



SRMUN Charlotte 2024
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Esteemed Delegates,

Welcome to SRMUN Charlotte 2024 and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. My name is Orlando M. Valdez III, and I have the pleasure of serving as your Director for the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND). This will be my second time on SRMUN Charlotte staff, having previously served as the Assistant Director of the International Organization on Migration. I have also attended SRMUN Charlotte twice as a delegate. I am currently a senior pursuing my bachelor's degree in International Affairs with an International Law certificate. Our committee's Assistant Director will be Joshua Spence-Lehmann. While this will be Joshua's first time on SRMUN staff, he has experience staffing at multiple MUN conferences. He has attended two SRMUN conferences in the past as a delegate. Joshua recently graduated with a bachelor's degree in Political Science with a focus on studying radicalization.

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs consists of 53 Member States that are elected by the United Nations Economic and Social Council. Within these Member States, at least one member of each of the regional groups that the CND oversees; that being North America, Africa, Europe, Asia, Latin America, and Oceania. CND is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to decide the ever-evolving scope of the control of substances under the 1961, 1971, and 1988 Conventions on Drug Control. Furthermore, CND reviews and analyzes the global drug situation in which the consideration of the supply and demand reduction and the actions taken to prevent the sale and proliferation of illicit drug related crimes.

Focusing on the mission of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, we have developed the following topics for the delegates to discuss come conference:

- I. Assessing the Role of Alternative Development within Global Drug Control Systems
- II. Promoting Sustainable Strategies to Combat Illicit Drug Abuse within Marginalized Communities

This background guide will serve as the foundation for your research, yet it should not be the extent of the research. Preparation is given to each topic to help guide delegates in their initial research, and to serve as a starting place for more in-depth studies. It is expected that delegates go beyond this background guide in preparation for their position paper and to better prepare themselves for contribution within the committee in November. Further, each delegation is required to submit a position paper for consideration. Position papers should be no longer than two pages in length (single spaced) and demonstrate your Member State's position, policies, and recommendations on each of the two topics. For more detailed information about formatting and how to write position papers, delegates can visit srmun.org. **All position papers MUST be submitted no later than Friday, March 1st, by 11:59pm EST via the SRMUN website to be eligible for Outstanding Position Paper Awards.**

Both Joshua and I are excited for the opportunity to serve as your dais for the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. I wish you all the best of luck in your conference preparation and look forward to meeting and working with each of you. Should questions arise as you begin to prepare for this conference, contacting those on your dais is always encouraged.

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History of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) was established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) via resolution 9(I) in 1946.¹ This body was created to supervise and monitor the application of international drug control treaties.² The mandate and the functionality of CND is focused on two different aspects of supervision and application of treaties that ECOSOC and the United Nations General Assembly opted to delegate for a more specialized approach.³ These two aspects include the normative segment for discharging treaty-based and normative functions, such as supporting member states in implementing approaches geared toward the global drug problem that address supply and demand, and the other being the operational segment for exercising the role of the governing body of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).⁴

CND has subsidiary bodies that are located in North America, Europe, Africa, the Caribbean, and South America.⁵ These bodies oversee the overall operations and the continuation of the purpose and mission of CND and help enforce the legislation that is passed through this commission.⁶ However, decisions are made through resolutions in conjunction with the UNODC.⁷ Decision making takes place during the regular sessions of CND bi-annually with the most recent session being in March of 2023.⁸ CND is made up of 53 member states elected by ECOSOC and is chaired by a bureau, with a majority vote being required.⁹ CND, being a subsidiary branch of UNODC, receives its funds through voluntary contributions from member states, multilateral organizations, and the private sector.¹⁰

CND released the 2014 Joint Ministerial Statement on strengthening international cooperation on drug control and called for a comprehensive and balanced approach to address the world drug problem.¹¹ This statement emphasized the importance of promoting public health, human rights, and sustainable development while addressing drug supply and demand reduction. The statement highlighted the need for evidence-based drug policies, increased international cooperation, and shared responsibility among countries to prevent drug abuse, reduce illicit drug trafficking, and provide access to treatment and support services.¹² It also recognized the need to address the socioeconomic factors contributing to drug cultivation and production.¹³

In 2016, following the 59th session of CND, the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on the World Drug Problem resulted in the adoption of an outcome document that called for a balanced approach to drug-related issues, emphasizing public health, human rights, and social development.¹⁴ This document highlights the importance of a health-oriented approach to drug policy, including prevention, treatment, and harm reduction measures. The document stresses international cooperation, alternative development programs, and access to controlled substances for medical purposes.¹⁵ It also emphasizes proportionate sentencing, protection of vulnerable populations, research, data collection, and evaluation to inform evidence-based policies and programs. Overall, it

¹ “CND: Commission on Narcotic Drugs,” *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*, accessed June 18, 2023, <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/index.html>.

² “About UNODC,” *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*, accessed June 18, 2023, <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/about-unodc/index.html>.

³ “About UNODC,” *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*, accessed June 18, 2023.

⁴ “About UNODC,” *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*, accessed June 18, 2023.

⁵ “CND: Commission on Narcotic Drugs,” *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*, accessed June 18, 2023.

⁶ “CND: Commission on Narcotic Drugs,” *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*, accessed June 18, 2023.

⁷ “CND: Commission on Narcotic Drugs,” *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*, accessed June 18, 2023.

⁸ “CND: Commission on Narcotic Drugs,” *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*, accessed June 18, 2023.

⁹ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Rules of Procedure of the Functional Commissions of the Economic and Social Commission*. New York, NY, 1983. <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc13/RD-EcosocRules.pdf>.

¹⁰ “Partnerships and Funding,” *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*, accessed August 23, 2023, <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/donors/index.html?ref=menutop>.

¹¹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Joint Ministerial Statement*. Vienna, 2014. https://www.unodc.org/documents/drug-prevention-and-treatment/JOINT_MINISTERIAL_STATEMENT_2014_HIGH_LEVEL_REVIEW_BY_THE_COMMISSION.pdf.

¹² United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Joint Ministerial Statement*. Vienna, Austria, 2014.

¹³ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Joint Ministerial Statement*. Vienna, Austria, 2014.

¹⁴ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Outcome Document of the 2016 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem*. New York, NY, 2016. <https://www.unodc.org/documents/postungass2016/outcome/V1603301-E.pdf>.

¹⁵ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Outcome Document of the 2016...* New York, NY, 2016.

provides a comprehensive framework for addressing the world drug problem while considering the well-being and dignity of individuals and communities affected by drugs.¹⁶

By integrating drug control efforts with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), CND aims to contribute to a comprehensive and balanced approach that addresses the world drug problem while advancing sustainable development. It recognizes that effective drug control is intertwined with social, economic, and environmental dimensions, and requires a coordinated and multi-sectoral response. Citing in the *Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem*:

“...the drug problem continues to pose a serious threat to the health, safety, and well-being of all humanity, in particular youth. Furthermore, the world drug problem undermines sustainable development, political stability, and democratic institutions, including efforts to eradicate poverty, and threatens national security and the rule of law. Drug trafficking and abuse pose a major threat to the health, dignity, and hopes of millions of people and their families and lead to the loss of human lives. We are determined to tackle the world drug problem and to actively promote a society free of drug abuse to ensure that all people can live in health, dignity, and peace, with security and prosperity...”¹⁷

During its 62nd session in 2019, CND approved the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, which aimed to strengthen actions at national, regional, and international levels to expedite the fulfillment of collective commitments in addressing the global drug problem¹⁸. Member States pledged to review the progress of policy implementation within the Commission by 2029, with a mid-term assessment scheduled for 2024. CND continues to focus on advancing the implementation of international drug policy commitments by following up on the 2019 Ministerial Declaration.¹⁹ Member States reaffirmed the link between efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and effectively tackling drug-related issues.²⁰ They expressed their commitment to ensuring all individuals can live in health, dignity, and peace while addressing public health, safety, and social problems resulting from drug abuse, in alignment with SDG 3, which aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all.²¹ Additionally, CND recognizes the importance of achieving gender equality, as indicated in SDG 5, and highlights the significance of addressing the unique needs of vulnerable groups, including children, adolescents, and women, who are more susceptible to being marginalized or overlooked.²² By promoting cooperation and information-sharing among judicial and law enforcement authorities in an effort to tackle the interconnected challenges of drug trafficking, corruption, and organized crime, CND also supports the implementation of SDG 16, which focuses on promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies.²³ CND's work aligns with multiple SDGs, emphasizing the importance of comprehensive responses, protecting vulnerable populations, and fostering cooperation to address the world drug problem and promote sustainable development, health, and well-being for all.

¹⁶ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Outcome Document of the 2016...* New York, NY, 2016.

¹⁷ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Implementation of All International Drug Policy Commitments*. Vienna, Austria, 2019. https://www.unodc.org/documents/hlr/19-V1905795_E_ebook.pdf.

¹⁸ “The Commission on Narcotic Drugs.” *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*. Accessed August 06, 2023. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/index.html?ref=menutop>.

¹⁹ “Policy on Drugs,” *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*, accessed June 21, 2023. https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/Mandate_Functions/policy-on-drugs.html

²⁰ “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*, accessed June 20, 2023. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/SDG/commissions-2030.html>.

²¹ “THE 17 GOALS,” *Department of Economic and Social Affairs*, accessed June 19, 2023. <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>.

²² “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*, accessed June 20, 2023.

²³ “THE 17 GOALS,” *Department of Economic and Social Affairs*, accessed June 19, 2023.

I. Assessing the Role of Alternative Development within Global Drug Control Systems

Introduction

Over the last 25 years, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) have played a large role in shaping and assisting Member States in the development and implementation of drug control policies.²⁴ The lack of markets, the absence of basic infrastructure, and inadequate policies have affected many farmers and people across the international community.²⁵ These problems make up the basis of the alternative development (AD) concept. AD is a process in place to prevent and eliminate the illicit cultivation of plants through specifically designed rural development measures in the context of sustained national growth and sustainable development efforts in Member States taking action against drugs, recognizing the particular sociocultural characteristics of the target communities and groups.²⁶ Theorists and international policymakers recognize AD as a possible solution to the lack of sufficient means towards economic progression starting within community healing from the utilization of illicit drug cultivation, which established a combined focus on providing sustainable livelihoods to communities that currently and previously have cultivated illicit drug crops.²⁷ AD programs have become an important piece in the search for more humane enforcement of drug control obligations, reduction of illicit drug supplies, and the protection of the rights of communities that are dependent on illicit cultivation to cover basic needs.²⁸

History

Alternative development was first introduced in the United Nations 1988 Convention Against the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.²⁹ Prior to this, much of the drug supply control was handled by local law enforcement and government regulated crop cultivation programs.³⁰ The 1988 Convention determined that the global drug problem has been a roadblock to current efforts for effective strategies to completely establish solutions for better human development by Member States of the United Nations (UN).³¹ Subsequently, 1998 saw the adoption of a Political Declaration by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in response to the world drug problem.³² The 1998 Political Declaration has been the center of action of illicit drug-usage and drug production on a multilateral approach through the UNGA, in which the creation of AD was first considered.

The concept of AD centers around the agricultural hot zones within each Member State to better understand problems of drug control and regulation such as isolation and poverty in which many farmers turn to the cultivation of illicit drug crops to obtain sufficient income.³³ Discussions from the UNGA's 12th Special Session (UNGASS) determined that AD is specifically designed for rural development measures in the context of sustained national growth and sustainable development efforts in Member States to take action against drugs and recognize the unique

²⁴ United Nations, International Narcotics Control Board (INCB). *Review of Report: International Narcotics Control Board*. Vienna, Austria, 2005. https://www.incb.org/documents/Publications/AnnualReports/AR2005/AR_05_Chapter_1.pdf.

²⁵ United Nations, INCB. *Review of Report: International Narcotics Control Board*.

²⁶ "Overview," *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*, accessed September 10, 2023. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/alternative-development/overview.html>.

²⁷ "Overview," *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*.

²⁸ "Our Work," *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*, accessed September 10, 2023. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/alternative-development/our-work.html>.

²⁹ Daniel Brombacher and Sarah David, "From Alternative Development to Development-Oriented Drug Policies," *International Development Policy*, September 8, 2020, accessed on September 10, 2023, <https://journals.openedition.org/poldev/3711?lang=deFrom%20Alternative%20Development%20to%20Development-Oriented%20Drug%20Policies>.

³⁰ Daniel Brombacher and Sarah David, "From Alternative Development to Development-Oriented Drug Policies," *International Development Policy*.

³¹ Daniel Brombacher and Jan Westerbarkei, "From Alternative Development to Sustainable Development: The Role of Development within the Global Drug Control Regime," *Journal of Illicit Economies and Development Volume 1*, (2019): 89–98. <https://jied.lse.ac.uk/articles/10.31389/jied.12>

³² Daniel Brombacher and Sarah David, "From Alternative Development to Development-Oriented Drug Policies," *International Development Policy*.

³³ Daniel Brombacher and Sarah David, "From Alternative Development to Development-Oriented Drug Policies," *International Development Policy*.

socio-economic status of these communities and groups.³⁴ These problems were observed and recognized through UNGASS in June 1998, after which the CND requested that the job of a biennial report on information from Member States be made to document the world's drug problem.³⁵ With these reports, projects across the international community were established gradually as a base of UN drug supply control policies.³⁶ Since UNGASS, AD has not only been placed in a very prominent role in seeking solutions to the world drug epidemic but also actively seeks for better scope of development especially into more urban drug environments and drug trafficking.³⁷

Actions Taken by the United Nations

The Ten-Year Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development was established during the UNGASS session on World Drug Problem in 2016.³⁸ The Ten-Year Action Plan calls upon Member States of the UNGASS to reevaluate the progression of drug control policies within respective regional adaptations. Within these adaptations, AD was given a more prominent role in methods seen in approaches towards drug control by the European Union such as Norway's FORUT program which has a special field expertise which focuses solely on "Alcohol, Drugs, and Development" on communities in different Member States.³⁹ This program develops programs for consumers of these illicit substances for better help within their communities; help such as healthcare, education on illicit substances, and recovery programs.⁴⁰ Concurrently in the same ten years of the establishment of the Ten-Year Action Plan, the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation were established that aims towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem that would further call for better innovative strategies to support AD.⁴¹ The Political Declaration and Plan of actions urges Member States to implement a three-prong approach.⁴² First, Member States must address disjointed actions by regulatory agencies within their Member States to implement a more integrated strategy for better logistics, financing, and drug control.⁴³ Second, increasing community resistance must be established for better integration of AD measures in affected communities.⁴⁴ This is key to regaining control of communities and drug soliciting organizations in these communities.⁴⁵ Third, legal instruments must be utilized to

³⁴ Daniel Brombacker and Jan Westerbarkei, "From Alternative Development to Sustainable Development: The Role of Development within the Global Drug Control Regime," *Journal of Illicit Economies and Development Volume 1*, (2019): 89–98.

³⁵ Daniel Brombacker and Jan Westerbarkei, "From Alternative Development to Sustainable Development: The Role of Development within the Global Drug Control Regime," *Journal of Illicit Economies and Development Volume 1*, (2019): 89–98.

³⁶ United Nations General Assembly resolution S-20/2, *Political Declaration*, A/RES/S-20/2 (October 21, 1998). https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CND/Political_Declaration/Political_Declaration_1998/1998-Political-Declaration_A-RES-S-20-2.pdf.

³⁷ Daniel Brombacker and Jan Westerbarkei, "From Alternative Development to Sustainable Development: The Role of Development within the Global Drug Control Regime," *Journal of Illicit Economies and Development Volume 1*, (2019): 89–98.

³⁸ Daniel Brombacher and Sarah David, "From Alternative Development to Development-Oriented Drug Policies," *International Development Policy*.

³⁹ Endal, Dag. n.d. "Alternative Development: How Can European Countries Contribute?" *FORUT Norway*, accessed December 23, 2023. https://www.unodc.org/documents/ungass2016/Contributions/Civil/FORUT/How_can_European_countries_contribute.pdf.

⁴⁰ Endal, Dag. n.d. "Alternative Development: How Can European Countries Contribute?"

⁴¹ Daniel Brombacher and Sarah David, "From Alternative Development to Development-Oriented Drug Policies," *International Development Policy*.

⁴² United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *High-Level Segment Commission on Narcotic Drugs Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem*. 2009. <https://www.unodc.org/documents/ungass2016/V0984963-English.pdf>.

⁴³ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *High-Level Segment Commission on Narcotic Drugs Political Declaration and Plan of Action....*

⁴⁴ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *High-Level Segment Commission on Narcotic Drugs Political Declaration and Plan of Action....*

⁴⁵ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *High-Level Segment Commission on Narcotic Drugs Political Declaration and Plan of Action....*

improve governance to build more resistance to government corruption.⁴⁶ Government corruption is a threat to AD implementation as well as an obstacle to the overall health of communities affected by illicit drug use.⁴⁷

The 1988 Convention Against the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances has been an institutional force towards the current attitude and goals of the CND.⁴⁸ This Convention set the precedent for drug control action and tackled worries of the global drug trade within targeted communities. Furthermore, the 1988 Convention instituted the tools and resources for future operations for many currently existing UN organs such as the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.⁴⁹ The Convention was requested by the Economic and Social Council and set forth that information that resides in the machinery developed by the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) be shared between police authorities on a worldwide basis, as well as records and communications that would help achieve the goals of the 1988 Convention.⁵⁰ This Convention became one of the many bases of international drug control measures and rehabilitation programs such as AD.⁵¹ The 1988 also began to point towards one of the causes of many causes of the illicit trade, use, and manufacturing of illicit substances being poor governance as well as the susceptibility of communities to the cultivation of illicit flora.⁵² Member States have been encouraged to accelerate the steps to ratify the 1988 Convention to assign the appropriate priority and approval for the appropriations for the goals and mission of this convention.⁵³

The approach towards AD is based on the idea that much of the supply of the illicit drug supply can only be reduced by the adaptation of a framework of sustainable development through addressing illicit drug crop cultivation coupled with long-term poverty reduction.⁵⁴ UNODC and CND have determined that to combat the illicit drug crop cultivation and drug abuse, different human development indicators must be observed, such as health, education, basic infrastructure, community development, and food security, among other areas which are highlighted in the UNODC's concept and implementation of AD.⁵⁵ The Sustainable Livelihoods Unit (SLU) is the main focus of the AD programs.⁵⁶ This unit works specifically with communities that do not have the resources for sustainable living such as social support, integration, illicit drug use, crime, and HIV/AIDs. The CND and the UNODC have approved the usage of this unit in areas where alternative development to first support programs of alternative development but also ensure that those resources are utilized by the target community that the CND is there to serve.⁵⁷

Current Situation

CND works within many partnerships to sponsor and implement the objectives set out by the UNODC to establish new alliances and collaboration against illicit drug crop cultivation in more geographical areas that have been affected.⁵⁸

These partnerships are between Member States, UN agencies, non-government organizations (NGOs), and the private sector with programs including the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).⁵⁹ The partnership between CND and BMZ has been a crucial part of the proper sequencing and planning for AD projects, such as the 2009 Action Plan, which established a group of intergovernmental expert working groups

⁴⁶ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *High-Level Segment Commission on Narcotic Drugs Political Declaration and Plan of Action....*

⁴⁷ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *High-Level Segment Commission on Narcotic Drugs Political Declaration and Plan of Action....*

⁴⁸ "United Nations Convention Against Illicit traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances," opened for signature December 20, 1988, https://www.unodc.org/pdf/convention_1988_en.pdf.

⁴⁹ "United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances."

⁵⁰ "United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances."

⁵¹ "United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances."

⁵² "United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances."

⁵³ "United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances."

⁵⁴ "Our Work," *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*.

⁵⁵ "Our Work," *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*.

⁵⁶ United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. *Sustainable livelihoods: a broader vision*. New York, NY: UN Headquarters, 2011. https://www.unodc.org/documents/alternative-development/SL%20Paper/Final_ebook.pdf.

⁵⁷ United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. *Sustainable livelihoods: a broader vision*.

⁵⁸ Daniel Brombacher and Sarah David, "From Alternative Development to Development-Oriented Drug Policies," *International Development Policy*.

⁵⁹ Daniel Brombacher and Sarah David, "From Alternative Development to Development-Oriented Drug Policies," *International Development Policy*.

that would assess the achievement of the goals and targets set by the General Assembly in countering the world drug problem.⁶⁰ Additionally, the partnership with the BMZ has helped take notice of the transnational character of global drug markets which are similar to many drug epidemics in Europe.⁶¹

Current AD projects are aimed at helping small rural farmers who are involved in or at risk of becoming engaged in the growing and distribution of illicit crops.⁶² A little over 4.5 million people depend on income derived from illicit drug crops such as cocaine or opium poppy cultivation.⁶³ In many cases, many of these affected populations live below the international poverty line, as outlined in the Human Development Index.⁶⁴ It is estimated that 50 percent of their income comes from illicit drug crop cultivation.⁶⁵ Much of these projects' work is oriented towards poverty reduction and rural sustainable development strategies. These strategies include agricultural-based initiatives, such as access to better alternative cultivation practices and products for better sustainable cultivation of products, including coffee, tea, and chocolate to ensure direct ownership of main stakeholders.⁶⁶

Many challenges to AD have made the implementation of such programs difficult.⁶⁷ Most prominently, the impact of AD in communities that are not ready to switch over to new opportunities and economic development.⁶⁸ Although having a quarter of a century of AD, practitioners still underestimate the socio-cultural, economic, political, and environmental setting in which AD operates, which invites unrealistic expectations and projects that are doomed to not succeed.⁶⁹ An example of this can be seen within the Andean region of Latin America, class and ethnicity have played a large role in total economic development and has been a region in which AD has struggled to take place.⁷⁰ As inequality continues growing within these communities, AD efforts to reduce poverty and promote education have slowed.⁷¹

Case Study: ASEAN's Regional Implementation of AD

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has been a shining beacon of progress for alternative development. The region's ultimate goal is to achieve a 'Drug-Free ASEAN'.⁷² The realization of a Drug-Free ASEAN is to address illicit drug activities effectively and mitigate its negative consequences to society through substantial and sustainable reduction of illegal crop cultivation and the prevalence of illicit drug use.⁷³ ASEAN has implemented Work Plan 2016-2025 that illustrates the considerations that must be taken into account, such as the conditions in the region and the rapidly changing drug market, lessons learned from previous Work Plans, increase multilateral and collective cooperation without undermining pro-active individual efforts and actions in addressing the drug problem in each country, and reinforce existing collective efforts and exercise a strong collaboration among ASEAN Member States.⁷⁴

⁶⁰ United Nations General Assembly resolution S-20/2, *Political Declaration*, A/RES/S-20/2.

⁶¹ United Nations General Assembly resolution S-20/2, *Political Declaration*, A/RES/S-20/2.

⁶² "Illicit Crop Cultivation," *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*, accessed September 18, 2023. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/alternative-development/illicit-crop-cultivation.html>.

⁶³ "Illicit Crop Cultivation," *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*.

⁶⁴ "Illicit Crop Cultivation," *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*.

⁶⁵ "Illicit Crop Cultivation," *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*.

⁶⁶ "Illicit Crop Cultivation," *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*.

⁶⁷ United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. *Alternative Development: A Global Thematic Evaluation*. New York, NY, 2005. https://www.unodc.org/pdf/Alternative_Development_Evaluation_Dec-05.pdf.

⁶⁸ United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. *Alternative Development: A Global Thematic Evaluation*.

⁶⁹ United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. *Alternative Development: A Global Thematic Evaluation*.

⁷⁰ United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. *Alternative Development: A Global Thematic Evaluation*.

⁷¹ United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. *Alternative Development: A Global Thematic Evaluation*.

⁷² Secretariat, ASEAN. 2017. Review of The ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities against Illicit Drugs 2016-2025. ASEAN. 2017. <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Doc-2-Publication-ASEAN-WP-on-Securing-Communities-Against-Illicit-Drugs-2016-2025.pdf>.

⁷³ ASEAN Secretariat. *Review of The ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities against Illicit Drugs 2016-2025*. (ASEAN, 2017). <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Doc-2-Publication-ASEAN-WP-on-Securing-Communities-Against-Illicit-Drugs-2016-2025.pdf>.

⁷⁴ ASEAN Secretariat. *Review of The ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities against Illicit Drugs 2016-2025*.

The implementation of AD has been successfully implemented in many of the Member States within their own governments.⁷⁵ The many ethnic groups within Southeast Asia have recently begun to connect with the functioning national societies in which these communities have been traditionally isolated from mainstream society.⁷⁶ According to UNODC, between the years of 2003-2004 the reduction of opium production has dropped 50 percent.⁷⁷ This is due to the successful efforts of ASEAN's efforts and implementations from the CND and the efforts of a monitoring program by the UNODC illicit crop monitoring system.⁷⁸ An example of the successful implementation of AD is that of Thailand. Since the implementation of AD, opium production within Thailand dropped from about 145 tons in the 1960s to just 10 tons by 2000 with a further decline to 15.6 kg in 2006.⁷⁹ This is due to the governmental embrace of AD measures to affected communities such as educational opportunities, community resilience, and governmental support.⁸⁰ Through these measures, Member States may target and identify measures to better address drug control measures and drug cultivation within their own Member States.⁸¹

Conclusion

Alternative development is on the rise across diverse communities and Member States to combat the ever-evolving and growing drug control dilemma within the international community. As illustrated by various conventions and special sessions that focus on this global drug problem, it is crucial to evaluate the efforts made thus far in AD methods, as seen in the 2009 Action Plan and the ASEAN's "Drug-Free ASEAN" initiative to institute better living conditions to the communities that are the most affected by change and the global drug crisis. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs has an obligation to implement solutions and maintain enforcement of policies and resolutions for the international community. CND is tasked with identifying and establishing solutions utilizing alternative development strategies to open the roadblocks caused by illicit drug trade and to evaluate the status of current global drug control systems.

Committee Directive

The purpose of alternative development is to set forth more sustainable methods of recovering from years of cultivation and the trade of illicit substances within rural communities that are detached from society. Delegates should consider the following as they conduct their research: How must we approach these communities that are the most isolated such as Latin America's Andean Region? What can we offer as an international community to these communities to break them from this cycle of poverty? What can we offer these communities as a better economic alternative, and how can we provide services to these people in need such as healthcare, education, and basic means of human survival? How can we promote these community-based programs for future generations in these communities? How can incorporate these practices into a community's culture?

⁷⁵ United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. *Alternative Development: A Global Thematic Evaluation*.

⁷⁶ United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. *Alternative Development: A Global Thematic Evaluation*.

⁷⁷ United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. *Alternative Development: A Global Thematic Evaluation*.

⁷⁸ United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. *Alternative Development: A Global Thematic Evaluation*.

⁷⁹ United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. *Opium Poppy Cultivation in South-East Asia Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision*. New York, NY, 2009.
https://www.unodc.org/roseap/uploads/archive/documents/2009/12/opium-poppy/SEA_report_2009_Regional_Overview.pdf.

⁸⁰ United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. *Alternative Development: A Global Thematic Evaluation*.

⁸¹ United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. *Alternative Development: A Global Thematic Evaluation*.

II. Promoting Sustainable Strategies to Combat Illicit Drug Abuse within Marginalized Communities

Introduction

Substance abuse is a global issue that affects every Member State. This is evident in the approximately 5.5 percent of the world's population grappling with addiction to psychoactive substances.⁸² This problem is especially burdensome on marginalized communities, which include youth, vulnerable populations, and those living in poverty.⁸³ Socioeconomic factors, limited access to education and healthcare, and social exclusion compound the risks associated with substance abuse.⁸⁴ Furthermore, drug abuse carries significant economic consequences. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) estimates that drug use disorders result in enormous productivity losses, amounting to hundreds of billions of dollars annually.⁸⁵ These losses impact workforce efficiency, healthcare costs, the criminal justice system, and social welfare programs, thus suggesting a recurring issue. Resolving the effects of drug abuse is as fundamental as combating substance abuse itself. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) in the face of these issues strives to advance international collaboration, shape evidence-based policies, and promote balanced approaches to effectively combat the global drug problem.

History

The global drug problem is a complex and multifaceted narrative that spans centuries. It encompasses the cultivation, production, trafficking, and consumption of various psychoactive substances, with far-reaching social, economic, and health implications. The chronology of drug use dates back to ancient civilizations.⁸⁶ Across diverse cultures, people used plants, fungi, and other natural substances for religious, medicinal, and recreational purposes.⁸⁷ Examples include the use of opium poppies in Sumeria (modern-day Iraq) around 3400 BCE and the cultivation of coca plants in the Andes of South America by the Inca civilization.⁸⁸

In a more modern context, concerns about drug addiction and its societal impact led to early international agreements, such as the Shanghai Opium Commission of 1909 which was one of the first attempts to regulate the opium trade.⁸⁹ Another example of an early international agreement is the Hague Opium Convention of 1912, which further aimed to control opium, morphine, cocaine, and heroin.⁹⁰ These would later see to the development of the International Opium Convention(s), the first of which was established in 1912, and the second being established in 1925.^{91,92}

⁸² “Drugs (psychoactive),” *World Health Organization*, accessed September 29, 2023. https://www.who.int/health-topics/drugs-psychoactive#tab=tab_1.

⁸³ Peter Grinspoon MD, “Poverty, Homelessness, and Social Stigma Make Addiction More Deadly,” *Harvard Health*, September 28, 2021, accessed September 29, 2023. <https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/poverty-homelessness-and-social-stigma-make-addiction-more-deadly-202109282602>.

⁸⁴ Kate Hetherington and Catherine Spooner, *Social Determinants of Drug Use*, (Sydney: National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, 2004), <https://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/sites/default/files/ndarc/resources/TR.228.pdf>.

⁸⁵ United Nations, Office of Drugs and Crime, *Economic and Social Consequences of Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking*, Vienna, Austria, 1998. https://www.unodc.org/pdf/technical_series_1998-01-01_1.pdf.

⁸⁶ Emily K. Teall, “Medicine and Doctoring in Ancient Mesopotamia,” *Grand Valley Journal of History*, Volume 3, no. 1 (2014). <https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1056&context=gvjh>.

⁸⁷ “Social Problems: Drug Use in History,” *University of Minnesota*, 2010, accessed September 29, 2023.

[https://open.lib.umn.edu/socialproblems/chapter/7-1-drug-use-in-history/#:~:text=The%20ancient%20Sumerians%20used%20opium,of%20opium\)%%20in%202500%20BCE.](https://open.lib.umn.edu/socialproblems/chapter/7-1-drug-use-in-history/#:~:text=The%20ancient%20Sumerians%20used%20opium,of%20opium)%%20in%202500%20BCE.)

⁸⁸ “Social Problems: Drug Use in History,” *University of Minnesota*.

⁸⁹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *The Shanghai Opium Commission*. Shanghai, China, 1909.

https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/bulletin/bulletin_1959-01-01_1_page006.html

⁹⁰ “The 1912 Hague International Opium Convention.” *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*, January 23, 2009, accessed September 20, 2023. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/the-1912-hague-international-opium-convention.html>

⁹¹ “The 1912 Hague International Opium Convention.” *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*.

⁹² “International Opium Convention,” opened for signature February 19, 1925. League of Nations Series no. 81, p. 319. https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=VI-6-a&chapter=6&clang=en.

By the 21st century, there was a growing recognition that punitive measures alone could not address the drug problem. Some Member States began experimenting with harm reduction strategies, emphasizing public health and treatment rather than solely relying on criminal penalties.⁹³ An example includes Member States in the Scandinavian and broader European region focusing on implementing decriminalization policy.⁹⁴ Today, the global drug problem continues to evolve. The emergence of synthetic drugs like methamphetamine and new psychoactive substances presents novel challenges.⁹⁵ Debates persist over the effectiveness of drug prohibition versus harm reduction, and discussions on the legalization or regulation of certain substances gain traction.⁹⁶

Current Situation

One of the central pillars of CND's approach is the recognition that drug abuse is not solely a criminal justice issue, but also a public health and social justice concern. Marginalized communities often bear a disproportionate burden of the harms associated with drug abuse.⁹⁷ Socioeconomic factors, limited access to education and healthcare, and social exclusion can exacerbate the risk of substance abuse within these communities.⁹⁸ In response to these challenges, CND has increasingly emphasized the importance of adopting evidence-based strategies to combat illicit drug abuse. These strategies prioritize prevention, harm reduction, and treatment over punitive measures.⁹⁹ CND recognizes that addressing the root causes of drug abuse, such as poverty and lack of opportunities, is crucial for long-term success.¹⁰⁰ One key initiative within this framework is the promotion of harm-reduction programs.¹⁰¹ These harm-reduction programs focus on minimizing the negative health and social consequences of drug abuse. They include interventions like needle exchange programs such as the North American Syringe Exchange Network (NASEN), state funded supervised injection sites, and access to opioid substitution therapy.¹⁰² By offering support and services to individuals with substance use disorders, harm reduction programs help marginalized communities access treatment and care.¹⁰³

Another critical aspect of CND's approach is its emphasis on international collaboration. Recognizing that drug abuse is a global challenge, CND encourages Member States to share best practices and learn from one another's experiences. This collaborative spirit extends to working with international organizations, civil society groups, and affected communities to develop and implement effective strategies. Moreover, the CND acknowledges the importance of addressing human rights concerns in drug policy.¹⁰⁴ This includes addressing issues related to the rights of individuals affected by drug abuse and the consequences of drug policies, such as mass incarceration and

⁹³ Olga S. Cruz, Catarina Lameira, Maria Oliveria, and Ximene Rego, "20 Years of Portuguese Drug Policy - Developments, Challenges and the Quest for Human Rights" *Substance Abuse Treatment, Prevention, and Policy*, July 17, 2021, accessed September 4, 2023. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13011-021-00394-7>.

⁹⁴ Olga S. Cruz, et. Al., "20 Years of Portuguese Drug Policy - Developments, Challenges and the Quest for Human Rights" *Substance Abuse Treatment, Prevention, and Policy*.

⁹⁵ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *The Challenge of New Psychoactive Substances*. Vienna, Austria, 2013. https://www.unodc.org/documents/scientific/NPS_Report.pdf.

⁹⁶ E Nadelmann. "Legalization or Harm Reduction: The Debate Continues," *International Journal on Drug Policy* 3, no. 2 (1992). <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/legalization-or-harm-reduction-debate-continues>.

⁹⁷ Susan E. Collins. "Associations between Socioeconomic Factors and Alcohol Outcomes," *Alcohol Research*, (2016), 83-94 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4872618/>.

⁹⁸ Susan E. Collins. "Associations between Socioeconomic Factors and Alcohol Outcomes." *Alcohol Research*.

⁹⁹ "Side Event. the Impact of Drug Policy on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: Overturning Decades of Neglect." *CND Blog*, March 14, 2023, accessed September 4, 2023. <https://cndblog.org/2023/03/side-event-drug-policy-and-economic-social-and-cultural-rights-overturning-decades-of-neglect/>.

¹⁰⁰ "Side Event. the Impact of Drug Policy on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: Overturning Decades of Neglect." *CND Blog*.

¹⁰¹ United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. *Reducing the Adverse Health and Social Consequences of Drug Abuse: A Comprehensive Approach*. New York, NY: UN Headquarters, 2009. https://www.unodc.org/docs/treatment/Reducing_the_Adverse_Health_and_Social_Consequences_of_Abuse.pdf.

¹⁰² United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. *Reducing the Adverse Health and Social Consequences of Drug Abuse: A Comprehensive Approach*.

¹⁰³ "Harm Reduction," *Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration*. April 24, 2023, accessed September 23, 2023. <https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/harm-reduction>.

¹⁰⁴ United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. *United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs*. Vienna, Austria, 2019. https://www.unodc.org/res/commissions/CND/Mandate_Functions/scheduling-clearing-tutorial_html/Brochure_on_the_Commission_on_Narcotic_Drugs.pdf.

discrimination.¹⁰⁵ CND's involvement in promoting sustainable strategies to combat illicit drug abuse within marginalized communities is reflected in its meetings, resolutions, and declarations. It provides a platform for Member States to discuss these critical issues, share successes and challenges, and commit to evidence-based approaches.¹⁰⁶

Actions Taken by CND

CND has taken various notable initiatives to combat illicit drug abuse and promote international drug control efforts. CND played a pivotal role in the development and adoption of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961.¹⁰⁷ This international treaty established a comprehensive framework for the control of narcotic drugs, including provisions for their regulation, production, distribution, and medical use. CND also contributed to the development and adoption of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971.¹⁰⁸ This convention focused on the control of psychotropic substances and introduced measures to address emerging drug threats. CND continues to play a crucial role in shaping international drug control policies and addressing the challenges posed by illicit drug abuse and trafficking by issuing recommendations, classifying controlled substances, fostering collaboration, and advocating for a balanced approach through forums, ministerial declarations, and engagement with member states and civil society.¹⁰⁹ Its actions reflect the evolving understanding of drug-related issues and the need for a comprehensive and balanced approach to addressing the global drug problem.

CND convenes special sessions to address emerging drug challenges, including those affecting marginalized communities. These sessions result in ministerial declarations that emphasize the importance of balanced and evidence-based approaches to drug policy. For example, In 2016, the UNGASS 2016 Outcome Document underscored the need to address the vulnerabilities of marginalized communities in drug policies.¹¹⁰ This document emphasized a more comprehensive and health-centered approach to drug policy, and also reflected a global consensus on addressing drug abuse within marginalized communities.¹¹¹ It highlighted the need for prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and social reintegration programs tailored to the specific needs of vulnerable populations, whether it be needing access to proper medical care, enhancing cohesive cooperation between educators, public health officials and law enforcement authorities, or developing recreational facilities for children as a preventative means to combat substance abuse. A year prior, in 2015, CND adopted Resolution 58/8, which reaffirmed the importance of addressing the needs of vulnerable populations, including marginalized communities, in drug control policies.¹¹² The resolution emphasized the significance of a balanced approach that combines law enforcement efforts with a focus on public health, human rights, and social inclusion. It recognized that marginalized communities often face barriers to accessing treatment and prevention services, and it called for measures to reduce these disparities.

In 2018, CND adopted Resolution 61/4, which recognized the importance of mainstreaming the gender perspective in drug policies.¹¹³ It acknowledged that women, especially those in marginalized communities, face unique challenges related to drug abuse. The resolution called for gender-responsive approaches to drug prevention, treatment, and harm reduction, with a focus on addressing the needs of women and girls. CND actively engages with civil society organizations, including those representing marginalized communities affected by drug abuse. These partnerships with state organizations, NGOs provide a platform for the voices of those affected. Civil society input

¹⁰⁵ United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. *United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs*.

¹⁰⁶ United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. *United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs*.

¹⁰⁷ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs*. New York, NY: UN Headquarters, 1961. https://www.unodc.org/pdf/convention_1961_en.pdf.

¹⁰⁸ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Convention on Psychotropic Substances*. 1949 http://incb.org/documents/Psychotropics/conventions/convention_1971_en.pdf.

¹⁰⁹ United Nations, Commission on Narcotic Drugs, *Report on the sixty-first session*. New York, NY: UN Headquarters, 2018. https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CND/CND_Sessions/CND_61/E2018_28_advance_unedited.pdf.

¹¹⁰ United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. *People at the Centre: UNODC support for UNGASS 2016 on the World Drug Problem*.

¹¹¹ United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. *People at the Centre: UNODC support for UNGASS 2016 on the World Drug Problem*. Vienna, Austria, 2018. https://www.unodc.org/documents/postungass2016/follow-up/18-01924_UNGASS_eBook_002.pdf.

¹¹² United Nations, Commission on Narcotic Drugs, *Report on the sixty-first session*.

¹¹³ United Nations, Commission on Narcotic Drugs, *Report on the sixty-first session*.

informs CND deliberations and contributes to the development of more inclusive and effective strategies for communities to be heard in international drug policy discussions.

Case Study: The United States of America's "War on Drugs," and the Vulnerability of Adolescence

The early 20th century saw the emergence of cocaine as a widely abused drug, especially in the United States of America (USA).¹¹⁴ This can be seen during prohibition in the USA (1920-1933), as it fueled the illicit production and distribution of alcohol and some drugs, creating opportunities for organized crime both in the USA, and internationally.¹¹⁵ The initiation of drug use has been heavily studied and findings show that most begin during adolescence, with the use of tobacco and alcohol.¹¹⁶ Research shows that adolescence who have experimented with multiple drugs have done so through stages of progression into heavy drug use.¹¹⁷ Societal factors also play a large part in drug usage. Those in high-exposure environments are more likely to be involved in some form of illicit drug use over those in low-exposure environments.¹¹⁸ Poverty and growing up in marginalized communities are proven disadvantages to youth when it comes to preventing drug use and exposure.¹¹⁹ They remain "key factors that make young people more vulnerable to substance abuse and mental health issues."¹²⁰

The latter half of the 20th century witnessed the intensification of the "War on Drugs," particularly in the United States, with many Member States following suit.¹²¹ President Richard Nixon officially declared this war in the 1970s, stating that it is, "America's public enemy number one."¹²² The "Just Say No" campaign and the establishment of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) were key components of the USA's war on drugs.¹²³ The DEA was founded in 1973 as an enforcer of controlled substances laws and regulations in the United States.¹²⁴ The "Just Say No" campaign was launched by first lady, Nancy Reagan, in the 1980's and it encouraged adolescence who were prompted to use or experiment with drugs to "just say no."¹²⁵ While the "Just Say No" campaign did have its critiques, there is no denying that it highlighted the affect drug use has on adolescence and aided in prompting the discussion around how to prevent drug use amongst youth.

Conclusion

The history of the global drug problem is a complex and multifaceted narrative that spans centuries, encompassing the cultivation, production, trafficking, and consumption of various psychoactive substances, with far-reaching social, economic, and health implications. Marginalized communities, and especially adolescence, often bear a disproportionate burden of the harms associated with drug abuse. CND recognizes that addressing the root causes of drug abuse, such as poverty and lack of opportunities, is crucial for long-term success. By offering support and services to individuals with substance use disorders, harm reduction programs help marginalized communities access treatment and care. CND is eager to revisit the topic to find sustainable solutions that will offer support to marginalized communities over the years to come.

¹¹⁴ "Cocaine Crisis (1898-1915): Topics in Chronicling America," *Chronicling America*, accessed September 20, 2023.

<https://guides.loc.gov/chronicling-america-cocaine>.

¹¹⁵ Dave Roos, "How Prohibition Put the 'organized' in Organized Crime," *A&E Television Networks LLC*, March 9, 2021, accessed September 14, 2023. <https://www.history.com/news/prohibition-organized-crime-al-capone>.

¹¹⁶ Dr. Gerstein and LW Green, "Illicit Drug Use in the United States," in *Preventing Drug Abuse: What do we know?* (Washington (DC): National Academies Press, 1993, 1). <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK234579/>.

¹¹⁷ Dr. Gerstein and LW Green, "Illicit Drug Use in the United States," in *Preventing Drug Abuse: What do we know?*

¹¹⁸ Dr. Gerstein and LW Green, "Illicit Drug Use in the United States," in *Preventing Drug Abuse: What do we know?*

¹¹⁹ United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. *Poverty and Marginalization Remains Key Factors for Substance Use*. Vienna, Austria, 2022. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/listen-first/success-stories/2022/february/poverty-and-marginalization-remains-key-factors-for-substance-use.html>.

¹²⁰ United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. *Poverty and Marginalization Remains Key Factors for Substance Use*.

¹²¹ Peter Andreas, "Drugs and war: What is the relationship?" *Annual Reviews of Political Science* 22 (2019): 57-73.

<https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/10.1146/annurev-polisci-051017-103748>.

¹²² Dr. Gerstein and LW Green, "Illicit Drug Use in the United States," in *Preventing Drug Abuse: What do we know?*

¹²³ Peter Andreas, "Drugs and war: What is the relationship?" *Annual Reviews of Political Science* 22 (2019): 57-73.

¹²⁴ "History," United States Drug Enforcement Agency, accessed December 17, 2023. <https://www.dea.gov/about/history>.

¹²⁵ "Just say no," *History.com*, August 21, 2018, accessed on December 17, 2023. <https://www.history.com/topics/1980s/just-say-no>.

Committee Directive

This topic will delve into the ongoing challenges faced by marginalized communities in combating illicit drug abuse and explore the historical efforts of the CND and the United Nations in addressing this issue. Delegates should consider the following questions as they undergo their research: What can the international community do to help combat substance abuse? What needs should we keep in mind when seeking solutions to the global drug problem in respect to marginalized communities (whether it be those who are impoverished, or those experiencing persecution or even migration)? What international regulations, or lack thereof, are present and engage in working towards sustainable strategies to break the cycle of abuse and what can be added?

Annotated Bibliography

Topic I: Assessing the Role of Alternative Development within Global Drug Control Systems

Daniel Brombacher and Sarah David, "From Alternative Development to Development-Oriented Drug Policies," *International Development Policy*, September 8, 2020, accessed on September 10, 2023, <https://journals.openedition.org/poldev/3711?lang=deFrom%20Alternative%20Development%20to%20Development-Oriented%20Drug%20Policies>.

Beginning with the history of the concept of alternative development, this article explains the debate on the international drug problem and solutions that have both failed and were successful. The theory of alternative development was born from these solutions and with the help from the Federal Republic of Germany and the implementations and findings of the relations of the disconnected communities of people in developing Member States and the issues of the cultivation of illicit drugs. This article continues to go into depth about the implementation of Alternative Development as a whole and the success stories of Alternative Development projects in South America and Asia.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *High-Level Segment Commission on Narcotic Drugs Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem*. 2009. <https://www.unodc.org/documents/ungass2016/V0984963-English.pdf>.

The Political Declaration of 2009 was adopted as a high-level segment to combat the world's problem with the proliferation of drugs and the problems of drug use in Member States around the world. This plan was given to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) to be coupled with already existing goals of both the CND and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to evaluate, act, and enforce international policies on drug policies which include projects of Alternative Development. As a fundamental document in understanding the discussion of Alternative Development and the global drug problem, Delegates will find this document especially helpful in their research.

United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. *Sustainable livelihoods: a broader vision*. New York, NY: UN Headquarters, 2011. https://www.unodc.org/documents/alternative-development/SL%20Paper/Final_ebook.pdf.

This document highlights a project in which the Office on Drugs and Crime analyzes the first-hand problems that populations of people are experiencing in regions with a prevalent issue of drug use and drug cultivation. There is no denying of the connection between "illicit drug use, drug dependence, drug-related diseases such as HIV/AIDS and drug-related crime," exacerbated by the socio-economic conditions, as well as the production and trafficking of illicit drugs. The Sustainable Livelihood Discussion Document continues to shed light on the issues such as which populations are the most vulnerable and the problems such as HIV, Crime, and Poverty that are the highest in these target populations and communities. This document will be helpful in contextualizing how Alternative Development works in relation to drug use and trafficking.

"United Nations Convention Against Illicit traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances," opened for signature December 20, 1988, https://www.unodc.org/pdf/convention_1988_en.pdf.

The Convention of 1988 or the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, is one of the foundations of the modern goals and approaches towards solutions to solve the international drug problem within each Member State within the international community. The document highlights the ongoing problems of the illicit traffic of narcotic drugs. It further invites Member States to better enforce their own drug enforcement policies and work alongside the Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) for better support and enforcement of international drug policies and agreements. As this convention is heavily referred to in resolutions and reports relating to the discussion of

drug use and alternative development, this document will be useful to Delegates as they conduct their research.

“Illicit Crop Cultivation,” *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*, accessed September 18, 2023. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/alternative-development/illicit-crop-cultivation.html>.

One of the main issues that Alternative Development wants to tackle is the issue of the illicit cultivation of drugs and other drug-related substances. The cultivation of illicit plants such as the coca bush and opium poppy has become a normality for many farmers which leaves these farmers in a cycle of poverty and drug use for generations. Commonly, farmers become victims to unscrupulous middlemen and the exacerbation of their own socio-economic condition. This article provides the Delegates with visual data through charts as well as information regarding Alternative Development that is specific to regions.

Topic II: Promoting Sustainable Strategies to Combat Illicit Drug Abuse within Marginalized Communities

“Drug Policy and the Sustainable Development Goals.” *Health Poverty Action*, 2015, accessed December 17, 2023. https://www.unodc.org/documents/ungass2016/Contributions/Civil/Health_Poverty_Action/HPA_SDGs_drugs_policy_briefing_WEB.pdf

This paper highlights opportunities towards sustainable drug control policies presented through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the United Nations General Assembly Special Session of 2016 (UNGASS 2016). Utilizing several SDGs as a guide, the paper provides a brief background on the individual SDG while also providing correlation to the international effort towards combatting illicit drug abuse. Although UNGASS 2016 had not yet taken place at the time of this paper being published, the paper acknowledges the special session as an event that “will help to shape the future of drug policy.” Delegates will find this paper useful in the research of current drug policy development in correlation to the SDGs.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Outcome Document of the 2016 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem*. New York, NY, 2016. <https://www.unodc.org/documents/postungass2016/outcome/V1603301-E.pdf>.

The global drug epidemic has been recognized by Member States numerous times over the last several decades. One of the more recent defining documents was established in April 2016. Member States of the General Assembly met for a special session (UNGASS 2016) to discuss “[their] joint commitment to effectively addressing and counting the world drug problem.” Within the UNGASS 2016 report, delegates will find proposed solutions towards a more drug-free world. These proposed solutions can provide a good understanding of the types of solutions that can be presented by the United Nations. Delegates may also find the referencing of multiple other landmark conventions and resolutions within this report also helpful in their research.

United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. *Poverty and Marginalization Remains Key Factors for Substance Use*. Vienna, Austria, 2022. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/listen-first/success-stories/2022/february/poverty-and-marginalization-remains-key-factors-for-substance-use.html>

This article was published on February 17, 2022, by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in conjunction with World Social Justice Day; observed each year on February 20th. The article highlights the connection between poverty and inequality to the abuse of substances; specifically, the higher risk of substance abuse amongst youth that are raised in poverty or come from marginalized communities. This article encourages the investment into the development of emotional and social skills in youth. As stated by Maria Melchior within the article, “research shows that children who have good psycho-social skills are less likely to engage in substance use....” Delegates may find this article interesting in the research as a alternate perspective in the fight against substance abuse within the international community.

“World Drug Report 2023,” *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*. 2023, accessed on December 17, 2023. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/world-drug-report-2023.html>

The World Drug Report is compiled by the Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and comprises of statistics and data on “the latest global, regional and subregional estimates of and trends in drug demand and supply.” For 2023, the website includes interactive elements that give a variety of ways to absorb the information provided. For example, this source offers a “trends and data analysis” page that allows the user to select a specific drug, subject, and region. It then takes you to an interactive map that provides visual data on the number of users of that drug in each region. Whether Delegates prefer infographics, reports, or data portals, this source provides data from the UNODC for 2023 that will be useful when looking at the current state of the global drug epidemic.

United Nations, World Health Organization. *International Standards on Drug use Prevention*. 2018. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/international-standards-for-drug-use-prevention-second-edition-2018>

The International Standards on Drug use Prevention was originally published by the World Health Organization in conjunction with the Office on Drugs and Crime in 2013 and was updated most recently in 2018. This publication was heavily referred to across the international community as new policy changes and commitments were made in relation to drug use prevention. The first edition was revised in 2018, and subsequently published as the second edition. The revisions were made to take into account the changes in policies, strategies, and recommendations across both organizations and the international community.