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UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME
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UNODC: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

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Introduction

Director's Welcome Letter

Dear Delegates,

I am honored to welcome you to AUSMUN 2024, where you will play an essential role in shaping global discourse about world issues. This year's conference is set to be a platform for innovation, collaboration, and meaningful dialogue. Here we will explore global issues, analyze the complexities of the same, and propose solutions that satisfy the varying perspectives of countries in the international community.

It is important to remember that you think critically, engage in constructive debate, and seek to achieve common ground with your fellow delegates. At AUSMUN, we encourage you to approach this experience with an open mind and a commitment to finding a solution. This conference is not only a simulation but also an opportunity for you to develop skills that benefit your academic, professional, and personal lives. It is a chance to form connections with individuals who share a similar passion for global issues and diplomacy. I encourage you to make the most of this unique experience and to challenge your limits by thinking beyond the ordinary. Together, we will all contribute to the legacy of excellence that AUSMUN is known for.

I look forward to meeting you all and witnessing the remarkable contributions each of you will make to our conference.

Welcome to AUSMUN 2024, and let us embark on this enriching journey together.

Warm regards,



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF SHARJAH
MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Sarvagya Sharma
Director of Research
AUSMUN 2024

Moderators' Welcome Letter

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to AUSMUN 2024! It is with honor and the greatest pleasure that we welcome you all to the seventeenth annual American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUSMUN) Conference and, specifically, to our committee, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

This background guide serves as the initial step in your conference preparation. As your chairs, we are eager to meet all of you and anticipate making the most of this experience by fostering effective interaction, communication, and cooperation. Throughout this three-day conference, we will delve into two critical topics: "Assessing and Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Existing Measures for Combating Online Terrorist Activity" and "Tackling Narco-Terrorism as a Method of Financing Terrorism." We strongly recommend that you go beyond the background guide and conduct thorough research on both subjects, as well as your assigned countries' positions and capabilities. This will enable you to contribute to fruitful debates during the conference. We are confident that this year's conference will be memorable for all parties involved. Best of luck with your preparations, and we eagerly await your participation in AUSMUN 2024.

We look forward to the upcoming AUSMUN 2024 conference, where we'll explore pressing global issues and solutions. Your active involvement, research, and contributions will be crucial in making this conference a success. We are excited to engage in meaningful discussions and hope to create lasting memories. If you have any queries or doubts, please do not hesitate to contact us at the following email - unodcausmun24@gmail.com. Once again, we wish you the best of luck as you prepare for the conference, and we can't wait to meet you all.

Warm Regards,
Dias of UNODC
AUSMUN 2024



Greetings, esteemed delegates. My name is Ajay Sunil, and it's a privilege to chair the UNODC committee at AUSMUN 2024. I remember the early days of my MUN journey, where I was as eager yet unsure as many of you might feel today. It was during those initial experiences that I understood the transformative power of MUNs – spaces where bright minds converge to deliberate on pressing global issues. This realization was a cornerstone in my path, which

ultimately led me to AUSMUN. Here, in this committee, you will hone your abilities in negotiation, critical analysis, and diplomacy. You'll spar in a spirited arena of intellect and rhetoric, and perhaps, you might find yourself being recognized for your prowess. I eagerly anticipate the insightful discussions ahead and wish each one of you success in this endeavor.



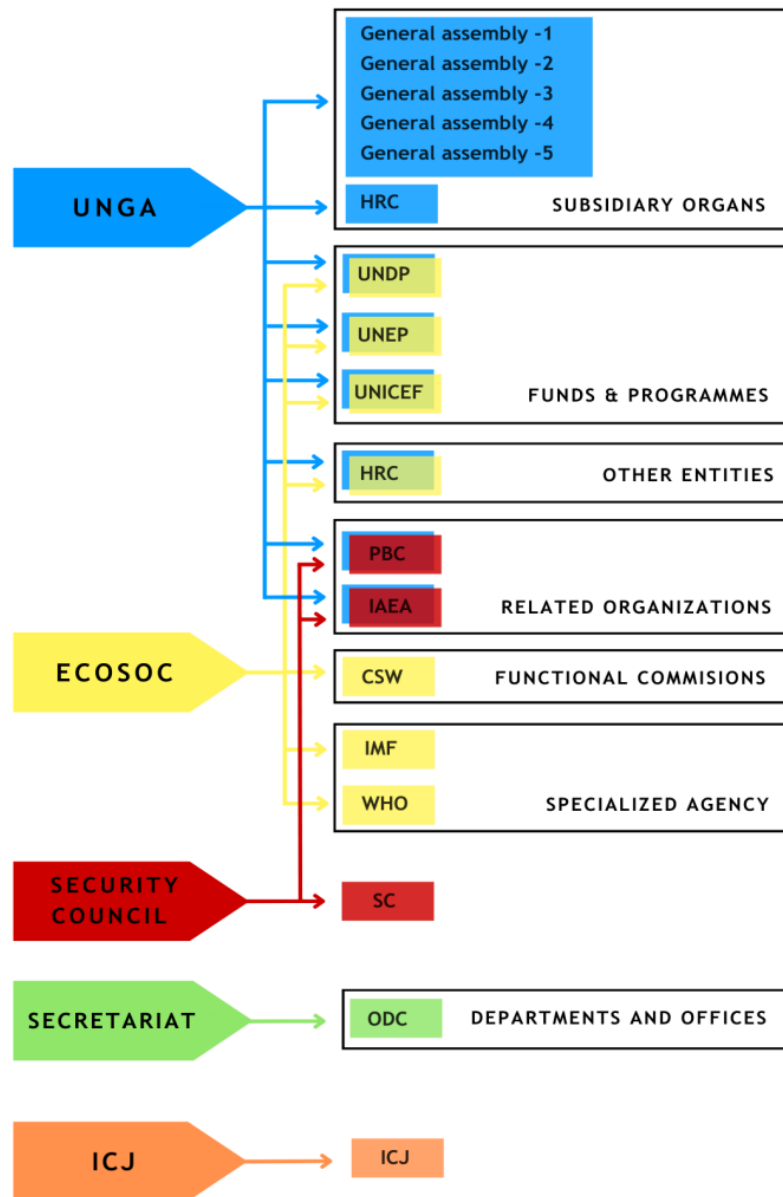
Greetings, distinguished delegates. I am Jovita Cherian and it's an honor to serve as the Chair for the UNODC committee at AUSMUN 2024. Reflecting on my initial MUN experiences, I recall the nerves, excitement, and the unparalleled joy of being part of something greater than myself. These conferences aren't just about debates; they are about growth, understanding, and the collective pursuit of solutions. As we navigate the pressing concerns of drug and crime in our committee, I hope you come prepared not just to debate, but to learn, adapt, and evolve. Engage actively, challenge your perspectives, and relish this unique journey we're about to embark on together. Best of luck to all, and here's to meaningful resolutions and lasting memories.

Brief About the Committee

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is a specialized UN agency focused on combating illicit drugs, transnational crime, corruption, and terrorism. It provides technical assistance, conducts research, and helps member states develop and implement policies and programs to address these global challenges, with the goal of promoting security, justice, and health worldwide.

The UNODC Funding Committee is a pivotal entity within the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and is responsible for strategically managing financial resources critical to UNODC's mission. At the core of its responsibilities lies the allocation and supervision of funds vital for UNODC's multifaceted efforts in addressing global challenges such as illicit drugs, crime prevention, and criminal justice. The funding for the committee comes from two primary sources - the first being voluntary contributions from member states, international organizations, and diverse stakeholders that constitute a substantial portion of its financial foundation, second being the United Nations' regular budget allocation, which forms the fundamental financial underpinning for UNODC's activities. The UNODC Funding Committee serves as a custodian of the organization's financial integrity and ensures that resources are efficiently channeled. The goal is to make a sustainable impact in combating drug-related challenges, transnational crime, corruption, and terrorism. Simultaneously, it advances the goals of crime prevention, criminal justice, and sustainable development. This is all done within the framework of the United Nations.

This diagram visually represents the UN system and corresponds to AUSMUN. It reflects the relationships between committees and clearly demonstrates the committee's position, significance, and powers as defined under the UN charter.



The Function of the Committee

The UNODC was established on December 1, 1990, following the merger of the UN Drug Control Program and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division. It was formed to address global challenges of drug trafficking, crime, and corruption by promoting international cooperation among member states. UNODC provides technical assistance and capacity-building



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support to strengthen legal frameworks, law enforcement, and judicial systems, aiming to combat transnational threats effectively. It operates from its headquarters in Vienna, Austria, and maintains field offices worldwide (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, n.d.).

The voting procedure typically follows the standard practice of UN specialized agencies. Member states participate in decision-making through a one-country, one-vote system, where each member state holds equal weight in the decision-making process. Major decisions often require a two-thirds majority, ensuring a substantial level of consensus among member states on critical matters related to combating illicit drugs, crime, and terrorism.

Topic 1: Assessing and enhancing the effectiveness of the existing measures for combating online terrorist activity

Summary & History

The advent of the internet has ushered in a remarkable era of globalization, offering unprecedented opportunities for global communication, access to information, and the facilitation of various beneficial activities. However, this extensive digital platform has also paved the way for nefarious acts, including online terrorist activity. The challenge of combating this dark facet of the digital world remains a grave concern for international security agencies, governments, and tech companies, and continues to be one of the most challenging drawbacks of what may otherwise seem as a significant technological advancement.

The issue at hand revolves around the exploitation of online platforms by terrorist groups - for example, Boko Haram (a terrorist organization primarily based in Nigeria) uses social media to publicize its activities and ideologies, and have released videos of attacks and abductions, using these as tools for psychological warfare and recruitment. Whether to radicalize individuals, communicate covertly, fundraise, or plan attacks, the internet has become an indispensable tool for such entities. The vastness and anonymity of cyberspace provide them a haven, making the task of tracking and combating their activities exceedingly intricate.

However, the rise of the internet in the 1990s, followed by its widespread adoption in the 2000s, marked a significant turning point, granting terrorist groups an uncharted realm for operations, recruitment, and propagation (Conway, 2006). The emergence of social media platforms in subsequent years further exacerbated this phenomenon, transforming them into a catalyst for extremist ideologies and virulent propaganda. While the world is well-aware of the physical threats posed by terrorism, the increasing prevalence of online terrorism often remains in the shadows, a digital menace that silently fuels and amplifies its real-world counterparts.

Several factors have contributed to the emergence of this online threat. The ease of accessing and disseminating information, the anonymity provided by certain online platforms, and the global reach of the internet are prime factors. For instance, end-to-end encryption, as implemented by popular apps like WhatsApp, ensures that only the intended recipient can decipher the messages sent, making it nearly impossible for outside parties, including law enforcement agencies, to intercept and monitor the content. This level of security, while crucial for safeguarding user privacy, has inadvertently provided extremist organizations with a secure channel to exchange information, coordinate activities, and spread propaganda beyond the reach of traditional surveillance methods (Stalinsky and Sosnow, 2017). This evolution in terrorist strategies necessitates a corresponding shift in counter-terrorism tactics and measures.

These key terms provide a foundation for understanding the sophisticated tools and strategies deployed to counteract these evolving threats. "Cyber-terrorism" refers to acts of terror orchestrated through digital means. It often involves the use of information technology, computer systems, and the internet to plan, execute, or support terrorist activities. These activities may include hacking, distributed denial of service (DDoS) attacks, the dissemination of propaganda or extremist content online, and the manipulation of digital systems for destructive purposes (UNODC, 2020). "Online radicalization," which pertains to the process of individuals adopting extremist ideologies via the internet. It involves the exposure to, and immersion in, extremist content and propaganda disseminated through various online platforms. Individuals susceptible to online radicalization may become radicalized, embracing extremist beliefs, and potentially engaging in violent actions or acts of terrorism. Social media, chat forums, and encrypted messaging apps are often used for the dissemination of extremist ideologies, making online radicalization a global concern for counter-terrorism efforts (DHS, 2013). "Digital counter-terrorism," which involves measures employed to thwart online terrorist activities. These measures encompass efforts by governments, law enforcement agencies, technology companies, and civil society organizations. Strategies may include monitoring online extremist content, dismantling terrorist networks operating on the internet, developing and enforcing cybersecurity protocols, conducting cyber-forensics to track and identify cyber-terrorists, and promoting

counter-narratives to counteract extremist propaganda. Digital counter-terrorism seeks to prevent and respond to threats in the digital realm and protect the security and safety of individuals and institutions (Doğan, 2021).

The global ramifications of online terrorist activities extend beyond individual nations, affecting the international community as a whole. Extremist ideologies spread via the internet know no borders and can influence individuals in any country, leading to a web of radicalized actors with potential global reach. The ability to launch cyber-attacks remotely means that foreign governments and international institutions can be targeted without physical incursion, challenging traditional notions of sovereignty and national security. This presents a new frontier in international relations, where a non-state actor could significantly disrupt the affairs of a state or multiple states, underscoring the need for a cohesive global response and international cooperation. The United Nations members should be particularly concerned as such activities can undermine international peace and security, compromise diplomatic relations, and disrupt global economic stability.

Assessing and enhancing the efficacy of existing measures to combat online terrorist activity is paramount in today's digital age. With the ongoing growth and evolution of the internet, terrorists will also adapt and enhance their measures and strategies. Meeting this challenge requires international collaboration, technological innovation, and a fine balance between security and individual liberties.

Discourse on the Issue

In the digital age, combatting online terrorist activity is a critical global concern due to its potential to incite violence, radicalize individuals, and facilitate terror networks' operations, posing threats to global peace, security, and stability. The internet's accessibility enables terrorists to disseminate propaganda, recruit followers, and plan attacks with alarming ease, demanding a robust international response.

Online terrorist activity constitutes a form of aggression in several significant ways. Firstly, it involves the deliberate use of cyberspace to incite violence, recruit sympathizers, and coordinate attacks across borders. This not only threatens the sovereignty of individual nations but also violates the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states. Additionally, by disseminating extremist ideologies and propaganda online, terrorists aim to subvert governments and undermine the stability of nations, which aligns with the broader understanding of aggression as any action that threatens or disrupts international peace and security. Such activities, explicitly banned by the UN Charter - Chapter 1, Article 2, further highlight the urgent need to address the multifaceted challenges posed by online terrorism in the context of international law and security (United Nations, 1945).

The implications for the possible solutions for this issue are multifaceted. Positive aspects involve improved information-sharing among nations and enhanced cybersecurity measures, bolstering global security. However, negatives include potential infringements on individual privacy and freedom of expression in counterterrorism pursuits. Additionally, it disrupts online commerce, creates a climate of fear affecting tourism and investment, and strains diplomatic relations due to varying approaches in combating online terrorism.

On a societal level, the spread of extremist ideologies can lead to increased polarization, mistrust, and fear. On a national level, it poses security threats, as even a small group or a lone individual radicalized online can execute significant acts of terror. On an economic level, frequent cyber-attacks on governments, infrastructure or businesses can result in substantial financial losses. Moreover, the need to monitor online platforms for such threats raises concerns about surveillance, privacy, and freedom of expression.

Stakeholders significantly impacted by this issue encompass governments, tasked with balancing security measures and civil liberties, and technology companies facing mounting pressure to monitor and remove extremist content. Civil society groups and internet users are affected as well, potentially facing restrictions on freedom of expression. Achieving an effective



response requires coordinated multilateral efforts among member states to strike a balance between security and the protection of human rights in addressing online terrorist activity.

Past International Organization (IO) Actions & Latest Developments

Various IOs and initiatives have been actively involved in assessing and enhancing the effectiveness of measures to combat online terrorist activity. As a leading IO, the UN has proactively addressed this menace. In 2017, the UN adopted Resolution 2354, which emphasized the necessity to counter terrorist narratives online (United Nations, 2017). However, the effectiveness of the resolution has been divisive. Its broad language and non-binding nature limited its enforceability, leading to inconsistent implementation across member states. Recently, the UN's focus on online terrorism has intensified. Initiatives like the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) continuously monitor online activities and collaborate with tech companies to curtail terrorist propaganda (United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism, n.d.). The latest developments include advanced AI-driven tools to swiftly detect and eliminate extremist content. These AI-driven tools work by analyzing vast amounts of online data in real-time, flagging content that violates anti-terrorism guidelines and regulations. Once identified, such content can be promptly removed or reported to the relevant authorities for further action. This approach aims to make the process of identifying and countering online terrorism more efficient and effective, given the sheer volume of content on the internet.

Besides the UN, other IOs have been vigilant as well. The European Union (EU) launched the Internet Referral Unit within Europol to identify and counter terrorist content. They've worked in tandem with major social media platforms, leading to the removal of thousands of extremist posts.

Key countries playing a vital role in this mission include the United States (U.S.), the United Kingdom, France, and Germany. These nations not only provide technological expertise but also foster international collaboration. Their intelligence agencies share critical data, aiding in the proactive detection and elimination of online threats.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) mandate primarily focuses on addressing transnational crime and drug-related issues (UNODC, n.d.). While it does not possess enforcement authority, it can facilitate international cooperation, provide technical assistance, and promote capacity-building among member states in combating online terrorist activity. UNODC assists in the development of policies, best practices, and training programs to enhance the effectiveness of existing measures. It acts as a coordinating body, fostering collaboration between states and relevant agencies to strengthen responses to online terrorism, emphasizing the rule of law, respect for human rights, and adherence to international legal frameworks.

Questions that the Committee and Resolutions Should Address

- How accurate and scalable are advanced AI-driven tools in swiftly detecting and eliminating extremist content online?
- What are the legal and ethical dilemmas surrounding surveillance, privacy, and freedom of expression in the context of countering online terrorism, and how can they be addressed?
- What role do technology companies play in monitoring and removing extremist content online, and how does this impact freedom of speech and platform neutrality?
- How can international collaboration be improved among governments, law enforcement agencies, and technology companies to enhance the effectiveness of measures against online terrorism?
- What are the societal, economic, and political implications of online terrorist activity, and how can responses be tailored to mitigate these consequences while upholding human rights?

Suggestions for Further Research

- Examine past instances where countries have successfully or unsuccessfully countered online terrorist activities.
- Dive into the potential of AI, machine learning, and blockchain in combating online terrorism. How can these technologies be harnessed, and what are their limitations?

- Explore the existing international laws and treaties related to cyber-terrorism. Are there gaps that need to be addressed or new frameworks that need development?
- Understand the psychological processes and factors that lead to online radicalization. What kind of online content is most effective in radicalizing individuals, and how can it be countered?
- Investigate how online terrorism manifests differently across various regions or cultures. Are there specific regional platforms or strategies that need special attention?
- Here are some links for additional research:
 - <https://press.un.org/en/2022/sc15141.doc.htm#:~:text=The%20ability%20of%20terrorist%20groups,State%20actors>
 - <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/cct/programme-projects/cybersecurity#:~:text=Offline%20effects%20of%20online%20activity%3A,violent%20extremism%20C%20held%20in>
 - <https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15245.doc.htm#:~:text=With%20terrorism%20and%20violent%20extremism,as%20enhanced%20cooperation%20among>

Timeline of the Major Events

Early 1990s - Rise of commercial internet usage, with early extremist forums and chat rooms starting to emerge.

2000 - The popularity of social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter begins, providing new channels for extremist propaganda and recruitment.

2001 - September 11 Attacks; subsequent investigations reveal the increasing importance of online communication tools for terrorist groups.

2006 - Researcher Maura Conway highlights the role of the internet in terrorist propaganda and recruitment.

2010 - The Arab Spring events underscore the mobilizing power of social media; extremist groups take note.

2013 - ISIS begins its sophisticated online propaganda operations using platforms like Twitter and Telegram.

2015 - Investigations of the Paris Attacks reveal significant online planning and coordination.

2017 - UN Resolution 2354 is adopted, emphasizing the countering of terrorist narratives online.

2018 - EU's Internet Referral Unit within Europol collaborates with major tech platforms to remove extremist content.

2019 - The Christchurch Mosque Shootings, live-streamed on Facebook, leads to increased scrutiny of tech platforms.

2020 - Advanced AI-driven tools are developed for the swift detection and elimination of extremist online content.

2021 - UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) steps up collaboration with tech companies, aiming to counter online terrorist propaganda with advanced tech tools.

2022 - The Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism initiative focuses on preventing terrorists from exploiting digital platforms.

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Topic 2: Tackling Narco-Terrorism as a Method of Financing Terrorism

Summary & History

The connection between the illicit narcotics trade and acts of terrorism, commonly referred to as narco-terrorism, continues to pose a substantial challenge within the contemporary landscape of global security dynamics. This symbiotic relationship has evolved into a highly profitable revenue stream for terrorist organizations, thereby compounding the complexities associated with concurrently addressing international drug trafficking and terrorism. At its core, it encapsulates acts of terror funded by the cultivation, production, distribution, or sale of illegal narcotics. For terrorist organizations, the drug trade offers substantial financial returns, which are then channeled into furthering their extremist agendas through financing attacks, acquiring weapons, and recruiting members.

The amalgamation of the narcotics trade and terrorism can be traced back to the late 20th century, primarily in regions rife with both insurgencies and drug cultivation (Kirk, 2004). For instance, during the 1980s in Colombia, the Medellín and Cali cartels resorted to acts of terror to protect and promote their drug empires. Concurrently, insurgent groups such as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia capitalized on drug revenues to finance their revolutionary activities (Kirk, 2004).

Narco-terrorism arises when the world of illegal narcotics intersects with terrorist activities. This troubling convergence is especially pronounced in regions marked by political unrest and favorable conditions for drug farming. Political upheaval can destabilize the foundations of a state, leading to significant disruptions in law enforcement and governance. Such turmoil often creates a power vacuum, where established institutions may falter or become ineffective, leaving room for lawlessness and disorder to prevail. In these circumstances, maintaining social order and upholding the rule of law becomes increasingly challenging, potentially paving the way for various forms of instability and insecurity. The lure of the illegal

drug market is its exorbitant profitability. Given the persistent global demand for these narcotics, terrorist groups view this trade as a consistent revenue stream. This ensures that even as the political situation shifts, the appeal of the drug trade for funding terror activities remains constant.

These key terms provide a foundation for understanding the sophisticated tools and strategies deployed to counteract these evolving threats. “Narcotics” refers to psychoactive substances that induce sleep, stupor, or insensibility, often illicitly traded (Stringer, 2017). “Cartels” are coalitions or cooperative agreements between groups, designed to promote a mutual interest, often seen in the drug trade (Samuels, 2023). An “insurgency” is a rebellion or uprising against a recognized authority or government (Britannica, 2023). Insurgents often collaborate with or benefit from the drug trade to finance their operations. “Transnational crimes” are crimes that have actual or potential effects across national borders (Boister, 2003). Both the illicit drug trade and terrorism often fall under this category due to their far-reaching impacts.

Tackling narco-terrorism necessitates a comprehensive and multifaceted strategy. This endeavor transcends combating drug trafficking and terrorism as separate entities; it involves addressing a multifaceted network of interrelated issues. International collaboration, robust intelligence-sharing networks, adept law enforcement, and, crucially, socio-economic measures are imperative. Examples of such socio-economic measures include alternative livelihood programs for farmers in drug-cultivating regions, investment in education and job creation to mitigate the economic appeal of engaging with the narcotics market for terrorist groups, and community development initiatives aimed at strengthening local governance and civil society's ability to resist the encroachment of narco-terrorist activities.

Discourse on the Issue



The issue has been magnified as a significant threat to global peace and security, and its prominence poses multifaceted challenges, rendering it pivotal in international discourse. This phenomenon grievously violates the U Charter, particularly its commitment to “maintain international peace and security” and “suppress acts of aggression” as mentioned in Chapters VI and VII (United Nations, 1945). Narco-terrorism, by its very nature, fuels conflicts, undermines state authorities and threatens global peace through the financing of terrorism via illicit drug proceeds.

The global implications of narco-terrorism are profound and multidimensional (Hutchinson, 2019). Socioeconomically, regions plagued by drug cultivation and trafficking often witness increased crime rates, societal degradation, and economic disruption. The health repercussions are vast, as narcotics ravage communities, leading to addiction, disease, and increased mortality. Politically, narco-terrorism can destabilize governments, erode the rule of law, and perpetuate cycles of violence and corruption. Furthermore, as drug profits bolster terrorist activities, global security becomes even more tenuous, with an increased likelihood of terror attacks.

In terms of stakeholders, local communities in drug-producing enclaves endure the dual afflictions of drug-related criminality and the scourge of terrorism. National governments and their corresponding law enforcement agencies are encumbered with the dual mandate to thwart both the illicit drug trade and the perpetration of terrorism. Internationally, sovereign states grapple with the ramifications of narco-terrorism as it amplifies the influence and operational capacity of terrorist factions, thereby escalating global instability.

Past International Organization (IO) Actions & Latest Developments

Narco-terrorism has grown alarmingly over recent decades, posing grave international concerns. Multiple IOs have taken the mantle to address this dual threat. The perilous linkage between the illegal drug trade and funding for terrorism has been long acknowledged by the UN. Following the events of 9/11, the UN passed Resolution 1373, urging member nations to combat



the financing of terrorist endeavors, indirectly addressing narco-terrorism (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, n.d.). Nevertheless, the broad scope of the resolution, combined with its insufficient attention to the narcotics element and uneven application, restricted its efficacy.

The primary agency within the UN leading the charge against narco-terrorism is the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Recently, the UNODC has intensified its efforts, emphasizing the importance of bolstering security at borders, fostering stronger collaboration between judicial entities, and advocating for alternative economic opportunities in regions known for drug production to divert them from the illicit trade (UNODC initiatives).

Beyond the UN's involvement, various IOs have also taken up the role against narco-terrorism. One such example is the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). This organization has been instrumental in devising and advocating standards aimed at addressing the money laundering associated with the drug trade that indirectly funds terrorist activities. One of their major contributions includes implementing strategies to monitor and stop the movement of illicit funds, ensuring that channels commonly exploited by narco-terrorists are closely supervised (Financial Action Task Force, n.d.).

Prominent countries in this mission include the US, Colombia, Mexico, and Afghanistan. The U.S. and Colombia have a historic partnership, like 'Plan Colombia' which was signed in 2000, aimed at eradicating drug cultivation and combating cartels financing terror groups. Afghanistan, a major opium producer, collaborates with international forces to curb the Taliban's drug-funded terrorism (Reuters, 2021).

Questions that the Committee and Resolutions Should Address

- How can international cooperation be enhanced to combat the dual threats of narco-terrorism more effectively, given the intertwining of international drug trafficking and terrorism financing?

- What measures can be implemented to eradicate the cultivation and production of narcotics in regions most vulnerable to narco-terrorism, while also ensuring socio-economic stability for the local population?
- How can the international community foster closer collaboration between financial institutions, intelligence agencies, and law enforcement to detect and disrupt the financial channels used in narco-terrorism?
- What role can education, community outreach, and de-radicalization programs play in diminishing the allure of both drug trafficking and terrorist recruitment in susceptible regions?
- How can the international community assist nations that are focal points of narco-terrorism in strengthening their legal frameworks, judicial systems, and law enforcement capacities to combat this dual menace effectively?

Suggestions for Further Research

- Delve deeper into specific regions historically impacted by narco-terrorism such as South America (especially Colombia), the Golden Triangle in Southeast Asia, and Afghanistan. Understand the unique challenges and dynamics in each region.
- Explore the intricate financial networks and mechanisms used by narco-terrorists. Investigate the role of cryptocurrency and other modern financial tools in this space.
- Research successful initiatives where communities have transitioned from drug cultivation to alternative, sustainable livelihoods. Examine the feasibility of scaling or replicating these models in other regions.
- Investigate how technology, including the internet, drones, and advanced surveillance, is both aiding narco-terrorists and being used to combat them. How can technological advancements be leveraged more effectively in this fight?
- Study the aftermath of regions that have been through the narco-terrorism cycle. What measures are needed for rehabilitation, community healing, and ensuring such issues don't resurface?
- Here are some links for additional research:

- <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/countering-financing-of-terrorism#:~:text=Suppressing%20all%20forms%20of%20terrorist,terrorist%20financing%20typologies%2C%20the%20UN>
- <https://press.un.org/en/2022/sc15056.doc.htm#:~:text=A%20holistic%20approach%2C%20combining%20enhanced,groups%20and%20terrorists%20in>
- <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/06/1095132#:~:text=Despite%20%E2%80%9Csignificant%20progress%E2%80%9D%20in%20the,level%20Conference%20of>

Timeline of the Major Events

Early 1980s - Emergence of narco-terrorism in South America, notably with the Medellín and Cali cartels in Colombia.

1989 - U.S. President George H.W. Bush announces the Andean Initiative, aiming to curb cocaine production and its related terrorism in Andean countries.

1996 - The Taliban in Afghanistan profits from opium trade, linking drug trafficking with financing insurgent activities.

1999 - Plan Colombia is initiated with U.S. backing to combat both drug cartels and leftist guerrilla groups in Colombia.

2001 - After initially banning opium cultivation, post-9/11, the Taliban revert to using drug money to finance their operations.

2006 - Mexico's President Felipe Calderón launches a large-scale anti-drug campaign, leading to a surge in violence, partly from drug cartels with alleged links to terror entities.

2013 - Reports emerge of Boko Haram in Nigeria and al-Shabaab in East Africa profiting from drug trafficking.

2017 - ISIS is reported to be involved in the drug trade, particularly captagon pills, generating funds for their operations.

2020 - Multinational efforts continue, with operations targeting both drug trafficking routes and financial channels to stifle funding for terror groups.



This timeline offers a brief overview, and the topic can be expanded upon with more specific events, operations, and legislative actions taken by various countries.

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