

Committee: World Trade Organization**Topic: Combating the Effects of the Illegal Drug Trade on Nations with Open Borders****Report of the Chairs**

I. Theme of the Conference

Model United Nations San Antonio (MUNSA) is a conference dedicated to fostering authentic and passionate debate amongst delegates in order to generate solutions to current global issues. The theme of *MUNSA XXIV: Envision* encapsulates our mission to urge delegates to foresee a future in which these problems have been dissolved. With collaboration in mind, delegates from every committee are encouraged to visualize innovative resolutions and a prosperous world to come. Together, we will propel ourselves into an age in which brilliant ideas converge to transform our world and address its most paramount issues.

II. Rationale

The illegal drug trade is a global black market dedicated to the cultivation, manufacture, and sale of drugs that are subject to drug prohibition laws. Currently, almost all countries are plagued with the effects of the organized drug trade, with regions such as Eastern Asia, the Middle East, and South America being specifically inundated. With the drug market being valued at 360 million USD, 100,000 people die every year from illegal drug use. With the help of collaboration from all delegations, this committee strives to foresee a future in which the effects of the drug trade have been mitigated and the trade itself dismantled.

III. Background of the Topic

Almost every country suffers from drug abuse and the illegal trade of drugs. The illegal drug trade causes direct and indirect results on countries' economies due to money laundering and competing street drug markets.³ Most notably, drug-influenced countries are heavily affected by the increased crime rates. This is evident in gang-related violence and even petty crime due to the high demand for drugs. The UN has a long history of funding countries to fight the war on drugs within their borders. In the past, countries like the U.S. have set up strict border crossing

procedures to prevent narcotics from other countries.⁶ However, this tactic hasn't been very effective due to the southwestern U.S. border remaining the primary entry point for heroin into the United States.

Although the production of some drugs takes place within the same country where distribution occurs, the foreign drug trade is more common in countries with stricter drug prohibitions. There have been several instances where narcotics have been stored purposely in commercial or recreational transit to pass border security. In one case, agents seized more than thirty cans filled with marijuana that had been launched by air guns.⁴

IV. Contemporary Evidence of the Topic

Nations all over the world are being affected by illicit drug trading. Countries that are particularly inundated include Venezuela, the United States of America, Thailand, Panama, Mexico, Japan, Iran, Cuba, and China. Many of these countries have been suffering because of the expansion of black markets that makes selling and distribution easier or their proximity to other countries that bring narcotics into their country. The UN has tried to implement programs designed to mitigate drug trade across continents; however, because much of the trading occurs in underground channels, it has been difficult to curb the growth of this billion-dollar industry. The trade of illegal drugs has only been increasing in recent years, which is why it is so urgent to create solutions for this topic.

V. References and Research Resources

1. Galindo, J. 2019.. An Improved Strategy to Fight Drug Trafficking, Organized Crime and Corruption in the Hemisphere. Retrieved on July 31, 2019 from <https://theglobalamericans.org/reports/improved-strategy-fight-drug-trafficking-organiz>
2. n.d.). Drug Trafficking Across Borders. Retrieved on August 7, 2019 from <https://drugabuse.com/featured/drug-trafficking-across-borders/>

3. (n.d.). 2016. The impact of drug markets on legal business and the economy. Retrieved on August 4, 2019 from http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/eu-drug-markets/2016/online/ramifications/legal-business-and-economy_
4. Nixon, R. July 25, 2017. By Land, Sea or Catapult: How Smugglers Get Drugs Across the Border. Retrieved on September 3, 2019 from <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/25/us/drugs-border-wall.html>
5. Rebecca, W. 2019. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Retrieved on August 24, 2019 from <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/drug-trafficking/index.html>
6. Schreiner , B. March 18, 2019. US drug czar says border wall will reduce influx of drugs. Retrieved on September 5, 2019 from <https://www.apnews.com/51bd3308f9074cccb6421bccd3ca65eb>

VI. Note to the Delegates

We appreciate your attendance at MUNSA XXIV. We are your co-chairs Julianna Lasky and Cristian Benavidez, and we are delighted that you've chosen to be apart of our committee. Through your research and your time at the conference, we hope this topic is engaging and you able to make this experience one to remember. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us through our emails listed below.

Julianna Lasky

jlasky8641@stu.neisd.net

Cristian Benividez

cbenavidez9825@stu.neisd.net

VII. Director General Contact Information

Joseph Ruelas - jruelas4856@stu.neisd.net

Dana Marion - dm Marion0455@stu.neisd.net