



Dear Delegates,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the 2016 Montessori Model United Nations Conference.

The following pages intend to guide you in the research of the topics that will be debated at MMUN 2016 in committee sessions. Please note this guide only provides the basis for your investigation. It is your responsibility to find as much information necessary on the topics and how they relate to the country you represent. Such information should help you write your Position Paper, where you need to cite the references in the text and finally list all references in the Modern Language Association (MLA) format.

The more information and understanding you acquire on the two topics, the more you will be able to influence the Resolution writing process through debates [formal and informal caucuses], and the MMUN experience as a whole. Please feel free to contact us if and when you face challenges in your research or formatting your Position Papers.

We encourage you to learn all you can about your topics first and then study your country with regard to the two selected topics. Please remember that both committee members need to be well versed and ready to debate both topics.

Enjoy researching and writing your Position Papers.

We look forward to seeing you at the Conference!

MMUN Secretariat Team

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Social, Humanitarian & Cultural

General Assembly Third Committee

Year after year, the General Assembly allocates to its Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs Committee, commonly referred to as the “Third Committee”, agenda items relating to a range of social, humanitarian affairs and human rights issues that affect peoples all over the world.

An important part of the Committee’s work focuses on the examination of human rights questions, including reports of the special procedures of the newly established Human Rights Council. In October 2006, the Committee will hear and interact with 25 such special rapporteurs, independent experts,

and chairpersons of workings groups of the Human Rights Council. The Committee also discusses the advancement of women, the protection of children, indigenous issues, the treatment of refugees, the promotion of fundamental freedoms through the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, and the promotion of the right to self- determination. The Committee also addresses important social development questions such as issues related to youth, ageing, disabled persons, family, crime prevention, criminal justice, and drug control.

Source: <http://www.un.org/ga/61/third/third.shtml>

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Combating Organized Crime

Topic Background

Organized crime involves the illegal activity of groups of people or organizations commonly for the purposes of obtaining money and influence. Illegal activity can consist of the illegal movement of humans, money, and objects, which can lead to activities such as violence and corruption. Transnational organized crime can be conducted between individuals and groups over national borders. Because of this it directly or indirectly affects every Member State of the United Nations. The problem has existed throughout human history with activities like piracy and smuggling. Organized crime grew in the 20th Century with aspects of the topic being discussed since the first session of the General Assembly in 1946. The causes of organized crime are derived from the activity's ability to generate money, not adhere to the law, and hold influence.¹ Until the costs of organized crime outweigh the benefits the issue will continue to plague the international community.

The United States has experienced the effect of organized crime within its borders that was prevalent in the mid 20th Century. For example, the United States has created several agencies such as the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) to prevent the importation of drugs such as cocaine, crystal methamphetamine, etc. from countries including Mexico, Colombia, etc. Today the DEA employs over 5,000 agents to stop the drug trade.² Another example of organized crime can be seen in Russia having one of the worst human trafficking rings in the world. Human trafficking can be defined as the movement of people for labor sexual exploitation. This can also include immigrants who are smuggled into the country illegally. Russia has had varying degrees of success through government coordination with groups like the Red Cross to take preventative measures. On the other hand an FBI report claimed that the Russian mafia was responsible for having thousands of criminals involved in sexual exploitation in 2006. Another major issue involving weapons trafficking can be seen in West Africa.³ Although the volume of weapons being trafficked has decreased since the Cold War there are thousands of assault rifles, machine guns, explosives, etc. circulating through the region.

The continuation of organized crime will increase existing problems and create new ones if the issue is not addressed. Some of the consequences will include limiting the possibility of economic growth, the destruction of communities in which organized crime occurs, the violation of basic human rights, and the perpetuation of violence within the international community.⁴ As national organized crime cannot be stopped then it becomes transnational crime creating a vicious circle of illegal activity. The international community is in need of new cooperation to prevent organized crime and recover illicit assets.

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Past International Actions

In 2000 The UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) was originally a treaty agreed upon by Member States until it was adopted by the General Assembly later that year. It identified three main areas of significance which include: human trafficking, smuggling of migrants, illicit firearm trafficking. Each area identified by the UNTOC have impacted the success of implementing the Millennium Development Goals. Specifically Goal 1, eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, as well as Goal 3, producing gender equality. This is because of the socio-economic destabilizing effects that organized crime creates. For example activities such as drug rings, human trafficking, and weapons trafficking can impact a region's peace and security, human rights violations, as well as social and economic opportunities for development. Specifically women represent the primary target of the sex slave trade occurring throughout the world.

Other than the UNTOC the United Nations has dedicated committees and topics to discuss and solve the issue of organized crime. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) regularly develops strategies to combat organized crime, drug trafficking, money laundering, and more. Unfortunately, organized crime will not be eliminated by the end of 2015 due to various factors. However, the United Nations has addressed this through its new list of Sustainable Development Goals, also known as the "Global Goals" which were adopted during the end of September 2015. The 17 goals listed attempt to end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and end climate change. Goal 16 looks to end organized crime by specifically attempting to promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies.⁵ It emphasizes that "sexual violence, crime, exploitation and torture are also prevalent where there is conflict or no rule of law, and countries must take measures to protect those who are most at risk." The deadline for the Global Goals has been set to 2030.

One of the most important Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) committed to eliminating organized crime is The Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime. This is a group of specialists who are actively finding new ways to combat organized crime throughout the world. Some of the goals established in 2014 were to develop research, identify areas of top concern, and increase global collaboration to prevent cybercrime and environmental crime.⁶ At the core, the NGO is seeking to increase the amount of dialogue occurring between nations to improve the global strategy for ending organized crime. As the world continues to be plagued by organized crime similar NGOs and conventions will attempt to find new means to combat the issue. Organized Crime continues to oppose every type of country regardless of development or wealth.

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Possible Solutions

The world continues to evolve alongside organized crime which is requiring the international community to take a new approach to tackling this phenomenon. There are numerous sub-issues relating to transnational organized crime; some of the most notorious topics include: drug, human, and weapons trafficking. Each type of organized crime uniquely impacts every UN Member State and undermines the very goals for a sustainable development. In terms of the Post 2015 Development Agenda, organized crimes undermines security which threatens every approach to development. Delegates should ask themselves: How can the UN help increase global dialogue to combat organized crime? How can the UN help defiance transnational organized crime and increase transparency? How can the UN help reduce the illicit flow of weapons especially through incorporating developing nations in new sustainable development?

Different regions of the world experience different aspects and varying degrees of organized crime. For example, the Middle East and West Africa are greatly impacted by weapons trafficking with sex slave trafficking impacting most areas outside of North America. Certain regional groups have been created to consolidate intelligence and the execution of solutions such as the Central American Network of Prosecutors against Organized Crime (REFCO) and the Network of West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime (WACAP).⁷ However, there are regional differences for how to recognize and establish warrants for the arrest of criminals. For example, the European Union has its own set of guidelines that are different from the standards established in other areas of the world.⁸

A few ideas to combat organized crime are universally agreed upon, however they have been challenging in execution. Most Member States support the idea of intelligence sharing between police organizations on organized crime to help take a more integrated stance against transnational organized crime organizations. Some Member States have called for more proliferation of extradition treaties, to make it clear that there is no safe place for crime in this world. Member States have also proposed more obvious solutions such as a redirection of funds, expertise, and intelligence capabilities to try to take down these organized groups, however organized crime rarely gets the attention it needs because of its by definition underground nature, compared to international terrorist groups that thrive and seek media attention. All of these components are potential avenues to address this issue.

The world continues to be plagued by organized crime. If countries continue to use old strategies to eliminate this issue then they will ultimately fail. Ending organized crime requires the entire international community to cooperate and coordinate on a solution. Every region faces

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different challenges related to organized crime and therefore, solutions must be flexible enough to fit each Member State's specific needs.

Further Research

- [UNODC Organized Crime](#)
- [United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime](#)
- [SDG 16- Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions](#)
- [UNICEF- Human Trafficking](#)

Endnotes

1. "Human Trafficking in Russia." UNICEF. <http://uni.cf/1hbmzy5>
2. "DEA History". US Drug Enforcement Administration.
<http://www.dea.gov/about/history.shtml>
3. "Firearm Trafficking in West Africa". UNODC. <http://bit.ly/1iM0Gqd>
4. "Organized Crime". UNODC. <http://bit.ly/1YPbg0w>
5. "Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions" UNDP. <http://bit.ly/1Kq1ria>
6. "United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime". UNODC.
<http://bit.ly/1vHv97q>
7. White House Transnational Crime Strategy
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/nsc/transnational-crime/strategy>
8. Report of the Third Committee on Organized Crime
<http://www.un.org/press/en/2010/gashc3975.doc.htm>

Questions

1. What is the main office of the United Nations that works to combat transnational organized crime?
2. How many agents are there in the United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)?
3. What has been the most significant resolution of the United Nations on organized crime?
4. What Sustainable Development Goal includes Combatting Organized Crime as one of its aims?
5. When was organized crime first discussed at the United Nations?

Answers

1. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

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2. 5000 DEA Agents
3. The United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC)
4. Sustainable Development Goal 16
5. In the first session, in 1946



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