Letter from the Executive Board

Greetings Delegates,

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the 2022 edition of Strawberry Fields High School Model United Nations. We hope the agenda selected for this committee will challenge you to use your critical thinking and reasoning in tackling conflicts, filled with ethnicity, history and emotions. In doing so, we expect the utmost cautiousness of you while negotiating between the fine line of sovereignty and the international community's responsibility to protect human life.

Deliberating and debating for the benefit of society is not an activity, it is a moral obligation, that is something we, as the YOUTH, should look forward to. The United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, abbreviated to UNCND is in itself, one of the broadest and most peculiar committees and there can't be a better option to explore your debating and MUNing skills than to be a part of this committee and discussing these broader, relevant agendas which are open to interpretation. For many, it may be the first ever MUN conference in your educational experience, and we strongly encourage you to go through this background guide that has been prepared for you as a part of the conference to get an in-depth understanding of the issue that will be discussed in the committee.

You are expected to research, collate, and list down possible points of discussion, questions and plausible responses and be prepared to enjoy the intellectual energy in the group. At the same time, it is not only about speaking and presenting, but very importantly it is also about the ability to listen, understand viewpoints and learn from each one's perspectives. We as a panel, considering the mode of conducting the conference is online, expect to focus more and more on the quantity and fierceness of the debate rather than poking our noses into set cliches and guidelines. Remember, 'Belief in what you say, stand by it, and make your merit.' And oh yes, never forget to gain more and more knowledge, experience and joy. That is the main purpose of a conference, to be better and of course to be a winner. So give your best! Also to add on, background guides are made just to give you an insight into the agenda and help you with the research part. It is not your entire research, You have to research beyond this going into the depths of the agenda.

Regards,

Aryan Singh Anmol Puri
Chairperson Vice Chairperson

About the Committee

Maintaining a coherent international strategy for narcotics control was a priority following the Second World War and the establishment of the UN, and in 1946, the newly formed Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) established the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) through resolution 9 (1) to advise it on drug policy. In the early years of CND, several drug protocols were established, the most significant being the 1953 Protocol for Limiting and Regulating the Cultivation of the Poppy Plant, the Production of, International and Wholesale Trade in, and Use of Opium (Opium Protocol). The Opium Protocol reaffirmed that opium and related substances could only be used for scientific or medical purposes, and mandated the establishment of dedicated drug agencies in MtheThe ember States that ratified the protocol. The modern CND, however, is mainly defined around three treaties: the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961), the Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971), and the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988). The Single Convention was so named because it amalgamated and superseded all pre-existing drug

control treaties. While earlier drug control treaties had largely been limited to controlling the supply of narcotics and limiting their usage to medical and research purposes, from the 1970s onwards demand reduction began to take a more prominent role in the language of international treaties. For example, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances requires signatories to take "all active measures for the prevention of abuse of psychotropic substances." The 1961 and 1971 Conventions, along with the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988), form the bedrock of the international drug control framework, of which CND is the central body.

Governance, Structure, and Membership

There are 53 members of CND, with 11 seats each reserved for African and Asian states, 10 for Latin America, six for Eastern Europe, and 14 for Western Europe and others. The remaining seats rotate between Asian and Latin American or Caribbean states every four years. Members must be a party to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, and "adequate representation" must be ensured for Mthe ember States that are either key producers of opium or coca leaves, key places where illicit narcotics are manufactured, or where the use of illicit narcotics are particularly concerning. Members of CND are elected by an organisational session of ECOSOC. CND is led internally by the Bureau and Extended Bureau of the Commission.

The Bureau is composed of a Chairperson, three Vice-Persons, and a Rapporteur, who are elected at the end of each CND session for the following one. The Bureau also works with the UN Secretariat to prepare CND sessions, as well as undertake organisational work between sessions. The Extended Bureau includes representatives from the five main global geographic regions, in addition to the EU, China, and the Group of 77 developing nations. The UNCND, along with

other bodies such as the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on the Status of Women, is one of the functional commissions of ECOSOC. CND's reports are considered at the substantive session of ECOSOC each year.

About the Agenda (Combating the rising influence of organised crime in Southeast Europe with special emphasis on narco-terrorism.)

Background

Transnational crime is recognized not only as a threat to national security but also as a major threat to human security. While these threats are often indirect, they are still substantial, and the large sums of money involved, as well as the penalties of being caught, mean that trafficking in drugs, people, goods, and resources are a high-stakes game played by those who unhesitatingly use violence. systematically against those who are caught up in these activities. This poses an immediate threat to individual lives, and many people live in extreme poverty. Thus, the threat to human

security posed by transnational crime involves victimisation, violence, and problems for the safety of trapped individuals. Given these risks, any economic benefits that this illegal activity might bring to poor areas are still not worth the injustices that come with it.

The problem with dealing with transnational crime stems from the behavioural principles underlying the international system that sometimes limit effective international cooperation between states. Actions and international cooperation to protect the human security of victims of transnational crimes will not be realised if they threaten the security and national interests of a country.

More effective action against transnational crime can be achieved if it is seen as a criminal problem that threatens individual human security. This would require each country to criminalise all types of transnational crimes in their domestic criminal code as well as sign bilateral treaties, extradition treaties, and mutual legal assistance agreements with other countries to ensure that law enforcement officials have the authority to investigate and prosecute activities as a crime. If states fail to criminalise transnational crime at the national level, it becomes much more difficult to create or enforce regional or international efforts to tackle the activity.

Transnational organised crime (TOC) is no longer the sole property of specialised criminal organisations. It is now an important strategy for armed groups around the world, and a source of funding for terrorists, corrupt politicians, warlords, and rogue governments.
But states and international organisations have largely failed to anticipate the evolution of the TOC into a strategic threat to governments, societies and economies on an international level. For instance, the United States has experienced the effect of organised 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. Another example of organised 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 labour and 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. 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 organised 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 organised crime occurs, the violation of basic human rights, and the perpetuation of violence within the international community.4 As national organised crime cannot be stopped then it becomes transnational crime creating a vicious circle of illegal activity. The international community needs new cooperation to prevent organised crime and recover illicit assets.

An outdated understanding of TOC is inadequate to reflect on the strategic impact of TOC and fails to ensure that peace efforts and crime eradication are not successful cross destinations. A complete overhaul of international cooperation in dealing with TOC is needed to improve the exchange of information; develop international investigative, policing, and prosecution tools; and integrate strategic decision-making in international peace efforts to combat international crime.

As we also discuss the eminent issue of illicit drug trafficking induced Narco-terrorism, "The war on drugs, which started in the 70s, has not inhibited the production, traffic, or consumption of drugs in the world", said Mexico's President Enrique Peña Nieto when addressing the special session on drug policy of the United Nations General Assembly on April 19, 2016. His words were not stated without reason– in the 2015 World Drug Report, which was released roughly a year before, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

(UNODC) concluded, that despite the widespread efforts to control international drug trafficking more thoroughly, worldwide drug use and abuse are more prevalent than ever. The problems that need to be addressed are manifold; ever-increasing globalisation has led to numerous new trafficking routes, newly surfacing synthetic drugs defy current legal standards, and the measures are undertaken to control this thus far have proven to be much less effective than what was to be hoped. Due to the

global aspect, which has allowed drug cartels to expand rapidly, the persecution and regulation of the rug trade hashavehas have become what has been called "an international game of whack-a-mole whack-a-mole". Though many drug-producing countries and quite a few trafficking routes are known, the structures and the people behind transnational drug trafficking remain elusive. Cracking down on specific areas of the problem has thus far mostly helped to create a vacuum, which is usually rapidly filled again. There are also many dissenting opinions on how this problem should be tackled: Traditional economic theory dictates that demand creates supply, and since the UN's approach has so far been largely supply-focused, the international community has seen much criticism. There are also quite a few who argue that these traditional models do not apply to drugs, and that, to a certain degree, drug availability creates demand. While some of the facets of the issue have long since been known, some others are newly surfacing. Some countries are known hubs of drug production, such as Afghanistan and the so-called "Golden Triangle" comprised of Laos, Thailand, Myanmar (and in some depictions also Vietnam) for opium, Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia for cocaine, or again Afghanistan and also Mexico for marihuana. But with new, synthetic drugs emerging, and because of the ever-shifting and uncontrollable nature of the trade and its routes, international legislation has found itself in something of a rut – some new substances remain in a "technically legal" grey area, and far too often the decisions agreed upon by international actors prove to be ineffective once they are put into action. Additionally, with some countries such as the Philippines resorting to rather extreme measures in combating drug use, the local side to what is a worldwide problem should not go unnoticed either. With dissenting opinions as to whether increased stringency and force are necessary to tackle the issues at hand, or if legalisation, rehabilitation, and regulation should be the way of approach, the world finds itself confronted with a figurative behemoth of a task. There is little to no certainty as to which approach should be taken and which measures will prove to be effective in the long run, the negative implications of the worldwide drug trade are as rampant as 9 ever before, and the consequences are being felt. Whether your views are governed by trust in the traditional approaches, or whether you opt for a complete overhaul of the entire system – this is a problem that screams to be solved. Drug trafficking is

a global illicit trade involving the cultivation, manufacture, distribution and sale of substances which are subject to drug prohibition laws. UNODC

is continuously monitoring and researching global illicit drug markets to gain a more comprehensive understanding of their dynamics. Drug trafficking is a key part of this research. Further information can be found in the yearly World Drug Report. At current levels, world heroin consumption (340 tons) and seizures represent an annual flow of 430-450 tons of heroin into the global heroin market. Of that total, opium from Myanmar and the Lao People's Democratic Republic yields some 50 tons, while the rest, some 380 tons of heroin and morphine, is produced exclusively from Afghan opium. While approximately 5 tons are consumed and seized in Afghanistan, the remaining bulk of 375 tons is trafficked worldwide via routes flowing into and through the countries neighbouring Afghanistan. The Balkan and northern routes are the main heroin trafficking corridors linking Afghanistan to the huge markets of the Russian Federation and Western Europe. The Balkan route traverses the Islamic Republic of Iran (often via Pakistan), Turkey, Greece and Bulgaria across SouthEast Europe to the Western European market, with an annual market value of some $20 billion. The northern route runs mainly through Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan (or Uzbekistan or Turkmenistan) to Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation. The size of that market is estimated to total $13 billion per year.

Current Situation

Organised crime is a major threat to European citizens, businesses and institutions, as well as to the European economy. In 2019, criminal revenues in the main criminal markets amounted to 1 % of the EU's GDP, i.e. €139 billion. Crime groups are present in all EU countries and often operate across borders. 70 % of criminal groups are, in fact, active in more than three member states.

The top criminal activities in Europe are drug trafficking, cybercrime, excise fraud, migrant smuggling and trafficking of human beings. In May 2021, the EU adopted its priorities for the fight against serious and organised crime for the next four years. The priorities will be implemented between 2022 and 2025 within the 'European multidisciplinary platform against criminal threats' (EMPACT). In February 2021, EU countries decided to make EMPACT a permanent instrument in the fight against serious and organised crime. Within the EMPACT framework, EU member states, agencies and other partners work closely together to address key criminal threats through joint operational actions designed to dismantle criminal networks, their structures and business models.

The 10 EU crime priorities adopted by the Council are based on the recommendations identified in the 'EU serious and organised crime threat assessment' (EU SOCTA), prepared by Europol and take into account other strategic papers, assessments and policies:-

1. High risk high-risk criminal networks

43 % of the organised crime groups in the EU are structured around a core group, 40 % are hierarchically structured and 17 % are loose networks. It is, therefore, crucial to scale up the dismantling of organised crime structures and to target both those groups that pose a higher risk to Europe's security as well as the individuals in the higher hierarchies of criminal organisations.

The EU's work to tackle high risk high-risk criminal networks focuses especially on the groups using:

● Corruption
● Acts of violence ● Firearms
● Money laundering

2. Cyberattacks

Cybercrimes are typically directed at computers, networks or other forms of information communication technology (ICT). They include, for instance, the creation and spread of malware, hacking to steal sensitive data and the denial of service attacks (DoS) designed to cause financial and/or reputational damage. C	cyberattacks and cybercrime are increasing in number and sophistication across Europe. This trend is set to grow further in the future, given that 22.3 billion devices worldwide are expected to be linked to the Internet of Things by 2024.

The EU intends to strengthen its measures against cybercrime, in particular by targeting cybercriminals offering specialised criminal services online.

3. Trafficking in human beings

Human trafficking is a serious crime that violates people's fundamental rights. It involves the criminal exploitation of vulnerable people for the sole purpose of economic gain. Sexual exploitation is the most prevalent form of trafficking in the EU (59%), followed by labour

exploitation (21%), forced criminality (10%), forced begging, forced marriages and domestic servitude.

The EU has taken several actions to prevent human trafficking, punish criminals and protect the victims. However, more needs to be done to disrupt the criminal networks involved in human trafficking, especially those criminals who:

- Exploit minors

- Use or threaten violence against victims and their families

- Recruit and advertise victims online

4. Child sexual exploitation

The number of incidents involving online child exploitation has steadily increased in recent years and has further intensified during the COVID-19 pandemic.The fast-paced technological innovation and widespread and increasing accessibility of ICT facilitate opportunities for criminals to abuse and exploit children. This type of crime is highly underreported and, unfortunately, many victims remain unidentified.

The EU seeks to tackle child abuse, both online and offline, including the production and dissemination of child abuse material as well as online child sexual exploitation. The EU institutions are currently working on new legislation to tackle online child sexual abuse and exploitation.

5. Migrant smuggling

Migrant smuggling is a global crime that exposes migrants to life-threatening risks. The migration crisis that unfolded in 2015 has had a profound impact on Europe's criminal landscape, with criminal networks substantially increasing their involvement in migrant smuggling. O server 90 % of migrants pay smugglers to try to reach Europe. This is a highly lucrative business for criminal networks and entails a low risk of being caught. It is estimated that migrant smuggling generated a €3-6 billion turnover in 2015 globally, and over €200 million in 2019 in the maritime routes leading to the European Union.

The EU has taken decisive actions to fight criminal networks which exploit vulnerable migrants and intends to do more, in particular to target criminals providing facilitation services along the main migratory routes.

6. Drug trafficking

The illicit drugs market is, in fact, one of the major sources of income for organised crime groups in the European Union, and represents an estimated yearly retail value of at least €30 billion.

European drug markets are characterised by:

- A high availability of various types of drug

- Ever larger seizures

- The increasing use of violence and huge profits

- The use of technologies to facilitate illicit trafficking

Such developments have increased during the COVID-19 crisis. The EU's main objective in this field is to identify and target the criminal networks involved in drug trafficking, including the trafficking and distribution of cannabis, cocaine, heroin, synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances.

7. Fraud, economic and financial crimes

Fraud schemes targeting private citizens, enterprises and critical infrastructure are present across the EU.

Fraudsters have used the COVID-19 pandemic to take advantage of and profit from the insecurity and growing demand for certain products resulting from the crisis. Economic crime areas of specific interest to EU joint investigation teams include:

- Online fraud schemes

- Excise fraud

- Missing trader intra-Community fraud (MTIC fraud)

- Intellectual property crime

- Counterfeiting of goods and currencies

- Criminal finances

- Money laundering

8. Organised property crime

Organised property crime is the most visible type of organised crime and has a direct impact on people and organisations. More than one million cases related to burglary are reported every year in the EU. I nIn 2020, the number of domestic burglaries and common thefts generally declined because COVID-19 restrictions kept people more at home. The EU seeks to disrupt criminal networks involved in organised property crime, with particular focus on:

- Organised burglaries

- Theft and robberies

- Motor vehicle crime

- Illegal trade in cultural goods

9. Environmental crime
Environmental crime is one of the world's most profitable organised criminal activities and has a major impact not only on the environment but also on human health.

- Environmental crime offences include:

- Improper collection, transport, recovery or disposal of waste

- Illegal emission or discharge of substances into the atmosphere, water or soil

- The killing, destruction, possession of or trade in protected wild animal or plant
species

- Illegal trade in ozone-depleting substances

The EU has taken several actions to combat criminal networks involved in all forms of environmental crime and intends to do more, in particular by targeting crime groups with a capability to infiltrate legal business structures or set up their own companies to facilitate their crimes.

10. Firearms trafficking

Criminals often rely on the availability of weapons to carry out their activities. However, the market for firearms in the EU remains modest in size. Between 2019 and 2020, EU law enforcement authorities seized more than 11 000 firearms and weapons. For several years, the EU and its member states have coordinated several activities to counter firearms trafficking, but new threats have emerged that demand new actions.

The EU intends therefore to do more to target criminals involved in the trafficking, distribution and use of firearms. In July 2021, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex), created a handbook on firearms to help national border guard and customs authorities fight arms-related crime. In addition to these ten priorities, the production and provision of fraudulent and false documents will be addressed as a horizontal goal, since it is a key enabler for many crimes.

International Legislation frameworks & Conventions

1. United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC - Res. 55/25)

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, adopted by General Assembly resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000, is the main international instrument in the fight against transnational organised crime. The Convention is a major step forward in the fight against transnational organised crime and signifies recognition by

MtheThe member States of the seriousness of the problems it poses, as well as the need to encourage and enhance close international cooperation to tackle the problem. Countries that ratify this instrument commit to taking a range of actions against transnational organised crime, including the creation of domestic crimes (participation in organised criminal groups, money laundering, corruption and obstruction of justice); adoption of a new and comprehensive framework for extradition, mutual legal assistance and law enforcement cooperation; and promotion of training and technical assistance to build or enhance the required capacity of national authorities.

2. *The Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan*

One hundred and forty-two Member States unanimously adopted the Political Declaration of Naples and the Global Plan of Action against Transnational Organised Crime, which were subsequently approved by the General Assembly (resolution 49/159 of 23 December 1994). The Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan emphasise the need and urgency of global action against transnational organised crime to ensure that their criminal justice systems can prevent and control transnational organised crime in all its manifestations. The Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan stress the need for international community cooperation as a general concept of organised crime, requesting the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to examine possible conventions against transnational organised crime as an essential element of any international effort.

Possible Solutions
1. Ensuring Greater Cooperation Between Countries
Creating an intercontinental database on information related specifically to transnational organised
crimes can create information that can be solely dedicated to cross-border crimes. Ensuring the physical assistance is provided by MEDCs can also enable greater collaboration between MEDC and
LEDC member states where related organised crimes occur.

2. Implementing Greater regulation

Implementing strict regulation on all kinds of economic activity, especially banks and other financial

service services will curb the fund flow to criminal organisations. There should be cooperation among all

member states/ countries when dealing with organised crime, particularly where money laundering
activities are involved,

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

1) What portions of this convention and its protocols has your country ratified and/or enacted?
What was the reasoning behind this decision? If your country has not ratified the UN-CATOC,

why not? Is your government considering ratification at this time?
2.) How is your country affected by these issues? Is your country a destination point for migrants,
a source of human trafficking, or a major buyer of illicit arms? What is the effect of these issues on
your country?
3.) What other problems does your country currently face due to transnational organized crime?
4.) What are your country's gun ownership laws? Does your country maintain an up-to-date national registry of firearm ownership?

References for Further Research

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