will have to work today. This convention specifies the necessity to collaborate internationally to combat drug trafficking, and hence proposes the sharing of information, regional police organizations development and urges the General Assembly to discuss this topic on further detail: this will be our role in the debate. Legality, logistics, sovereignty and many other factors are discussed in the resolution presented by this convention, and it is imperative that delegates have at least a basic knowledge on the discussed solutions presented on it.

It must not be assumed that these three conventions are the only ones that have discussed the drug trade within the United Nations; delegates are encouraged to research for other treaties and agreements, mainly involving their countries, in order to ensure that innovative and creative approaches are proposed. For example, in 2017, the UNGA adopted a resolution which discussed alternative development at a micro and macro level mainly focused on large producing countries.

Up to date, the United Nations has adopted 23 resolutions regarding the illicit trade of substances; therefore, proposed solutions must consider both failures and successes from past actions to find long-lasting solutions.

PAST & CURRENT ACTIONS

Consumer countries bloc

This bloc tends to be the most variant one due to the fact that these countries either cooperate amongst themselves or team up with producing nations to extract the problem from the roots.

Latin America & Europe bloc

Countries from both of these regions tend to work together to come up with holistic solutions that try to tackle both demand and supply. They recognize that Latin American involvement is crucial, yet they also consider their lack of budget, therefore collaborating to achieve mutual goals.

Middle Eastern & Asia bloc

Both of these regions tend to share perspectives on how to deal with drug trafficking. The countries in these regions are mostly the ones which operate with the harshest of laws and punishments for any drug-related crimes and/or involvement in any aspect of the trade chain.

All three blocks are merely suggestions and therefore delegates are free to consolidate blocks based on similar ideas explored in the committee. Nevertheless, maintaining country's policy is imperative and a key evaluating factor.

QUESTIONS ALL RESOLUTIONS MUST ANSWER

- 1. How will the committee deal with demand reduction, prevention and treatment?
- 2. What can be done to address supply reduction and response to drug-related crimes?
- 3. What action will be taken to fight against the relation between drugs with social unrest and Human Rights?
- 4. How can the international community fight against Narcoterrorism and its implications?
- 5. What course of action can be taken to ensure alternative Development?
- 6. What changes can be made to address these problems as the public health crisis they represent?

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