

UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes



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Chair

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Topic A

Regulating the new wave of synthetic experimental drugs

Topic B

Evaluating and preventing the infiltration of criminals in government institutions

Table of Contents

1. Welcome Letter

2. General Information of the committee

2.1. History/Introduction

2.2. Purpose

3. Topic A: Regulating the new wave of synthetic experimental drugs

3.1. Historical context

3.2. Current situation

3.3. Previous resolutions

3.4 International response

3.5. Useful sources

3.6. Expectations for debate

4. Topic B: Evaluating and preventing the infiltration of criminals in government institutions

4.1. Historical context

4.2. Current situation

4.3. Previous resolutions

4.4 International response

4.5. Useful sources

4.6. Expectations for debate

5. QARMAS

5.1. Topic A

5.2. Topic B

6. Delegation list

7. References

1. Welcome Letter

Dear and esteemed delegates,

We would like to welcome you to the 2024 version of the Model-United Nations of the Marymount School Medellín, we are extremely excited to have you as our delegates and hope that the coexistence inside the committee will be enjoyable.

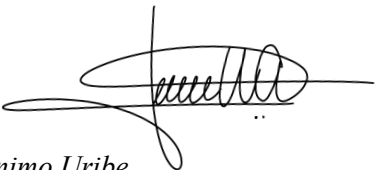
During three days you will be discussing two extremely important topics that have a great impact in today's society; *Regulating the new wave of synthetic experimental drugs* and *Evaluating and preventing the infiltration of criminals in government institutions*. These two subjects can negatively impact a nation's well being and its population welfare.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes is a commission that leads the fight against illicit drugs, crime and terrorism. The UNODC bases its work in research, policy-making and technical assistance to support nations in implementing international treaties and conventions related to its mandate.

The commission is intended to find a solution to both problems in a diplomatic and pacific way, we as your presidents hope that you, as representatives of your delegation will discuss these issues and will follow your country's policy on both topics and adhere to the moral values and constitution of the nation you will be representing. Furthermore, it is of vital importance to stick to international law, which is the transnational framework all nations shall pursue in order to achieve international peace and security.

President Cárdenas and I, President Uribe, trust in your abilities as representatives and your personal moral principles that will reflect your qualities inside the commission. Do not hesitate at any time contact us, we will be available at any time to resolve all the doubts you could possibly have.

Sincerely,



Jerónimo Uribe

President of the UNODC commission



Isabela Cárdenas

President of the UNODC commission

2. General Information of the committee

2.1. History/Introduction

The UNODC, otherwise known as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, was established in 1997 and it came to be as a result of the unification between the United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme. The new Office sought to focus and enhance its capability of tackling the interrelated issues, that had been previously handled separately, of drugs and their control, international crime, and international terrorism.

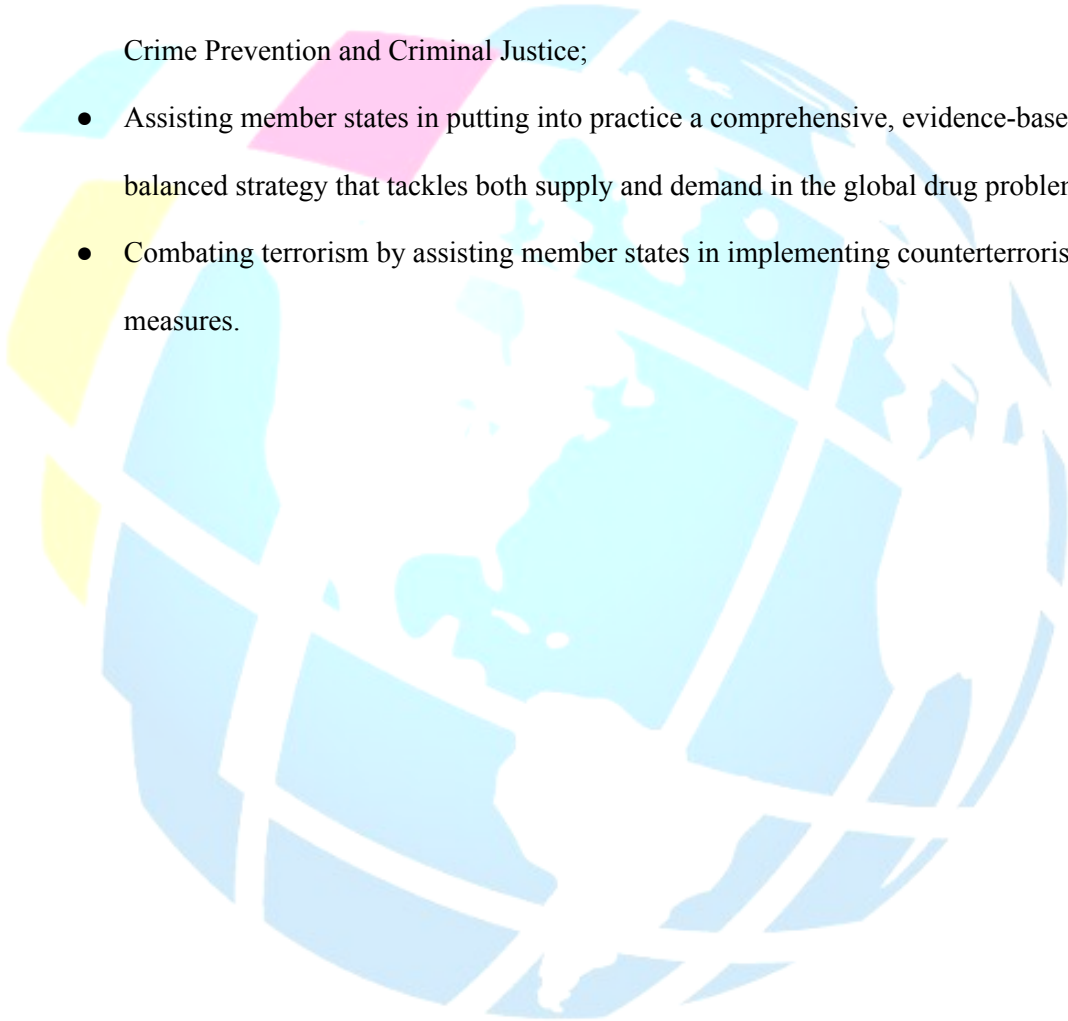
Nowadays, the UNODC has 20 field offices that cover over 150 countries worldwide. With this large coverage the Office seeks to tailor, implement, and develop all its campaigns and programmes to correctly tackle the specific needs of every single nation accordingly. This is done by working directly with governments all around the globe that allow the correct assistance from the UNODC in the proper times.

2.2. Purpose

Ever since its establishment, the United Nations Office against Drugs and Crime has made a resolute commitment to ensuring justice and security for all peoples across the globe by reducing the threat of drugs and their derivatives, crime, and terrorism. The primary focus of UNODC's work is on five normative domains, which include:

- Enhancing member states' ability to counter threats from transnational organized crime by supporting them in signing, ratifying, and executing the UN convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols, in addition to tackling new and emerging forms of criminal activity;

- Fighting corruption and its devastating effects on society by assisting member states in making 11 different categories of corruption offenses illegal and promoting international cooperation in the areas of extradition and mutual legal assistance;
- Strengthening criminal justice systems and preventing crime by enforcing human rights and the rule of law through the application of the United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;
- Assisting member states in putting into practice a comprehensive, evidence-based, and balanced strategy that tackles both supply and demand in the global drug problem;
- Combating terrorism by assisting member states in implementing counterterrorism measures.



3. Topic A: Regulating the new wave of synthetic experimental drugs

3.1. Historical context

The term “designer drugs” or synthetic experimental drugs emerged during the late 1970’s to subdue the hunger of the mass populations for “legal” or undetectable drugs and induced highs. In this search, chemists set up clandestine labs to partially alter the chemical composition of drugs so they could escape government regulations of the time. Originally, the term was used to refer to those altered drugs that came from known abused substances, yet the term now includes those that emerge directly from a laboratory. These kinds of drugs became easier to acquire than their illegal counterparts and they came in at a lower price and thus became popular amongst a younger public with limited financial resources. Additionally, the discretion and simplicity by which someone could get designer drugs made it attractive to a wider public.

According to research by Luethi and Liechti (2020) the erratic patterns posed by the use and creation of synthetic drugs presents a challenge to both the authorities and public health. The lack of information regarding the impacts of the chemical alterations of the compounds on the body can make intoxicated patients hard to treat, all the while making the new drug undetectable during drug screening. Since the birth of this clandestine drug production the involvement of chemists and consumers alike has been crucial, in certain cases the chemists are the ones that alter the compounds, while in others the consumers decide they want to have their own designer drug and take up the task of using science in their favor. Furthermore, the addition of molecules to any substance makes it virtually impossible for legislation and regulations to keep up and target every single designer drug that emerges.

Although this is a global problem that has history, it is one that skyrocketed in the past few years. During its early time not only were synthetic drugs difficult to regulate but also to detect and understand due to the lack of information regarding them. As a result, chemically altered

psychoactive substances have gone by and evolved through the years without leaving much trace nor having any major difficulty.

3.2. Current situation

The issue of regulating new psychoactive substances (NPS), which are synthetic drugs that resemble conventional illicit substances but circumvent current drug laws, is becoming more complicated. These substances have inundated the market, particularly in Europe, where in 2022 30.7 tonnes were confiscated. The introduction of new NPS, however, is slowing; in contrast to an annual average of 50 from 2016 to 2022, only 26 were reported in 2023.

NPS's health risks are severe and frequently unpredictable. For instance, synthetic cathinones are often missold as MDMA, which raises the risk of overdose. The risk that these substances present is exacerbated by a lack of knowledge about them.

For the purpose of addressing NPS, Europe has created a regulatory framework, such as the Council Decision 2005/387/JHA. This framework allows for the assessment and control of these substances across all EU member countries. Nonetheless, significant enforcement difficulties arise due to the rapid growth of NPS, as manufacturers frequently change chemical structures to avoid detection.

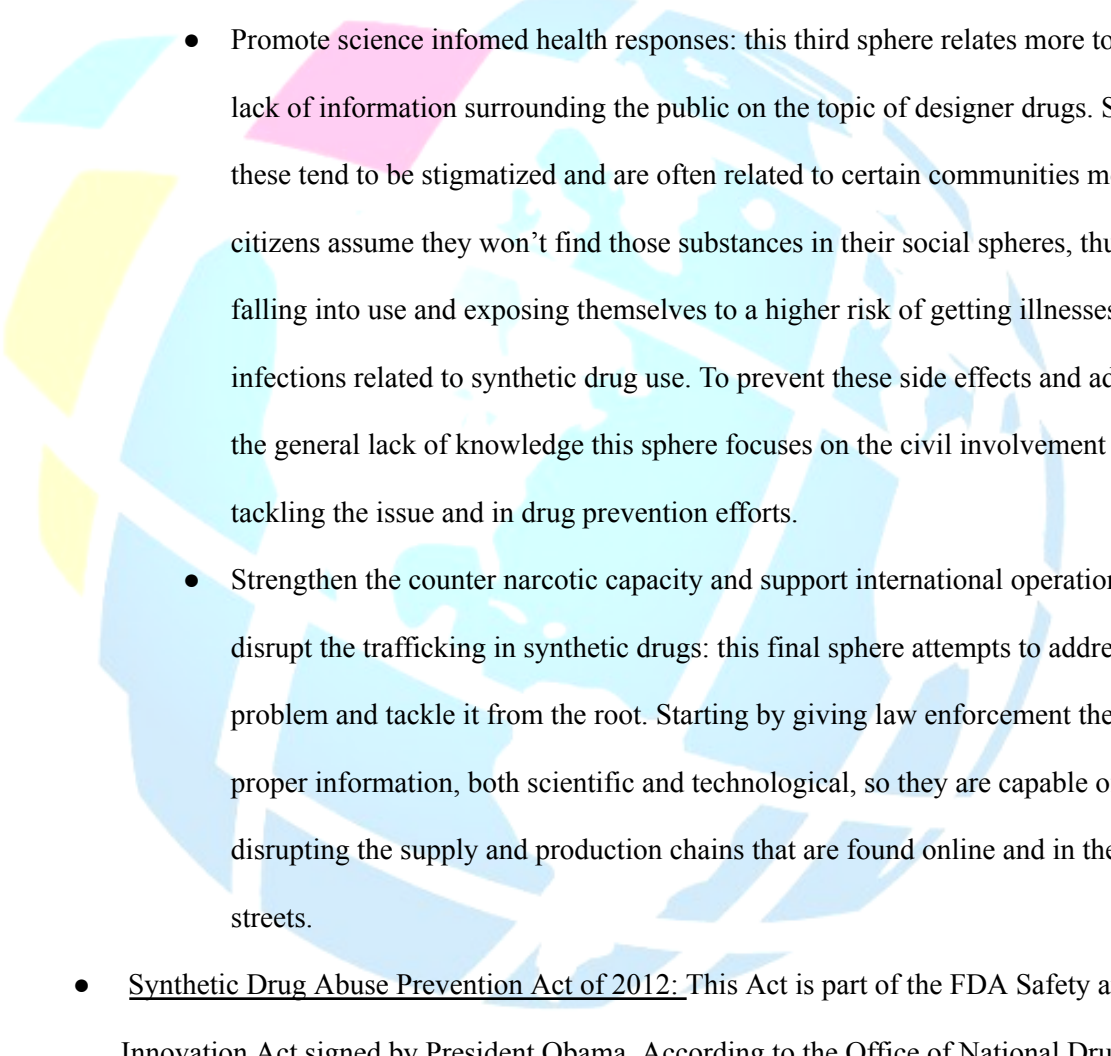
International collaboration is essential due to the global nature of NPS trafficking. Oftentimes, unilateral efforts are insufficient; in order to address both demand and supply, cooperative strategies are needed. Continuous innovation, flexible legal frameworks, and coordinated international efforts to safeguard public health and safety are necessary for effective regulation of NPS.

3.3. Previous resolutions

When talking about previous solutions regarding designer or synthetic drugs it is important to note that this is a problem that has precedent, yet has only become acute and urgent in recent years. Most governments and or organizations have only just begun to understand the stakes of the gamble with synthetic drugs and their facility to circumvent legislation. Additionally it is important to understand that chemically altered drugs are specifically designed to defy government regulation and thus become a slippery enemy to the international community.

Amongst those organizations and countries with previous solutions there is The United States of America with The Synthetic Drug Abuse Prevention Act of 2012, UNODC with its Synthetic Drug Strategy of 2021, and Europe with its regulatory framework.

- Unodc Synthetic Drug Strategy (2021-2025): This strategy takes into account the statistics regarding drugs and their synthetic alterations, the increase in designer drugs use and production, and the health hazard this presents. With this information the four spheres of action were developed. The four spheres are; multilateralism and international cooperation, early warning on emerging synthetic drug threats and preventing crises before they happen, promote science informed health responses: “Science for health”, and strengthen the counter narcotic capacity and support international operations to disrupt trafficking in synthetic drugs (UNODC, 2021). Every sphere has specific actions and goals presented.
 - Multilateralism and international cooperation: this sphere aims to use the capacity of pharmaceutical and scientific knowledge to identify the emerging threats at an international level so it can be properly understood and targeted in a system wide manner alongside the World Health Organization, Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and the International Narcotics Control Board.

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- Early warning on emerging synthetic drug threats and preventing crises before they happen: as the name indicates the purpose of this sphere is to enhance quick responses by national authorities regarding emerging designer drugs while expanding the forensic capacity and drug testing laboratories worldwide to identify synthetic drugs and NPS.
 - Promote science informed health responses: this third sphere relates more to the lack of information surrounding the public on the topic of designer drugs. Since these tend to be stigmatized and are often related to certain communities most citizens assume they won't find those substances in their social spheres, thus falling into use and exposing themselves to a higher risk of getting illnesses or infections related to synthetic drug use. To prevent these side effects and address the general lack of knowledge this sphere focuses on the civil involvement in tackling the issue and in drug prevention efforts.
 - Strengthen the counter narcotic capacity and support international operations to disrupt the trafficking in synthetic drugs: this final sphere attempts to address the problem and tackle it from the root. Starting by giving law enforcement the proper information, both scientific and technological, so they are capable of disrupting the supply and production chains that are found online and in the streets.
 - Synthetic Drug Abuse Prevention Act of 2012: This Act is part of the FDA Safety and Innovation Act signed by President Obama. According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy (n.d.) this specific action gives the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) of the United States an extension to take substances under emergency scheduling authority from 18 to 36 months. Meaning that the DEA can take under their inspection any synthetic drug or any of its components for a wider timespan.

- European regulatory framework: across the European Union this is a regulatory framework that attempts to regulate the emerging NPS and to allow the proper and effective exchange of information across the EU members to present an informed and united front regarding synthetic drugs and their usage. However, as stated by the European Parliament (2017), the action against synthetic drugs is complex due to the ever changing nature of these that doesn't allow the proper risk analysis of authorities and normally do not comply with the 1961 United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs. Meaning that although this solution takes into account the various definitions and variations of the term "drug" it is still a framework that doesn't adapt as quickly as the new synthetic drugs emerge.

3.4 International response

The growing prevalence and related hazards of synthetic experimental pharmaceuticals, especially synthetic opioids like fentanyl, have prompted an evolution in the global approach to these substances. Governments are pushed to create harm reduction and public health-oriented regulatory frameworks, and improved detection technology are being used to more successfully detect synthetic substances at borders and by law enforcement. Furthermore, global institutions like the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) underscore the necessity of cooperative endeavors to tackle the obstacles presented by synthetic drugs, encompassing trafficking and public health consequences. This promotes a holistic strategy to alleviate the hazards linked to these substances.

3.5. Useful sources

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3. *Fentanyl: Why are so many Americans dying from synthetic opioids?*. BBC News
<https://youtu.be/lmxF2owm3Gg?si=Rd6N3xDy9xUc0fSx>
4. *The Challenge of new psychoactive substances*. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.
https://www.unodc.org/documents/scientific/NPS_Report.pdf

3.6. Expectations for debate

As your presidents, we rely on your commitment and dedication to contribute in a significant way to the preparation and development of the

to contribute significantly to the preparation and development of the discussion and resolution of this problem. This situation has had a considerable impact on numerous families worldwide and on the international community as a whole. It is crucial that all of you become actively involved and prepare thoroughly to approach this matter with the seriousness and responsibility it deserves. responsibility it deserves. Together, we can work towards a just and equitable solution that will provide a sense of justice to those who have been affected by this conflict.

4. Topic B: Evaluating and preventing the infiltration of criminals in government institutions

4.1. Historical context

The ongoing threats of organized crime and terrorism define the historical backdrop for assessing and preventing criminal infiltration of government institutions. These interconnected processes have presented serious risks to the integrity and stability of political systems all across the world over the years.

Throughout history, organized crime has attempted to acquire protection, influence legislation, and aid illegal activity by infiltrating government institutions. The correlation between government corruption and organized crime has been extensively studied, revealing a recurrent theme that compromises public safety and trust. Criminal groups frequently take advantage of holes in official structures, which creates a vicious cycle of corruption that is hard to escape. This environment has become more complex because of the rise of terrorism, as terrorist organizations depend more and more on illegal activity to finance their operations. The relationship between organized crime and terrorism has been defined by a number of cooperative activities, such as money laundering and the trafficking of weapons, in which criminal groups supply terrorist organizations with logistical support.

There are now theoretical frameworks available to assist comprehend these processes and how they affect security and governance. According to the theory of routine activity, crime happens when three things come together: a motivated criminal, a suitable target, and the lack of capable guardianship. This theory highlights the significance of situational crime prevention strategies by providing insight into the criminal actions of terrorist organizations. Opportunities for crime can be greatly decreased by strengthening guardianship through enhanced security procedures and community awareness. The Social Learning Theory, which postulates that people pick up criminal skills through interaction with others—including training and socialization within criminal networks—helps explain how criminal behaviors are picked up and spread. This viewpoint

emphasizes how important it is for governmental settings to address the underlying causes of criminal behavior in order to prevent infiltration.

It takes a multipronged strategy that involves cooperation between different law enforcement organizations to stop criminals from entering government buildings. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) have stressed the value of strategic assessments and intelligence sharing in order to recognize and lessen the threats posed by both domestic and foreign terrorism, which frequently has connections to organized crime. It is also essential to implement regulatory changes that target improving accountability and transparency in government agencies. Enhancing the supervision of financial transactions and corporate frameworks can aid in reducing the hazards connected to money laundering and financing of terrorism, which are frequently enabled by organized crime.

It is crucial to involve communities in attempts to prevent crime. Public awareness and citizen participation programs can improve guardianship and make it harder for criminals to operate within legal boundaries. The use of collaborative prevention measures and theoretical frameworks can help governments better protect their institutions from these enduring risks. To guarantee the integrity and resiliency of governmental institutions in the face of these intricate problems, it is imperative that adaptation and reform be ongoing efforts to confront the ever-evolving strategies utilized by terrorist and criminal organizations.

4.2. Current situation

Criminals that participate in organized crime have had an increase in infiltration inside government institutions. They have various reasons to do so, amongst those is the redirection of state funds to criminal activity, avoid prosecution and or gain immunity, trade inside information to other criminals, expand their working network, monitor government action to evade the law,

etc. However many motives criminals may have to infiltrate governments they have a hundred more ways of doing it.

This wide range of possibilities opens up a door to irreversible harm to the governments that suffer this situation. For instance, legitimacy is directly harmed once there is criminal intervention since neither the citizen nor the international community can distinguish when a true leader is talking or when it is a puppet of organized crime. Although some of the “invasions” are not on the national level but on the local, the repercussions are exactly the same and if left without monitoring the issue can escalate to the national level and in the blink of an eye turn a democratic government into a criminal favoring management.

According to UNODC (2020), Organized Criminal Groups (OCGs) have found new ways of taking advantage of international crises such as the COVID-19 response which made most of the interactions virtual and opened up portals to acquire government access. Other than the pandemic, OCGs have found fertile soil for their incursions in the shifting attention of the international community and governments that tend to focus on ongoing international conflicts and overlook national issues. Additionally, lawbreakers have found the use of the internet and artificial intelligence as a tool to infiltrate the government, for instance most of the acts of intimidation and threats towards government officials occur online.

The most complex part about the problematic is the involvement, since there is no certainty whether or not someone's part of organized crime, is aiding them or is acting as an informant. For example, the cleaning lady at the White House could perfectly well be an informant for an OCG since she carries a low profile and can be around the whole building without being questioned, or someone with a seat at the senate could be extorted for information by a capable network of criminals for information.

4.3. Previous resolutions

The UN Conference of the States Parties resolutions emphasize the continuous efforts to fight organized crime and corruption, especially with reference to the penetration of criminals into government institutions. The resolutions from the eighth session encouraged states to use alternate legal channels to settle matters involving corruption and stressed the importance of international collaboration in recovering proceeds of crime. This involves seizing and returning assets, all the while making a firm effort to make sure that these procedures comply with the UN Convention against Corruption. In order to increase the efficacy of enforcement proceedings and asset recovery measures, the resolutions also called for increased information exchange among the impacted jurisdictions.

In order to delve deeper into these topics, the 9th session recommended that states investigate the connections between economic crime, organized crime, and corruption—particularly in times of emergency. It oversaw an unrestricted intergovernmental expert gathering with the goal of fostering global collaboration and creating policies for thwarting corruption in times of crisis. The resolutions urged states to make sure that beneficial ownership data is available to law enforcement organizations in order to support investigations, recalling prior pledges to transparency in this area.

All things considered, these resolutions show a determined attempt on the part of the global community to confront the problems caused by criminal infiltration in the government, stressing the necessity of openness, collaboration, and strong legal frameworks in the fight against organized crime and corruption.

4.4 International response

The effects of this problem inside governments have impelled both national and international cooperative action. Governments are attempting to untangle ties with OCGs and cleanse their

institutions from their management and print. On the international level the cooperation rises, yet there is yet to determine an effective way of addressing criminal infiltration in the government institutions while these are so well entangled in everyday life, economic activity, and society. For instance, most of the countries worldwide have partaken the Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, but they still suffer from the intangible infiltration that they wish to tackle.

4.5. Useful sources

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2. *Transnational Organized Crime: A Growing Threat to National and International Security*. National Security Council.

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3. *Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption*. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

<https://www.unodc.org/corruption/en/cosp/conference/session9-resolutions.html>

4. *How Organized Crime Infiltrated Guatemala's Government*. InSight Crime.

<https://insightcrime.org/news/analysis/how-organized-crime-infiltrated-the-guatemalan-state/>

5. *Organized Crime Module 4 Key Issues*. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

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4.6. Expectations for debate

During the days of the debate, and time before it, we expect full commitment, participation, and understanding of this crucial topic that touches the whole of the international community. This is a topic that can completely alter the way in which countries are managed and it is of the utmost importance to find a solution that is not only possible, creative, and that effectively achieves its purpose but that also prioritizes democracy and transparency inside a government. We await creativity to defend complex points of view and foremost well structured arguments that will provide insights and a pathway towards solutions.

5. QARMAS

5.1. *Topic A*

1. Has your delegation reported overdoses related to synthetic drugs overdose?
2. Does your delegation produce and or export designer drugs?
3. Does your delegation have any current policies regarding chemically altered psychoactives?
4. How has the public health system in your delegation been impacted by the proliferation of synthetic experimental medications, and what measures has the delegation made to tackle these issues?
5. What changes does the delegation suggest, and in what ways does it think the present international regulatory frameworks fall short in addressing the problem of synthetic experimental drugs?

5.2. *Topic B*

1. Has your delegation had criminal intervention during political campaigns or during the period of power? If so, how has it managed it and what have been the effects?
2. Does your delegation have any OCG working inside the delegation?
3. How does the delegation consider this problem could be tackled at a national and international level without risking information leakage of any government?
4. What level of criminal infiltration is there currently in your delegation's government?
5. Which are the ongoing challenges your delegation is facing to prevent such infiltration? And how might these obstacles disappear?
6. How does your nation work with other countries to stop criminals from entering government institutions? Does your delegation participate in any international treaties or agreements?

6. Delegation list

1. United States of America
2. Russian Federation
3. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
4. People's Republic of China
5. Republic of Colombia
6. Republic of Italy
7. Republic of France
8. Federal Republic of Germany
9. The United Mexican States
10. Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
11. Republic of Guatemala
12. Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
13. Plurinational State of Bolivia
14. Canada
15. Federative Republic of Brazil
16. Republic of Chile
17. Republic of Argentina
18. Kingdom of Spain
19. Republic of Portugal
20. Islamic Republic of Pakistan
21. Republic of Cuba
22. Commonwealth of Australia
23. Kingdom of Belgium
24. Swiss Confederation
25. Kingdom of Denmark



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