

VMUN 24'

UNODC



Discussing the proliferation of death rates due to the violence and coercion of drug cartels in Latin, Central, and South American countries as a form of organized crime.

Table of contents:

1. [Letter from the Executive Board](#)
2. [Introduction to the Committee](#)
3. [Functions and responsibilities](#)
4. [Aim of UNODC](#)
5. [About the liaison and partnership in Brazil](#)
6. [United nations conventions](#)
7. [Introduction to the agenda](#)
8. [State of affairs](#)
9. [Key cartels](#)
10. [Past actions taken by UNODC](#)
11. [Treaties and conventions](#)
12. [Questions for Research](#)
13. [Closing remarks](#)

Letter from the Executive Board:

Dear Esteemed Delegates,

We deem it our greatest honor to welcome you all to the 11th edition of ***Vaels Model United Nations (VMUN 24)***. We hope to witness diverse perspectives of each country's individual stance on our agenda, ***"Discussing the proliferation of death rates due to the violence and coercion of drug cartels in Latin, Central, and South American countries as a form of organized crime"***, that highlights a pressing issue with special emphasis on a few particular countries. In the due course of our 2-day conference, we expect thorough research and look forward to hearing your pragmatic, crisis-solving resolutions you bring to the committee.

The ***United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)*** is mandated to support the Member States in facing threats and impact of drugs and crime, and with pertinance to our agenda, we aim to reduce the inadvertent effects of drug cartels with death rates.

In this MUN, the Executive Board may request evidence, or sources to support your stances and arguments, so kindly save all links for future reference. We expect thorough research on the agenda. ***Please use this guide as a reference material and do not limit your research to this document.*** We look forward to collectively addressing this issue and coming up with new policies, world-altering solutions and insightful debate to mitigate the issue in discussion. We wish you all the very best for this conference.

Yours Sincerely,

Meiyammai Ramanathan (Chairperson)

Farhan Feroz (Vice-Chairperson)

Farah Mohamed (Vice-Chairperson)

Namya Soni (Director).

Please reach out to us at vmun.unodc@vaelsinternationalschool.com for further questions/queries.

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

The UNODC was established in 1997. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) was established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution 1992/1, upon request of General Assembly (GA) resolution 46/152. In 2006, the GA adopted resolution 61/252 which further expanded the mandates of the CCPCJ to enable it to function as a governing body of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Its headquarters are located in Vietnam, and Austria, and it operates in more than 150 countries through a network of field offices and partnerships with various stakeholders, including governments, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector. The decision to merge these two entities was taken by the UN General Assembly with the aim of creating a more coordinated and comprehensive approach to addressing global challenges related to drugs, crime, corruption, and terrorism.

The UNODC's work spans across several key areas, including drug control and crime prevention, anti-corruption efforts, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, criminal justice reform, and counter-terrorism initiatives. Additionally, the UNODC collaborates with other UN agencies, regional organizations, and civil society to tackle these challenges comprehensively.

Mandate- As the guardian of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementary Protocols, including the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, UNODC is mandated to support Member States in the implementation of these instruments. Such support includes efforts to prevent and combat trafficking in persons; to protect and assist the victims of trafficking; to prosecute those who traffic persons, upholding justice and ensuring an effective criminal justice response; and to promote cooperation among States parties and other stakeholders in order to meet those objectives. The organized networks or individuals behind the lucrative crime of human trafficking take advantage of people who are vulnerable, desperate or simply seeking a better life. UNODC strives for the eradication of this crime through the dismantling of the criminal enterprises that trade in people and the conviction of the main perpetrators. Ultimately, our work safeguards people from the abuse, neglect, exploitation or even death that is associated with these crimes.

The committee's work is aimed at strengthening the legal framework, enhancing capacity, raising awareness, and promoting international cooperation to prevent, investigate, and prosecute human trafficking and protecting the rights of its victims. UNODC fosters international cooperation and collaboration among countries, organizations, civil society, and other stakeholders to address human trafficking and modern slavery effectively. By promoting information exchange, joint investigations, and mutual legal assistance, it also strengthens the global response to this transnational crime.

Furthermore, UNODC is committed to protecting the rights and well-being of victims of human trafficking. The office provides support to member states in establishing victim-centered approaches that prioritize the assistance, rehabilitation, and reintegration of survivors. This includes providing access to essential services such as shelter, medical care, legal aid, psychosocial support, and vocational training to help survivors reintegrate into society.

KEY FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

1. Research and Analysis: Providing reliable data and in-depth research on global drug and crime trends to inform policy and strategy.
2. Legislative Assistance: Helping countries develop and implement effective legal frameworks to combat crime and drugs.
3. Capacity Building: Offering technical assistance, training, and resources to enhance the capabilities of national institutions in preventing and combating crime and drugs.
4. Field Operations: Implementing projects on the ground to address issues such as drug abuse prevention, criminal justice reform, and human trafficking.

Powers

UNODC was established to address the issues of illicit drug trafficking, drug abuse, prevention of crime and criminal justice, political corruption and international terrorism, in a coordinated and comprehensive manner. To achieve those aims, UNODC has launched a range of initiatives, including alternatives in the area of illicit drug crop cultivation, monitoring of illicit crops and the implementation of projects against money laundering.

By working directly with Governments and non-governmental organisations, UNODC field staff develop and implement drug control and crime prevention programmes tailored to countries' particular needs.

The UNODC releases the World Drug Report annually. The report gives valuable information relating to drug abuse worldwide, the trends in the production and use of illicit drugs of various types.

THE AIM OF UNODC

Our world is changing beyond imagination. The pandemic has left our societies poorer, deepening the prevalent issues in and between countries. For the first time in decades, the hard-fought progress so many countries worked for was drastically set back. People around the world struggle with the issues of drugs, organized crime, terrorism and corruption, along with problems such as poverty, insecurity and injustice that leave them vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

That is why the UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) was developed after a year-long consultation process by the member states and donors. The primary mission of the UNODC is to protect the world from drugs, organized crime, and other such issues. The committee aims to combat these threats to achieve justice for all and promote peace and well-being.

UNODC's mandates include areas related to organized crime, criminal justice, drug control, and countering corruption and terrorism; this allows the office to provide possible comprehensive solutions to the challenges the Member States face in providing access to justice for everybody.

One of the UNODC's unique strengths is that it brings every country together to discuss and share information and solutions, helping the Office find the most effective resolutions at all scales. This is vital as no country can fight crime, drugs, corruption, or terrorism independently, and international cooperation is imperative.

The office will focus on partnerships, evidence-based policy and data analysis, communication, resource mobilization, cross-cutting commitments, delivering together and streamlining procedures to contribute to global peace and security, human rights and development, and work towards making the world safer.

About the Liaison and Partnership Office in Brazil

UNODC bases its work on the three international drug control conventions, the conventions against transnational organized crime and against corruption and the international instruments against terrorism. UNODC's goal is to make the world safer from drugs, organised crime, corruption and terrorism by combating these threats to achieve health, security and justice for all and by promoting sustainable peace and well-being. UNODC provides technical assistance to Member States in the areas of health, criminal justice and public security, including drug use control and prevention, tackling transnational organized crime, illicit trafficking in drugs, human beings and arms, prison reform, corruption and money laundering, asset management and recovery, and HIV prevention among drug users and people in detention.

United Nations Conventions

UNODC, as the guardian of the following conventions ratified by Brazil, has the mandate to support countries in their implementation:

- UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention/UNTOC) and its protocols on trafficking in persons; smuggling of migrants; and illicit trafficking in firearms
- UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)
- UN Conventions on Drugs (1961, 1971, 1988)
- UN Conventions on Terrorism (1963, 1970, 1971, 1973, 1979, 1980, 1988, 1991, 1997, 1999, 2005, 2010, 2014)
- United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Mandela Rules)

Pillars of our work

Normative work, to assist in the ratification and implementation of international treaties, and the development of national legislation on drugs, crime and terrorism.

Research and analysis, to enrich knowledge and broaden understanding of drug and crime problems and to establish evidence-based policies and strategies.

Technical assistance through international cooperation, to enable Member States to provide effective responses to drug-related issues, organized crime and terrorism.

UNODC works in partnership with the Brazilian government in different areas:

- Drug trafficking and transnational organized crime, according to UNTOC
- Human trafficking and smuggling of migrants
- Crime prevention and building effective criminal justice systems
- Prison System Reform in accordance with the Mandela, Bangkok and Tokyo Rules
- Fighting corruption, according to UNCAC
- Money laundering, asset management and recovery
- Prevention of drug use and promotion of treatment, social protection and rehabilitation services.

INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA

“Discussing the proliferation of death rates due to the violence and coercion of drug cartels in Latin, Central, and South American countries as a form of organized crime”.

Drug cartels, as defined in criminal law, “A drug cartel is a criminal organization that controls the promotion and distribution of narcotic drugs”. Some drug cartels are known to finance terrorist organizations. In the past, Colombian drug cartels garnered the majority of media attention. There were three rival drug cartels responsible for the narco-trafficking in Colombia. The three cartels are Cali Cartel, Medellin Cartel, and the Norte del Valle Cartel. Drug cartels have dominated the drug trafficking trade to the United States and have become increasingly violent. The current major Mexican drug cartels are the Juárez Cartel, Tijuana Cartel, Los Zetas Cartel, Beltrán-Leyva Cartel, Gulf Cartel, Sinaloa Cartel, and La Familia Cartel.

Organized crime, complex of highly centralized enterprises set up for the purpose of engaging in illegal activities. Such organizations engage in offenses such as cargo theft, fraud, robbery, kidnapping for ransom, and the demanding of “protection” payments. The principal source of income for these criminal syndicates is the supply of goods and services that are illegal but for which there is continued public demand, such as drugs, prostitution, loan-sharking (i.e., usury), and gambling.

Drug cartel members often find themselves embroiled in criminal activities seemingly unrelated to drug trafficking. As a cartel network grows in membership, finances, and influence, the potential for crime grows with it. For example, a drug cartel may earn enough to buy a legitimate business to use for money laundering. The cartel may then use the same business as a front for other crimes. For example, a cartel may run a legal casino or bar and then launder drug money through the business.

Drug Cartels indulge in, but do not limit to the following activities. Though not an exhaustive list, the state may levy any of the following charges against members of drug cartels and other organized crime:

- Drug distribution and trafficking activities
- Assault and battery
- Murder
- Money laundering
- Fraud
- Embezzlement
- Theft
- Pandering

- Gambling
- Bribery
- Human trafficking

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, adopted by General Assembly resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000, is the main international instrument in the fight against transnational organized crime. It opened for signature by Member States at a High-level Political Conference convened for that purpose in Palermo, Italy, on 12-15 December 2000 and entered into force on 29 September 2003.

The three major international drug control treaties, the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 (as amended in 1972), the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, are mutually supportive and complementary.

An important purpose of the first two treaties is to codify internationally applicable control measures in order to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes, and to prevent their diversion into illicit channels. They also include general provisions on illicit drug trafficking and drug abuse.

The 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances extends the control regime to precursors, and focuses on establishing measures to combat illicit drug trafficking and related money-laundering, as well as strengthening the framework of international cooperation in criminal matters, including extradition and mutual legal assistance.

The three conventions attribute important functions to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and to the International Narcotics Control Board:

- The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, composed of 53 Member States elected by the Economic and Social Council for a four-year term, is the central policy-making body with regard to drug-related matters, including the monitoring of the global trends of illicit drug trafficking and abuse. This functional commission of the Economic and Social Council adopts and recommends for adoption by the Council or to the General Assembly through the Council, resolutions on new concerted measures or agreed policies to better address the drug phenomenon. It decides whether new substances should be included in one of the schedules of the conventions and if changes or deletions in the schedules are required.
- The International Narcotics Control Board is a permanent and independent body, consisting of 13 members, who are elected for a five-year term by the Economic and Social Council on the basis of their competence and serve in their personal capacity. The Board monitors the implementation of the conventions and, where appropriate, makes

recommendations to States. It also administers the statistical control of drugs on the basis of data supplied by Governments and assesses world requirements of licit drugs with a view to the adaptation of production to those requirements. It gathers information on illicit trafficking, and submits an annual report on developments in the world situation to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and to the Economic and Social Council.

This particular session of the UNODC shall focus on the direct impact of drug cartels on death rates, as a form of organized crime. UNODC has an important role in assisting these bodies in performing their treaty-based functions, and in assisting States Parties in the implementation of their obligations under the international drug control treaties.

The UNODC as a body urges the drastic reduction in the aforementioned crime rates for the following reasons :

- Firstly, it is the ultimate cause of a humanitarian crisis. Innocent civilians, including women and children tend to become the victims of cartel violations. Moreover, the trauma associated with it tends to have a severe impact on an individual and communities, leading to long-term mental health issues (which may affect their productivity).
- Secondly, the social and economic impact. It disrupts the social fabric of communities, leading to displacement and the breakdown of social cohesion. It breaks apart families, decreases their standard of living and results in loss of livelihood. Furthermore, the youth are persuaded to join these cartels and hence, indulge in criminal activities. The violence and instability deter investment and economic development. Businesses are less likely to invest in regions plagued by cartel violence, which hinders economic growth and perpetuates poverty as well. The burden on healthcare systems due to violence-related injuries and deaths strains already limited resources, diverting funds from other critical areas of public health.
- Lastly, the international implications. The demand for illicit drugs in Central, South and Latin America, and Europe drives cartel activities. Addressing cartel violence is not just a regional issue but a global one, requiring international cooperation and comprehensive strategies to reduce demand and disrupt supply chains. Violence forces many to flee their homes, contributing to regional migration crises. Addressing the root causes of cartel violence can help mitigate these migration pressures.

STATE OF AFFAIRS

In Mexico, cartel-related violence is driven by turf wars between major criminal organizations like the Sinaloa Cartel and the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG). These conflicts often result in significant civilian casualties and have forced many people to migrate, primarily towards the United States. For instance, the states of Guerrero, Chiapas, and Tamaulipas have seen intensified violence due to disputes over smuggling routes and local resources like gold mines.

Central and South America are also experiencing increased violence due to the expanding influence of Mexican cartels. Countries like Ecuador have seen a dramatic rise in cartel-related violence, including kidnappings and attacks, which have prompted massive military deployments to restore order. The presence of Mexican cartels in countries like Ecuador and Colombia has led to proxy wars, further destabilizing these regions.

Additionally, drug production is at an all-time high in Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia, leading to more competition among criminal groups for control over trafficking routes. The increased production of coca and the ongoing demand for synthetic opioids like fentanyl in the United States exacerbate the violence, as cartels fight for dominance in both production and distribution.

Political instability and corruption continue to enable the cartels' operations. Many politicians and public officials in Mexico and other affected countries are either coerced or paid off by cartels, leading to further entrenchment of organized crime in political and economic systems.

Mexico

In Mexico, the conflict between drug cartels is particularly intense. The Sinaloa Cartel and the CJNG are the primary actors, and their violent struggle for control has significantly impacted civilian life. Turf wars have led to high civilian casualties and forced mass migrations. Areas like Guerrero, Chiapas, and Tamaulipas are hotbeds of violence, with local populations caught in the crossfire.

1. Guerrero: This region has seen an increase in violence due to cartels fighting over control of local resources, including gold mines.
2. Chiapas: The state's proximity to Central America makes it a key area for drug trafficking routes, leading to clashes between the CJNG and the Sinaloa Cartel.
3. Tamaulipas: This state is critical for smuggling routes into the United States. Infighting among factions of the Gulf Cartel further exacerbates the violence.

Central and South America

The influence of Mexican cartels extends beyond Mexico, significantly impacting countries like Ecuador and Colombia.

1. Ecuador: Violence has surged due to the presence of Mexican cartels, with the country experiencing kidnappings, murders, and increased military deployments to maintain order.
2. Colombia: Coca cultivation has expanded, and competition among criminal groups for control over trafficking routes has intensified. The involvement of Mexican cartels in these regions has led to proxy wars, further destabilizing these countries .

KEY CARTELS

1. Sinaloa Cartel

The Sinaloa Cartel significantly impacts both Mexico and the global drug trade through its extensive control over cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine, and heroin trafficking, generating billions in revenue. This financial power allows the cartel to corrupt local and national officials, undermining governance and contributing to widespread violence and insecurity. The cartel's operations force many to flee their homes, leading to substantial migration, primarily towards the United States. Additionally, the cartel's international network extends its influence to other continents, collaborating with global criminal organizations to maintain its dominance in the illicit drug market,

2. Medellín Cartel

The Medellín Cartel, historically one of the most powerful and violent criminal organizations, had a profound impact on Colombia and the global drug trade during its peak in the 1980s and early 1990s. Led by Pablo Escobar, the cartel dominated cocaine production and distribution, contributing to Colombia becoming the world's largest cocaine producer. This illicit trade generated immense wealth, which was used to corrupt government officials, law enforcement, and the judiciary, severely undermining state institutions. The cartel's operations led to widespread violence, including assassinations, bombings, and kidnappings, causing significant social and political instability in Colombia. Internationally, the Medellín Cartel's network extended across the Americas and into Europe, establishing a global drug trafficking empire that has left a lasting legacy on the dynamics of the global drug trade.

3. CJNG

The Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG) has rapidly become one of Mexico's most powerful and violent criminal organizations, with significant impacts on both the local and international levels. The CJNG is known for its aggressive expansion tactics, often engaging in brutal conflicts with rival cartels, such as the Sinaloa Cartel, to control drug trafficking routes and territories. This violence has led to high levels of insecurity and numerous civilian casualties in regions like Jalisco, Michoacán, and Guerrero. The cartel's influence extends beyond Mexico's borders, with operations and alliances in countries across Latin America and even in Europe and Asia, making it a major player in the global drug trade. Domestically, the CJNG's vast financial resources enable it to corrupt local and national officials, further destabilizing governance and contributing to pervasive corruption. Additionally, the cartel's involvement in the production and distribution of synthetic drugs, particularly fentanyl, has had severe public health implications, particularly in the United States, where opioid overdoses have surged.

4. Los Zetas

Los Zetas, originally formed as the paramilitary enforcement arm of the Gulf Cartel, evolved into one of Mexico's most notorious and violent criminal organizations. Known for their extreme brutality, Los Zetas engaged in widespread acts of violence, including mass killings, kidnappings, and extortion, to maintain control over drug trafficking routes and other criminal enterprises. Their operations extended across much of eastern, central, and southern Mexico. Over time, internal fractures led to the creation of rival factions, such as the Northeast Cartel, reducing their power but not their capacity for violence. The group's influence and corruption deeply impacted public safety and governance, undermining state institutions and spreading fear among civilians. Their activities also contributed significantly to the overall instability and violence in Mexico's ongoing drug war, with consequences felt throughout the region.

5. Juárez Cartel

The Juárez Cartel, based in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, has played a significant role in the country's drug trade and violence. As one of the oldest cartels, it has been a major player in the smuggling of cocaine, marijuana, and methamphetamine into the United States. The cartel's influence has led to severe violence, particularly during its ongoing conflict with the Sinaloa Cartel over control of trafficking routes. This rivalry has resulted in thousands of deaths, making Ciudad Juárez one of the most dangerous cities in the world at various points. The Juárez Cartel's fragmentation into factions like La Línea has further complicated the security landscape, with these splinter groups engaging in extortion, kidnappings, and street-level drug sales. The violence and corruption associated with the

Juárez Cartel have deeply impacted local governance, law enforcement, and civilian life, contributing to a pervasive sense of insecurity and fear.

6. Gulf Cartel

The Gulf Cartel, one of Mexico's oldest and most influential drug trafficking organizations, has had a profound impact on the country's drug trade and violence. Historically based in the northeastern state of Tamaulipas, the cartel has been a key player in smuggling cocaine, marijuana, heroin, and methamphetamine into the United States. Its control over major smuggling routes has made it a powerful force in the region. However, internal splits and the emergence of rival groups like Los Zetas, initially formed as the cartel's enforcement arm, have led to violent infighting and territorial disputes. These conflicts have resulted in widespread violence and instability in areas like Tamaulipas and Zacatecas, contributing to high levels of crime and insecurity.

PAST ACTION TAKEN BY THE UNODC

UNODC's approach to the drugs issue is multifaceted and encompasses the most diverse aspects of the subject, with orchestrated and specific actions in the areas of health, education and public safety, among others. On one side, in order to contribute to demand reduction, UNODC implements projects for prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of addicted subjects, as well as for preventing transmission of the HIV virus associated with drug use. On the other side, seeking to reduce supply, it promotes programmes to combat money laundering associated with the illegal drugs market, to monitor illicit crops and to strengthen governments' capacity to intercept and restrain drug trafficking.

In order to advance this work, UNODC undertakes efforts in promoting studies and analyses on drug production, traffic and consumption, in order to offer grounds for the implementation by the countries of interventions that are adequate to each national context. UNODC also offers legal assistance to countries for the implementation of UN's conventions and treaties for drug control, with the necessary adaptations to national legislations.

In the prevention area, UNODC promotes the construction of strategies directed towards information and knowledge to allow people, particularly the young, to develop their capabilities and to have the opportunity to make decisions that favor their quality of life.

On the issue of treatment, UNODC seeks to improve the quality of the responses to abuse and dependence on drugs through international cooperation and information interchange between different countries. The main global initiative in this direction is [Treatnet](#).

UNODC promotes within different countries the development of strategies of attention to drug use, based on scientific evidence, using an approach that prioritizes respect to human rights and the real needs of the services' users in their clinical, motivational and social aspects.

UNODC publishes annually the [World Drug Report](#), which gathers the main data and trends analyses on production, traffic and consumption of illegal drugs worldwide. The data are compiled by UNODC from questionnaires sent to the Member States and compose a reference document to guide global policies on drugs.

The programmes designed to prevent the inadequate use of drugs are always considered the most important intervention and have as their priority target the youth. UNODC's work in this area is based on principles that call for the establishment of community-based action, with wide incentive to the participation of the youth; activities of extended perspective regarding different types of substances, with focus on people and social interactions; and the guarantee that other groups that can influence the youth's life conditions are considered in the programmes developed.

UNODC has been working on the identification and dissemination of good practices and reference documents, with the contribution of community and youth institutions, through two projects: the [Global Youth Network](#) and the [Global Initiative on Primary Prevention of Substance Abuse](#).

With the help of the youth, members of academic institutions, professionals working in the area and other UN agencies, UNODC has been identifying what works better for prevention. Towards this end, the participation of the youth in this process contributes to more effective and lasting results.

TREATIES AND CONVENTIONS

United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime is a legally-binding instrument through which States parties commit to taking a series of measures against transnational organized crime. These include the creation of domestic offenses to combat the problem, the adoption of new, sweeping frameworks for mutual legal assistance, extradition, law enforcement cooperation and technical assistance, and training.

United Nations Convention against Corruption

In its resolution 55/61, the General Assembly recognized that an effective international legal instrument against corruption, independent of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, was desirable. The text of the Convention was negotiated during seven sessions held between 21 January 2002 and 1 October 2003. The Convention was adopted by the General Assembly on 31 October 2003.

*Other drug-related treaties are mentioned under the introduction to the agenda

QUESTIONS FOR RESEARCH

- What are the primary factors contributing to the power and influence of drug cartels in Latin, Central, and South American countries?
- How have governments in these regions responded to drug cartel violence? What strategies have been effective or ineffective?
- How can international cooperation be enhanced to combat drug cartels more effectively? What role can UNODC play in facilitating this cooperation?
- What measures can be taken to improve the training and resources of law enforcement agencies in these regions to combat drug cartels?
- What judicial reforms are necessary to effectively prosecute and dismantle drug cartels? How can countries strengthen their legal frameworks to reduce impunity for organized crime?
- What alternative economic opportunities can be provided to communities affected by drug cartel influence to reduce their dependence on the drug trade?
- How can education and public awareness campaigns be utilized to reduce the influence of drug cartels and prevent recruitment into organized crime?
- What measures can be taken to protect vulnerable populations, including women and children, from the violence and coercion of drug cartels?
- What support systems (e.g., psychological, financial, legal) can be established for victims of drug cartel violence and coercion?
- How can countries improve data collection and analysis to better understand and respond to the impact of drug cartel violence on death rates? What role can international organizations play in this effort?
- What indicators should be used to measure the effectiveness of policies and interventions aimed at reducing drug cartel violence and related death rates?
- Are there any countries or regions that have successfully reduced drug cartel violence and death rates? What strategies and policies have they implemented that could be adapted for use in Latin, Central, and South American countries?
- What key elements should be included in a UNODC resolution to effectively address the proliferation of death rates due to drug cartel violence? Consider specific actions, timelines, and mechanisms for accountability.

CLOSING REMARKS

Dear delegates,

We hope this background guide has helped to give a clear overview of the committee's agenda.

It is vital to remember that while this background guide has the fundamental research required to get an idea of the agenda, it is only the premise for the research you are supposed to build on. We urge delegates to do extensive research and get as much information as they can regarding the agenda, so that they can participate and discuss the issue as best as possible.

The Executive Board (EB) for this year's VMUN UNODC sincerely looks forward to a fruitful and engaging debate between delegates and to foster relationships between you all as evidence-based solutions are being discussed in committee. The EB encourages delegates of all States to participate eagerly and bring evidence-based solutions that can be discussed in committee.

Lastly, we hope everyone gets something out of the conference and enjoys the event. We appreciate all of your interest and effort to excel during the two days of our conference. The EB looks forward to innovative and out-of-the-box ideas being brought up in committee and wishes the delegates the very best of luck.

Yours Sincerely,

Meiyammai Ramanathan (Chairperson)

Farhan Feroz (Vice-Chairperson)

Farah Mohamed (Vice-Chairperson)

Namya Soni (Director).

Please reach out to us at vmun.unodc@vaelsinternationalschool.com for further questions/queries.