

## ***Message from the Director of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs***

Dear Delegates,

My name is Crystal Burns and I am the Director for the committee on the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND). The following background guide serves as an introduction to the topics on the agenda for CND. Delegates are expected to conduct independent research to determine their State's policy as well as creating innovative solutions to issues at hand. Please keep yourself up to date with new developments to your Member State's policy as we approach the conference as these issues are constantly evolving. Lastly, I hope you will find this background guide as a useful foundation to begin your research. However, it is not intended to replace individual research and I highly encourage you to research your Member State's policy in depth and to use additional resources.

The topics before the CND are:

1. Addressing the Involvement of Women and Girls in Drug Trafficking.
2. Drug Trafficking and its Role in Fueling Conflicts in the Middle East.

I look forward to seeing all your preparation at the conference.

Sincerely,

**Crystal Burns**

Director of CND

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## ***Commission on Narcotic Drugs: History & Key Documents***

The origins of the international drug control system dates back to 1909 when the first international narcotics conference was held in Shanghai, China, where an unprecedented opium epidemic was rampant.<sup>1</sup> Advocating for the regulation of opium production, trade, and consumption, this meeting established a conference for global drug control.<sup>2</sup> As a result, the first International Opium Convention was adopted in 1912, which introduced global drug control as a component of international law.<sup>3</sup> The League of Nations, founded in 1920, incorporated these components in its drug control regime under the Advisory Committee on Traffic in Opium and Other Dangerous Drugs, which is regarded as a precursor of the CND.<sup>4</sup>

The CND was established in February 1946 by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to be the main committee within the United Nations (UN) system for drug control.<sup>5</sup> Additionally, its mandate has been expanded to serve as the governing body of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the global leader in the fight against illicit drugs and international crime.<sup>6</sup> The CND is also responsible for reviewing varying issues such as drug prevention, rehabilitation, supply and demand and trafficking of narcotics. It is of critical importance when addressing the world drug problem that all of these aspects be addressed from a law enforcement perspective to social responses perspectives, prevention measures and health-centered approaches.

The four major international drug control treaties within the CND are:

- The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1953(amended in 1972)
- The Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971
- The United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988
- The Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation Towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem of 2009

The primary focus of these treaties are to establish control measures to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes, while still preventing their distribution into illicit channels.<sup>7</sup> While these

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/bulletin/bulletin\\_1999-01-01\\_1\\_page003.html](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/bulletin/bulletin_1999-01-01_1_page003.html)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Studies/100\\_Years\\_of\\_Drug\\_Control.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Studies/100_Years_of_Drug_Control.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/drug-trafficking/legal-framework.html>

<sup>6</sup> Ibid

<sup>7</sup> Ibid

treaties serve as the foundation for the CND, they fail to address issues of women's rights or gender perspectives in countering the world drug problem.<sup>8</sup>

In April 2016, the UN General Assembly (GA) held a Special Session on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS). This special session produced an outcome document, Our Joint Commitment to Effectively Addressing and Countering the World Drug Problem, which reviewed the progress of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation Towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem.<sup>9</sup>

The CND has an important role to play in advancing innovative solutions to the challenges of drug control, and remains committed to solving the world's drug problem through innovative solutions that address the wide range of issues presented by illicit narcotics. However, the challenges the Commission faces are greater than ever due to the complex challenges involved in maintaining a humane global drug policy.

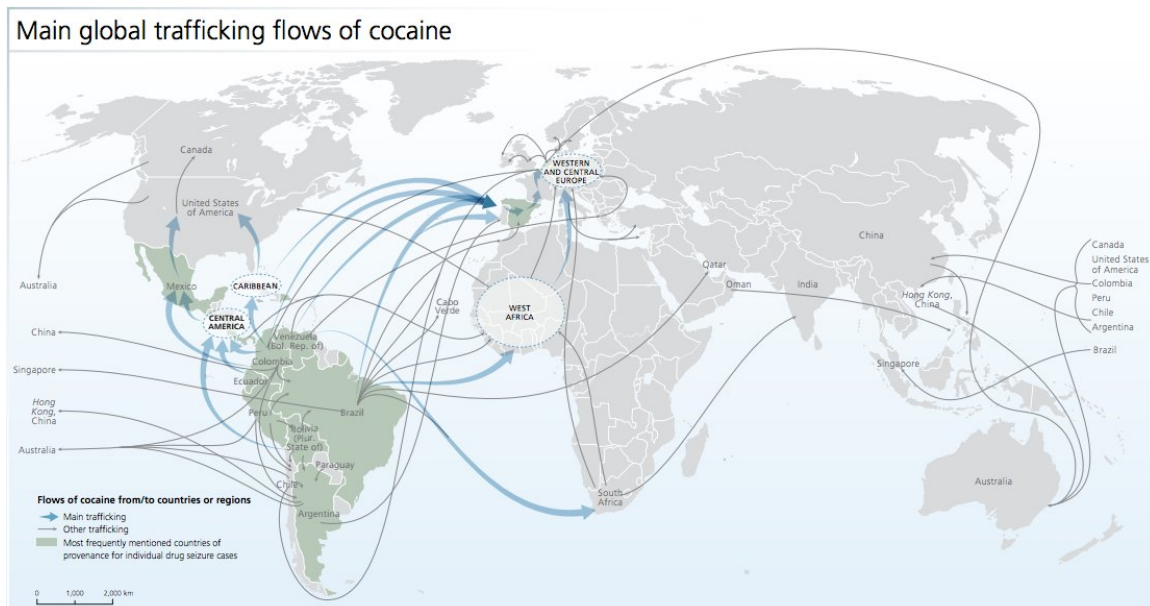
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<sup>8</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/documents/ungass2016/Contributions/UN/Gender\\_and\\_Drugs\\_-\\_UN\\_Women\\_Policy\\_Brief.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/ungass2016/Contributions/UN/Gender_and_Drugs_-_UN_Women_Policy_Brief.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.unodc.org/postungass2016/>

## **Topic 1: Addressing the Involvement of Women and Girls in Drug Trafficking**

Drug trafficking is the “cultivation, manufacturing, distribution and sale of illegal substances which are subject to drug prohibition laws.”<sup>10</sup> Currently, the world’s consumption and seizure of heroin in the global market is equivalent to 430-450 tons.<sup>11</sup> Opium originating from Myanmar and the Lao People's Democratic Republic produces roughly 50 tons, while nearly 380 tons of heroin and morphine, is manufactured from Afghan opium.<sup>12</sup> Of that total, around 375 tons of heroin is trafficked into and through countries surrounding Afghanistan.<sup>13</sup> Additionally, over 80% of the world’s global cocaine market is located in the North American and European Union (EU) regions.<sup>14</sup> In North America, cocaine is commonly transported from Colombia into Mexico then to the United States and Canada, while narcotics are generally trafficked to Europe through shipment containers.<sup>15</sup>



<sup>10</sup> <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/drug-trafficking/index.html>

<sup>11</sup> Ibid

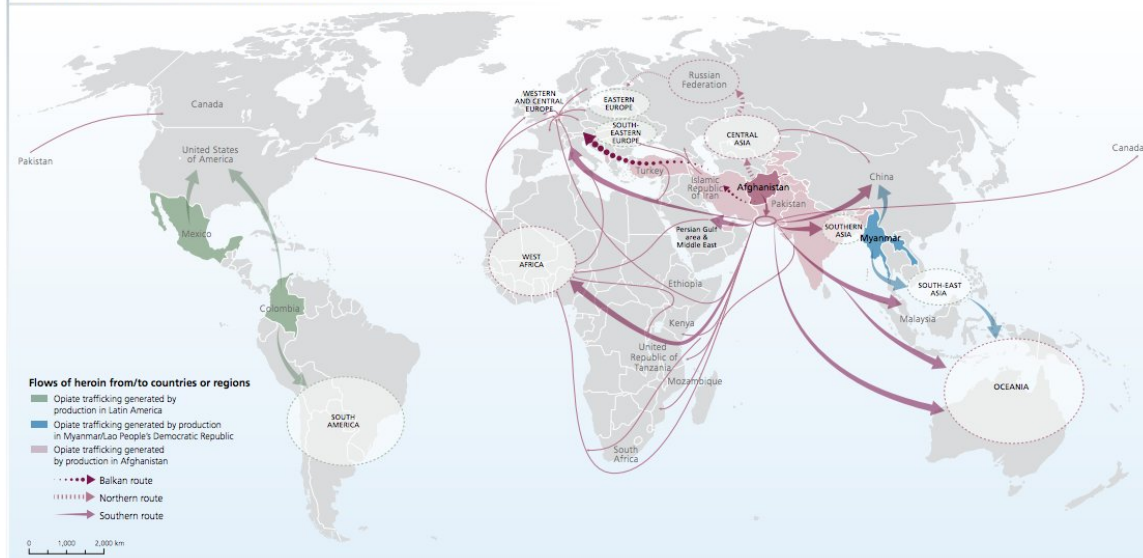
<sup>12</sup> Ibid

<sup>13</sup> Ibid

<sup>14</sup> Ibid

<sup>15</sup> Ibid

## Main global trafficking flows of opiates



A lack of development is the most contributing factor for the proliferation of illegal trade in narcotics and psychotropic substances.<sup>16</sup> The growing regions of Afghanistan and the Andes are large communities with little infrastructure, substandard investment, and lack of economic opportunities.<sup>17</sup> The poverty that results due to the lack of development promotes corruption in these regions.<sup>18</sup> This corruption allows organized crime organizations to control the cultivation and trade of narcotics and psychotropic substances.<sup>19</sup> In the West African region, the trafficking of cocaine and heroin remains a serious problem.<sup>20</sup> This corruption has led to the weakening of State borders, allowing international crime organizations, especially drug cartels, to infiltrate weakened States and establish connections and deals with local rebel and militia groups.<sup>21</sup>

According to the World Drug Report 2016, 27.4 million people used drugs in the past year.<sup>22</sup> While statistics show that men are three times more likely to use narcotics than women, women tend to suffer the social consequences of drug use faster than men, and often times have more difficulty quitting, as well as being more prone to restarting after quitting.<sup>23</sup> Furthermore, there is a correlation of the involvement of women and girls in drug use and trade, which stems from those who lack education, economic opportunities and are often victims of abuse.<sup>24</sup> Predominantly women, especially those from ethnic

<sup>16</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Studies/100\\_Years\\_of\\_Drug\\_Control.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Studies/100_Years_of_Drug_Control.pdf)

<sup>17</sup> Ibid

<sup>18</sup> Ibid

<sup>19</sup> Ibid

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2014/March/drug-consumption-and-trafficking-in-west-africa-local-impact-international-implications.html>

<sup>21</sup> [http://spice.fsi.stanford.edu/docs/social\\_conflict\\_and\\_political\\_violence\\_in\\_africa](http://spice.fsi.stanford.edu/docs/social_conflict_and_political_violence_in_africa)

<sup>22</sup> World Drug Report 2016

[http://www.unodc.org/doc/wdr2016/WORLD\\_DRUG\\_REPORT\\_2016\\_web.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/doc/wdr2016/WORLD_DRUG_REPORT_2016_web.pdf)

<sup>23</sup> Ibid

<sup>24</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/documents/ungass2016/Contributions/UN/Gender\\_and\\_Drugs\\_-\\_UN\\_Women\\_Policy\\_Brief.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/ungass2016/Contributions/UN/Gender_and_Drugs_-_UN_Women_Policy_Brief.pdf)

minorities, are used as drug mules.<sup>25</sup> These women are usually forced to swallow or insert narcotics into their body and transport them across international borders. They are often deceived about the amount of narcotics they will be transporting, how they will transport them and their final destination.<sup>26</sup> Additionally, drug mules are often forced to transport substantially more narcotics than “professional traffickers” which lead to more severe legal consequences.<sup>27</sup> In West Africa women and children live in fear of kidnapping and coercion that lead to forced prostitution and drug smuggling. Due to large amounts of cocaine and other drugs that are being smuggled through West Africa are in transit to Europe, organized crime groups use it as an opportunity to also traffic women and children into sex slavery in these countries. The trafficked women are then used as drug mules and later prostitutes in Europe.<sup>28</sup> In South America, women are presented with limited job options and often find they participate in drug trafficking, typically as drug mules, or small-scale dealers. Overwhelming, these women are trying to overcome a financial crisis and support their families as best they can.<sup>29</sup>

In January 2016, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) went into effect to expand upon the efforts made by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The two main goals that are the biggest interest to the CND are Goal 3 and 5, which promote healthy living for all and equal rights for women.<sup>30</sup> While initiative and progress has been made towards a gender perspective in regards to drug trafficking and TOC, there is still opportunity for improvement, and it is imperative that the global community works to eradicate drug trafficking.

### Questions to Consider

Please consider the following questions as you begin research into this topic:

- What policy does your State currently in place to prevent drug trafficking within its borders?
- What is your State currently doing to protect women and girls who are forced into drug trafficking?
- Does your State provide any social, economic or rehabilitation programs to assist women and girls who were involved in drug trafficking?
- How can the CND contribute to a better coordination of current efforts to address drug trafficking?

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<sup>25</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/documents/ungass2016/Contributions/UN/Gender\\_and\\_Drugs\\_-\\_UN\\_Women\\_Policy\\_Brief.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/ungass2016/Contributions/UN/Gender_and_Drugs_-_UN_Women_Policy_Brief.pdf)

<sup>26</sup> Ibid

<sup>27</sup> Ibid

<sup>28</sup> [http://demografi.bps.go.id/phpfiletree/bahan/kumpulan\\_tugas\\_mobilitas\\_pak\\_chotib/Kelompok\\_7/Human\\_Trafficking\\_a\\_global\\_perspektif\\_\(Shelley\).pdf](http://demografi.bps.go.id/phpfiletree/bahan/kumpulan_tugas_mobilitas_pak_chotib/Kelompok_7/Human_Trafficking_a_global_perspektif_(Shelley).pdf)

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.oas.org/en/cim/docs/WomenDrugsAmericas-EN.pdf>

<sup>30</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/sustainabledevelopmentgoals>

## **Topic 2: Drug trafficking and its Role in Fueling Conflicts in the Middle East.**

The production, trafficking, and consumption of illicit drugs can often be the result of conflict, but it can also cause conflict.<sup>31</sup> Unsurprisingly, the “majority of illicit drug crops are cultivated in countries characterized by civil wars, conflict, instability, and violence.”<sup>32</sup> This instability makes it easy for terrorist and criminal groups to produce and traffic narcotic drugs. This in turn can lead to the financing of conflict, and extend the conflict, as the struggle for control over the profit from the drug trade often turns violent.<sup>33</sup> The UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) is the main international treaty that addresses transnational organized crime (TOC) and defines organized crime groups as entities involving individuals that commit offenses for financial or material benefit.<sup>34</sup> The world wide illicit drug trades yearly profit is estimated to be around \$400-\$500 billion dollars, which equates the average international trade in textiles, oil and gas, or world tourism.<sup>35</sup>

Due to the number of conflicts, post-conflicts and fragile States in the Middle East, there has been an increase in illicit trafficking of narcotics as well as trafficking in persons, arms and money.<sup>36</sup> As a component of TOC, drug trafficking is a serious issue of contention in the Middle East. Currently, Afghanistan is the largest producer of opiates in the world, producing over 100,000 hectares in 2015.<sup>37</sup> The neighboring States of Afghanistan tend to have the highest amount of opiate prevalence globally as traffickers distribute opiates to Middle Eastern States on their way to Europe through the Balkan Route. The Balkan Route starts in Afghanistan and travels through Iran, Pakistan and Turkey.<sup>38</sup> The UNODC helped facilitate initiatives such as the Triangular Initiative that fostered a series of trust building mechanisms with Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan to combat the illicit trafficking of narcotics into between States.<sup>39</sup> Additionally, the Paris Pact Initiative was established in 2003 to combat the illicit trafficking in opiates originating in Afghanistan. Established as a “platform for consensus building, the Paris Pact functions as an essential bridge between political commitment at the highest international levels and the prioritization of technical assistance interventions on the ground”<sup>40</sup>.

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<sup>31</sup> GTZ, Drugs and Conflict, [http://www.drugpolicy.org/docUploads/DrugsConflict\\_08092003.pdf](http://www.drugpolicy.org/docUploads/DrugsConflict_08092003.pdf)

<sup>32</sup> Ibid

<sup>33</sup> Ibid

<sup>34</sup> UN General Assembly, United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (A/RES/55/255)

<sup>35</sup> [http://www.drugpolicy.org/docUploads/DrugsConflict\\_08092003.pdf](http://www.drugpolicy.org/docUploads/DrugsConflict_08092003.pdf)

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/drug-trafficking/middle-east-and-north-africa.html>

<sup>37</sup> <http://ir.library.louisville.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1024&context=honors>

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/drug-trafficking/middle-east-and-north-africa.html>

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.unodc.org/islamicrepublicofiran/en/triangular-initiative.html>

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/drug-trafficking/paris-pact-initiative.html>

The Syrian conflict has had devastating effects for the individuals who live there. Over 6 million people have fled the State and over 12 million have been displaced.<sup>41</sup> Additionally, the conflict has shifted the trafficking routes and the groups that control the drug trade which has increased the trafficking of the drug “captagon”.<sup>42</sup> The amphetamine has consumed the Middle East and produced millions of dollars that has most likely been used to purchase weapons to continue the conflict.<sup>43</sup>

Drug trade and trafficking is an important topic within the United Nations, and Member States have, when discussing the issue, expressed their concern regarding the growth of drug regimes, and the negative impact that related crime and violence has on the stability of developing countries in Middle East.<sup>44</sup> Although opiate production is highly localized in certain parts of the world, the problem is a global problem that requires a coordinated response from the entire international community. The effects of the global traffic in opiates are far reaching, and have devastating consequences for the areas affected by illicit drugs. The efforts that the international community has carried out for the last century to curb trade and consumption have been effective in reducing the number of addicts, but there is still much to do.<sup>45</sup>

### **Questions to Consider:**

Please consider the following questions as you begin research into this topic:

- What is your State’s policy in regards to transnational drug trafficking?
- Should State provide assistance for alternative methods for crop production in areas like Afghanistan?
- What kind of campaigns would be effective to discourage drug producers and traffickers?
- Should there be more economic incentives along with educational campaigns to discourage consumers and producers?
- Does your State believe that there needs to be a stronger military presence along borders to prevent trafficking?

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<sup>41</sup> <http://globalinitiative.net/event-nexus-of-conflict-and-drug-trafficking-in-syria/>

<sup>42</sup> Captagon is a drug compound fenethylamine hydrochloride belonging to the amphetamine family, which stimulates the central nervous system producing a feeling of strength and fearlessness.

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/shortcuts/2014/jan/13/captagon-amphetamine-syria-war-middle-east>

<sup>44</sup> <http://www.un.org/press/en/2009/sgsm12662.doc.htm>

<sup>45</sup> Ibid