

#studyguide

# UNODC

*Effects of Substance Abuse*

#ourcommittees

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## 1.1 Letter from the Secretary General

Most distinguished participants,

It is with great enthusiasm and immense pride that I welcome you to the Final Model United Nations Conference 2025. I am deeply honored to serve as your Secretary General for this year's conference; an event that not only celebrates the spirit of diplomacy and international cooperation but also challenges us to think critically, lead confidently, and engage meaningfully with the complexities of our world.

Over the course of the next three days, you will step into the shoes of global leaders, tackle urgent international crises, and navigate the nuanced dynamics of negotiation and compromise. These experiences are not just exercises in diplomacy they are powerful lessons in empathy, problem-solving, and collaboration. Whether this is your first MUN or your tenth, our goal is to provide a welcoming and inclusive space where you can thrive, grow, and form unforgettable memories.

The FINALMUN'25 team is here to support you every step of the way. We are committed to ensuring that every delegate feels heard, respected, and empowered throughout the conference. FINALMUN'25 is a space where friendships are forged, where perspectives are broadened, and where future changemakers take their first steps. On behalf

of the entire Secretariat, I once again extend my warmest welcome to each and every one of you.

We are excited to witness the passion, creativity, and leadership you will bring to the committees. Let us make FINALMUN'25 a conference to remember.

Yours sincerely,  
Eylül İdil Orhan  
Secretary General

## 1.2 Letter from the Director General

Dear everyone,

Welcome to FINALMUN 2025!

This conference means a lot to me, not just because it's our school's first-ever MUN, but because I get to be a part of it as the Director General. It feels a bit surreal, to be honest. When we started planning FINALMUN25 , we had one main goal in mind: creating a space where people could come together, challenge each other's ideas, and still enjoy every second of it. We wanted it to be something more than just formal sessions.

Every person who will join us every delegate, chair, press member, and guest is part of something we've dreamed about for a long time. And if you're reading this, it means you're part of that dream now, too. As long as you respect the boundaries we've set and follow the spirit of our rules, I'm sure you'll have a great time , maybe even better than you expect.

I genuinely can't wait to see you all in action. You've already been welcomed with lots of excitement (and yes, maybe a bit of nerves, too), and I really hope this conference becomes a memory you'll smile at later on. See you at FINALMUN25!

Yours sincerely,

Melek Güner

Director General

### 1.3 Letter from the Under Secretary General

It is my honor to welcome you to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) at this year's Model United Nations conference. Throughout the conference, you will be expected to engage in thoughtful debate, produce innovative solutions, and collaborate with fellow delegates in the spirit of diplomacy. Your active participation will play a vital role in shaping productive dialogue and meaningful resolutions within this committee.

I extend my sincere appreciation for your commitment to addressing some of the world's most urgent challenges, including transnational organized crime, drug trafficking, corruption, and issues of international justice. Delegates will examine the social, economic, and health-related impacts of drug misuse, with particular attention to vulnerable groups and the pressure placed on public institutions. The committee will consider international frameworks, prevention efforts, and cross-border collaboration to counter illicit trafficking and addiction. By assessing both short-term and long-term consequences, the discussion aims to promote comprehensive solutions that balance law enforcement, rehabilitation, and the protection of human rights.

The work of this committee requires a balanced approach—one that recognizes the importance of law enforcement while also prioritizing rehabilitation, public health, and the protection of human rights. By evaluating both immediate and long-term repercussions, you are encouraged to develop comprehensive, realistic, and sustainable policy recommendations.

Throughout the conference, you will be expected to engage in thoughtful debate, produce innovative solutions, and collaborate with fellow delegates in the spirit of diplomacy. Your active participation will play a vital role in shaping productive dialogue and meaningful resolutions within this committee.

Your commitment to thoughtful debate and collaborative diplomacy will be essential in shaping impactful discussions and meaningful outcomes. The Secretariat is confident that your contributions will elevate the work of this committee and inspire productive dialogue.

The Secretariat is confident that your dedication, preparation, and leadership will contribute to a successful and impactful session. Should you require any assistance or guidance, please do not hesitate to reach out to us .

Sincerely,  
Under Secretary General  
Ece Naz Karataş

## **2. Introduction to the Committee**

### **2.1. Introduction of the UNODC Committee**

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is the main organization established within the UN in 1997 and serves as a central authority in areas such as the fight against drugs, crime prevention, terrorism financing, corruption and organized crime worldwide. UNODC conducts comprehensive research on combating illicit substances, one of the most critical problems faced by the international community in the fields of security, health and law, provides technical assistance to states, develops policy recommendations and guides states to strengthen their national strategies by following global trends. NODC conducts comprehensive research on combating illicit substances, one of the most critical problems faced by the international community in the fields of security, health and law, provides technical assistance to states, develops policy recommendations and guides states to strengthen their national strategies by following global trends.

The Committee analyzes global drug production, trafficking and use trends through the annual World Drug Report, while its regional offices in the field carry out capacity-building programs in cooperation with local law enforcement agencies. UNODC operates not only as a security-centric institution, but also as a structure that develops addiction treatment, prevention, awareness programs and harm reduction strategies from a public health perspective. NODC operates not only as a security-centric institution, but also as a structure that develops addiction treatment, prevention, awareness programs and harm reduction strategies from a public health perspective. The activities of the institution have a broad framework such as developing human rights-based policies, increasing border security, strengthening intelligence sharing, promoting criminal justice reforms and effective implementation of international legal mechanisms. Therefore, UNODC is a vital committee at the center of multi-dimensional approaches to the problem of illicit substances, which is of great concern to both the internal security of states and international peace.

### **2.2 Functions of the Committee**

UNODC's functions go far beyond combating drug trafficking, as modern threats are interconnected, complex and constantly changing, both at national and transnational levels. NODC's functions go far beyond combating drug trafficking, as modern threats are interconnected, complex and constantly changing, both at national and transnational levels. The Committee monitors trends related to the production, trade

and use of illicit substances worldwide in detail, assigns expert teams to provide technical support to states and provides scientific data-based recommendations to member states in their policy development processes. In this context, UNODC cooperates with states in areas such as strengthening border security, increasing customs capacities, cutting off the financial resources of criminal organizations and coordinating intelligence sharing. context, UNODC cooperates with states in areas such as strengthening border security, increasing customs capacities, cutting off the financial resources of criminal organizations and coordinating intelligence sharing. At the same time, UNODC promotes public health-based approaches and carries out activities such as establishing addiction treatment and rehabilitation centers, developing harm reduction programs, supporting preventive education for young people and implementing community-based projects.

The committee also monitors the implementation of international agreements targeting corruption, money laundering and terrorist financing, provides training to strengthen countries' criminal justice systems and supports the establishment of practices that respect human rights. he committee also monitors the implementation of international agreements targeting corruption, money laundering and terrorist financing, provides training to strengthen countries' criminal justice systems and supports the establishment.

### 2.3 Historical Overview

International efforts to regulate illicit substances are the product of a long historical development dating back to the early 20th century. national efforts to regulate illicit substances are the product of a long historical development dating back to the early 20th century. The Hague Opium Convention of 1912 marked the first time national efforts to regulate illicit substances are the product of a long historical development dating back to the early 20th century. The Hague Opium Convention of 1912 marked the first time that the world's states took a joint step in regulating the production and distribution of drugs, and formed the basis for later agreements. The Single Convention, adopted in 1961, brought together all previous regulations under one roof and imposed an obligation on states to prevent the use of substances for purposes other than medical and scientific purposes. Subsequently, the 1971 Psychotropic Substances Convention and the 1988 Anti-Smuggling Convention came into force, thus the international community began to approach the drug problem from a much broader perspective.

20ubsequently, the 1971 Psychotropic Substances Convention and the 1988 Anti-Smuggling Convention came into force, thus the international community began to

approach the drug problem from a much broader perspective. 20 By the end of the century, factors such as globalization, conflict zones, weakening of borders, strengthening of organized crime organizations and expansion of money laundering networks have made the illicit drug trade more complex. In line with these developments, the United Nations established UNODC in 1997, enabling the drug-crime-public health connection to be addressed in a more comprehensive manner. In line with these developments, the United Nations established UNODC in 1997, enabling the drug-crime-public health connection to be addressed in a more comprehensive manner. Since then, UNODC has assumed a central role on a global scale in combating modern threats such as the rise of synthetic substances, anonymous trading on the dark web, money laundering with cryptocurrency, terrorist organizations financing drugs and the rapid spread of new psychoactive substances. Over the historical process, the illicit substance problem has evolved from being just a health or security issue into a multifaceted crisis with economic, social and political dimensions, which has increased the importance of UNODC year by year.

### **3. Agenda Item: Effects of Substance Abuse**

#### **3.1 Definition and Types of Substances**

Illicit substances are defined as a broad category encompassing all psychoactive substances of chemical or plant origin that are produced, distributed, or consumed outside of government regulations and that cause serious health, safety, and social harms at the individual or societal level. These substances alter the user's perception, emotion, consciousness, thought, action, or behavior, increasing the risk of addiction and leading to a multifaceted crisis within society. Illicit substances include opioids, synthetic opioids, cocaine and its derivatives, amphetamine-derived stimulants, illicit cannabis derivatives, hallucinogens, rapidly produced new psychoactive substances (NPS) in laboratory settings, and synthetic cannabinoids developed from chemical mixtures. Each of these substances is spreading rapidly due to their low production costs, the diversity of trafficking networks, the easy access provided by digital channels such as social media and the dark web, and the vulnerability of the young population. Synthetic substances, in particular, have become one of the most profitable avenues for transnational criminal organizations because they can produce thousands of doses using very small quantities of chemicals, challenging international regulatory mechanisms.

The definition of illicit substances is not limited to a fixed list; criminal networks constantly modify chemical formulas to develop new substances to circumvent government regulations, and these substances are introduced to the market unchecked.



Therefore, the classification of substance types is periodically updated based on their medicinal effects, addictive potential, and degree of social destructiveness. With its annual World Drug Report, UNODC monitors global trends and provides scientific data for government policymaking. It also provides technical support to strengthen countries' capacity to combat illicit drug trafficking.

### **Adult Users**

- Typically long-term users with a higher risk of developing dependence.
- Often turn to substances due to work-related stress, psychological issues, or chronic pain.
- Socially and economically stable adults may still require treatment; recovery outcomes depend heavily on social support and motivation.

### **Youth and Adolescents**

- High-risk-taking individuals in search of identity and social belonging.
- Influenced by peer groups, school environments, and social media; often use substances experimentally or for recreational purposes.
- Incomplete cognitive development affects learning, decision-making, and emotional control.
- Early intervention and educational programs are critical for this group.

### **Impoverished and Disadvantaged Communities**

- Individuals in low socioeconomic settings face higher substance use risks due to unemployment, poverty, and low education levels.
- Substances are often used as coping mechanisms, creating a destructive cycle for families and communities.
- These groups frequently have limited access to healthcare and treatment services.

### **Female Users**

- Women often use substances in secrecy due to social stigma and pressure.
- Pregnancy, motherhood, and hormonal factors can intensify health risks related to substance use.
- Treatment programs for women are often limited and require specialized support.

## **Occupational or Professional Groups**

-High-stress professions (healthcare workers, security personnel, long-hour professionals) may show a tendency toward substance use.

-Use is often intended to enhance performance or cope with stress.  
-Detecting and treating substance use in these groups is crucial for occupational performance and safety.

## **Other At-Risk Groups**

-Homeless individuals, street-connected youth, or those who have experienced trauma often turn to substances as an escape.  
-Weak social support networks, limited access to treatment, and exposure to violence reinforce the cycle of addiction.

### **3.2 Social and Cultural Perspectives of Use**

The social and cultural dimensions of illicit substance use are an extremely complex area shaped by societies' economic structures, traditions, beliefs, and social norms. The heavy stigma of substance use in some societies exacerbates the problem by preventing individuals from seeking treatment, while in others, the normalization of use, particularly among young people, leads to its spread as an acceptable behavior. Factors such as poverty, unemployment, domestic violence, trauma history, unregulated urbanization, and social exclusion drive individuals to seek psychological escape mechanisms, triggering substance use. In regions where entertainment culture is prevalent, substances often become a part of social activities, and individuals use them to "fit in," "have an experience," or "relax." In some cultures, the weakening of family structures and the early exposure of children to risky environments also increase the tendency for addiction. Furthermore, social media content, which transforms substance use into an aesthetic element, promotes widespread use by increasing curiosity and imitation, especially among young individuals. Therefore, the illicit substance problem should not be considered solely as an individual choice, but as a broader social problem shaped by the deep social structures.

### **3.3 Public Health and Addiction**

The public health impact of illicit drug use constitutes a serious crisis, diminishing the quality of life of millions of people globally and increasing the burden on healthcare systems. Addiction is considered a chronic disease progressing not only through a

chemical dependency mechanism but also through a combination of psychological, biological, and social factors. The proliferation of synthetic opioids and high-purity substances, in particular, has led to a dramatic increase in overdose deaths. Injecting drug use accelerates the spread of infectious diseases such as HIV and Hepatitis B and C, while substance use during pregnancy causes developmental problems in infants, low birth weight, and long-term neurological disorders. Substance addiction can lead to severe psychiatric consequences, including anxiety, depression, psychotic disorders, impulse control problems, and an increased risk of suicide. Among the most significant public health challenges are limited treatment capacity in many countries, the reluctance of addicts to seek support due to stigmatization, and the lack of widespread harm reduction programs.

The modern public health approach emphasizes that punitive policies alone are not effective, but rather that early prevention programs, awareness-raising, development of treatment centers, psychosocial support and community-based harm reduction strategies should be implemented together.

### 3.4 Impact on Youth and Education

Young people are among the most vulnerable groups to illicit substance use because adolescence is a period when risk-taking behaviors are high, both biologically, psychologically, and socially, and decision-making mechanisms are not fully developed. The effects of substance use on young people are not limited to health; it also profoundly impacts their educational life, academic success, social relationships, and future opportunities. Among young people who use substances, school absenteeism increases, cognitive function deteriorates, and learning capacity decreases. This leads to higher school dropout rates and a greater risk of youth involvement in crime. Furthermore, the perception of substance use as a behavior among young people as a way to "seek identity" or "join the group" is further reinforced by the promotion of use, particularly on social media and digital platforms. In environments where education is inadequate, family communication is weak, and social support is low, young people are at much higher risk. Educational institutions play a critical role in early detection and intervention, as teachers, psychological counselors, and school guidance services can identify risky behaviors early, organize awareness programs, and work in partnership with families to prevent youth from falling into addiction.

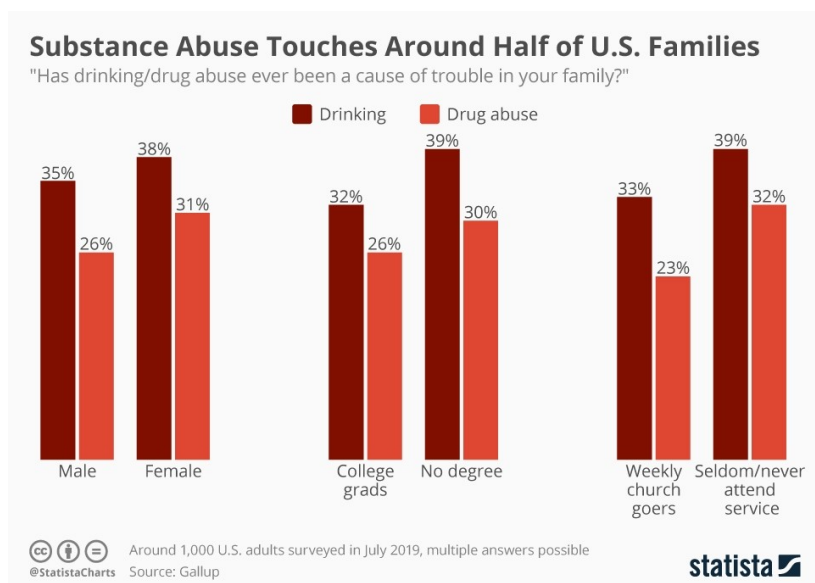
### 3.5 Economic Burden on Society

The economic impact of illicit drugs on society is a multifaceted problem that places a significant burden on state budgets and social life. Healthcare costs, addiction treatment, rehabilitation center establishment, emergency room interventions, and the cost of preventing overdose deaths result in economic losses totaling billions of dollars in many countries. Furthermore, the cost of legal proceedings, including police operations, border controls, prison expenses, and prosecution, significantly strains state security budgets. While illicit drugs increase labor loss, productivity of working-age individuals decreases,

directly impacting economic growth.

Families also suffer significant economic losses; treatment costs, job losses, and social collapse leave many households economically unstable. Because the illicit drug economy operates informally, tax losses increase, reducing government resources available for

socioeconomic development programs. In short, the problem of substance abuse imposes a heavy financial burden on governments through health, security, and social expenditures, while also reducing the overall welfare of society and exacerbating economic inequalities.



### 3.6 Crime, Violence and Public Safety

Illicit drugs have a direct and decisive impact on rising crime rates, escalating social violence, and weakening public security. Drug trafficking is one of the primary sources of income for organized crime organizations worldwide, and violent clashes between gangs, cartels, and armed groups strive for control of this trade. These conflicts often target civilians, creating an atmosphere of fear in society. In many countries, clashes between police forces and cartels disrupt public order, and competition between street gangs contributes to the youth population's growing affinity for crime. Illicit drug use leads to aggression, impulsivity, and impaired

judgment, leading to increased domestic violence, social conflict, and crime rates. Furthermore, some individuals resort to crimes such as theft, extortion, and fraud to access drugs. One of the biggest security challenges is that drug trafficking has evolved from a domestic issue into an international security threat. Cross-border smuggling, money laundering, terrorist financing, and networks of state corruption create a complex chain that weakens public security. Therefore, the illicit substance problem is not only a public health crisis but also a crisis closely linked to national security and social stability.

### 3.7 Illicit Trade and Transnational Challenge

Illicit drug trafficking, one of the largest sources of income for international criminal networks, has significant impacts on global security, economics, and public health. This trade is conducted in an organized manner through cross-border networks and varies in production, distribution, and consumption patterns across countries. Laboratory production of synthetic substances, export of plant-based substances from their natural production areas, and anonymous sales via the internet and dark web have further complicated international illicit trade. Furthermore, illicit trade has become an area that directly impacts state security policies, health systems, and economic balances. Countries are monitoring UNODC and national statistics to understand the extent of this problem and develop response strategies.

Canada: Canada faces high levels of opioid and synthetic drug use. In 2023, approximately 7,500 people died from drug-related causes.

United States: The U.S. has the highest number of overdose deaths globally. In 2023, 112,000 people lost their lives due to drug-related causes.

Colombia: Colombia is a major producer of cocaine worldwide. According to 2024 reports, 1,700 tons of cocaine were produced.

Peru: Peru ranks second in global cocaine production, with approximately 400 tons produced in 2023.

Mexico: Mexico serves as a key transit country for cocaine and heroin heading to the U.S. In 2023, 50 tons of illicit drugs were seized.

Netherlands: The Netherlands is a central hub for synthetic drug production in Europe. In 2022, 15 tons of methamphetamine were seized.

Belgium: Belgium, alongside the Netherlands, plays a critical role in European ATS production, with 15 tons of methamphetamine seized in 2022.

Syria: Syria is a leading producer and distributor of Captagon in the Middle East. In 2023, more than 500 million Captagon tablets were seized.

### 3.8 Recovery and Social Reintegration

The process of recovery from addiction is a long-term transformation process that encompasses all aspects of an individual's life, not just medical treatment. The post-treatment social readjustment period is the most challenging for many addicts, as factors such as social stigmatization, weak family ties, economic hardship, unemployment, and social exclusion can lead to a relapse into substance use. Rehabilitation centers offer psychological support, therapy, counseling, and medical treatment, while social reintegration programs help individuals obtain vocational training, gain employment, strengthen family relationships, and gain social acceptance. Community-based support groups, non-governmental organizations, and local governments play important roles in this process. Developing an understanding attitude towards addicted individuals is crucial for a lasting recovery. Furthermore, governments must strengthen social service institutions and treat addiction not only as a crime but also as a public health issue. Long-term success in combating addiction is impossible without social cohesion.

### 3.9 Overview

The effects of illicit substance use and abuse represent one of the most pressing challenges for societies, governments, and international organizations today. The UNODC's work demonstrates that the consequences of substance abuse extend far beyond individual health, influencing economic productivity, social cohesion, public safety, education, and political stability. Illicit substances, whether plant-based or synthetically produced, generate multidimensional risks due to their high addictive potential, widespread availability, and capacity to destabilize communities. From a public health perspective, substance abuse increases the prevalence of both physical and mental health disorders.

Opioids and synthetic stimulants contribute to overdose deaths, cardiovascular complications, neurological impairments, and increased vulnerability to infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and hepatitis, especially among populations who inject drugs. Beyond health, addiction affects families and communities, often resulting in social exclusion, breakdown of family structures, domestic violence, and intergenerational cycles of substance use. The economic impact of illicit substances is

also substantial. Governments face enormous costs related to healthcare services, rehabilitation programs, law enforcement, criminal justice proceedings, and social welfare support.

Globally, the estimated economic burden of illicit drug use runs into hundreds of billions of dollars annually, with both developed and developing countries bearing significant direct and indirect costs. Businesses are affected as well, through decreased workforce productivity, absenteeism, and workplace accidents linked to substance misuse. Youth and education are critically impacted. Adolescents and young adults are particularly vulnerable due to developmental, social, and psychological factors. Early initiation of substance use impairs cognitive development, educational attainment, and future employment opportunities. Preventive programs, school-based interventions, and awareness campaigns play a central role in mitigating these risks. Criminal and social implications are another dimension of the issue. Illicit substances are closely tied to organized crime, trafficking networks, and black-market economies. Communities affected by drug trafficking often experience higher rates of violence, corruption, and insecurity.

These transnational networks undermine governance, create challenges for border control, and increase the demand for international cooperation. International and governmental policy responses have evolved to address the multifaceted nature of substance abuse. These include the regulation of controlled substances, public health interventions, harm reduction programs, treatment and rehabilitation services, and international legal frameworks aimed at controlling production, distribution, and consumption. Coordination among UN agencies, national governments, law enforcement, healthcare institutions, and civil society is essential for effective implementation.

Finally, recovery and social reintegration are critical elements in addressing the long-term consequences of substance abuse. Rehabilitation programs that combine medical treatment, psychological support, vocational training, and social integration initiatives are essential to reduce recidivism, promote healthy lifestyles, and rebuild affected communities. Evidence shows that comprehensive and inclusive approaches are more successful than punitive measures alone, emphasizing the importance of prevention, treatment, and social support as complementary strategies. In summary, illicit substance abuse is not merely a personal or medical issue; it is a complex, transnational phenomenon that demands coordinated action at local, national, and international levels. Addressing its consequences requires a holistic understanding of public health, social dynamics, economics, education, crime, and governance. The UNODC continues to play a crucial role in monitoring trends, providing data-driven

recommendations, and supporting countries in developing sustainable strategies to reduce the impact of illiquid substances on individuals and societies.

#### 4. Key Country Roles

**USA:** The United States is one of the largest consumers of illicit substances globally, particularly opioids, methamphetamines, and synthetic drugs. It plays a leading role in international drug monitoring, prevention, and interdiction programs.

The U.S. also provides significant funding and technical support for international anti-drug operations and rehabilitation programs. Its large domestic market and high consumption rates make it a key focus of global drug policy.



**Russia:** Russia faces widespread issues with synthetic drugs and heroin, particularly from Afghanistan and Central Asia. It is strategically important for transnational drug control because it sits along major trafficking routes. Russia has developed strong enforcement mechanisms and regional partnerships to address trafficking and domestic consumption.

**China:** China is a critical player in the global drug trade, mainly as a producer of precursor chemicals for synthetic drugs. It also faces rising domestic consumption of synthetic substances. China's role in regulating chemicals, monitoring online sales, and cooperating with neighboring countries is crucial for controlling global synthetic drug production.

**India:** India serves as both a production and transit country, particularly for heroin and synthetic drugs heading to Europe and the Middle East. The country also faces significant domestic challenges with cannabis, opioids, and pharmaceutical abuse.



India is active in international cooperation through UNODC programs and regional law enforcement initiatives.

**Pakistan:** Pakistan is a major transit country for opiates originating in Afghanistan and moving toward Europe and the Gulf. It also faces domestic substance abuse issues, particularly heroin. Pakistan's law enforcement efforts and border security are central to regional drug control strategies.

**Afghanistan:** Afghanistan is the largest global producer of opium, supplying heroin worldwide. Its geopolitical instability and lack of robust enforcement infrastructure make it central to the illicit drug trade. International cooperation is heavily focused on Afghanistan, including crop reduction programs and alternative livelihood initiatives.

**Iran:** Iran serves as a transit corridor for Afghan opiates moving toward Europe and the Middle East. It has implemented significant domestic anti-drug policies, including rehabilitation centers and strict law enforcement measures. Iran is a crucial partner in regional drug control initiatives.

**Turkiye:** Turkiye acts as a bridge between Asia and Europe for illicit substances, particularly heroin and synthetic drugs. It enforces strong border controls and participates in international intelligence-sharing and drug interdiction operations. Turkiye's geographical position makes it highly significant in controlling trafficking flows.

**Mexico:** Mexico is a major producer and exporter of cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamines, especially to the United States. Organized crime groups in Mexico dominate drug production and distribution. Mexico's role in regional security and international cooperation is critical to addressing the global illicit trade.

**Nigeria:** Nigeria is a hub for cocaine trafficking from South America to Europe and for synthetic drug distribution within Africa. It faces domestic challenges with cannabis and methamphetamine abuse. Nigeria's strategic position and active law enforcement measures make it significant in controlling West African drug flows.

**Peru:** Peru is a leading producer of coca, the raw material for cocaine, supplying markets in Latin America, North America, and Europe. Its agricultural practices, law enforcement, and crop reduction programs influence global cocaine supply trends.

**Bolivia:** Bolivia is a key coca-producing country and participates in international efforts to monitor and control cultivation. Coca production for traditional use is legal, but illicit coca destined for cocaine production remains a challenge. Bolivia's policies impact regional production levels and international supply chains.

**Venezuela:** Venezuela is a transit country for cocaine from Colombia heading to international markets. Its porous borders and logistical routes make it a hub for regional trafficking networks. Venezuela's control measures are essential for managing cocaine flow to the Caribbean and Europe.

## 5. Tips for Delegates

UNODC is a highly sensitive and deeply personal issue, and therefore it is essential to remain within ethical boundaries when engaging in discussions and proposing solutions. No country, regardless of its capacity, can address the problem of substance use alone. Instead of focusing on being right, delegates should prioritize constructive and collaborative problem-solving. Remember that what separates medicine from harm is the dosage; while regulating or restricting harmful substances, it is equally important not to hinder access to beneficial medications.

Delegates representing countries with high rates of substance use should not hesitate to seek guidance and assistance from more experienced and knowledgeable states. Likewise, delegates from countries with lower substance use rates are encouraged to approach less informed nations with humanitarian support rather than accusations or blame. The goal is to foster cooperation, understanding, and shared responsibility in addressing this global challenge.

## 6. Questions to be Concerned

- How can governments tailor prevention and treatment strategies to the specific needs of different user groups such as youth, adults, women, and at-risk populations?
- What measures can be implemented to reduce health consequences like overdoses, infectious diseases, and mental health issues caused by substance abuse?
- How can countries minimize the economic burden of illicit substance abuse on healthcare, law enforcement, and social services?
- What educational and awareness programs are most effective in preventing youth and adolescent substance use?
- How can international cooperation improve the control of illicit trade and trafficking of substances across borders?
- How can the international community more effectively prevent and disrupt large-scale drug trafficking networks across borders?

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