

United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Combating the issue of drug trafficking and organised crime



Forum United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Issue: Combating the issue of drug trafficking and organised crime

Author: Varun Sachar

Position: MUNISH Executive Team

Introduction

Organized crime and drug trafficking put public health, economic stability, and global security at risk. The illegal drug trade has a negative impact on state institutions and the rule of law by creating social unrest, corruption, and violence. According to the UNODC, the global drug trade generates hundreds of billions of dollars making it one of the main income sources for organized crime. To tackle these complex issues, we need strong legal systems, teamwork between countries, and a deep understanding of how organized crime and drug trafficking connect. To viably combat organized crime and drug trafficking, a few key changes and approaches are basic. Monetary straightforwardness laws are pivotal to avoid money laundering, which powers these illegal exercises. Governments ought to implement more grounded directions that track suspicious money related exchanges, particularly in keeping money and genuine domain. Universal intelligence-sharing must be improved, with nations planning more closely to track criminal systems over borders. This collaboration can be supported through territorial and worldwide organizations, such as extending the part of the Joined together Countries Office on Drugs and Wrongdoing (UNODC). This means that besides enforcing laws, countries worldwide must deal with the social and economic factors that help these problems grow. In expansion to lawful authorization, tending to the root causes of organized crime is basic. Destitution, need of instruction, and political instability make conditions where criminal organizations flourish. In Latin America, drug cartels offer money related openings where legitimate alternatives are rare, filling the void cleared out by frail state teach. Essentially, in Afghanistan, opium generation gives a vocation in zones where the economy has collapsed due to strife and instability.



Definition of Key Terms

Drug Trafficking: The illegal production, distribution, and sale of drugs, often involving the smuggling of narcotics across international borders. Drug trafficking is a key component of the global illegal drug trade and is frequently associated with organized crime.

Organized Crime: A category of transnational, national, or local groupings of highly centralized enterprises run by criminals who intend to engage in illegal activity, most commonly for profit. Organized crime groups often engage in a range of criminal activities, including drug trafficking, human trafficking, money laundering, and arms smuggling.

Money Laundering: The process of making large amounts of money generated by a criminal activity, such as drug trafficking, appear to be earned legitimately. Money laundering typically involves three steps: placement, layering, and integration.

Transnational Organized Crime: Organized crime coordinated across national borders, often involving networks or groups that engage in illegal activities in multiple countries. Transnational organized crime includes drug trafficking, human trafficking, smuggling of migrants, illicit trade in firearms, and more.

Narco-Terrorism: The use of drug trafficking profits to fund terrorist activities, or the cooperation between drug traffickers and terrorist organizations. Narco-terrorism highlights the intersection between organized crime and terrorism, posing additional challenges to global security.



General Overview

Drug trafficking and organized crime are linked issues that have changed over time, with their effects reaching far beyond the direct impact of illegal drug sales. The drug trade plays a big role in fueling organized crime giving criminal groups the money to grow their operations and control areas. This control often brings serious problems, as violence and corruption spread through communities affected by drug trafficking. Crime syndicates have branched out, getting involved in all sorts of illegal businesses, from selling people to harming the environment. These groups take advantage of weak spots in worldwide money systems using clever tricks to clean their dirty cash and mix it into regular business dealings. The growth of international trade, new tech, and easier travel across borders have made it simpler for these gangs to work, which makes it harder for the police to stop what they're doing. Criminals are progressively utilizing rising innovations to encourage their exercises, taking advantage of instruments like cryptocurrency for washing cash due to its namelessness and decentralized nature. The dark web has ended up a commercial center for unlawful merchandise, counting drugs, weapons, and human trafficking, permitting offenders to conduct commerce out of reach from conventional law authorization. Scrambled communication stages encourage complicated endeavors to track criminal systems, empowering organized crime groups to arrange and work without discovery.

History of Drug Trafficking

The History of Sedate Trafficking

The history of sedate trafficking could be a long and complicated story that goes back hundreds of a long time. Individuals have exchanged and utilized drugs since antiquated times, but the worldwide medicate trade as we know it nowadays started to require shape within the late 1800s and early 1900s.



Early Exchange and the Opium Wars

Indeed in antiquated civilizations, individuals utilized substances like opium, cannabis, and other drugs for pharmaceutical and delight. Opium, made from the poppy plant, was particularly prevalent and exchanged over the Mediterranean and the Center East. Be that as it may, the large-scale sedate exchange truly started with the Opium Wars within the 19th century. The British Realm was offering a part of opium to China in trade for Chinese tea. This driven to broad enslavement in China, and when the Chinese government attempted to halt the exchange, it brought about in two wars (1839-1842 and 1856-1860). China misplaced these wars and was forced to permit the opium exchange to proceed.

The Opium Wars had a significant impact on both universal drug approach and China's part within the worldwide sedate trade. Following China's overcome within the wars, the Settlement of Nanking (1842) and the Arrangement of Tientsin (1858) forced cruel terms, constraining China to open a few ports to remote exchange and legalizing the opium exchange, which driven to broad compulsion and social destabilization. The British Empire's part in implementing this exchange set a dangerous point of reference for utilizing medicate commerce as a instrument for financial and political dominance. Over time, this misuse fueled hatred toward Western powers and contributed to China's thrust for sway and inner change within the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The Opium Wars too laid the foundation for present day universal drug control endeavors. The destroying affect of the opium exchange inevitably driven to worldwide endeavors to regulate narcotics, starting with the Universal Opium Tradition of 1912, which checked the primary worldwide understanding pointed at controlling drug trafficking. China's encounter as a casualty of constrained medicate trade made it a solid advocate for worldwide sedate control in afterward decades, driving the nation to require a central part in forming universal narcotics laws through organizations like the Alliance of Countries and afterward the Joined together Countries. These occasions altogether affected worldwide states of mind toward drug trafficking and habit, forming the establishments of contemporary drug arrangements.



The Rise of Medicate Cartels

Within the early 20th century, nations started to come together to control and direct drugs, beginning with the Universal Opium Tradition in 1912. In spite of these endeavors, unlawful drug trade continued to develop, particularly within the Americas. Amid Denial within the Joined together States (1920-1933), when liquor was prohibited, organized wrongdoing bunches made a lot of cash by smuggling liquor. After Forbiddance finished, a few of these bunches turned to sneaking drugs like heroin and cocaine.

The Cold War period (mid-20th century) moreover played a huge part within the medicate exchange. Southeast Asia, particularly the region known as the Brilliant Triangle (where Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar meet), got to be a major producer of opium. At the same time, powerful medicate cartels begun to make in Latin America, especially in Colombia and Mexico. These cartels, just like the Medellín and Cali cartels in Colombia and the Sinaloa and Juárez cartels in Mexico, got to be scandalous for creating and carrying cocaine, heroin, and marijuana.

The War on Drugs:

The War on Drugs, started by the U.S. within the 1970s, had far-reaching impacts not as it were locally but too all through Latin America. As the U.S. expanded weight on sedate trafficking, Latin American countries got to be battlegrounds within the exertion to control the generation and travel of opiates like cocaine, pot, and heroin. This driven to broad viciousness, as effective sedate cartels in countries like Colombia, Mexico, and Peru battled to preserve control over profitable sedate courses. For illustration, the rise of cartels such as Pablo Escobar's Medellín Cartel in Colombia unleashed a wave of deaths, bombings, and kidnappings that destabilized the nation for decades.

The War on Drugs moreover fueled debasement, with cartels invading political frameworks, law requirement, and the legal, making it troublesome for governments to mount an successful reaction. In Mexico, for occasion, drug-related savagery surged as criminal organizations extended their impact, coming about in tens of thousands of passings and vanishings. The militarization of anti-drug operations, frequently upheld by U.S. financing and military help, driven to human rights mishandle, encourage disintegrating open believe in teach.



Politically, the War on Drugs contributed to flimsiness as governments battled to adjust authorization with financial improvement and open security. In a few cases, military mediations and harsh law requirement strategies compounded the circumstance by uprooting criminal organizations or constraining them to advance into more savage and decentralized systems. This delayed cycle of savagery, corruption, and insecurity has proceeded to torment numerous Latin American countries, making long-term socio-economic results such as destitution and mass movement, with few signs of determination.

Historical Regulation and International Treaties

Within the early 20th century, cannabis was broadly accessible and utilized for restorative purposes in numerous parts of the world. In any case, demeanors toward the plant rapidly changed. Within the 1920s and 1930s, numerous nations started to prohibit cannabis, motivated by social and social reasons than by logical prove. The Joined together States was a major drive behind this move, especially with the Marihuana Assess Act of 1937, which made cannabis viably illicit at the government level.

Universally, a arrangement of treaties set the worldwide denial of cannabis. The primary major assention was the 1925 Universal Opium Tradition, which was the primary worldwide settlement to control cannabis. This tradition included cannabis extricates and arrangements on its list of controlled substances. At that point, in 1961, the Single Tradition on Opiate Drugs was presented, making the system for cutting edge worldwide sedate control. Beneath this arrangement, cannabis was classified as both a Plan I and IV medicate, which implied that it was subject to the strictest directions with respect to its development, dispersion, and utilize. The 1971 Tradition on Psychotropic Substances, in spite of the fact that primarily centered on engineered drugs, strengthened the universal confinements on cannabis. At last, the 1988 Joined together Countries Tradition Against Unlawful Activity in Opiate Drugs and Psychotropic Substances assist fortified worldwide endeavors to combat medicate trafficking, counting the exchange of cannabis.



The Joined together Countries has been intensely included in shaping global cannabis approaches. A few UN bodies are committed to tending to the laws and controls encompassing cannabis. These incorporate the Commission on Opiate Drugs (CND), the Joined together Countries Office on Drugs and Wrongdoing (UNODC), the World Wellbeing Organization (WHO), and the Universal Opiates Control Board (INCB). These organizations work together to suggest which substances ought to be globally controlled, actualize the UN's medicate control programs, and guarantee that nations comply with worldwide settlements.

The UN Medicate Control Settlements, especially the 1961 Single Tradition on Opiate Drugs (as revised by the 1972 Convention), classified cannabis as a Plan I and IV substance, subjecting it to exceptionally strict controls. In any case, in December 2020, the CND chosen to rename cannabis by evacuating it from Plan IV of the 1961 Tradition, recognizing its potential restorative benefits This choice reflects a broader worldwide drift toward drug policy change, with numerous nations reassessing the strict prohibitionist position on cannabis and considering decriminalization or legalization for restorative and recreational utilize. Countries such as Canada, Uruguay, and a few U.S. states have legalized cannabis for individual use, signaling a move in universal demeanors toward more health-centered and harm-reduction approaches to sedate arrangement. In any case, in spite of these changes, cannabis remains firmly directed beneath Plan I, with the Joined together Countries keeping up that non-medical use ought to still be denied all inclusive. . In spite of this, cannabis remains classified as a Plan I substance, and the Joined together Countries proceed that non-medical use of cannabis ought to stay disallowed.

By and large, the wrangle about over cannabis legalization is impacted by numerous components, counting concerns around cannabis reliance, mental and physical wellbeing, and the social and social demeanors of distinctive nations. These variables proceed to shape the assorted viewpoints on whether cannabis ought to be legalized, especially for therapeutic purposes.



Major Parties Involved

United States of America:

The U.S. plays a noteworthy part in worldwide endeavors to combat medicate trafficking and organized wrongdoing. Through activities such as the War on Drugs, the U.S. has centered on both supply and request lessening, as well as worldwide participation. U.S. organizations just like the Medicate Authorization Organization (DEA) work closely with partners in other nations to destroy medicate trafficking systems.

Mexico:

As a major travel nation for drugs predetermined for the U.S. and other markets, Mexico is at the cutting edge of the fight against medicate trafficking and organized crime. Mexican cartels are among the foremost capable and savage organized wrongdoing bunches within the world. The Mexican government has been locked in in an continuous strife with these cartels, coming about in critical savagery and social disturbance.

Colombia:

Colombia is one of the world's biggest makers of cocaine, and its government has been locked in in a decades-long battle against medicate trafficking and the organized wrongdoing bunches that benefit from it. Endeavors to combat medicate generation and trafficking have included ethereal fumigation of coca crops, elective advancement programs, and peace transactions with outfitted bunches included within the medicate exchange.

Afghanistan:

Afghanistan may be a major maker of opium, which is utilized to deliver heroin. The sedate exchange in Afghanistan is closely connected to the financing of agitators bunches, counting the Taliban, making it a critical issue for both national and worldwide security. Endeavors to combat sedate



generation and trafficking in Afghanistan are complicated by progressing struggle and political insecurity.

European Union:

The EU is both a major showcase for unlawful drugs and a key player in universal endeavors to combat sedate trafficking and organized crime. The EU works through offices such as Europol and Eurojust to improve participation between part states and with non-EU nations in combating transnational organized wrongdoing.

Joined together Countries Office on Drugs and Wrongdoing (UNODC):

The UNODC is the driving universal body capable for tending to issues related to medicate trafficking and organized wrongdoing. It gives specialized help, bolsters capacity-building endeavors, and advances universal participation in combating these issues. The UNODC moreover screens worldwide medicate patterns and gives arrangement direction to part states.

Timeline of Key Events

February 19, 1925:

The Universal Opium Tradition was held, checking the primary universal settlement to direct cannabis. This tradition included cannabis extracts and arrangements within the list of controlled substances, starting worldwide endeavors to control the plant.

October 1, 1937:

The Joined together States sanctioned the Marihuana Assess Act, successfully making cannabis illicit at the government level. This enactment was largely affected by social and social components instead of logical prove.



March 30, 1961:

The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs was embraced. This noteworthy worldwide arrangement classified cannabis as a Schedule I and IV substance, forcing strict directions on its development, dissemination, and utilize. It set up the present day system for worldwide substance control.

February 21, 1971:

The Convention on Psychotropic Substances was presented, advance fortifying worldwide control over cannabis. In spite of the fact that it fundamentally centered on engineered drugs, this settlement fixed confinements on the exchange and utilize of cannabis.

December 20, 1988:

The United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances was marked. This arrangement presented stricter measures to combat medicine trafficking, counting the exchange of cannabis, by improving universal participation and authorization.

December 2, 2020:

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) renamed cannabis by evacuating it from Schedule IV of the 1961 Single Convention. This choice recognized the potential therapeutic benefits of cannabis, in spite of the fact that it remains classified as a Schedule I substance, with its non-medical utilize still denied beneath worldwide law.



UN involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

- **Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961:** A foundational treaty in international drug control, establishing the framework for the regulation of narcotic drugs.
- **Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971:** Expands international drug control to include psychotropic substances.
- **United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988:** Strengthens international measures against drug trafficking and related crimes.
- **United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention), 2000:** Provides a comprehensive legal framework for combating organized crime, including drug trafficking.
- **UNGASS 2016 (A/RES/S-30/1):** Outlines a comprehensive approach to the world drug problem, emphasizing the need for a balanced strategy that includes prevention, treatment, and enforcement.
- **UNODC Global Programme Against Money Laundering:** A program that assists member states in implementing measures to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

Endeavors to combat sedate trafficking and organized wrongdoing have truly centered on law requirement and supply-side measures, such as edit destruction, interdiction, and the destroying of trafficking systems. In any case, these approaches have regularly been met with constrained victory, as they don't address the root causes of the medicate exchange and organized wrongdoing.

For illustration, the War on Drugs, propelled by the United States within the 1970s, pointed to decrease medicate utilize and trafficking through strict law authorization and unforgiving punishments. Whereas this approach driven to expanded captures and the disturbance of a few medicate trafficking systems, it moreover come about in mass imprisonment, especially of minority communities, and did small to decrease the accessibility of drugs or the control of organized wrongdoing bunches.



In later a long time, there has been a move towards more adjusted techniques that incorporate request lessening, hurt lessening, and the advancement of elective jobs in drug-producing districts. Programs pointed at request diminishment center on instruction, treatment, and recovery to lower medicate utilize, whereas harm reduction activities, such as needle trade programs and secure utilization locales, point to play down the wellbeing dangers related with medicate utilize. Furthermore, in drug-producing regions, endeavors to advance elective financial openings, such as edit substitution programs, are planned to diminish reliance on unlawful medicate development, advertising feasible improvement pathways for neighborhood communities. Nations like Portugal have decriminalized medicate utilize and centered on treatment and hurt diminishment, driving to noteworthy decreases in drug-related hurt and imprisonment rates. In the mean time, endeavors in Colombia have combined military activity against medicate traffickers with programs to advance elective crops and improvement in country ranges.

At the worldwide level, the UNODC has advanced a comprehensive approach that incorporates fortifying lawful systems, upgrading worldwide participation, and tending to the socio-economic components that contribute to sedate trafficking and organized wrongdoing. The UNODC's endeavors have been supported by a run of universal arrangements and resolutions, counting the Palermo Tradition and the 2016 UNGASS result record.

In spite of these endeavors, the worldwide drug trade and organized wrongdoing stay inescapable and versatile, highlighting the require for proceeded development and collaboration in tending to these challenges.



Bibliography

Works Cited

“Drug Trafficking and Organised Crime.” *UNOWA*, 14 Sept. 2016,

unowa.unmissions.org/drug-trafficking-and-organised-crime.

EUROPOL. “Drug Trafficking.” *Europol*, 2022,

www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas/drug-trafficking.

Interpol. “Drug Trafficking.” *Interpol.int*, 2017, www.interpol.int/en/Crimes/Drug-trafficking.

National Crime Agency. “Drug Trafficking - National Crime Agency.”

Nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk, National Crime Agency, 23 Dec. 2019,

www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/what-we-do/crime-threats/drug-trafficking.

Pingen, Anna. “New Roadmap to Fight Drug Trafficking and Organised Crime.” *Eucrim.eu*, 9

Jan. 2024,

eucrim.eu/news/new-roadmap-to-fight-drug-trafficking-and-organised-crime/.

“Press Corner.” *European Commission - European Commission*,

ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_4981.

“The Role of the Internet in Drug Trafficking and Drug Use Is Highlighted in the International Narcotics Control Board Annual Report.” *Www.incb.org*,

www.incb.org/incb/en/news/press-releases/2024/the-role-of-the-internet-in-drug-traffi



[cking-and-drug-use-is-highlighted-in-the-international-narcotics-control-board-annual-report.html](#).

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. “Drug Trafficking.” *Unodc.org*, 2011, www.unodc.org/unodc/en/drug-trafficking/index.html.

United States Sentencing Commission. “Drug Trafficking.” *United States Sentencing Commission*, 14 Mar. 2016, www.ussc.gov/research/quick-facts/drug-trafficking.

Wikipedia Contributors. “Illegal Drug Trade.” *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 12 Dec. 2018, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illegal_drug_trade.

Zaken, Ministerie van Algemene. “International Approach to Combat Organised Crime.” *Www.government.nl*, www.government.nl/topics/crime-that-undermines-society/international-approach-to-combat-organised-crime.

