



United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Topic: Organized Drug Trafficking

Position Paper Policy

Position papers are an integral part of attending a Model United Nations conference. A successful paper communicates your country's perspective on a given issue, as well as more general information about the topic as a whole. For beginner committees, the process of researching for and writing your position paper will likely give you all the information you need about your country and the committee, alongside your background guide. For intermediate committees, more research is not required but recommended. **Submitting a position paper will increase your chance of winning and award.**

Formatting

All papers should:

- Not exceed 1 page
- Be in 12 point Times New Roman, single spaced
- Clearly indicate country name, delegate name, and committee name at the top of the page
- Be written in APA or MLA format with in-text citations and a works cited or references list (not included within the 1 page limit)

Structure

While there is no strictly defined structure for position papers, the following structure is a good starting place:

Paragraph 1: Current Situation

- Discuss the current situation with regards to your topic globally.
- Consider how the issue at hand manifests itself within your country. Is your country handling the issue well or is it struggling? Does your country's government consider this issue is to be pressing for the international community or does it view it as inconsequential?

Paragraph 2: Past Actions

- Discuss any actions taken by your country or the international community with regards to the topic.
- Examine the successes and failures of these solutions. Remember that your goal is to represent your country's views, not your own, so avoid criticizing your country's government.

Paragraph 3: Future Plans

- Introduce any solutions proposed by your country's government. If you can't find any specific plans from your country, try and figure out what they could realistically propose at the UN. The contents of this paragraph will take up a large portion of your discussions in committee, so be thorough.

Submission

Please submit documents in PDF or Word format, with the document title being Country Name, Delegate Name. All position papers must be sent to critter@qms.bc.ca by **April 15th, 2023**.

Director's Note

Dear Esteemed Delegates,

My name is Cadan Ritter, and I will be your director for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime at QueenMun 2023. Since joining Model UN in 7th grade, I have had numerous opportunities to delve into the fascinating world of diplomacy and international politics. By directing this committee, I hope to give this opportunity to others as well. QueenMun being a conference geared toward beginner delegates, this may be your first experience with public speaking. Though you do not have to speak during the conference, I highly encourage you to do so, as it builds confidence and gets progressively easier each time you do. Making that first speech is a huge step in building your repertoire of skills in Model UN, and I hope to see many on the day of the conference. Whatever country you represent, I assure you that each one has something unique to bring the discussion, and picking one you are not familiar with can often turn out to be the most valuable. Whether you represent a powerhouse on the world stage, or a struggling country, every nation has their say in Model UN. I will work to the best of my abilities alongside my chair, Clara, to make the opening conference of QueenMun a valuable and memorable experience.

Sincerely,

Cadan Ritter

Director

BACKGROUND GUIDE



**United Nations Office on
Drugs and Crime**

Topic Overview

Organized drug trafficking continues to terrorize much of the world, despite countless efforts to counteract the issue. Fueling widespread addiction, money laundering, corruption, and many other crimes, organized drug trafficking ravages an innumerable amount of communities across the globe. Capitalizing on the increase of worldwide interconnectedness, crime syndicates have been rapidly shifting away from other unstable forms of crime, and transitioning into drug trafficking which is often easier and more profitable. Much progress has been made to begin combatting this problem, however the magnitude of the illegal drug trade has been increasing too rapidly in recent times to effectively control. The distribution of illicit substances happens everywhere, and tackling the root of the issue (organized crime groups, illegal production, and trade routes) is the most important matter to consider. The UNODC is tasked with finding innovative, long-lasting solutions to both this specific issue, and any related ones that are a result of organized drug trafficking.

Current Situation

As international borders become increasingly open, global abuse and accessibility to drugs have become increasingly widespread. This international trade involves growers, producers, couriers, suppliers, and dealers (Interpol). It affects almost all countries, undermining political and economic stability, ruining the lives of individuals and damaging communities (Interpol). There has been much progress in battling organized drug trafficking in the past decades through various methods, however the statistics are still less than encouraging. With a yearly estimate of 600 billion dollars being generated from organized drug trafficking in the United States alone, it is easy to see how this crime can infiltrate any nation (Interpol). Countries who are unable to properly rid themselves of organized drug trafficking are subject to corruption, violence, gang activity, and many more dangerous activities. From Africa to Central Asia, to the Caribbean, there is nowhere drug trafficking fails to reach.

A prime example of a nation plagued with organized drug trafficking is the South American state of Venezuela. The lack of political stability and peace despite having access to one of the world's largest oil reserves is attributed to many factors in Venezuela (Dihel). One of the largest issues are the drug cartels, that have widespread influence and militaristic capabilities (Dihel). The strategic location of Venezuela for organized drug trafficking has caused the issue to grow out of control for the government, and kickstarted addiction as well as violence in the area (Dihel). With corruption and severe mismanagement of resources also heavily affecting the nation, organized drug trafficking continues spread in Venezuela.

Transnational crime (particularly drug trafficking) is difficult to tackle, as it requires both affected parties to cooperate to find a solution that they both agree on. International cooperation is an integral part of solving any world issue but is especially crucial when talking about organized drug trafficking. Creating effective, long-lasting solutions to a problem as broad as organized drug trafficking is a challenging task, but international cooperation makes the task much easier.

Possible Solutions

Solutions should be well rounded with as many problems taken into account as possible. No solution is absolutely perfect, so weighing the pros and cons of each proposed solution is a vital part of the process. While this can be difficult to do, some very general solutions are listed below.

Social service

Criminals in these organizations often choose to join because they simply have nowhere else to go. By providing social services and resources to assist individuals with building a better future for themselves, more people can have an alternate option for themselves instead of organized drug trafficking.

Education

Many people turn to organized crime because they are promised great reward, but are tricked into a dangerous life that they cannot escape. By educating the populous on why organized crime is a horrible lifestyle, recruitment of the youth will lessen.

Alleviation of Poverty

Poverty drives people to desperation, which often forces them to a life of crime. By alleviating poverty, individuals are far less likely to participate in criminal activity such as organized drug trafficking as a source of income.

Militaristic intervention

Sometimes, problems cannot be solved without force. Organized criminal groups are often extremely powerful, and require the attention of a country's military to properly eradicate. Though this option is the most direct, it should be used as a last resort due to the expenses and destruction that would inevitably be left.

Guiding Questions

1. To what extent is your country affected by organized drug trafficking? Is it a newfound issue, or something that has been around for decades?
 - a. Is the source of the activity internal or external? Why?
2. Does your country have measures against organized drug trafficking?
 - a. How well do they work?
 - b. When were they implemented?
3. Has your country cooperated internationally to combat organized drug trafficking?
 - a. If yes, how effective was the cooperation?
 - b. If not, have there been failed attempts in the past?
4. Is your country heavily affected by the following:
 - a. Black markets?
 - b. Cartels?
 - c. Addiction?
 - d. Poverty?
5. Are there plans to implement further measures against organized drug trafficking?
 - a. Why or why not?

Works Cited

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