

CERRITOS CONFERENCE 2021



UNODC

TOPIC:
COLOMBIA DRUG CARTEL

DIRECTOR: LAURA NAVARRO

October 9th, 2021

To Delegates of CHSMUN Novice 2021

Dear Delegates,
Welcome to CHSMUN Novice 2021!

It is our highest honor and pleasure to welcome you all to our 2021 novice conference here at Cerritos High School. On behalf of the Cerritos High School Model United Nations program, we are proud to host this conference, where you will become more knowledgeable on international issues, participate in intellectually stimulating discussions, and create new and everlasting friendships.

The CHSMUN program continues to compete around the world as a nationally ranked MUN program. Our delegates utilize diplomacy in order to create complex solutions towards multilateral issues in the global community. Our head chairs are selected from only the best seniors of our program, undergoing a rigorous training process to ensure the highest quality of moderating and grading of debate. Furthermore, all the topic synopses have been reviewed and edited numerous times. We strongly believe that by providing each and every delegate with the necessary tools and understanding, he or she will have everything they need to thrive in all aspects of the committee. We thoroughly encourage each delegate to engage in all of the facets of their topic, in order to grow in their skills as a delegate and develop a greater knowledge of the world around them.

Although there will be a few changes to our conference due to Covid-19, our advisors and staff have put in countless hours to ensure delegates have an amazing experience. Our greatest hope is that from attending CHSMUN 2021, students are encouraged to continue on in Model United Nations and nevertheless, inspired to spark change in their surrounding communities. With this strong circuit consisting of over 500 delegates, CHSMUN Novice 2021 will provide a quality experience for beginner delegates to enhance their speaking and delegating skills.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact us! We look forward to seeing you at CHSMUN Novice 2021!

Sincerely,

Anushka Panjwani & Naima Dellawar

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Secretary-Generals

A Note from the Director

Delegates,

My name is Laura Navarro and I am beyond excited to be serving as your Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Committee. Currently, I'm a Senior at Cerritos High and entering into my fifth year of MUN. In my personal experience, MUN has been the highlight of my highschool career from making new friends to broadening my world view. Model UN has allowed me to become more educated on political and international affairs which inspired my interest to pursue Political Science in College! Outside of MUN, I am a part of the National Honor Society, Associated Student Body, You & Me Club and Co-President of Jumpstart. Aside from school, I enjoy playing softball, watching Dodger games, listening to music, hiking and journaling! As your director, I hope to challenge your overall knowledge on the topic and to see the genuine effort and preparedness of delegates. One important tip to keep in mind is to not let your competitiveness from expanding your skills and from trying your hardest, which in the end is all that matters! I cannot wait to see you all in committee and hear many of the amazing solutions you have come up with. If you all have any questions or concerns please feel free to send me an email as I would be happy to help!

Sincerely,

Laura Navarro

Director, UNODC

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Committee Introduction:

UNODC, also known as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime was established in 1997 as the merger between the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention. Under Secretary-General of the United Nations at the time, Kofi Annan created the organization to address the complexities of drug control, migrant smuggling, and wildlife protection. UNODC focuses on the corruption of transnational organized crime, drug trafficking and is the leading UN program on combatting terrorism. Since its founding, the office has worked to introduce alternatives to areas of high cultivation of illicit drug crops and increase monitoring over money laundering. Operating in offices that cover more than 150 countries, UNODC has enacted three conventions on drug control including the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and Protocols (resulting in resolution 55/61), the UN Standards and Norms on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and the UN Convention against Corruption. UNODC has previously worked with policymaking bodies of the UN, The Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), and the

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) to improve organizational structure in broadening control of illegal substances. With the increase of narcotics and organized crime, the UNODC focuses on a diverse group of topics in hopes of improving international security justice in all member states.

Topic: Colombia Drug Cartel

Background:

With the circumstances of a weak central government, biased social hierarchy, and inequitable distribution of wealth, Colombia relied on the international trafficking of narcotics, in specific, cocaine to form a reliable source of income. Starting in the 1970s, through the distribution of narcotics such as marijuana and cocaine, many lower-income households sought to participate in this trade in hopes of benefiting from social class, higher income as well as stability for their households. Between the ongoing conflict of the capitalistic Colombian government organized crime through guerilla forces, the amount of trafficked narcotics and illicit crops only amplified. In 1976, Pablo Escobar had formed Colombia's first drug cartel, based in Medellin, and was assisted by Jorge Luis, David, and Fabio Ochoa who faced previous convictions on drug accounts. Through the following decade, the Medellin drug cartel expanded its spread of narcotics to Latin American countries including Bolivia, Peru, and Ecuador. The assistance of the Italian-American Mafia in 1984, allowed for the trafficking of cocaine to populated cities in the U.S including New York, Los Angeles, Chicago as well as the expansion to Canada. In the later 1970s, as the Medellin Cartel was exporting cannabis, they were supplying the United States with over 70% of their total narcotics. With Colombia as the leading country in drug trafficking for the United States, annually they gained 48.4 billion USD by 1990, therefore expanding the income of the Medellin cartel. In response to the eruption of higher-income sources from illegal crop production and expansion, the drug cartel in Colombia was also responsible for the escalation of brutality and fatalities in their country. Consequently, the “Medellin Massacres” were the actions executed by the cartel, in which over 110,000 murders of politicians, gang rivals, and police units occurred. Escobar’s violent quest for power in the Colombian government had resulted in tensions with the government, specifically in 1975, the police in Colombia had seized over 600 kilos of cocaine that resulted in drug traffickers killing over 40 innocent civilians. After, Escobar entered into the Chamber of Representatives and the National Latin Movement in hopes of gaining influence to halt the extradition for drug crimes committed in the U.S. However, the decline of The Medellin Cartel occurred after the death of Pablo Escobar in 1993, resulting in the emergence of incipient gangs. The Colombian

and United States government in combined forces, had allowed for the Cali Cartel, Los Urabeños, and Las Aguilas Negras to hold ownership of various drug trafficking and coca crop production, which resulted in Bolivia and Peru surpassed Colombia as the leading World producer of coca plants in 2011. In current times, the Colombian cartels have worked jointly with the drug traffickers in Mexico for indirect drug distribution to the United States. The Colombian Drug cartels work near the Tijuana Cartel along with the Sinaloa Cartel through the administration of coca leaves. Correspondingly, the operations between the cartels allows for a reduced risk of American extradition while an increase of total profits. Along with the joint contribution of coca leaves, the Colombian cartels have influenced characteristics similar to Pablo Escobar, in which the Mexican Cartels leader, "El Chapo " has implemented fear tactics throughout Sinaloa, Mexico. Fear tactics such as kidnappings, beheadings, ransoms, were utilized frequently upon rival gang members, opposing civilians as well as political figures in the government. As reported by the Mexican government in 2011, the influence of fear tactics and violence from Colombia resulted in 12,903 deaths in the country. During the last decade, in 2013 Colombia's cocaine supply has been decreasing and governments have been halting the spread of Drug Trafficking organizations (DTO's). Instead, Colombia has been receiving more profit from foreign countries such as Europe where their drugs cost \$35,000 to Australia where they profit from \$100,000 per kilogram. In recent years, the spread of cocaine has been distributed through Hong Kong ports reaching countries such as China and Thailand. Transportation of narcotics within Colombia has improved from the operations of engineers improving communication and transportation by Self-Propelled Semi-Submersibles (SPSS) watercraft. However, an increase of 38% in cocaine usage and 210,000 deaths of Colombian civilians since 2008, show greater consequences within Latin-American narco-trafficking. The DEA and Colombian Police Force have reported an estimated, active 300 drug trafficking units in Colombia within the past five years. With Colombia forming more controllable drug operations through "jungle labs" and Colombian Marxists guerilla groups, the Chinese, European, and United States governments continue to struggle to halt the spread of cocaine from Colombia.

United Nations Involvement:

The United Nations conducted the Convention on Narcotic Drugs in 1961 (amended in 1962) which sought to limit the manufacturer, import/export of narcotics with the exception of research and medical research. After 1974, once the rise of cocaine production in Colombia escalated, the United Nations began combating narcotics trafficking and illicit crop cultivation. Through the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), carried out E/RES/1974/1845(LVI), Co-operation for drug law enforcement in the Far East region, to diminish narcotic trade by proposing international collaboration with the Ad-Hoc Committee, the International Narcotics Control Board, International Criminal Police Organization and willing

member states. Following their work, in 1991, ECOSOC in cooperation with the UNODC executed E/RES/2013/40, which pursued to limit the illicit crop cultivation due to the emergence of engaged illicit crops, Wild Flora and Fauna. The resolution allotted for increased security methods through monitoring of crop cultivation manufacturers and the distribution of chemicals associated with the production. In addition to past resolutions, in 2011, the UNODC conducted a report on Colombia's 32 departments in coca bush cultivation which indicated that over 63,600 households were involved. Therefore, the UNODC along with the Colombian government had designed the Forest-Wardens Families Program and Productive Projects Programme, which had addressed issues in security, resulting in the decrease from 64,000 ha of coca bush to 48,000 ha after one year. Acknowledging the increase of drug transit through the West African Ports, the UN passed A/RES/73/192, which stresses the importance of international cooperation to address the security issue. In recent years, the UNODC created their 2021-2025 Strategy including methods to extend research, technical assistance, and reinforcements to reduce the trafficking of narcotics and expansion of drug cartels.

Case Study: Antioquia Province

As the province of Antioquia, Colombia settles in close proximity to the Central American and Caribbean transportation routes, has imposed greater issues on drug trafficking and illicit crop production in the country. Despite the access to the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean, the Antioquia province practices illegal crop cultivation which is prominent through the Bajo Cauca region due to the increase of militant groups, who practice territorial control over the civilians and local government. This has been seen in a 2008 report which indicated how the Colombian government confiscated 198 tons of cocaine, of which 31% were found in the Atlantic region, including the Antioquia department. Most trafficking has been carried out by groups such as the Gaitanista Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AGC), ELN, Oficina de Envigado, in which they gain their profits from coca cultivation through increased security and armed guards surrounding the Bajo Cauca region. The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) activity throughout the Antioquia region and their practices of public intimidation (kidnapping, public beheading, etc), as well as drug trafficking, had resulted in the deaths of 260,000 civilians. Therefore in 2016-2017, President Juan Manuel Santos issued a bilateral peace agreement between FARC in expectation of a decrease of crop cultivation and narcotics trafficking. However, the subsidies given to farmers under voluntary replacement of coca led to an increase in crop cultivation by lower-income households in the area. By 2017, 290,000 hectares of coca crops and the mass production of 900 tonnes, were reached in Colombia as a result of the peace agreement and lack of regulations in the Antioquia region. Despite international efforts such as the reintroduction of aerial spraying of chemicals to reduce coca cultivation, the potential production of cocaine in the region has an estimated value of 2.7 billion dollars. Though more regulations have been implemented by the Colombian government, the

corruption of militant groups and the weakening of peacebuilding efforts have allowed for the Antioquia province to continue its production of coca cultivation and narcotics trafficking.

Bloc Positions:

Western Bloc: The Western region is one of Colombia's largest producers and distributors of narcotics, due to its proximity to drug trafficking routes. For instance, Europe and the United States is the favoured market by the Colombia cartel due to the market price of one kilogram, priced at 20,000 to 100,000 USD. Most of the regions primarily combat the consumption of drugs by civilians, causing the regions governments to respond by extradition, capture of resources and combined forces with the Colombian government. In 2017, the The Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission was created to evaluate the counter narcotic policies in Latin American countries, to provide economical and technical assistance to combat the influx of drugs. Colombia's cartel actions in European countries have allowed for the shipment of cocaine to their major ports which are then infiltrated through Albanian, British, and Irish organized crime groups.

Latin America and the Caribbean Bloc: As Colombia and its largely affected neighbors, Bolivia and Mexico occupy this region, the bloc has been the hardest hit by the trafficking of narcotics and drug cartel activity. In 2010, Bolivia had reported the production of 31,000 hectares of coca bush, establishing the country as the third largest producer globally. Factors such as social marginalization, low income households and weak government powers have allowed the spread of drug cartel influence and illegal crop cultivation. With Caribbean countries such as Saint Vincent, Grenada, Barbados residing in close proximity to trafficking routes has allowed for 30-35 metric tons of cocaine to be entered into the United States and Europe. Despite the issue of coca bush cultivation and growth of narcotic trade, the influence of the Colombian drug cartels has affected Mexico's organized crime groups, resulting in 150,000 civilians killed in the span of twelve years, due to the spread of gang violence.

African Bloc: In the African region, by the influence of the Colombia cartel has allowed for an increase of the transportation of cocaine areas of narcotic storage throughout major cities. Due to a weak government, access of trafficking routes along the Atlantic Ocean and is one of the most impoverished regions of the world, has allowed for the Cartel to smuggle cocaine through the aid of local gangs and organized crime groups. For instance, in 2006, Africa had transported 27 percent of the cocaine that entered into Europe. With a corrupt and weak law enforcement in Africa, has resulted in some regions such as Guinea-Bissau (the fifth poorest nation globally), Burkina Faso and Gambia to be infiltrated by drug cartels, in which the region contains a larger population of gangs with more funds compared to the DEA or other officers.

Asian-Pacific Bloc: Many Asian-Pacific regions play a key role with the Colombia drug cartel through increased laundering of illicit drugs and narcotic production. Due to the transnational trade between Europe and Africa, some Asian-Pacific regions such as Hong Kong and mainland China have also laundered five billion USD from Colombian drug cartels. In Southern Asia regions, including India and Pakistan, influence by the Colombia drug cartels has resulted into the emergence of Indo-Canadian organized crime groups, involved with large shipping consignments stored in the region to be delivered to Australia, United States and more countries. Taking place in 2018, the Asian-Pacific bloc endured a seizure, resulting in 88 million USD worth of undeclared narcotics which were the involvement of 20 “companies” residing in Colombia.

Basic Solutions:

In order to eliminate the influence and effects made by the Colombia cartels, delegates should focus upon solutions to eliminate drug trafficking itself. Be sure to address problems involving the issue over drug cartels such as corruption in government, advanced monitoring of borders, prosecution of the people associated with the cartels, and prevention of coca plant cultivation. In specific, delegates should research solutions that prevent the expansion of illicit crop manufacture, from infiltrating lower income farmers, and finding a more ethical substitution for the crops. However, past failed solutions such as the use of aerial spraying across illicit crop farms which was abolished in 2015, had allowed for a slight decline of crop production yet health risks arose due to the harmful chemicals used. Instead, solutions similar to the National Comprehensive Program for the Substitution of Illicit Crops, with a stronger focal point upon government-provided benefits for the coca farmers should be integrated into the country. As mentioned before, solutions should target anti-corruption methods particularly against guerilla groups such as FARC and National Liberation Army (ELN). Despite the Peace Agreement made with FARC in 2016, solutions toward the protection of journalists, Afro-Colombian leaders, and human right activists need to be improved. Delegates should broaden their solutions upon various subtopics and perspectives, to properly address multiple issues of the Colombian drug cartel.

Questions to Consider:

1. Considering the continuous acts against human rights made by the drug cartels, how should countries hold them accountable?
2. In modern day, how has the impact made by the cartels affect social hierarchy and political matters in Colombia and involving countries?

3. Should regions heavily involved with Colombia such as West Africa and Mexico be held responsible for the further distribution and production of narcotics?
4. Is it possible to reduce the amount of coca plant cultivation in Colombia, especially in regions where the economy relies on the profit of it, while taking into consideration health issues and safety concerns imposed by the narcotics?
5. Taking into consideration corrupt paramilitary and militia groups in Colombia, is there an effective way to implement military intervention to reduce drug trafficking and production in the country?

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