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Addressing the risks of Drug Trafficking and its adverse effects on Disarmament and International Security

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Topic Introduction

Drug trafficking is one of the numerous worldwide concerns and phenomena our globe is currently facing. This topic has a significant impact on world security and disarmament. Drug-trafficking is often accompanied with other forms of illicit trafficking particularly arms-trafficking, and this acts as a financing source for guerilla groups or other syndicates that disturb international peace and security.

Drug trafficking can be defined as the illegal trade that occurs on a worldwide scale and includes the cultivation, manufacturing, distribution, and sale of drugs that are controlled by drug prohibition laws. Cannabis, opioids, cocaine, amphetamines, and ecstasy are just some of the drugs that are commonly trafficked. The annual worth of the global drug trade is estimated to range anywhere from \$426 billion to \$652 billion. This industry provides drugs to almost 200 million drug consumers and users all over the world.

Drugs are trafficked in many methods that impose a threat on civilian security for instance, container shipping and small boats, light aircraft and airline passengers, as well as vehicle traffic and post and fast parcels are the most common transportation methods for drug trafficking. The chance that young individuals will be radicalized and recruited by terrorist organizations, which pose an enormous threat to civilians and peace, is a significant issue that comes as a direct result of drug trafficking as this illegal work field provides lots of job opportunities for youth including traders and dealers.

Several countries such as Honduras and El Salvador have the highest homicide rates in the world caused by drug trafficking, with 63.75 and 108.64 homicides per 100,000 people. Gangs involved in drug trafficking are primarily responsible for the violence.

This type of commerce has led to the spread of issues such as money laundering and illicit financing, the unlawful use of guns, organized crime, immigration crime, and the issuing of fake documents, as well as modern slavery and human trafficking. All of these are direct outcomes of this illegal and illicit trade.

Major Parties Involved

There are hundreds of countries that are involved in this topic, although the main parties involved in it include: Afghanistan, The Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Burma, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Jamaica, Laos, Mexico, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela.

As of 2021, Afghanistan's harvest produces more than 90% of illicit heroin globally, and more than 95% of the European supply. More land is used for opium in Afghanistan than is used for

coca cultivation in Latin America. The country has been the world's leading illicit drug producer since 2001.

Bolivia, A South American country, is the source of the world's largest production of both coca leaves and cocaine. It is estimated that Bolivia produces 10,000 metric tons of cocaine annually. Cocaine is the world's second most-used illegal substance after cannabis.

The Dominican Republic, A Caribbean country, is the world's biggest exporter of cannabis. The production of cannabis in the Dominican Republic is of significant concern, as the country shares a border with the United States. One of the reasons cannabis is cultivated and trafficked from the Dominican Republic is because it is significantly cheaper and easier.

The International community continues to work cooperatively with INTERPOL in ensuring that fugitives are held. The INTERPOL provides support in analyzing the provided evidence.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is a crucial party involved in combating transnational crime. The implementation of multi-disciplinary actions, demand reduction, and legal assistance supported the counter-trafficking programme in enhancing international anti-drug trafficking capacities through reducing the impact of drug abuse, improving legislative capacities, and mobilizing and empowering civil society in the fight against drugs and crime.

Keyword Definitions

- *Disarmament:*

The act of handing over one's weapons or removing them entirely is known as disarmament. The nations are engaged in a never-ending battle with one another to amass military hardware and achieve the rank of superpower. Arms of the military are required in order to keep the country safe. However, it is the responsibility of the country to work toward the peaceful resolution of disagreements and to take measures to prevent confrontations.

- *International security:*

International security, often known as global security, refers to the efforts taken by governments and international organizations such as the United Nations, European Union, and others to secure the survival and safety of all parties involved.

- *Drug trafficking:*

Is global illicit trade involving the cultivation, manufacture, distribution, and sale of substances which are subject to drug prohibition laws, therefore enabling member states to combat all forms of drug trafficking.

- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC):

UNODC is a United Nations office established in 1997 aiming to contribute to global peace and security, human rights and development by making the world safer from drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs involves 53 members that work constructively with the UN General Assembly to create a world free from drugs and the adverse consequences it influences.

- International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL):

INTERPOL is an international organization that facilitates worldwide police cooperation and crime control. It is composed of 195 member states and it offers investigative support such as forensics, analysis, and assistance in locating fugitives around the world. This expertise supports international efforts in combating crimes across three global areas we consider the most pressing today; terrorism, cybercrime and organized crime transnationally.

Implications and Global Effect

In 2008, global heroin seizures reached a historic level of 73.7 metric tons. Most of the heroin was seized in the Near and Middle East and South-West Asia (39 per cent of the global total), South-East Europe (24 per cent) and Western and Central Europe (10 per cent) as mentioned by the UNODC. The global increase in heroin seizures over the period 2006-2008 was driven mainly by continued burgeoning seizures in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey.

Since 1999 more than 600,000 people in the USA and Canada have died from opioid overdose and a distressing 1.2 million more are estimated to die due to overdose by 2029. The Opioid Crisis in North America continues as the expanding reach of Opioid continues to increase rapidly through all states in the US. To curb the epidemic and prevent its global spread, prevention should be prioritized and stricter regulations of the pharmaceutical industry should be implemented.

Following a significant increase over the period 2002-2005, global cocaine seizure totals have recently followed a stable trend, amounting to 712 tons in 2007 and 711 tons in 2008. Seizures continued to be concentrated in the Americas and Europe. However, the transition from 2007 to 2008 brought about a geographical shift towards the countries manufacturing cocaine.

Countries with the highest export rates of drugs including but not limited to heroin and cocaine host multiple terrorist organizations, such that the Republic of Turkey is home for the PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party) is a Kurdish militant political organization and armed guerrilla movement, which is operating throughout southeastern Turkey and the northern of Iraq, which is what they call Kurdistan. It is designated as a terrorist organization by Turkey, United States, and the European Union. Drug-trafficking and other illicit means of trafficking too, supply such

subversive organizations with all the weapons and armament they require, and the situation is allowed to run smoothly with the help of transnationally working drug traffickers.

Pablo Escobar, whose full name is Pablo Emilio Escobar Gaviria, was a Colombian criminal who first introduced cocaine commercially and cheaply to the US.

Aspects to Be Covered

1. Investigating routes of international illegal drug trafficking and scrutinizing the maneuvers tackled in eradicating illicit drug trafficking while abiding by the assigned definition of drug-trafficking as a global illicit trade involving the cultivation, manufacture, distribution and sale of substances which are subject to drug prohibition laws, therefore enabling member states to combat all forms of drug trafficking.
2. Taking into account that most forms of illegal drugs originate transnationally and are trafficked into countries via various routes, including:
 - a. Container shipping and yachts and small boats
 - b. Light aircraft and airline passengers
 - c. Vehicle Traffic and post and fast parcels
3. Enforcement action against drug trafficking has a wider disruptive impact on organized crime. Crime groups involved in drug trafficking are typically involved in a range of criminal activity, so action against drug trafficking can simultaneously impact:
 - a. Money laundering and illicit finance
 - b. Illegal firearms trafficking and use
 - c. Organized immigration crime
 - d. Production of false documentation
 - e. Modern slavery and human trafficking
4. Strategizing the implementation of counter-tactics in combating drug-trafficking, and this involves international cooperation with the INTERPOL, UNODC, and other member states. This involves:
 - a. Global operations against drug trafficking and assistance to ongoing investigations
 - b. Criminal analysis of intelligence on drug trafficking routes, modus operandi and the criminal networks involved
 - c. Comprehensive training for police worldwide to better tackle drug trafficking
5. Following the protocols against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea, and Air that is intended to combat smuggling by the prevention, investigation, and prosecution of offenses particularly ones concerning drug trafficking through promoting international cooperation as stated by the US Department of Justice.

Proposed Solutions

Calls upon, passing a law on penalties for the mass production of illegal drugs and its trafficking;

a. The follow-up of this crime by imposing control on the production of large amounts for unnecessary reasons by tackling the following maneuvers;

i. Implement extensive researches multiple times a year on all pharmaceutical factories, that are taking advantage of the access to medicine for their own good;

ii. Ensures that all Member States to enact comprehensive measures aimed at stemming the abuse, diversion, and misuse of prescription drugs in particular, through the establishment of awareness-raising initiatives targeting the general public and healthcare providers;