



# IYC 2023 Group of Twenty

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STUDY GUIDE

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## Letter from the Executive Board

Honourable Delegates,

I am delighted to extend my invitation to Group 20 for the International Youth Conference 2020. Our committee will be tackling a pressing and significant issue: "Combating Drug Trafficking in Latin American Countries". This topic calls for our urgent attention as we address the challenges and seek effective strategies to address drug trafficking and its far-reaching consequences in the region.

Prepare yourselves for two days of rigorous discussions, intense debates, and the opportunity to propose innovative solutions. Our agenda aims to comprehensively analyze the multifaceted aspects of drug trafficking, including its social, economic, and political impacts. Delegates should come prepared to engage in thought-provoking conversations and contribute fresh perspectives.

I emphasize the importance of being well-informed beyond the provided background guide. Your dedication to extensive research will enable us to generate meaningful dialogue and propose actionable measures. Together, we will create an inclusive environment where every delegate's ideas are heard and respected.

I am eager to witness the expertise and creativity each of you brings to the conference. I am confident that by actively participating, sharing insights, and engaging in constructive debates, we will make a substantial impact in combating drug trafficking in Latin American countries.

I assure you that the International Youth Conference 2020 will be an unforgettable experience that enriches your knowledge and sparks fruitful discussions.

Welcome to the Group of 20 Regards,

Regards,

Vyom Nathani, Chair

Abhinav Nair, Vice Chair

## Introduction

Drug trafficking is a global illicit trade involving the cultivation, manufacture, distribution and sale of substances which are subject to drug prohibition laws. Latin America continues to dominate the global cocaine trade with an alarming spread of violent crime which along with the Caribbean has the world's highest crime rates. Contrary to achieving a "drug-free world," huge growth has been witnessed in the illegal drug markets. This means that there is a surge in drug use, intense damage created by drug markets and rising organized crime and corruption, all generating an incalculable toll of human bloodshed and suffering worldwide.

The brunt of the harm is felt by the most vulnerable communities, whether in the form of brutal repression, callous abandonment, or both. Forced crop eradication pushes some of the hemisphere's most vulnerable communities into even deeper poverty and greater reliance on illegal crops. Militarized enforcement results in human rights violations and prompts waves of lethal violence as trafficking organizations fight one another and fend off enforcement. What is important here is to recognize that the drug trade is a deeply entrenched and complex issue in Latin America. The political, economic, and social aspects of the region need to be addressed in a comprehensive approach.

## I. History of the agenda



Large-scale narco-trafficking in Latin America initially started with coca and coca-based goods produced in Peru and later shipped from Mexico into the United States along with opium and other drugs. Originally in the late nineteenth century, a legal cocaine industry was present in Peru which serviced the pharmaceutical and commercial industries in Europe and the United States. This was because of the coca leaf's medicinal power, which resulted in large-scale coca exports to organizations, including German pharmaceuticals such as Merck.

cocaine factories were in active operation by 1905.

In 1885, the Peruvian pharmacist Alfredo Bignon created a "crude cocaine," which allowed easier shipment in terms of size without reducing its power.

In the first decade of the 1900s, the reputation of cocaine plummeted with the US government curbing the production and export of coca and cocaine, as well as

opium and other drugs, as they believed that cocaine was a threat to society. While Peru struggled to figure out what to do with its coca trade, an illicit production and trafficking network was also developing during the first half of the twentieth century in Mexico.

**1925:** The Colombian government noticed extensive cultivation and consumption of illicit drugs within the country.

**1940:** The Colombian state initiated an anti-drug campaign to address the growing drug problem.

**1948:** The United Nations adopted the goal of eradicating the Andean coca bush, signaling international concern about the drug trade.

**The late 1940s:** An emerging network of drug traffickers connected Lima and Havana to major North American cities, establishing more organized smuggling routes.

**The mid-1950s:** Havana became a pivotal location for the development and distribution of cocaine as a pleasure drug, attracting entrepreneurs from Bolivia and Chile.

**1959:** The Cuban Revolution brought about significant changes as drug dealers were driven out, leading to the establishment of new trafficking corridors across the Americas, including Argentina, Mexico, and Miami.

**1960s:** The illicit drug trafficking complex in Mexico became increasingly integrated into local political and social structures, and U.S. criminal groups encouraged opium cultivation and production of valuable derivatives.

**June 1971:** The United States declared a War on Drugs, leading to increased efforts in eradication, interdiction, and extradition of drug traffickers. The United States locked down the Mexican border while the Mexican state launched a campaign against its domestic producers.

**1975:** The epicenter of production shifted from Mexico to Colombia due to a rise in demand for drugs in the U.S. and increased U.S. border controls.

**Late 1970s:** These policies inadvertently offered Colombian traffickers an opportunity to seize the drug market. Colombia owned seventy per cent of the drugs reaching the United States from abroad.

During this period, Colombia's role as a major player in the drug trade grew significantly, with the drug economy becoming crucial for the local economy. However, this also led to a surge in violence as drug-related profits increased, and law enforcement struggled to maintain control.

The drug trade continued to evolve, with cocaine distribution following the established networks for the drug trade. Political events in Chile further pushed drug transportation to Colombia, as entrepreneurs in Medellin seized opportunities presented by the elimination of Chilean smugglers.

The rise of drug cartels, such as the Medellin and Cali cartels, further solidified Latin America's status as a major hub for organized drug crime. These cartels controlled the production, transportation, and distribution of cocaine, establishing extensive smuggling networks to Europe and the U.S.

During this period, the drug trade became a complex web of international and regional networks, involving both powerful criminal organizations and vulnerable local communities engaged in illicit drug cultivation and trafficking.

Peru, Mexico, and Colombia were not alone in their burgeoning drug production and distribution. Bolivia and Cuba too became major players. Cuba emerged as a transit point and destination for illicit narcotics during the first half of the twentieth century, and organized crime groups from the United States established themselves there during Prohibition. Bolivia emerged as a key player following its 1952 revolution. The overthrow of the Bolivian government created a vacuum of state power which gave indigenous peasants access to large amounts of land, leading to a surge in coca production. In the 1970s and 1980s, there was a huge surge in organized drug crime. Drug cartels began to dominate Latin America, namely Pablo Escobar and Cali cartel which controlled the production, transportation, and distribution of cocaine, thereby establishing an extensive smuggling network to Europe and the US. As law enforcement intensified in Central America and the Caribbean, alternate routes through Mexico were established by the drug traffickers resulting in Mexico also becoming a major player in this trade. In 1925, the Colombian government noticed its extensive cultivation and consumption and by 1940 the Colombian state initiated an anti-drug campaign.

The emergence of the United States as a global power and the growing importance of supra-state organizations like the United Nations characterized the second period of Latin America's evolving drug trade. In this new global context and the highly unstable political environment of post-war Latin American politics, the production and distribution of drugs became both more organized and more regional in scope as it continued to shift across Latin America. The United Nations adopted the goal of eradicating the Andean coca bush in 1948. Peru, isolated politically and led by a pro-U.S. military junta, finally criminalized cocaine. Yet, by 1948, an emerging network of traffickers connected Lima and Havana to New York City and other North American urban drug scenes, replacing irregular and opportunistic smuggling by individuals.

At the same time, Cuba became perhaps the most consequential location for the development of cocaine as a pleasure drug. Havana was one of the "first post-war global sin capitals" and a locus of conspicuous consumption. Here, American mobsters mingled with their counterparts from Mexico and Central and South America. This wealth created a fertile location to test-market cocaine as a leisure drug. Entrepreneurs in Bolivia and Chile began exporting cocaine to Havana for further distribution to the U.S. and beyond. By the mid-1950s, Havana had emerged as the nexus of this intercontinental cocaine trade.

By driving out drug dealers, however, the 1959 Cuban Revolution transformed cocaine distribution. Smuggling corridors disappeared, as this network of traffickers based in Havana sought places of refuge throughout the Americas, from Argentina (to set up operations near Bolivia) to Mexico (to establish distribution facilities) and to Miami (an important entry point to the lucrative U.S. market).

For its part, the illicit drug trafficking complex in Mexico matured as it became increasingly integrated into local political and social structures and U.S. criminal groups in Mexico encouraged the cultivation of opium and worked to produce less bulky, yet more valuable derivatives.

Colombia had a long history at the heart of regional contraband trade and smuggling. This, and a tradition of tremendous political instability, contributed to its ascension to the global apex of the trafficking of illicit drugs which proved critically important for the local economy in Colombia. Between 30,000 and 50,000 small farmers along Colombia's Atlantic coast relied on drug cultivation. The system also included as many as 50,000 additional seasonal workers, traffickers, security, financiers, and others. Unfortunately, as production and profits surged, so did the violence as police and judicial institutions waned.

Cocaine distribution followed the networks established for the drug trade. Political events in Chile also pushed the drug trade to Colombia. Chile became an important smuggling corridor after cocaine production in Peru was criminalized and Bolivia emerged as a center of coca production in the 1950s. Entrepreneurs from Medellin, Colombia seized on the opportunity presented by the collapse of democracy in Chile and the elimination of Chilean smugglers. And they took drug transportation to new levels such as airlift operations.

The traffickers began to expand their social and political sway in an attempt to normalize their business in Colombian society and contributed to political campaigns. A massive cocaine lab was built on the Yari River in southern Colombia. At the same time, the trafficking of drugs supported many legal businesses throughout Latin America.

When Colombia unleashed a crackdown on the most powerful Colombian cartel, they began to make new connections with Central American traffickers who introduced them to Mexican heroin and drug smugglers and Mexican authorities willing to be bribed.

## II. Key definitions

Latin America has been a significant player in the global drug trade due to its geographical advantages, weak governance structures, and socio-economic factors. Below are key definitions, concepts, and ideas related to drug transportation and production in Latin America. **Illicit Drug Trade:** Simply the illegal trade of drugs which include cocaine, marijuana, heroin, and synthetic drugs, across international borders. Latin America is a major hub for the production and transportation of these drugs to consumer markets around the world.

**Drug Cartels:** Powerful and organized criminal organizations that control various aspects of the illicit drug trade, from production and transportation to distribution. Cartels often operate across borders and use violence and corruption to maintain their control

**Drug Routes:** The established pathways and transportation networks used to move drugs from production regions to consumer markets. In Latin America, these routes typically involve moving drugs from countries like Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia through Central America and Mexico before reaching the United States and other destinations.

**Cocaine Production:** Latin America, particularly Colombia, is a major producer of cocaine, which is derived from coca leaves. The processing of coca leaves into cocaine involves various chemical steps and is a significant part of the drug trade in the region.

**Marijuana Cultivation:** Marijuana, or cannabis, is grown extensively in countries like Mexico, Jamaica, and Colombia. It is often smuggled to the United States and other countries.

**Opium Production:** Some Latin American countries, such as Mexico and Colombia, have seen an increase in opium poppy cultivation, which is used to produce heroin.

**Fumigation:** The aerial spraying of herbicides to eradicate coca and opium poppy crops, is a controversial tactic used by some governments to combat drug production.

**Drug Traffickers:** Individuals or groups involved in the transportation and distribution of illicit drugs. They operate both within Latin America and internationally, forming links between producers and consumers.

**"Narcos" Culture:** The glamorization of drug trafficking and drug lords in popular culture, which can perpetuate the cycle of violence and romanticize criminal activities.

**Money Laundering:** The process of disguising the proceeds of drug trafficking and other illegal activities as legitimate funds. Cartels use sophisticated methods to launder money and invest in legal businesses.

**Violence and Corruption:** Drug trafficking has been linked to high levels of violence and corruption in Latin American countries. Cartels often engage in turf wars and armed conflicts with each other and security forces, leading to destabilization in affected regions.

**Militarization:** Some governments have used military forces in the fight against drug trafficking, which has led to concerns about human rights abuses and the exacerbation of violence. **Drug Interdiction:** The efforts made by governments and law enforcement agencies to intercept and disrupt drug shipments and arrest traffickers.

**Alternative Development Programs:** Initiatives aimed at providing alternative sources of income for farmers involved in drug cultivation. These programs seek to address the root causes of drug production and discourage farmers from growing illicit crops.

**International Cooperation:** The collaboration between Latin American countries and other nations, particularly the United States and European countries, to combat drug trafficking and production through intelligence sharing, joint operations, and policy coordination.

**Consumption and Demand:** The high demand for illegal drugs in consumer countries drives the drug trade in Latin America. Addressing consumption and demand is considered crucial in the fight against drug production and trafficking.

**Social and Economic Factors:** Poverty, inequality, and lack of opportunities in certain regions of Latin America contribute to the allure of drug production and trafficking as an income source.

**Drug Decriminalization:** Advocacy for treating drug use and possession as a public health issue rather than a criminal offence to focus on harm reduction and rehabilitation.

**U.S. Drug Policy:** The role of the United States in the Latin American drug trade, including demand for illegal drugs and initiatives like the War on Drugs.

**Transnational Cooperation:** The need for international collaboration to address drug trafficking, including intelligence sharing and joint law enforcement efforts.

**TCO:** Transnational criminal organization.

### III. Current situation

The many legal prohibitions and international efforts to eradicate illicit drugs, especially since the "war on drugs" began, have not been able to completely end narco-trafficking.

Uruguay legalized the production, sale, and consumption of marijuana in 2013, becoming the first country in the world to do so.

In 2009, Mexico decriminalized the possession of small quantities of drugs, including marijuana, cocaine, and heroin, for personal use.

Colombia, Chile, Argentina, and Peru have legalized the medical use of cannabis and have established regulatory frameworks for its production and distribution.

Since 2011, there has been an increase in cocaine trafficked in Spain and the United Kingdom through West African states as transit nodes. Asian markets are also being penetrated via Hong Kong as a gateway into China and Thailand. Many Latin American countries have experienced increased drug production. For instance, Peru has seen a rise in coca cultivation and cocaine production in recent years.

Some countries have also shifted their focus from punitive measures to alternative approaches, such as harm reduction and treatment programs. These initiatives aim to address drug addiction as a public health issue rather than solely as a criminal offence.

However, drug trafficking remains illegal throughout Latin America, and severe penalties are often imposed for drug production, transportation, and distribution. Countries have enacted specific laws and penalties to combat drug trafficking, including asset forfeiture, extradition, and enhanced penalties for involvement in organized crime.

Many governments in Latin America, often with support from international partners like the United States, are engaged in efforts to combat drug production and trafficking. This includes eradication programs, interdiction operations, and initiatives aimed at strengthening law enforcement and judicial systems. However, progress can be hindered by factors such as corruption, weak institutions, and social and economic factors that contribute to the drug trade.

#### **IV. Timeline:**

**June 1971:** The United States declared a War on Drugs, leading to increased efforts in eradication, interdiction, and extradition of drug traffickers. The United States locked down the Mexican border while the Mexican state launched a campaign against its domestic producers.

**1973:** formation of the American law enforcement agency DEA to enforce laws and regulations against controlled substances.

**1980s:** The Medellín Cartel gained prominence in Colombia, becoming one of the most powerful drug trafficking organizations in the world.

**1990s:** The United States launches the Plan Colombia initiative to combat drug production and trafficking in Colombia, providing military and financial support to the Colombian government.

**1993:** disbandment of the Medellín cartel after the demise of Pablo Escobar.

**1997:** Formation of the UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) agency. centring its mandate around trafficking and abuse of illicit drugs and crime prevention.

**2000:** The United States continues its efforts to combat drug production and trafficking in Colombia with the continuation of the Plan Colombia initiative. The initiative involves providing substantial military and financial support to the Colombian government to tackle drug cartels and associated criminal activities.

**2006:** The Colombian government launches a major offensive against the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), one of the country's largest guerrilla groups involved in drug trafficking. The offensive weakens FARC's influence in the drug trade, but some elements of the group continue to engage in illegal drug activities.

**2008:** Reports emerge that drug cartels in Colombia are using semi-submersible submarines to transport large quantities of cocaine to Central America and beyond. These "narco-subs" are difficult to detect and represent a new challenge in the fight against drug trafficking.

**2012:** The United States and Colombia sign a free trade agreement, strengthening economic ties between the two nations. This agreement also includes provisions to address issues related to drug trafficking and promote lawful commerce.

**2015:** European authorities uncover a major drug smuggling network operating between Latin America and Europe. The network involves trafficking cocaine from Colombia and other South American countries to Europe, using a combination of land, air, and sea routes.

**2016:** The Colombian government signs a historic peace agreement with the FARC, officially ending decades of armed conflict. The agreement includes provisions for FARC members to lay down their weapons and transition into civilian life, to reduce violence and illegal drug activities in the country.

**2017:** Despite the peace agreement with FARC, other criminal groups and smaller guerrilla factions continue to be involved in drug production and trafficking in Colombia. The country faces ongoing challenges in eradicating illicit coca cultivation and cocaine production.

**2017:** European authorities, in cooperation with various countries, conduct a series of successful operations to dismantle drug trafficking networks operating between Latin America and Europe. These efforts lead to the arrest of several key figures involved in the smuggling operations.

**2018:** Reports surface that Pakistani drug traffickers are using submarines to smuggle drugs across the Arabian Sea. These submarines are

**2019:** Peru surpasses Colombia as the largest cocaine producer in the world. While Colombia has made significant progress in reducing coca cultivation and cocaine production, the rise in drug production in Peru highlights the challenges faced by countries in the region in combating the drug trade.

**2023:** UNODC discovers global cocaine supply is at an all-time high. Previously unaware markets such as Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe have seen an increase in demand. Africa, previously a transit into Europe, has seen an increase in drug usage as well as drug peddling into Europe.

**2023:** New submarines that are much harder to detect using U.S. radar systems and capable of slipping through the coast guard have been found. It's also discovered that engineers from Pakistan and neighbouring countries such as Afghanistan are helping Colombian cartels smuggle drugs into the U.S., and sometimes Europe, using these narco submarines.

## V. Country-Specific Information

**Brazil:** Brazil is the sixth-largest country in the world, with the tenth-largest economy in the world. Despite such a financial stronghold, the country isn't purged from the hurdles of substance trafficking. The country inhabits the highest number of cocaine consumers in the world, after the United States. A murder rate of 30 per 100,000 inhabitants is a direct ramification of drug-fueled chaos.

Brazil houses the bustling port of Santos, the second largest in Latin America which has eventually morphed into a crucial lynchpin for the global cocaine trade. Much of this growth has been due to the rise of the First Capital Command (PCC), a powerful drug gang that dominates São Paulo. The gang has efficiently extended its drug trafficking tentacles across the region, focusing especially on Paraguay and Bolivia. In doing so, the PCC controls several major cocaine trafficking routes, with the drug being produced in Bolivia and transported through Paraguay and Brazil to Santos.

The Red Command/ Comando Vermelho is Brazil's oldest criminal group. At the end of 2016, a breakdown in a longstanding alliance between the Red Command and the PCC generated a wave of influence in Brazilian prisons. Crime rates monumentally skyrocketed as turbulent interactions took place regarding the control of drug trafficking routes. Which eventually aggravated homicide and human rights violations

At the height of the crisis, UNODC (United Nations Office Of Drugs And Crime) spearheaded a joint operation with the Brazilian Ministry of Justice and Public Security and UNDP launched a pilot project to combat the further abuse of illicit substances. Brazilian ex-Defense Minister Raul Jungmann employed the SISFRON which is an Integrated Border Monitoring System. The system has been described as a "true barrier of electronic surveillance" and is designed to constantly monitor the entire border from the State of Rio Grande Do Sul to Amapá and target crimes such as logging, smuggling and drug trafficking.

Although counteractive measures have been imposed, mass smuggling and homicide continue to persist, plunging the standard of living in Brazil.

**Peru:** In 2012, Peru surpassed neighbouring Colombia as the world's largest producer of coca, the raw material for cocaine, which was an alarming transition.

Most of the estimated 325 tons of the stuff produced each year is making its way to Brazilian and European markets, earning Peruvian organized crime well over \$1 billion annually

Remarkably Peru is widely considered one of the safest countries in South America with a homicide rate of 4.3 per 100,000 inhabitants.

Wide speculation is there of complicity in the drug trade at the highest levels. This would imply that political, economic, and criminal elites are managing competition peacefully.

There has been a noticeable surge in organized crime due to the sheer negligence and blind eye by law officials and operating policemen throughout the legal pyramid. To add insult to impunity, former President Alan Garcia pardoned 400 drug traffickers during his second term of office, citing overcrowded jails, President Humana also pardoned as many as 100 criminals convicted of trafficking since his election in 2011.

**Dominican Republic:** The Dominican Republic is located in the Caribbean and serves as a significant transit point for drug trafficking between drug-producing countries in South America and the United States. To get cocaine to the Dominican Republic, most dealers use speed boats or ship containers over the sea; these have been proved as effective evasive manoeuvres to complete transit.

Mainly a transit hub but the Dominican Republic is also infamous for the production and consumption of fentanyl, a potent synthetic opioid. Fentanyl is a highly dangerous drug that is significantly more potent than heroin and is associated with a high risk of overdose and fatalities. Although the government has tried enacting measures to regulate trafficking, the turbulent economy proves to be a barrier since they cannot afford functioning rehabilitation centres. Substance Smuggling has been comparatively reduced due to fear of extradition of Dominican smugglers to the United States and severe DEA actions taken.

**Columbia:** The country with the most nefarious reputation for substance-related transgressions, in 2022 the country had a record-breaking 210-tonne drug seizure with 4500 killings. This trajectory is the direct repercussion of the decades of drug wars and the narco-lord history of the country.

Starting 50 years back in the early 1970's Columbia made the high propensity switch to the intricate extraction, procession, production, and distribution of cocaine. Spearheaded by the ill-famed drug lord, Pablo Emilio Escobar. He established the notorious Medellín cartel along with Carlos Lehder, Gustavo Gaviria, and the Ochoa brothers. The Medellín Cartel controlled every aspect of the cocaine production process, from coca cultivation to processing laboratories.

They used innovative smuggling techniques, including the use of aircraft, submarines, and even the corruption of government officials, to transport vast quantities of cocaine to international markets. At the height of its power, the cartel controlled 90% of the US cocaine supply and 80% of the world cocaine trade.

Although first on the wanted list of Colombian authoritative forces, Pablo was idolized by the public for being the robin hood of Columbia. The takedown of the Medellín Cartel was a complex and multifaceted operation that required a combination of intelligence, law enforcement efforts, international cooperation, and the determination of Colombian security forces. One of the key features was the establishment of the extradition treaty with the United States in 1979, allowing Colombian drug traffickers to be prosecuted in U.S. courts.

This created a significant incentive for the cartel members to surrender or face the risk of extradition to the U.S., where they would face severe penalties. After working closely in a joint task force, sharing intelligence, and cooperating operations, Pablo Escobar was assassinated in 1993 which dismantled the cartel.

Although a huge breakthrough, Columbia failed to contain the unrest and the subsequent replacement of narco-terror groups that took over the established supply blockchains. Methods such as aerial fumigations, enforced eradication campaigns, aerial monitoring, and the deployment of troops to coca-growing regions.

These methods, although effective, cost millions of dollars that had to be diverted from the national defence and relief budget. There was reported to be mild progress which was reversed during the pandemic since trafficking persisted as the only sustainable economic activity.

Since then Colombian president Gustavo Petro has taken a step back from the drug war to focus on other well-being aspects of the society.

The government's plan is centred on three key moments. In the immediate term, Petro's administration aims to limit the spread of drug-related violence immediately, even if that means allowing further increases in coca harvesting areas might take place in the coming years.

To avoid confrontation with coca-growing communities and reduce retaliatory actions from the cartels, Colombia's coca eradication campaign will be pared-down, although not completely suspended. The justice ministry would embark on a series of voluntary consultations to convince communities to replace illicit crops with legal ones in exchange for financial incentives.

**Bolivia:** The United States's Trafficking Report ranked Bolivia as a Tier 2 country. This indicates that its government falls short of the baseline level of effort in fighting trafficking. Despite having a population of more than 11 million people, the Bolivian government only prosecuted five people for the crime in 2019. In addition to a government that doesn't take the problem seriously enough, efforts to end drug trafficking in Bolivia face another challenge: poverty. Narcotics trafficking in Bolivia is a problem that partially stems from the socioeconomic status of the country. Extreme poverty makes people vulnerable to trade for a variety of reasons. Young victims of human trafficking often become perpetrators of it when they become adults as a way of escaping the system and gaining security. In total more than 30% of Bolivians live in poverty, leaving a significant portion of the population vulnerable.

Bolivia is another infamous surplus hub for the vast cultivation of the coca crop. Unsurprisingly the cocaine trade is also a ramification of absolute poverty. Bolivia's economic depression and a severe drought in the mountain provinces during the 1982-83 growing season, had made the coca/cocaine trade attractive. Wages for coca leaf production are higher than for any other cash crop in Bolivia, and wages for paste-making are greater even than wages earned in urban areas; they are also six to eight times higher than any other skilled or unskilled labour in the legal, rural economy.

The government also practices eradication and destruction of the crop themselves which is a widespread measure in Latin America

**Mexico:** Mexico is a leading source of illicit narcotics, including cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, and fentanyl, which are supplied to the United States.

The drug trade and cartels fuel corruption and violence in Mexico, contributing to tens of thousands of homicides in the country each year.

Mexican drug cartels are in a constant state of flux, growing, splintering, forging new alliances, and battling one another for territory.

Cocaine is typically transported from Colombia to Mexico or Central America by sea and then onward by land to the United States and Canada. The US authorities estimate that close to 90% of the cocaine entering the country crosses the US/Mexico land border, most of it entering the state of Texas. Mexico's role in the production and distribution of illegal drugs has been recognized for many years.

Mexican drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) dominate the wholesale distribution of cocaine and other drugs of abuse throughout the United States. Many analysts assess that Mexican DTOs' role in the production and trafficking of synthetic opioids into the United States has significantly increased in recent years. Mexico has launched a war on the cartels since 2006, and the United States has provided it with billions of dollars in security and counternarcotics assistance. However, the effectiveness of these efforts has been limited, and the drug trade and cartels continue to pose a significant threat to Mexico and the United States.

**United States of America:** The United States has consistently been one of the largest consumers of drugs, both legal and illegal, due to its large population and higher rates of drug use compared to many other countries. Although opium was introduced to metropolitan USA cities during the '20s. The USA didn't have its cocaine boom until the '70s. With an insatiable demand for illicit substances, the states became the ideal target market for various latin american cartels such as the Medellin, Cali, and Sinaloa. Around this time, Vice President George H.W. Bush created the South Florida Drug Task Force to combat the cocaine trade through Miami, where violence involving traffickers was steadily increasing.

The opioid crisis has been a major focus in recent years, with overprescription and misuse of opioids leading to a surge in addiction and overdose deaths. This is also a ramification of the use of psychedelics and synthetic substances such as fentanyl being readily available in the US. In 2019, there were over 70,000 drug overdose deaths in the United States, with opioids involved in the majority of cases. The drug crisis has had a significant impact on public health, with increased rates of infectious diseases such as HIV and hepatitis C, as well as neonatal abstinence syndrome in babies born to mothers who used opioids during pregnancy.

The U.S. government has implemented a range of policies and initiatives to address the opioid crisis, including increasing access to addiction treatment, expanding the availability of overdose-reversing drugs such as naloxone, and cracking down on illicit drug trafficking.

However, progress has been slow, and the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the crisis, with increased isolation, stress, and disrupted access to treatment contributing to a surge in overdose deaths. The opioid crisis has been a major focus in recent years, with overprescription and misuse of opioids leading to a surge in addiction and overdose deaths.

The U.S. has also been involved in the drug crisis abroad, particularly in relation to the failed war on drugs in countries such as Colombia. The drug crisis in the United States is a multifaceted issue that involves not only drug use and addiction but also factors such as healthcare, social and economic inequality, and criminal justice. Addressing the crisis will require a comprehensive approach that includes prevention, treatment, and harm reduction strategies.

## **VI. Points a resolution should address**

- 1) Role of Nonstate Actors such as UNODC and WCO container program in drug seizures.
- 2) Intergovernmental associations following aid and prevention of transnational substance trafficking.
- 3) Measures and strategies to suspend or disincentivize illicit substance production in Latin American countries.
- 4) Establish a common consensus regarding regulations of the production, sale, and consumption of drugs across countries.
- 5) Recovery from economic downfall, unemployment, and damage to the country's economy after disincentivizing illegal substances across Latin America.
- 6) Provision of medical facilities, rehabilitation programs, and symmetric information to the general public about the hazards of drug use.
- 7) Provide coherent and comprehensive solutions to past inefficiencies made by governments in terms of suppressing production.
- 8) Measures to increase testing and medical resource.

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