

# SHAWMUN

## 2014

### SOCHUM



# Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee

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Hello delegates!

Welcome to the 2014 Shawnigan Lake School Model United Nations Conference! I am currently a grade 12 student at Shawnigan Lake School. I have done Model UN since Grade 11. My MUN career is full of many conferences as well as receiving Outstanding Delegate at VMUN 2014 (Canada's Largest Model UN Conference). Other than MUN, I am an elite level athlete and dedicated Soccer Player, representing BC at the Canada Games, and Canada at the Youth World Cup in Gotenburg, Sweden. I am also involved in Track and Field and I have represented BC for National Events. During my spare time I enjoy talking about current events, chilling with friends & family, and playing sports.

I look forward to seeing you all at the conference,

Yonden Sherpa, Committee Director

Hello delegates,

My name is Tyler Pickford and I will be your handsome chair for SOCHUM. I am currently a grade 11 student at Brentwood College School and have participated in Model UN for nearly a year. My MUN career is full of many conferences including an Outstanding Delegate award at ConnectMUN 2013. This is not as impressive as Yonden but I do pride myself in this accomplishment. Outside of the ever encapsulating world of MUN I play rugby and have a past in competitive rowing and soccer. During my spare time I enjoy talking about politics, watching netflix, and finding myself in disarray on top of Caesar's Palace.

I look forward to leading you all around in SOCHUM and am excited to help run an active committee.

Tyler Pickford, Committee Chair

## Background

The Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs Committee (SOCHUM) is the third General Assembly of the United Nations, tasked with a broad mandate surrounding social, humanitarian and human rights issues from around the world. Some issues discussed within SOCHUM include, but are not limited to: human rights, global literacy, women's rights, children's rights, the treatment of refugees and displaced persons, international drug control, crime prevention, and the elimination of racism and discrimination. SOCHUM also works closely with many other UN bodies in order to effectually address its mandated issues.

The issue of the illegal drug trades surrounds a global black market that is dedicated to the cultivation, manufacturing, distribution, and sale of drugs that are subject to drug prohibition laws. Most jurisdictions prohibit trade, except under license, of many types of drugs through the use of drug prohibition laws. The UN stated in 2003 that the global drug trade generated an estimated US \$321.6 billion in profits. With a world GDP of US\$36 trillion in the same year, the illegal drug trade may be estimated as nearly 1% of total global trade. Currently, it is the most wide spread and lucrative organized crime operation in the United States, accounting for 40% of the country's organized crime activities and generating an annual income of about \$110 billion. Consumption of illegal drugs is widespread globally and the illegal drug trade is thought to be directly linked to violent crimes, such as homicide, especially in developing countries. Drug trafficking may be located both intra-regionally and inter-regionally for a nation. Each year the world consumes over six hundred metric tons of cocaine. About 85% of the cocaine is processed and distributed from South America, making this the world's largest drug trafficking network. SOCHUM is continuously discussing drug markets in order to gain a more comprehensive understanding of their dynamics and generating UN resolutions to advise the Security Council of ways to take affirmative action in mitigation efforts.

In Asian regions, including the Golden Triangle, which consists of Myanmar, Thailand, and Laos, countries have been attempting to combat their drug trafficking problem for years. Governments which are part of the Golden Triangle lack authority and stabilization, therefore making nations undependable on controlling drug trafficking. Drug trafficking presents violence for the nation's people, but it also guarantees a high income for the trafficker so many people turn to trafficking as a way to earn a salary.

## UN Involvement

In 1991, the UN International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) was established to coordinate UN drug control activities, as well as to serve as the focal point for the UN Decade against Drug Abuse. The UNDCP subsequently continued its activities, expanded the scope of its efforts, and increased the number of projects it oversees. In 1997, the United Nations Drug

Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention merged and formed the United Nations Offices on Drug and Crime (UNODC), which works in all regions of the world through various offices and relies on voluntary and government contributions for its funding. UNODC was created in order to help struggling nations with illicit drugs, crime and terrorism, as well as to research to further understand drug and crime issues, and to assist member nations to implement international treaties.

In 1998, the UN established the United Nations Convention against Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. The purpose of the convention was to discuss the issue of drug trafficking and create conclusive countermeasures to limit and stop drug trafficking throughout the world. The General Assembly held its 20th Special Session on international control over drugs in Vienna on June 8-10 and jointly recognized that illicit drug relations are connected to poverty, isolation, and marginality.

The United Nations is currently working with about 2,700 various Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). One of these is the Addictive Drug Information Council which is dedicated to informing nations with accurate information, raising public awareness, establishing resource centers, and acting as a policy maker for nations. Another NGO that is related to combatting the production and trafficking of illicit drugs is Narcotics Anonymous (NA), located in Central America and the Caribbean. NA works to assist the recovery of those who are addicted to drugs with constant meetings informing them about the harms drugs may cause.

## Previous Solutions

One of the most commonly adopted solutions to combat drug trafficking is the utilization of alternative developments and cash crops. Alternative developments are a method to encourage farmers to grow their crops in a way without narcotics. Furthermore, the UNODC has created alternative development programs, which have been proven to be effective in nations such as Colombia. In addition to the implementation of alternative developments, the UNODC has increased the cooperation of several nation's drug control, development policies, and strategies on how to implement these program successfully. However, alternative development has not been proven very effective in developing nations, such as in certain regions of Latin America, because of the large economic dependency of drugs in the region.

Border control has also been used as a solution to combat the drug trafficking issue. Nations have various policies on the utilization of border controls such as the national military or police force or INTERPOL. Nations believe with the strengthening of border control, drug smuggling will be able to be significantly decreased with elaborate traffic checks and inspections, however; the lack of enforcement in many nations have presented a road block in the successful implementation of border control in various nations.

Nations have implemented local rehabilitation centers, treatments, and reintegration networks for drug abusers in order to decrease the demand for drugs. In these centers, the drug abuser is informed of the consequences and life time deficits that drugs present towards the user. Nations often implement these centers in jails or local communities to provide a suitable environment for the abusers. These facilities are often funded through non-governmental organizations (NGO) and economic aid from other nations, often the larger nations such as the United States or Russia.

## **Bloc Positions**

**Asian Bloc:** Asia is one of the more prevalent areas of drug trafficking. With the involvement of drug problems within the Golden Triangle, Asia has shown to consist of large numbers of drug abusers and producers. Economic developments have helped and hindered the preventative measures taken by such nations because of the large population's consumption making the larger markets more lucrative to the cause.

**Latin American Bloc:** Drug trafficking and production has had a widespread appearance in Latin America. With the region's situation consisting of poverty, the financial capabilities of the drug production and trafficking of drugs has caused the major dependency of drugs for the nations. Violence is a major problem in this region because the various drug rebel groups demanding the cultivation of illicit drugs. Alternative development has been previously implemented throughout the region, however the alternative drugs are not meeting the economic demands as illicit drug trade does for these nations.

**African Bloc:** The African region are not much of the producers of illicit drugs, however the trafficking and consumption of illicit drugs have been the major deficit of this region. The African nations offer transport in drugs from the Middle Eastern and Latin American regions. African governments have continually been very cooperative in extending the drug limitation throughout nations, however the enforcement of governments are lacking.

**Middle Eastern Bloc:** The Middle Eastern bloc is greatly affected by the rebel groups controlling the drug trade. The governments are unable to combat the rebel groups successfully since these rebel groups are usually powerful state sponsored issues. The drug related problems in these nations are not only political, but they are also religious, which has the greatest influence throughout these nations.

**Western Bloc:** This bloc has been the most lucrative and persistent regions of the consumers. Nations in this region have tried to strengthen borders in order to decrease the trafficking. Because these nations are often larger with stable financial situations, they are able to provide funds to decrease the presence of rebel drug groups.

## Guiding Questions

1. Is your nation involved with either the production or trafficking of drugs?
2. What does your nation feel is the most accurate way to combat drug trafficking?
3. Has your nation previously taken actions towards the topic? Have they been successful? Why not?
4. Has your nations benefitted from any specific solution to deal with the drug trafficking throughout the world?
5. Is your nation willing to present national force in order to combat drug trafficking?
6. How can the international community work to stop or undermine the influence and power of various drug cartels and organized crime syndicates?
7. Does your nation believe in the legalization of drugs to alleviate some of the violence problems correlating to drug trafficking?
8. What should your country do to stop drug imports from occurring?
9. Should pre-emptive measures be considered over negotiations?
10. What economical aspects in your nation or others are there that may prevent you from effectively carrying out a specific solution?
11. How heavily does your nation or others depend on foreign investments and loans? And how will this affect the efficiency of your solutions?
12. Are your solutions feasible in a variety of nations, or are they limited to the economic or social status of a country?
13. Where will funding come from?
14. Why are your solutions different than those that have been presented in the past? Why is it better?
15. What are the advantages and disadvantages of heavily criminalizing narcotics, and can policies of criminalization coexist with rehabilitative efforts? If so, how can each be leveraged to maximize the success of the other?
16. How can countries with under-resourced public sectors in the developing world accommodate growing rates of drugs use?

## Helpful Resources

1. [www.unodc.org](http://www.unodc.org)
2. [www.drugpolicy.org](http://www.drugpolicy.org)
3. [www.druglibrary.org](http://www.druglibrary.org)
4. [www.un.org](http://www.un.org)
5. [www.news.bbc.co.uk](http://www.news.bbc.co.uk)

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<[http://centralasiaonline.com/en\\_GB/articles/caii/features/pakistan/2010/09/10/feature-01](http://centralasiaonline.com/en_GB/articles/caii/features/pakistan/2010/09/10/feature-01)>.

## Closing Remarks

I am looking forward to having an efficient and helpful committee session. Remember to research solutions that are pertaining specifically to each nation's policy. Delegates should also keep in mind that there is not just one universal solution regarding this topic and a variety of solutions are welcome to be introduced in committee. I hope this background guide gives you a better understanding of the problem at hand, as well as ideas on how to approach this issue. Best of luck to all Delegates and I look forward to meeting you all.