



### President's Letter

Dear Delegates,

It is with tremendous excitement that we write to welcome you to the 2016 ECMUN Conference, and to the United Nations Development Program Committee. Whether you are a seasoned debater, or just starting out, we want you to learn, grow, and above all, enjoy yourself. All of the ECMUN team, but particularly your chairs, are happy to help with any questions, concerns or ideas. Your chairs this year are Alejandra Traslosheros and Isabella Aguirre. Please allow us to introduce ourselves.

My name is Isabella Aguirre and I am a first year environmental studies and international double major. I was born and raised in New York, USA. I have been an avid activist most of my life, working for New York Public Interest Research Group, and attending the Fourth Estate Summit at UCLA. I began my involvement in Model United Nations in eighth grade. My various works in activism have given me direct experiences in international affairs, particularly doing mock sessions in the UN building in New York.

My name is Alejandra Traslosheros and I am a junior, majoring in Peace and Global Studies, and Public Policy. At Earlham, I am actively involved with the Countering Violent Extremism Project, which is designing a social media campaign to counter violent extremism within the United States. I am part of the Latino Student Society's Steering Committee and have been involved with ECMUN for two years. Alejandra has represented South Korea and South Africa in the Security Council; she represented Pakistan in the Economic and Social Council at LEIMUN, and she chaired the UNDP Committee in ECMUN 2016.

No matter your background - whether you are a beginner or a veteran - we hope to make this a fun, challenging experience for you. Through this experience, you will gain insight into the inner workings of an international institution and the minds of international political actors. Be prepared to debate issues and brainstorm solutions with regards to the world's largest black market trade network, issues of criminal justice, and other world affairs.

In a nutshell, the UNODC is entrusted with generating the know-how and the policies to tackle various forms of crime. As your chairs, we encourage you to think outside the box, and consider all of the issues at stake. We look forward to going on this journey with you.

Kind regards,

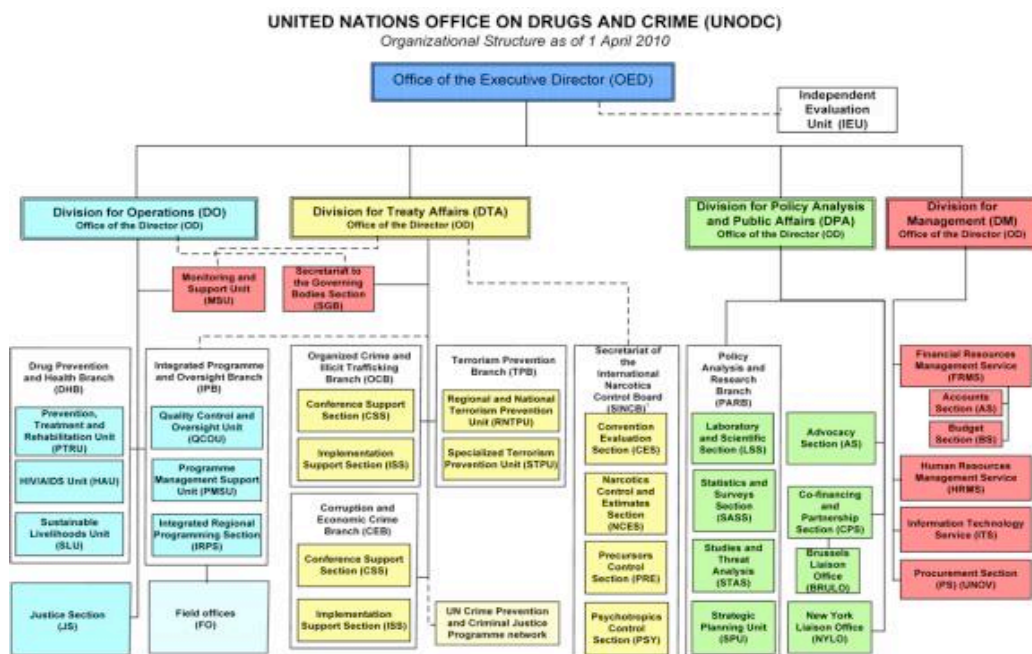
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### Committee Background

The executive director of the UNODC is appointed by the UN Secretary General; the UNODC therefore responds directly to the needs of the General Assembly. The first iteration of the UNODC was established in 1997, and was called Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention. This organization combined the United Nations International Drug Control Program (UNDCP) and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division (CPCJD) in the United Nations Office in Vienna. Though the agency's name might suggest otherwise, UNODC has a varied, complex charge. The UNODC has been entrusted with tackling the areas of Alternative Development, Corruption, Criminal Justice, Prison Reform and Crime Prevention, Drug Prevention, -Treatment and Care, HIV and AIDS, Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling, Money Laundering, Organized Crime, Piracy, and Terrorism Prevention. As is the case with the entire corpus of the United Nations, 90 percent of its budget comes from voluntary contributions. The members of the UNODC are selected by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and are distributed by region. The UNODC has three main pillars, in terms of its day-to-day operations and aspirations:

- Field-based technical cooperation projects to enhance the capacity of Member States to counteract illicit drugs, crime and terrorism
- Enhance the capacity of Member States to counteract illicit drugs, crime and terrorism through field-based, technical cooperation
- Increase knowledge and understanding of drugs and crime issues, expanding the evidence base for policy and operational decisions
- Assist States in the ratification and implementation of international treaties, domestic legislation
- Provide substantive services and normative work to treaty-based governing bodies



## Topic I: Drug Legalization

### Overview:

Throughout the second half of the 20th Century, various countries began to tackle the issue of drug consumption and the illicit sale of drugs. Today, illicit drug networks have reached every corner of the planet, turning the “War on Drugs” into an international, multifaceted struggle. Drug trade networks spread to the farthest reaches of the globe; Afghani poppy production, for example, peaked in 2014; the poppy seeds are then turned into heroin and trafficked into the Global North. Though the term “War on Drugs” was coined in the United States and for the United States, the term has been applied to a range of drug-related conflicts across the world.

In the 1960s, US President Richard Nixon began what has been since called the “War on Drugs.” The “War on Drugs” has been a set of domestic and foreign policy measures. Domestically, the United States has passed legislation to outlaw and criminalize drug consumption. Internationally, the United States has carried out a number of operations to curb the production and distribution of drugs. The United States, however, has begun to shift its position, with continued attempts at de-criminalizing drug consumption at the federal and state levels.

In the 1970s, the Colombian FARC - Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia - began to fund their activities through the sale of narcotics. The movement, originally intended to assist rural communities neglected by their government, became a criminal guerilla. In the 1990s, cocaine sales led to an explosive growth in the FARC’s activities, leading to tremendous violence. In 2008, Mexican President Felipe Calderon declared war on the country’s cartels; his military strategy, though well-received by the public, led to an enormous outbreak of violence.

The “War on Drugs” has been a continuous struggle over the decades that has led to a nearly incalculable amount violence and crime. The control of drug production and trade has been largely ineffective. There has been a continuous discussion on decriminalizing drugs and the benefits of doing so. These benefits would include control of the market and ability to tax. Portugal has been extremely progressive basically decriminalizing all drugs in 2005. While Netherlands is the one of the most liberal in terms of narcotics legalization, the United States and other Western nations have begun to work towards reforming policies on recreational and medical drug use, with substances such a marijuana seeing new legislation that enables its use medically and recreationally in many countries.

### Historical Background:

Drug consumption has had a long, violent history. One of the first prohibitions enacted was on tobacco in the 15<sup>th</sup> century in German states and a few other contemporary areas. These

were followed by regulations on alcohol use in England in the 16th century, which was accompanied by Opium use on a large scale. The early 17th century was the start of the use of cannabis and morphine; opium use culminated in an international conflict between China and the growing British Empire. During the same time cocaine is created is first created in its pure form. Widespread drug criminalization peaked in the 18th century, a paradigm that has remained today and been globalized.

After the creation of the UN, our organization became involved creating several resolutions regarding this issue. The most significant were: the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotics Drugs, 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substance and the 1988 Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. The underpinning idea was that the smaller the market, the less harm it could provoke. The goal was to create a drug-free world. This has been accompanied by a constant effort to criminalize drugs through domestic legislation.

In spite of all of this legislation, drug use and drug-related violence has continued to increase on national and international scales. The failure of the “War on Drugs” has been felt by many. At the heart of the matter is the lucrative crime market. The UNODC has declared that one of the outcomes of the “War on Drugs” has been to give criminal organizations more centralized control of the market, and thus recommends and pursuing alternative approaches.

Latin American leaders, many of whom run countries at the heart of the “War on Drugs” conflict, have been instrumental players in the debate of crimination vs regulation, especially in the 2012 Summit of the Americas. There is a resounding agreement among many that the “War on Drugs” has failed in its goal to reduce drug trade, accompanying a shift within the medical community and more progressive social circles that drugs primarily represent a health problem and that their use and abuse should not be actions subjected to incarceration or criminal penalties, but rather regulation and/or treatment.

### **Current Situation:**

The rate of drug-related deaths is higher for alcohol and tobacco consumption, at 2.5 million and 6 million respectively. Nations such as Portugal and the Netherlands have taken large strides in approaching drug use and trade as issues of public health rather than criminality. Over the past 15 years Portugal has recorded a steady decline in the drug overdoses, representing the lowest rate of any EU member, with just 3 overdoses reported per million deaths. However, even with decriminalization helping addicts receive the treatment they need and causal drug users avoid serious infractions for recreational use, the drug trade itself has shown no signs of slowing and continues to cause a variety of social, political and economic issues for the countries in which narcotics production and transport is popular. While no conclusive evidence has shown that decriminalization has definitively had positive or negative side effects as a whole, the moral parameters of drug use cause sharp division on the issue. The discrepancy between “hard” and “soft” drugs also leaves room for debate as does the

manufacture and transportation of narcotics, considering that even if the drugs themselves are legal or decriminalized, their production and sale might not. In order to solve this issue as a whole, countries must come together to grapple with a shared history of drug consumption and tackle the disparate legal frameworks governing each country's consumption to

**Questions to consider:**

1. What economic benefits would come from the legalization of drugs?
2. How would the legalization of drugs affect the use of drugs?
3. What challenges arise from having some countries legalize drugs when others maintain criminal penalties for drug consumption?
4. Should we take cultural and ethical considerations regarding drug use when crafting international treaties to regulate drug use?

**Bibliography and Recommended Resources:**

UNODC: World Drug Report 2016  
<http://www.unodc.org/wdr2016/>

UNODC: Drug Prevention and Treatment [www.unodc.org/unodc/en/drug-prevention-and-treatment/index.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/drug-prevention-and-treatment/index.html)

Law Enforcement Against Prohibition  
[www.leap.cc/about/why-legalize-drugs](http://www.leap.cc/about/why-legalize-drugs)

Marijuana Legalization and Regulation [www.drugpolicy.org/marijuana-legalization-and-regulation](http://www.drugpolicy.org/marijuana-legalization-and-regulation)

A Brief History of the Drug War  
<http://www.drugpolicy.org/new-solutions-drug-policy/brief-history-drug-war>

Illicit Drugs and International Security: Towards UNGASS  
[https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/files/chathamhouse/home/chatham/public\\_html/sites/default/files/0214Drugs\\_BP2.pdf](https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/files/chathamhouse/home/chatham/public_html/sites/default/files/0214Drugs_BP2.pdf)

The War on Drugs: Wasting billions and undermining economies, Steve Rolles  
<http://www.countthecosts.org/sites/default/files/Economics-briefing.pdf>

History of drug use:  
<http://inpu.wordpress.com/timeline-of-events-in-the-history-of-drugs/>

## Topic II: Challenges of Criminal Justice Reform

### Overview

The United Nations has continued to make enormous strides with regards to transnational cooperation in the area of criminal justice reform. The 70th General Assembly passed resolutions with regards to the following key issues, all of which fall under the purview of the UNODC: the relationship between crime and development (A/RES/70/180), as well as strengthening the capacity of nation states to cooperate across borders, (A/RES/70/178). In addition to complying with the operative clauses of General Assembly resolutions, the UNODC holds a Congress on Crime Prevention every five years.

In the last Congress on Crime Prevention, on April 2015, the UNODC passed the Doha Declaration, in which signatories “[reaffirmed their] commitment and strong political will in support of effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems and the institutions comprising them, and encourage the effective participation and inclusion of all sectors of society.” Human Rights Watch has argued that this kind of commitment is critical, as their assessment of prison conditions concludes: “Shielded from public view, and populated largely by the poor, uneducated, and politically powerless, prisons tend to remain hidden sites of human rights abuse.”

Of the ten million people in prison, over three million people have never had a trial. Amnesty International, in an effort to modify these conditions, has called for the following set of conditions: no secret detentions; no torture or other forms of ill-treatment; rapid and regular access to lawyers, doctors and relative; effective legal process so that people can challenge their detention and treatment; independent judges; adequate detention conditions. Including an end to prolonged solitary confinement; prompt and independent investigations when someone dies in detention; independent Monitoring bodies make regular visits to detention places; fair trials within a reasonable time or release; all prisoners of conscience released without conditions.

### Historical Background

The UNODC has a deep-rooted history, dating back to 1872, when the International Prison Commission was created to make prison reform recommendations. Several decades later, it joined the League of Nations and continued to hold crime control conferences every five years. After World War II, and the dissolution of the League of Nations, what is now the UNODC joined the United Nations. Throughout its history, the UNODC has continually held a Congress to evaluate global progress on criminal justice.

Below are some of the achievements of the last fifty years of the Congress’ history.

- The First Congress: Adopted the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.
- The Second Congress recommended special police services for juvenile justice.

- The Fourth Congress called for improving crime prevention planning for economic and social development.
- The Fifth Congress approved the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
- The Sixth Congress recognized that crime prevention must be based on the social, cultural, political and economic circumstances of countries.
- The Eighth Congress recommended action against organized crime and terrorism
- The Ninth Congress focused on international cooperation and practical technical assistance for strengthening the rule of law
- The Tenth Congress adopted the Vienna Declaration committing Member States to strengthen international cooperation in the fight against transnational crime and criminal justice reform.

### **Current Situation**

Though the UNODC has shifted its focus away from domestic criminal justice issues, there is still a plethora of material out there that relates specifically to the human rights of the imprisoned, as well as to its social dimensions. We encourage Member States to consider the ways in which they can draw upon the UNODC's various declarations to evaluate the situations of their prisons from a domestic standpoint. Not all countries face the same challenges, but it is critical to note that the UNODC is entrusted with providing all countries with expertise and with developing resolutions that suit as many needs as possible.

Here are a few examples to illustrate the extraordinary range of issues at stake: policing, access to justice, custodial and non-custodial measures - which includes a range of other issues, like the quality of life under imprisonment. Most countries tend to face all challenges to a degree, including those with the world's largest economies. The United States currently has the largest prison population in the world: it only has 4% of the world's total population, but over 25% of the entire global prison population. By contrast, Brazil has issues with prison overcrowding and ill-treatment. Contrast these two cases to countries in Europe, where prisons have been continuously closing. However, during the Paris terrorist attacks, the police began to carry out indiscriminate ethnic profiling and unlawful house arrest.

The challenge you face as a delegate in the UNODC is to understand the circumstances of your country, and understand the connections between your country and others' to create an effective resolution.

### **Questions to Consider**

1. How do the differences in the core structure of countries criminal justice systems affect the ability for countries to adopt the same or similar policies?

2. How can some countries like the Netherlands have to close prison's because of a lack of prisoners while the United State's and Brazil have an ever increasing number with issues housing all the inmates?
3. How can changes be made to the criminal justice system to further encourage humane treatment without directly contracting long standing traditions and cultures that rely on more inhumane methods?
4. How can the enforcers of the criminal justice system be help more accountable or more tightly regulated/observed without breaching a right to privacy or adding another level of bureaucracy?

### **Bibliography and Recommended Resources:**

#### **Criminal Justice Assessment Toolkit**

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/justice-and-prison-reform/Criminal-Justice-Toolkit.html>

#### **History of the UNODC**

[http://www.un.org/en/conf/crimecongress2010/pdf/55years\\_ebook.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/conf/crimecongress2010/pdf/55years_ebook.pdf)

#### **Amnesty International: Detention**

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/detention/>

#### **Human Rights Watch**

<https://www.hrw.org/>



## Topic III: Integrity and Accountability of Police

### Overview

Though police officers subscribe to high professional standards, without continued monitoring and assistance, their practices may be tainted and stop being a force for good. Different countries conceive of policing differently - some exist to protect individual liberties, and others are deployed to implement the law. Some police agencies are highly independent and others depend on a central state agency. To keep all police officers competent and professional, the UNODC recommends relying on methods of accountability. The aim of establishing universal accountability measures is to reduce particular sets of practices, ranging from torture to corruption, which occur globally.

The UNODC's toolkit defines accountability as requiring or expecting the justification of actions and decisions, but also bearing responsibility for one's actions. The UN also has definitions for a range of practices that, in the worst of cases, lead to dire human rights violations, such as torture and corruption. Human Rights Watch has also identified a range of practices that constitute human rights violations and ought to be prevented, such as ethnic profiling, which is particularly prevalent in Western countries.

The UNODC proposes the enhancement between, and within countries, in the following areas:

- Monitoring, supervision and oversight mechanisms for police conduct and performance;
- Development of manuals of guidance and operating procedures, as well as management processes in terms of monitoring and testing integrity;
- Independent and community mechanisms for monitoring police conduct (including, where lacking, an Anti-Corruption Agency or Commission)
- Training standards and materials (especially in key areas such as ethics, diversity and respect for human rights)
- Enhancement of the treatment of police station visitors, victims and witnesses
- Equipment and processes for proper handling of evidence and exhibits;
- Robust financial management and audit mechanisms.

### Historical Background

Though the United Nations has not produced any General Assembly Resolutions on police-related issues, the UN generates a series of recommendations. Panels tend to condemn, and have condemned, police brutality, vis-a-vis the use of state-sanctioned violence against civilians. Ethnic or racial profiling, however, and similar forms of discrimination violate a range of treaties, including the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Five Articles in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights discuss

the human rights in the judicial context; Article 9 guarantees the freedom from arbitrary exile.

Our task as the UNODC is to ensure we create resolutions that strengthen our ability to enforce human rights, and maintain competent police forces, within and among countries.

### **Current Situation**

Police brutality, especially targeting minorities, is a problem across the globe. Police are deployed against minorities, against human rights protesters and by authoritarian regimes the world over. A cursory look at the annual reports of a number of prominent Human Rights Institutions, in addition to the United Nations - be it Human Rights Watch or Amnesty International - reveals that the problem is as expansive as the planet: from Ferguson, Missouri, which sparked a US-based protest against racial profiling, all the way to Nigeria, and culminating in Hong Kong, police officers are often responsible for committing human rights violations as often as they ensure safety and peace in local communities.

### **Questions to Consider**

1. What other factors beyond race and gender affect the judgment of police officers in the context of their duties that may create bias of unjust assumption towards citizens?
2. While body cameras are hailed by many as a brilliant solution to police brutality and accountability what standard does this set for public servants? Who deserves to have their lives/jobs monitored at any given time?
3. As with any regulatory agency, the threat of corruption doesn't dissipate simply because of the nature of the organization. If regulatory bodies are created to monitor police action how can such bodies avoid the threat of corruption or power abuse?
4. How does the threat of violence from police in the developed world compare to that of the developing world?
5. What is your countries track record for police violence and accountability for the last 15 years? Last 30? 100?

### **Integrity and Accountability of Police**

[https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/cjat\\_eng/2\\_Integrity\\_and\\_Accountability\\_Police.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/cjat_eng/2_Integrity_and_Accountability_Police.pdf)

### **Body-Worn Cameras Can Promote Police Accountability**

<https://bigdata.fairness.io/police-cameras/>

### **RAND Corporation Study on Policing Tactics**

[http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/technical\\_reports/2012/RAND\\_TR1153.pdf](http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/technical_reports/2012/RAND_TR1153.pdf)

ECMUN 2017  
UN Office on Drugs and Crime

**Handbook on Police Accountability, Oversight and Integrity**

[https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/crimeprevention/PoliceAccountability Oversight and Integrity 10-57991 Ebook.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/crimeprevention/PoliceAccountability%20Oversight%20and%20Integrity%2010-57991%20Ebook.pdf)