

Welcome

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



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INDEX

Distinguished delegates,	2
About the Committee	3
Delegations List	4
Topic A: Transnational organized crime: global strategies to reduce fentanyl trafficking and the rise of synthetic drugs.	
Introduction	5
Background	5.1
Current Situation	6
Questions to Consider	7
References	8
Topic B: Cybercrime and digital criminal networks: combating cryptocurrency-based money laundering and online illicit markets.	9
Introduction	9.1
Background	9.2
Current Situation	10
Questions to Consider	11
References	12

“No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.”

Eleanor Roosevelt

Distinguished delegates,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime committee. We are honored to have you as part of the 12th edition of cenmun. Your interest, effort, and dedication are very important for the work we will do together.

During this model, you will represent your delegation, but you will also speak for people who do not have a voice. Each delegate has the responsibility to learn about global problems related to refugees, human rights, and international cooperation. These topics affect millions of people around the world and require serious attention.

This Model of United Nations is a space where your ideas, words, and teamwork can create positive change and create these, a better place to live. Through debate and cooperation, you will improve your critical thinking skills, learn about global issues, and develop empathy for others.

From this moment until the end of the model, we encourage you to think carefully and creatively about the topics of this committee. Listen with respect to different opinions, work together with other delegates, and look for new and realistic solutions. Remember that dialogue, negotiation, and understanding are your most important tools.

We invite you to take this opportunity with responsibility, enthusiasm, and commitment to a better world. The world needs young leaders like you. We are confident that your participation in this model will be excellent and meaningful.

Sincerely,

Roberto García Polo

President of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

About the Committee

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) which was established in 1997 and comprises more than 500 staff members worldwide. Its headquarters are in Vienna, Austria, and it has 21 field offices in various countries, as well as liaison offices in New York and Brussels.

UNODC was established in Mexico in 2003 with a regional scope that included Central America and the Caribbean. In 2012, the relationship with the host country was restructured to establish a UNODC Liaison and Strategic Partnership Office in Mexico.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), is a specialized agency of the United Nations dedicated to eradicate transnational crime, drug abuse, and corruption. Its work focuses on strengthening judicial systems, supporting the development of effective public policies, and promoting international cooperation. In addition, it addresses crime prevention, provides technical assistance, and actively promotes respect for human rights. UNODC is crucial in advancing global security and sustainable development.

UNODC provides technical assistance, research, and data analysis to help countries design informed and sustainable strategies. Additionally, UNODC promotes international cooperation by encouraging dialogue and joint action among nations.

A fundamental part of UNODC's work is the protection and promotion of human rights. The office ensures that all policies and actions respect human dignity and international legal standards. Through its programs, UNODC contributes directly to global security, social stability, and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

As a committee in this Model United Nations, UNODC offers delegates the opportunity to analyze complex global challenges, negotiate solutions, and understand the importance of cooperation in addressing crime and insecurity at an international level.

Delegations List

Australia

Belgium

Bolivia

Canada

China

Colombia

France

Germany

India

Italy

Japan

Mexico

Netherlands

Niger

Peru

Philippines

Russia

South Africa

South Korea

Spain

Thailand

Ukraine

United Arab Emirates

United Kingdom

United States

Topic A: Transnational organized crime: global strategies to reduce fentanyl trafficking and the rise of synthetic drugs.

Introduction

Transnational organized crime is a global complex problem that affects public health, security, and social stability. One of the most dangerous trends within this issue is the rapid spread of synthetic drugs, especially fentanyl. Due to its high potency and low production cost, fentanyl has become a major concern for governments and international organizations around the world.

The illegal production and trafficking of fentanyl have caused a significant increase in drug related deaths and have strengthened criminal networks operating across borders. This topic because of its complexity requires international cooperation, strong institutions, and balanced strategies that combine law enforcement, public health, and human rights approaches.

Background

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that was originally developed for medical purposes, mainly to treat severe pain. From a legal point of view, it is used under strict medical control by professionals. However, illegal fentanyl and its analogues have increasingly entered the global drug market, often mixed with other substances without the user's knowledge.

Unlike traditional drugs derived from plants, synthetic drugs can be produced quickly in laboratories and do not depend on climate or green areas. This makes them attractive to organized criminal groups. The production process often involves chemical precursors that are legally manufactured in some countries and then diverted for illegal use.

Over time, transnational organized crime groups have adapted their methods. They now use advanced technology and online platforms to coordinate production, transportation, and distribution.

International frameworks such as the United Nations drug control conventions and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime were created to challenge these problems.

Current Situation

Nowadays, fentanyl trafficking represents a global and important crisis with severe consequences for public health and security. Many countries are experiencing a rise in deaths linked to synthetic causes. In many cases, users are unaware that fentanyl is present in the drugs they consume, which highly increases the risk of fatal overdoses.

Criminal organizations involved in fentanyl trafficking are connected to other forms of transnational crime, such as money laundering, arms trafficking, and corruption. These activities increase violence, and undermine the rule of law, especially in vulnerable regions.

Governments face major challenges in controlling chemical precursors, monitoring borders, and regulating online platforms used for drug sales. While some countries have strengthened law enforcement and international cooperation, gaps remain due to differences in legal systems, resources, and technical capacity.

At the same time, there is growing recognition that enforcement alone is not enough. Many states and international organizations are promoting prevention, treatment, and reduction strategies as an emergency alert. These efforts try to reduce the market, protect human rights, and provide support to individuals and communities affected by drugs in an uncontrolled manner.

The current situation shows us the urgent need for coordinated global strategies that combat both the supply and demand of fentanyl.

Questions to Consider

- How does transnational organized crime related to fentanyl trafficking affect public health and security?
- What is the role of your delegation in the global fentanyl supply chain, such as production, transit, or consumption?
- What national laws or policies does your delegation have to prevent drug trafficking and control synthetic drugs?
- How can international cooperation be strengthened to better control chemical precursors used in the production of fentanyl?
- What measures can governments take to prevent criminal organizations from using online platforms and postal services for drug trafficking online?
- How can law enforcement efforts be balanced with public health approaches to reduce drug overdose deaths?
- What should the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) do in supporting countries affected by fentanyl trafficking?
- How can countries with limited resources be supported in strengthening their judicial and law enforcement systems?
- What strategies can be implemented to reduce demand for synthetic drugs, especially among young and vulnerable populations?
- How can all actions against fentanyl trafficking ensure respect for human rights and international law?

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Topic B: Cybercrime and digital criminal networks: combating cryptocurrency-based money laundering and online illicit markets

Introduction

Nowadays, with the advance of technology, cybercrime and digital criminal networks have become a growing global threat in the digital age. The advances in technology have created new opportunities for communication, organization and financial transactions or management, but they have also create an opportunity for criminal groups to operate more efficiently and anonymously, having as a consequence cryptocurrency based money laundering, one of the most serious challenges in this technological area.

Cryptocurrencies allow fast and uncontrolled financial transactions, which can be difficult to trace when misused. Criminal organizations increasingly use these digital methods to hide illegal profits obtained from illegal activities such as drug trafficking, cyber fraud and human trafficking. At the same time, online illicit markets operating on, for example, the dark web facilitate the sale of illegal goods and services on a global scale, passing unnoticed for many people, specially for those who are not friendly with technology.

Background

Cybercrime has been adapting to the rapid expansion of digital technologies and global internet access. Criminal networks have adapted quickly to the digital environment, using online tools to commit crimes that cross national borders. These crimes mainly include online fraud, identity theft, ransomware attacks, illegal trade, and money laundering.

Cryptocurrencies were created as digital assets that allow transactions without the need for traditional banks. While they offer to the users some benefits such as speed, low transaction costs, and financial inclusion, they also present more risks when used for illegal purposes. Some cryptocurrencies provide a high level of anonymity, which makes it difficult for authorities to identify users and trace financial flows despite the general public.

Money laundering through cryptocurrencies methods involves hiding the origin of illegally obtained funds by moving them through digital wallets, exchanges, and mixing services

passing by a simulated real process. Criminals often convert illegal profits into cryptocurrencies and that's how they transfer them easily across borders, and later exchange them back into legal currency avoiding legal problems.

Online illicit markets are an important and complex theme when referring to digital criminal networks. Those platforms allow users to buy and sell illegal goods and services. Cryptocurrencies are the main method of payment on these markets due to their perceived anonymity and ease of use, despite different international safety rules criminals always find a way to continue selling illegal objects making everyday a more complex and huge problem.

Current Situation

Currently, cryptocurrencies are widely used by criminal networks to move and hide illegal profits. These funds often come from crimes, criminals use digital wallets, unregulated exchanges, and internet services to conceal the origin and destination of funds.

Online illicit markets continue to grow on a global percentage. These markets allow the sale of illegal goods and services, including drugs, stolen personal data, counterfeit products, malware, and more illegal things. Payments are usually made in cryptocurrencies, which reduces direct contact between buyers and sellers and limits traditional forms of surveillance.

Governments and international organizations have created different strategies and proposals to reduce and prevent these actions. Many countries are strengthening money laundering regulations, requiring cryptocurrency exchanges to follow customer identification and strict rules and report suspicious transactions.

Despite these actions, there are too many challenges remaining. Differences in national regulations, limited technical expertise, and the rapid evolution of technology allow criminals networks to adapt quickly and avoid the security systems. In addition, some countries lack the legal frameworks or resources needed to investigate in detail cybercrime and digital financial crimes.

Questions to Consider

- How does cybercrime and money laundering affect the security and economy of your delegation?
- Why cryptocurrencies is important in facilitating money laundering and other transnational crimes?
- What national laws or regulations does your delegation have to prevent cryptocurrencies for illegal activities?
- How can governments strengthen cooperation to investigate cybercriminal networks?
- How can illicit markets be disrupted without violating privacy rights?
- How can technical assistance help to improve cybercrime investigation?
- What resolutions should the delegations create in promoting global standards and cooperation against cybercrime?
- How can all measures against cybercrime ensure respect for human rights and data protection?

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