



**GlobalMUNers Conference
in New York City
#GMNYC2024**

Background Guide

Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)



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Letter of the Committee Dais

Honorable Delegates,

It is with profound honor that we, the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) at the GlobalMuners Conference in New York (GMNYC) 2024, officially welcome you to this esteemed simulation.

Marking a historic first for GMNYC, the CND promises to be a captivating arena for you, the brightest minds of this conference, to showcase your prowess in the world of Model United Nations (MUN). Led by President Ivan Paiewonsky, Vice-President Sofia Cardona, and Rapporteur Paola Daboin, our Chair boasts a combined experience of over 25 MUNs, recognized with prestigious awards such as Best Delegation at NY SUNLAC 2021 and Harvard Model United Nations 2023.

As the preparation journey begins for you, know that the hallmarks of diplomacy, international relations, and skillful debate will shape your path. We hold the highest expectations for your engagement, convinced that the CND will be enriched by your diverse perspectives and insightful proposals. We stand ready to facilitate productive dialogue, navigate potential conflicts, and ultimately chart a course towards effective solutions.

Prepare yourselves, esteemed delegates, for this is not merely a simulation, but a platform to ignite meaningful discourse and collaborative action on one of the world's most critical challenges. Together, let us rise to the occasion, leveraging our collective intellect and diplomatic acumen to forge a brighter future.

We look forward to an extraordinary session filled with impactful contributions and transformative outcomes.

Sincerely,

The Committee Dais of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at GMNYC2024.

General History and Context of the Committee (CND)

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) is a subsidiary body of the United Nations (UN) that plays a crucial role in addressing global issues related to the control and regulation of narcotic drugs. Established in 1946, the CND operates within the framework of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and serves as the principal policy making body within the field of international drug control.

Throughout its history, it's been instrumental in developing and shaping the international control regime, combating illicit production, trafficking and abuse of narcotic substances. Over the years, the commission has evolved to adapt to emerging threats and changing global dynamics. "Aligned with the three principle international drug conventions, it operates under the guidance of: the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1954, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988." (UNODC, 2022)

The CND functions as a platform for member states to engage in discussions, share information and formulate policies aimed at addressing the multifaceted challenges. It has 53 member states that are elected by the ECOSOC and is chaired by a Bureau including one member per Regional Group. "Through its annual sessions, intersessional meetings and reconvened sessions, as well as informal consultations and special events, the commission reviews the implementation of international conventions and provides guidance on strategies to enhance the effectiveness of global efforts in this regard." (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2022).

Within the broad context of international cooperation, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs collaborates with various entities, including the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) to ensure a comprehensive and balanced approach to drug control. With its 5 subsidiary bodies: the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific and Africa, and the Subcommittee in the Near and Middle East, its work goes beyond law enforcement to encompass public health, human rights, and social development aspects, reflecting the interconnected nature of drug-related issues.

Most recently in 2019 the Commission embraced the Ministerial Declaration on *Strengthening actions at the national, regional and international levels to accelerate the implementation of joint commitments made to jointly address and counter the world drug problem*. Within the declaration member states resolved to assess advancements in 2029, incorporating a mid evaluation scheduled for 2024. The Commission is currently engaged in monitoring the progress of the 2019 Ministerial Declaration to hasten the execution of all commitments outlined.

Among the current objectives, the Commission plays an active role in advancing the objectives of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. In addition, adapting to emerging challenges and promoting a balanced, comprehensive approach are ongoing priorities for the CND in quest to address the complex and evolving issues associated with narcotic drugs.

Topic 1: Inter-agency Cooperation and Coordination of Efforts in Addressing and Countering the World Drug Problem.

A. The scope of the issue

In 1946, the establishment of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) marked a foundational moment in global drug policy. Initially entrusted with overseeing the application of international drug control treaties, the CND's mandate underwent significant expansion over the years. According to the United Nations, the 1991 decision by the General Assembly broadened its responsibilities, tasking the CND with serving as the governing body of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). This dual role encompasses normative functions tied to treaty obligations and operational oversight of UNODC's governance.

Inter-agency cooperation and coordination are essential components in addressing the complex challenges of the world drug problem. Drawing inspiration from successful models like the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Chemical and Industrial Accidents (IACG), the CND seeks to emulate the benefits of strategic partnerships. This approach, characterized by regular meetings and collaborative efforts, aims to enhance effectiveness, avoid duplication, and foster a cohesive global response to the intricate landscape of drug-related issues. According to the World Drug Report 2023 published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), approximately 35 million people worldwide suffer from drug use disorders, underscoring the significant public health challenge posed by substance abuse. This statistic underscores the urgent need for robust inter-agency cooperation and coordination to address addiction, rehabilitation, and access to treatment services on a global scale.

B. Inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts

In addition to its foundational role in global drug policy, CND operates within a framework of strategic inter-agency cooperation and coordination to tackle the world drug problem comprehensively. According to the World Drug Report 2023 by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), an estimated 285 million people, constituting approximately 5.7% of the global population aged 15-64, used drugs at least once in 2023. This alarming statistic highlights the magnitude of the challenge and emphasizes the urgency for effective inter-agency cooperation and coordination to address the complex and widespread nature of drug-related issues.

The CND, composed of 53 member states elected by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), serves as a pivotal forum for reviewing and analyzing the global drug situation. Within this structure, the CND's diverse Bureau, chaired by representatives from each Regional Group, ensures equitable representation, fostering a collaborative approach to decision-making and policy formulation. The CND actively contributes to the work of ECOSOC and the General Assembly, particularly in shaping global drug policies and aligning them with overarching United Nations (UN) objectives. This includes providing in-depth analyses, policy recommendations, and expert insights on the evolving challenges and trends associated with the world drug problem.

By engaging with ECOSOC and the General Assembly, the CND enhances international dialogue and decision-making processes, facilitating the formulation of resolutions, guidelines, and strategies that guide member states in their collective efforts to address drug-related issues.

C. Addressing vs. countering the world drug problem

In navigating the multifaceted landscape of the world drug problem, it is crucial to emphasize a nuanced approach of addressing vulnerabilities rather than solely countering the issue. The global prevalence of drug use, as highlighted in the World Drug Report 2023 by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), necessitates a shift towards strategies that go beyond reactive measures. Addressing the world drug problem requires a comprehensive understanding of the root causes, vulnerabilities, and societal factors that contribute to substance abuse. Inspired by successful models such as the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Chemical and Industrial Accidents (IACG), the CND seeks to replicate the benefits of strategic partnerships and collaborative initiatives. These efforts entail regular meetings, information sharing, and joint initiatives aimed at enhancing the coordination of global drug control efforts. By fostering a culture of cooperation among member states, international organizations, civil society, and other stakeholders, the CND endeavors to optimize resources, minimize duplication of efforts, and promote synergistic action in combating the world drug problem.

The policy framework of the CND finds its anchor in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, a crucial commitment to accelerating the implementation of joint commitments (United Nations, 2014). The Commission's authority extends to decisions on the scope of control for substances under international drug control conventions, emphasizing its central role in shaping global drug policies. The operational cadence of the CND, as elucidated in the document, involves annual sessions, intersessional meetings, and reconvened sessions, complemented by a network of subsidiary bodies disseminating information through various channels.

Mentioned in the note by the Secretariat, the year 2019 marked a significant milestone with the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration, reflecting the CND's commitment to a comprehensive, inclusive, and evidence-based approach. This commitment positions the CND as a key player in shaping and implementing effective drug policies worldwide. The collaborative ethos, emphasized in the note, underscores the Commission's dedication to inter-agency cooperation and coordination. Collaborating with UNODC and various stakeholders, the CND navigates the multifaceted challenges of the world drug problem, recognizing the integrated nature of global efforts. By integrating such collaborative initiatives and strategic partnerships into its operational framework, the CND not only amplifies the impact of its normative functions but also contributes significantly to the practical implementation of international drug control efforts. The emphasis on cooperation, information sharing, and joint initiatives reflects a forward-thinking approach, aligning the Commission with contemporary challenges and ensuring its relevance in an ever-evolving global landscape.

D. Moving Forward: questions for discussion and action

As we navigate the complexities of the global drug problem, collaboration becomes paramount. To guide our collective efforts, here are key questions prompting thoughtful discussions:

1. How can inter-agency collaboration, facilitated by entities such as the UNODC and CND, contribute to the equitable and accessible implementation of drug rehabilitation and prevention programs, effectively addressing the social repercussions of drug-related issues?
2. In light of international initiatives like the UN General Assembly Special Session against Corruption (UNGASS) and Ministerial Declaration, how can nations join their efforts to share pertinent data and expertise, fostering targeted interventions for specific demographic groups affected by the global drug problem?
3. Acknowledging the diverse cultural aspects, how can inter-agency efforts ensure a thoughtful and culturally sensitive approach in the formulation and implementation of strategies to globally combat drug-related issues?
4. How can inter-agency collaboration foster innovation in approaches to drug prevention and control, ensuring that strategies remain adaptable to evolving challenges and trends?
5. Considering that youth are often vulnerable to drug-related issues, how can collaborative efforts specifically target and engage younger demographics in prevention programs, taking into account cultural nuances?
6. Given the global trend toward exploring alternatives to the criminalization of drug use, how can different agencies work together to develop and implement policies that prioritize public health and harm reduction over disciplinary measures?

Topic 2: Promoting alternative development as a development - oriented drug control strategy, taking into account measures to protect the environment.

A. The scope of the issue

The global drug problem presents a complex and multifaceted challenge, impacting millions of lives and posing significant threats to health, security, and development. According to the UNODC World Drug Report 2021, an estimated 296 million people, or 3.2% of the global population, used illicit drugs in 2021, while the illicit drug market generated a staggering \$450 billion in 2020 (UNODC, 2022). While international drug control frameworks like the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961) and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971) exist, the traditional "war on drugs" approach, heavily reliant on law enforcement and eradication, has yielded limited success and faced criticism for unintended consequences, including pushing farmers into further poverty and marginalization (Global Commission on Drug Policy, 2011; Human Rights Watch, 2023).

In response, alternative development initiatives offer a promising, development-oriented solution. As defined by the UN, alternative development is "a process to prevent and eliminate the illicit cultivation of plants through specifically designed rural development measures..." (UNODC, 2014). By addressing the root causes of illicit crop cultivation, namely poverty, limited opportunities, and lack of market access, this approach aims to create sustainable livelihoods and empower communities to choose legal alternatives (World Bank, 2020). Examples include promoting sustainable agriculture, developing alternative livelihoods like eco-tourism, and improving infrastructure and social services (FAO, 2023).

B. Alternative development: empowering communities for sustainable livelihoods

Developing countries and transition economies have high levels of poverty, limited access to markets and land, and dense marginalization. These economies often find themselves struggling to offer their population significant improvement in the quality of life given limitations of all kinds. In this framework of ideas, the concept of alternative development takes its form (UNODC, 2020). The United Nations General Assembly, at its twentieth special session held in 1998, defined alternative development as: *A process to prevent and eliminate the illicit cultivation of plants through specifically designed rural development measures in the context of sustained national growth and sustainable development efforts in countries taking action against drugs; recognizing the particular sociocultural characteristics of the target communities and groups* (UNODC, 2014).

For the development of these commissions, it is pivotal to understand that crop plantations have a positive impact in the communities where they are present. Countries like Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, Thailand, Lebanon, Myanmar, Colombia and Bolivia are often targeted as the countries where the plantations are more proliferate given geographical and weather conditions. These crop plantations generate jobs for locals, bring private investment in infrastructure and represent an overall improvement in the access to opportunities, collaborating with the 2030 agenda goals (UNODC, 2023). Unfortunately, this happens with a product that not only kills, but is the cause of organized crime.

C. Tackling the environmental threat: a multi-pronged approach

Something that is barely spoken about is the environmental impact of drug use and supply. As aforementioned, agricultural fields are needed in mostly warm and humid weather spaces. The exploitation of fields is the main cause for deforestation, which over the years causes the erosion and depletion of the land, severely deteriorating the richness of the floors and the vegetation around it (Molnar, P., & Kay, S., 2023). Another pressing issue that is persistent is the massive energy consumption that some crops utilize in indoors farming. For example, in 2015, the average electricity consumption of a 5,000-square-foot indoor facility in Boulder County was 41,808 kilowatt-hours per month. This eye-opening figure puts things into perspective: imagine powering almost 42,000 average US homes for an hour, keeping a luxurious mansion energized for nearly three weeks, or charging a line of Teslas stretching over 2,400 miles – that's the monthly impact of just one such facility. It's like capturing 20,000% of the Hoover Dam's –a concrete arch-gravity dam in the Black Canyon of the Colorado River, on the border between the U.S. states of Nevada and Arizona– daily output, enough to illuminate hundreds of city apartments or bring a small town to its peak energy demand.

Whether it's powering industrial spaces, warming greenhouses, or running data centers, 41,808 kilowatt-hours per month represents a macro-use, underlining the vast energy demands across different sectors. Other environmental issues such as deforestation, air and water pollution and the loss of biodiversity and wildlife, have tremendous negative impact on the environment and climate change. Specifically, we see that the illicit cultivation of plant-based drugs leads to deforestation and energy use. On the other hand, the synthetic production of drugs leads to water, air and soil pollution as well as sewage systems and wastewaters (NCSL, 2016).

The indoor plantations require heating, ventilation and air conditioning. These actions grow lightning, CO₂ (Carbon Dioxide), Waste, the use of unregulated fertilizers and irrigation. Some of these consequences are also evidenced in the outdoor growth of the crops. To tackle the hidden environmental threat posed by drugs, a multi-pronged approach is crucial. First, we must shine a light on the issue by boosting public awareness and scientific understanding of the ecological damage caused by drug production, trafficking, and use. Alongside this, enhanced monitoring and detection systems are needed to pinpoint both active production sites and illegal waste dumping grounds. Furthermore, the principle of "do no harm" must be embedded in drug policy responses, with the development of international standards to systematically integrate environmental protection into all control measures. (Revue internationale de politique de développement & Geneva Graduate Institute, 2020) Legally binding frameworks are also vital, mandating environmentally responsible disposal of equipment and chemicals used in illicit drug production. An adequate solution to these problems relies on increasing capacity building (including financial resources) to ensure safe handling, disposal, and destruction of such materials, as well as seized drugs. Lastly, actively sharing best practices and knowledge through existing information-sharing channels will be key to optimizing solutions and ensuring widespread adoption of responsible disposal methods. By taking these concrete steps, we can effectively combat the environmental consequences of the drug trade, leaving a healthier planet for all (UNODC, 2014).

D. Moving Forward: Questions for Discussion and Action

It will be the responsibility of the member states of the United Nations to invest the necessary resources to tackle this issue in an environmentally friendly manner that will allow local communities prone to development outside of the drug plantation economy, some questions we believe are necessary to answer to better comprehend the topic

1. What proposals do your delegations have, that can fit in the alternative development label?
2. How much is the illicit drug market affecting your regional ecosystems?
3. How can your delegation build proposals aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and include youth and women for the call of action?
4. What strategies have failed for drug control, why, and how can your delegation reverse its output?
5. What are the short-, medium- and long-term goals of the strategies that your delegation proposes?
6. What role can international cooperation play in supporting alternative development initiatives in your country?
7. How can we ensure that alternative development programs are inclusive and empower local communities, particularly youth and women?

8. What are the biggest challenges you anticipate in implementing alternative development programs in your country?
9. How can we measure the environmental impact of alternative development programs compared to the illicit drug trade?

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