

Forum: General Assembly 6

Issue: Measures to investigate drug trafficking while upholding international law

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Introduction

Of the world's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of \$78 trillion (US Dollars), the illegal drug trade is estimated to account for as nearly 1% of the total global exchange. Consumption of illicit drugs is widespread globally, and it remains challenging for local authorities to thwart their demand. Drug trafficking is a transnational illicit trade involving the cultivation, manufacturing, distribution, and dealing of substances banned by drug prohibition laws. The Covid-19 pandemic and its economic impacts, especially to lower-income and impoverished areas, have created only greater motivation for people to be involved in illicit drug trafficking with a promise that the illegal distribution of drugs can be a source of stable income. The pandemic has driven inequality, poverty, and mental health conditions further on to vulnerable populations, which has pushed more people to misuse drugs.

The United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime is the leading organization of the United Nations established to combat and eliminate drug trafficking. Not only that, much like the anti-terrorism framework, the United Nations oversees numerous treaties that deal with transnational organized crime. The UNODC is devoted to ensuring States have the knowledge, skills, and commitment to effectively prevent and address trafficking in persons while protecting victims' rights. Grounded in the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and in line with international human rights law, UNODC promotes the development of comprehensive legal frameworks and the collection of reliable data that inform policies as well as technical assistance. Quoting Executive Director Ghada Waly, the UNODC aims to promote public awareness to target a safer world with drug use by, "...*'Shar[ing] facts on drugs. Sav[ing] lives'*, *emphasizing the importance of strengthening the evidence base and raising public awareness so that the international community, governments, civil society, families, and youth can make informed decisions, better target efforts to prevent and treat drug use, and tackle world drug challenges.*" It is evident that in order to stop illicit drug trading it is crucial to eliminate the various sources of the problem, such as the demand for said drugs by preventing addiction

and the misuse of illegal drugs, as well as cracking down on organizations and individuals that profit from illicit drug trafficking while keeping in mind the legal rights of all people during investigations.

The findings of UNODC's 2021 World Drug Report suggest that the lower perception of drug use risks is linked to higher rates of drug use. In order to combat this issue, member states must close the gap between the perception and reality of drug use to educate the younger generations and protect public health. Furthermore, delegates must step up efforts to reduce demand through education and awareness programs, expand collaborative efforts to counter money laundering and corruption within Latin American and Caribbean governments, strengthen targeted sanctions on traffickers while maximizing the capacity of organizations and governments that target illicit drugs trading rings. Most importantly, combating the issue of drug trafficking while maintaining international law is critical for the safety, security, and privacy of the people. It is essential for delegates to keep in mind the surveillance and counter missions that take place in order to regulate drug trafficking and ways for member nations to decrease drug demand while also keeping in mind the legal rights of all citizens.

Definition of Key Terms

Drug Trafficking

According to the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), "Drug trafficking is a global illicit trade involving the cultivation, manufacture, distribution, and sale of substances which are subject to drug prohibition laws." Drug trafficking is a major source of profit for organized crime groups and is often an offense tied with many others such as arms trafficking, modern slavery/ human trafficking, and illegal immigration crimes. When considering and taking action on such an extensive crime, it is essential to bear in mind the broader disruptive impact it has on other organized criminal activity.

Transnational Organized Crime

In the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime in 2000, transnational organized crime was defined as "an offense as transnational if it met one of these four conditions: 1. if it is committed in more than one state, 2. if it is committed in one state, but a considerable part of its preparation, planning, surveillance, or management takes place in another state, 3. if it is committed in one state but involves an organized criminal group that engages in illegal activities in more than one state, and finally, 4. if it is committed in one state but has substantial effects on another state." Transnational organized crime such as drug trafficking, smuggling of migrants, human trafficking, money laundering, arms trafficking, cybercrime, or counterfeit goods, involve offenses that cross international borders or involve more than one state. Domestic crimes are those that occur within a border; international crime is an offense committed against international law which is derived from bilateral and/or unilateral agreements.

Narcotic Drugs vs. Stimulant Drugs

Narcotic drugs are a class of drugs most commonly used for medicinal purposes and pain relief and should only be used under healthcare providers' direct supervision. In the United States and other nations around the world, narcotic drugs have since become associated with opiates and opioids, commonly morphine and heroin. In a legal context, the term "narcotic" usually has negative connotations; however, in the medical community, not so much. This is because the effects of narcotics can be very helpful in a therapeutic setting to reduce tension, anxiety, and aggression; however, if used incorrectly without a prescription it can be very dangerous or lead to drug abuse. Legally, conventional use of narcotic drugs is completely prohibited, such as heroin. The feeling of pleasure that results from these drugs as well as any addictive chemicals in these drugs may cause addiction; high doses of this drug or uncontrolled usage could cause slowed heart rate and breathing and even death. Stimulants are another class of drugs that intend to speed up messages from the brain and body. They can make a person feel more attentive or energetic, commonly referred to as "Uppers," they provide euphoric and calming sensations that increase dopamine levels within the brain. The effects of this kind of drug can last from a few minutes to a few hours; they can be taken orally, nasally, or they can be directly injected into bloodstreams.

Black Market and Darknet

A black market is an economic activity involving the exchange of goods illegally and managing transactions through illicit tracks to avoid government policies and taxes. Sellers do not pay taxes, and customers are provided with goods prohibited by the laws, such as drugs, weapons, human organs, or exotic animals to name a few. The darknet market, which is now worth at least US\$ 315 million in annual sales, is a commercial website that is inaccessible to standard search engines and mandates specific browsers to be accessed. Goods sold on this market include drugs, personal information, hacking services, and firearms. The darknet market, like the black market, supplies illegal drugs such as cannabis, MDMA, modafinil, LSD, cocaine, and designer drugs.

Extradition

Extradition is defined as removing a person from a requested state to a requesting state for criminal prosecution or sentencing. To extradite is to surrender or obtain a fugitive from one authority to another. An example of extradition would be if a person commits a crime, such as murder, in the United Kingdom (UK) and flees to Australia before they are charged. In this circumstance, the UK can request Australia for the arrest and extradition of the person in Australia. This pertains to the issue at hand for instances of transnational crimes where certain countries do not have the jurisdiction to ensure the proper prosecution of persons.

Witness protection

The Witness Protection Act provides protection for government witnesses who may be in danger due to testimony they've given about terrorists or criminals. Witnesses that may be experiencing a direct threat are located in a safer area under the protection of government officials. This is important to allow victims to give an accurate testimony in a judicial setting without the fear or threat of generational organized criminals.

History

The Medellin Massacre, 1975

Drug trafficking is a transnational organized crime that has had a longstanding, violent history of addicts, kidnappings, murders, and drug lords. One of the earliest and infamous drug cartels in history was the Colombian Medellín cartel, which began in the mid-1970s when Colombian drug traffickers started smuggling small portions of cocaine into the United States. In the late 1970s, the illegal trade of cocaine became a prominent profit opportunity throughout the international community. The Medellín Cartel, an organized body of drug suppliers based in the city of Medellín, Colombia, began operating during this time. However, the leaders of this Cartel are known to be violent and incredibly determined in their goals for financial gain. In 1975, Colombian police seized 600 kilos of cocaine from a plane. In response to having the cocaine seized by the police, a band of drug traffickers retaliated by killing 40 people in the course of one weekend that became known as the "Medellin Massacre." The event initiated years of violence that led to assassinations, abductions, and raids in Colombia. The U.S. and Colombian governments have since sanctioned a bilateral extradition treaty in 1981, reducing these drug lords' power and authority when prosecuted. However, illicit drug trafficking remains an issue in Colombia.

The Vietnam War, 1966

The U.S. association in the Vietnam War ushered a boost in heroin being smuggled into the United States in the 1960s. The misuse of drugs became increasingly popular and widespread, and in 1971, a report by the Department of Defense showed that a total of 15% of American soldiers were heroin addicts, and many more smoked marijuana or used other drugs to help cope with the mental toll that the war caused. Moreover, according to the House Select Committee on Crime report, the armed military used around 225 million tablets of stimulants between 1966 and 1969, which were used to build endurance on lengthier missions; sedatives were also given to relieve anxiety to prevent meltdowns. Finally, according to the same report by the American Department of Defenses, after returning home from the war, only about 5% of American soldiers had relapsed into addiction.

The Mexican Drug War, 2006

The Mexican Drug War, which began in 2006, is a problematic conflict involving the Mexican government and its efforts to control various drug cartels in Mexico. The Mexico Drug War involves various powerful Mexican cartels, namely the Sinaloa Cartel which is considered to be the dominant drug trafficking organization. The immense power and influence drug cartels have in Mexico has remained an issue for decades because the Mexican government lacks the capacity to crack down on these operations, and is also subject to bribery by these cartels.

Key Issues

Money laundering and illicit financing

Money laundering, in simple terms, is the illegal process of making considerable amounts of money obtained by criminal activity, such as human trafficking, terrorist funding, or smuggling. The central objective for drug traffickers is seeking to transform monetary earnings from their illegal activity into revenue with a legal source. According to the United Nations, drug trafficking is estimated to bring over \$400 billion of profits a year and accounts for approximately 8% of all international trade. A combination of the efficiency of illegal institutions like the black market and darknet, as well as lack of initiative or capacity to combat drug trafficking by governments, have paved the way for the success of money laundering through drug trafficking. A way for many countries to counter this issue is to increase instituted banking regulations to ameliorate the process of detecting and seizing investments of criminal activity. However, as previously mentioned, a way for many drug traffickers to get around this obstacle is by transforming their earnings into legal sources, including internet payment platforms, cryptocurrencies, payment cards, and real estate.

Today, the Colombian Black Market Peso Exchange method "is the single most efficient and extensive money laundering 'system' in the Western Hemisphere," according to Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, a bureau of the United States Department of the Treasury (FinCEN). The process involves three parties: drug lords with a significant amount of US dollars in American bank accounts (but little in Colombian pesos), companies who want to purchase American goods but do not have US dollars, and peso brokers who work as the "middle man" between the two. Colombian drug lords sell their drugs in the US for US dollars (USD) but want to turn those US dollars into Colombian pesos so they can spend their wealth in Colombia. They cannot exchange such a large amount of money at a time because this will draw many red flags to the American government and prompt investigations as well as be heavily taxed, so instead, they rely on peso brokers to connect them with a Colombian business lacking USD looking to purchase US goods. Brokers purchase the American goods desired by the Colombian company with the drug lord's USD, deliver the goods to the companies, and help the companies pay the drug lords back in Colombian pesos, charging both parties a small cut for completing

the transaction. This process is not only an illegal exchange of currency due to tax evasion, it also perpetuates the assimilation of laundered money in the global economy. In order to impede this matter, it is critical to strengthen domestic and international anti-money-laundering cooperation and standards. Increased funding for the prevention and economic development programs in countries with source drug trafficking issues or regions where drug trafficking is specifically targeted is also a viable solution. Member nations may also suggest that the UN Conventions on Illegal Drugs permit individual governments to also tackle this urgent issue by experimenting in the regulated distribution of currently illicit drugs. Ideally, the aim should be to lessen the harm that drugs yield to users and society, minimize the influence of the black market, and prevent the need to launder illicit funds.

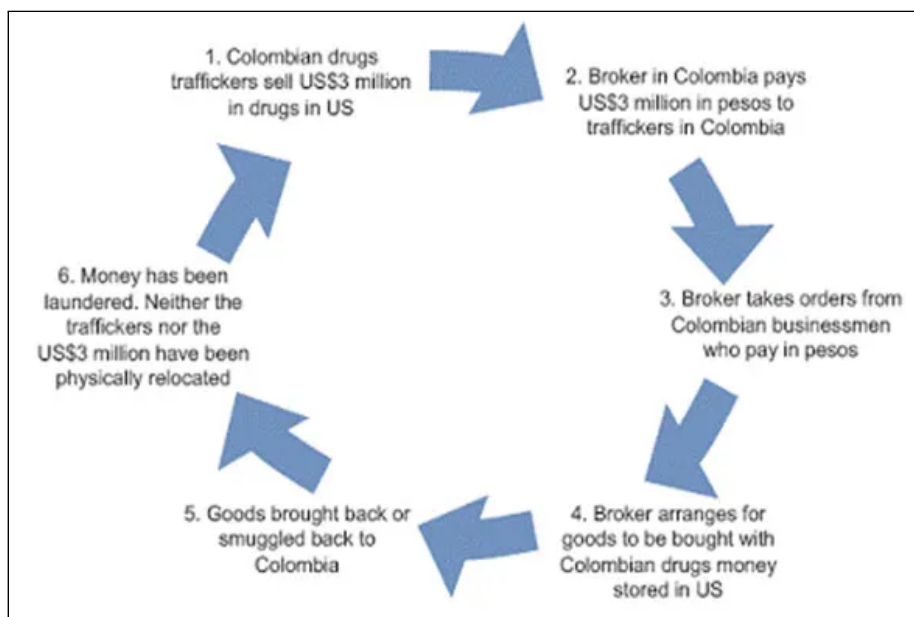


Figure 1: Graphic illustrating an example of the Colombian Black Market Exchange (Tax Connections)

Drug trafficking transnationally by terrorist groups

It was emphasized in UNODC's 2018 World Drug Report that cannabis continues to be the most popular drug internationally and the production of both opium poppy and coca bush show a marked increase, doubling since 2006. Drug trafficking and terrorist organization are closely linked and can be seen to be connected with a variety of transnational organized crimes, illicit trade in natural resources and wildlife, kidnapping and ransoms, as well as piracy. The UNODC report also indicated that, while drug trafficking online using the darknet continues to proliferate, it only represents a small fraction of drug trafficking. Despite the UN's countless efforts to shut down darknet marketplaces, its popularity and threats continuously grow.

An example of a connection of drug trafficking with terrorism would be in 2013 when U.S.\$1.25 billion worth of cocaine was said to be trafficked through West Africa to Europe amid rising concern over the potential of Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb's (AQIM) increased involvement in the drug trade. A 2016 statement by the European Union also reported an association of Al Shabaab with heroin trafficking to ports in Europe they controlled and cocaine trade into Kenya. If terrorist groups continue to grow and develop, then the possibility of more expansive drug markets is a substantial threat to international safety. A practicable way for the UNODC to slowly eliminate the influence terrorist groups have within transnational crime would be by establishing initiatives on enhancing border management through profiling high-risk passengers and cargo, facilitating international cooperation, and combating the financing of terrorism.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

Colombia

While Colombia has been involved in the drug trade since the early 1930s, Colombia's role in the drug trade became truly prevalent in 1970. When Mexico completely eliminated the legal production of marijuana in their plantations, the demand for these drugs only increased. People in Colombia met much of this demand by growing marijuana in the country's northeast region, and it even became the dominant crop grown in the nation. Because multiple anti-marijuana campaigns forced and led by the U.S. military became a significant obstacle, marijuana traffickers, including the late drug lord Pablo Escobar, soon switched to cocaine, which was far more profitable. The drug trade in Colombia and the continuous demand for illegal drugs overseas made the living conditions in Colombia more dangerous and drug lords more powerful.

Pablo Escobar, who was a powerful Colombian drug lord from 1980 to the 1990s, was believed to be responsible for most of the cocaine smuggling into the United States. He was dubbed "the King of Cocaine," and the wealthiest criminal in history amassed an estimated equivalent of US \$64 billion. He was responsible for over an estimated 4,000 deaths, and was eventually caught and was eventually shot by Colombian forces. The United States and Colombia enacted an extradition treaty on September 14, 1979, that allowed Colombia to extradite any Colombian suspected of drug trafficking to the U.S. and put on trial; however, the criminals lacked much access to their local power and influence in the U.S., which almost always had their trials to deem them guilty and sentenced to imprisonment. Today, the government of Colombia still continues its efforts against illicit drug crop cultivation through a variety of programs focusing on alternative legal crops and the preservation of the environment.

Mexico

The lack of thorough regulation over the transportation of illegal drugs, the excessive power, and influence drug cartels have over the nation, and the failure to prosecute known drug traffickers and gangs all contribute to the dominance Mexican cartels have over the nation, and their ability to engage in the illicit drug trade without much resistance. The lack of policies and regulations has only allowed drug traders to manipulate the government and continue to grow wealthier. Many states in Mexico lack the necessary capacity to establish stability in the local governance, and this was especially the case during the PRI's (Institutional Revolutionary Party's) authoritarian reign. Though these cartels bring much violence into the nation, they also provide many with income and create jobs and have been very prominent in Mexican society to the point where they in some cases have more influence over people than the government.

Recently, the Jalisco New Generation Cartel or CJNG, formerly known as Los Mata Zetas, has been identified by the Mexican government as the most dangerous criminal organization and more potent than the Sinaloa Cartel. The Mexican criminal group based in Jalisco is headed by Nemesio Oseguera Cervantes, one of the world's most-wanted drug lords. According to the July 2020 Congressional Research Service (CRS) report, organized crime-related activity was responsible for over 125,000-150,000 homicides from 2006 to 2018. Furthermore, Mexican drug cartels take in between \$19 billion and \$29 billion annually from drug sales in the U.S.

Mexican drug cartels have a deep history and influence in regards to the government, to the point where especially during the PRI's reign, they influenced (through force, bribery, or even negotiation) Mexico's social and economic policies. In the end, a new president Vicente Fox Quesada was elected and established the Federal Agency of Investigation in November of 2001, which imprisoned many drug lords and set much drug activity under control. He promised that the drug war in Mexico has since ended and focused more on reducing violence and homicides rather than going after drug lords. However, the various threats drug cartels pose remain prominent in Mexico today.

Russia

Following the disintegration of the Soviet Union, civil wars in Afghanistan and Tajikistan have made it increasingly easy for drug trafficking to expand domestically in Russia and internationally. Injected drug use has become a massive issue in Russia, with over 1-2 million heroin users, most of which are teenagers and young adults. However, government officials seem to be showing little effort in eradicating this dire matter with no support in harm reduction strategies such as methadone clinics or needle-exchange programs.

It appears as though the approach the government takes is to incarcerate drug users rather than getting at the roots of the issue. Many drug rings in Russia work with the Mafia and Colombian drug cartels to import and distribute cocaine. In March of 2003, Russian President Vladimir Putin established the Russian State Committee for Control over the Illegal Trafficking of Narcotics and Psychotropic

Substances, a commission used to combat, monitor, and regulate narcotic drugs and psychotropic substance use in the nation.

United States

Though the United States is not the most significant producer or trafficker of drugs, it is among the world's top users of illicit substances. Americans are at the highest risk of drug-related deaths and currently have the largest population with prescription painkiller addictions globally. Marijuana is now the most commonly abused illicit drug, with 22.2 million users and 3.8 million people who exploit their prescription painkillers. In the U.S., though marijuana is legal in some states, in those that it isn't, drug trafficking penalties typically last for about a year, even for first-time offenders, but can sometimes last decades.

In 2008, the U.S. government instituted another program, known as the Merida Initiative, to help fight drug trafficking from Mexico. According to his initiative, it increased U.S. security assistance over the years, which aided the Mexican army with "high-end equipment from helicopters to surveillance technology." However, despite the significant support being given, Mexican "narco gangs" still continuously outgun and overpower the Mexican forces, allowing for ongoing activities of drug cartels across the U.S.-Mexico border. In addition, since the 1990s, Colombia has enhanced the crackdown of drug trafficking operations which has helped in leading to cocaine consumption in the U.S. dropping by over 11%. Nevertheless, the U.S. and Colombia did announce a new strategy in 2020 to combat drug trafficking by supporting economic development in impoverished areas of the Latin American country to potentially lead people away from making money through illegal organized crime.

Timeline of Relevant Resolutions, Treaties, and Events

Date	Description of Event
March 4, 1929	The Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) was formed to restore the stability that was lost from the Mexican Revolution. Also, providing a political space in which all the surviving leaders and combatants of the Mexican Revolution could cooperate to settle the political conflict.
March 30, 1961	The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 had principal objectives to limit the possession, usage, trade, and production of such narcotic drugs, and only exclusively for medical and scientific purposes. The Convention sought out control over 116 narcotic drugs.
February 21, 1971	The Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, a United Nations treaty designed to contain the abuse of psychoactive drugs such as amphetamine-type stimulants, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, and psychedelics, was signed in Vienna, Austria.
June 18, 1971	War on Drugs was an initiative led by the United States government with the aim to reduce drug trafficking between the US and Mexico. The initiative also helps tackle drug issues in Mexico, Canada, and Latin America.

December 20, 1988	The United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 was a convention held in Vienna and administered comprehensive measures against drug trafficking, including legislation against money laundering and the removal of precursor chemicals.
November 15, 1992	Colombian police seize 600 kilos of cocaine, which is the largest seizure to date, the drug traffickers retaliated by murdering over 40 people in one weekend known as the “Medellin Massacre.”
1997	The United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime was founded to prevent crime and drug trafficking worldwide, as well as, provide annual reports on the international communities' efforts towards preventing violence and transnational trafficking. It ensures security and global peace while making the world safer from drugs, crime, corruption, and terrorism.
December 11, 2006	The Mexican Drug War escalated soon following the arrest of the leader and founder of the Guadalajara Cartel, the first Mexican drug cartel. Because of the persecution of Miguel Ángel Félix Gallardo in 1989, other drug cartels in alliance with him, including the Sinaloa Cartel, the Tijuana Cartel, the Juarez Cartel, and the Sonora Cartel began fighting for control of territories and trafficking routes. Certain high-ranking members formed their own alliances breaking alliances and causing further conflict.

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- An ECOSOC Document Co-ordination in the field of drug abuse control, 9 May 1979 (E/RES/1979/9)
- A General Assembly Resolution about the International cooperation in drug abuse control, 17 December 1979 (A/RES/34/177)
- Review of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme: strengthening the United Nations machinery for international drug control within the scope of the existing international drug control treaties and in accordance with the basic principles of the Charter of the United Nations, 28 July 1999 (E/RES/1999/30) Drug trafficking as a threat to international security, 30 November 2009 (S/2009/615)
- Statement by the President of the Security Council, 18 December 2013 (S/PRST/2013/22)
- Drug trafficking in West Africa as a threat to stability, 19 December 2018 (S/PV.8433)

Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

There have been many endeavors by intergovernmental bodies to eliminate the issue of drug trafficking, along with the violence and conflict resulting from this. The combination of many factors, including poverty, limited social and economic opportunities, lack of education, political instability, and lack of government capacity to uphold and enforce regulation all in combination has led to the high level

of illicit organized crime worldwide. As these significant problems remain, the fight to reduce global drug trafficking and use become increasingly challenging; the various factors affect the vulnerability to drug use and the road to harmful use. While some countries have made progress in increasing the security of human rights, and also policy interventions, obstacles persist with financing and implementing legislation and initiatives to prevent, treat, and reduce the potential harms posed by drug trafficking and abuse.

The already established Sustainable Development Goal 2030 Agenda puts the health, rights, and safety of people and the planet at the priority of sustainable development. Drug matters are wholly intertwined with all factors and goals of sustainable development. All areas of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals shape the progress and improvement towards the drug problem and other matters. SDG Target 3.5 states, "Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol," which defines the significance of the prevention and treatment assistance in the context of sustainability. The second updated edition of the UNODC and WHO International Standards on Drug Use Prevention 34 summarized the available scientific data on the interventions and legislated policies that have been found already effective in preventing drug use. Moreover, there have already been treatments discovered by the World Health Organization for opioid use disorders and other drug issues. There are essential medical treatments already available; however, the accessibility of treatment may still be insufficient in some areas. Multiple therapy strategies combined with psychosocial assistance have been found to be the most effective.

The United Nations Economic and Social Council established the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), in 1946, as a central body for drug-related policies and guidelines. The CND allows member states to analyze the global drug situation, pursue the decisions made during sessions and conferences on drug trafficking, and take global approaches within their scope of action. In order to advance their progress, UNODC undertakes more steps in promoting studies and investigations on drug production, trafficking, and consumption to implement a groundwork in which countries of interventions can cooperate in agreement with each national context. The UNODC also offers legal consultation to nations making progress in implementing UN conventions and treaties for drug control, making reasonable changes and modifications to national legislation.

Possible Solutions

1. Empowering communities are vulnerable to being manipulated and influenced by drug traffickers through increased education and increasing access to health care.
 - **Pros:** An effective way to prevent drug cartels from further consolidating influence over the citizens of a nation is through greater education on the harms of drug use and

trafficking, as well as greater access to healthcare and drug rehabilitation centers. It should be prioritized to assist member states who suffer from rampant drug trafficking and substance abuse in implementing non-discriminatory institutions that make them more resistant to the influence of drug cartels. It is also vital to promote the active involvement and participation of civil society and local communities, especially when it regards resistance against drug cartels. This can be done through increased access to adequate education because when people are more educated they become aware of the opportunities schooling prepares them for, making them less inclined to fall under the influence of, and become employed by cartels. In addition, educated individuals are less inclined to abuse drugs, which would hinder cartels' ability to make money.

- **Cons:** The increase in access to health care and education, especially in impoverished communities in developing nations, is more easily said than done. First of all, it is incredibly challenging to accumulate the necessary funds to pay for sustainable education and health facilities for these communities. Moreover, various racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, and other minority groups severely lack adequate health insurance in comparison to the majority populations. These individuals are more likely to delay their healthcare and continue without the essential medication they have been prescribed, resulting in higher mortality and disability rates and lower annual earnings. The demand for health care workers alone is already a significant issue in impoverished areas. In places where minority populations are centralized, such as inner cities and rural areas, many health practitioners and diagnostic facilities are often inadequate and may stand as the biggest obstacle to reaching this solution.

2. Countering trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and stepping up efforts to reduce such demand.

- **Pros:** The achievement of SDG 16, more specifically Target 16.4: "By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime", is a top priority for counter drug trafficking organizations. As mentioned, specific vulnerability from one group offers a profit opportunity to another. Organized criminal groups have always been creative in adjusting their tactics in markets and in response to avoid the risk of interception. By pointing efforts to counter trafficking, stricter and more rigid law enforcement produces higher drug prices and, therefore, lowers drugs' availability.
- **Cons:** As some law enforcement agencies lack the necessary capacity to crack down on drug trafficking and can also be inclined to corruption, executing this solution with effectiveness can be a challenge. Many justice systems still stand weaker than others, with impunity prevalent, which further begs the need for a more stable and standardized

regulation system. However, doing this can lead to more violence than there was before. Many people committing minor drug-related offenses may be more targeted than more serious offenses like significant drug trafficking and homicide. In turn, this can lead to mass imprisonment for low-level offenses (and with that, the overcrowding of detention centers) or the detention of people who use drugs, not so much those who traffic them.

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Appendix or Appendices

- I. UN Documents for Drug Trafficking and Security:
<https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/drug-trafficking-and-security/>
- II. A Brief History of Drug Trafficking:
<https://www.history.com/topics/crime/history-of-drug-trafficking>