

Committee: Security Council

Issue: Reducing drug trafficking in the Amazon Rainforest

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Position: Deputy President

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear delegates of the Security Council,

My name is Natasha Panagiotou and I am a 10th grader at Anavryta Model High School. This year I will have the honor to serve as a Deputy President in the Security Council of the 5th annual session of DSTMUN. This conference will be my 6th chairing experience and my 12th conference overall.

I need to congratulate you for your decision to get involved in the MUN world and I hope you enjoy it as much as I do. In this study guide, we will focus on the second topic of the agenda of the Security Council, namely *Reducing drug trafficking in the Amazon Rainforest*. This study guide will provide you with some basic knowledge and information upon the issue and explain the important aspects of the matter. However, you are advised to do further research on your country's policy and involvement in the matter, so as to be fully prepared for the conference.

My email address is natpanag07@gmail.com . Do not hesitate to contact me about anything regarding our committee. I am looking forward to meeting you.

Best regards,

Natasha Panagiotou

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

The global trafficking of narcotics has an effect in various aspects of human lives and causes plenty of legal and humanitarian, as well as security issues which our society is called to tackle. Such problems vary from war and terrorism to human trafficking, drug trafficking, political conflicts and finally environmental issues which may also lead to further illegal acts that call for foreign intervention.

Specifically in rainforests, places that are a great hiding spot for criminals and difficult for peacekeepers to approach, drug trafficking is at its peak. Ecologically important lands in Central America, such as the Amazon rainforest, are victims of criminal acts of drug trade. The growing of coca for cocaine and other similar drugs and also the trafficking and laundering of the profits are now found to contribute to the deforestation of the forest, too. Many searches have been conducted so as to review how indigenous communities react to the rapid loss of forest ground in protected areas. As a result of the deforestation, indigenous individuals are put at risk and the security of the region is unstable due to the criminal rate of the rainforest that has become inhabited by criminals who are responsible for the drug trade and who treat locals cruelly resulting in fatal accidents.

The drug war that was declared in the 1970s by the then President Nixon needs to come to an end. The cartels have taken control of the trade and the forest with the situation of criminality and security risk escalating. The government and international organizations need to improve the legislations applied and implement strict legal measures and punishment for the perpetrators so as to gain control back on the region and reestablish a sustainable environment for the indigenous people and nearby communities.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Amazon Rainforest

Amazon jungle or Amazonia is a forest in the tropical areas of South America that receives a lot of rain and spreads to nine different nations called "indigenous territories"¹. Amazon rainforest is a part of Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana.

¹ "About the Amazon." WWF Conserves Our Planet, Habitats, & Species Like the Panda & Tiger | WWF, wwf.panda.org/discover/knowledge_hub/where_we_work/amazon/about_the_amazon

Drug Trafficking

“Drug trafficking is a global illicit trade involving the cultivation, manufacture, distribution and sale of substances which are subject to drug prohibition laws.”²

Jurisdiction

“The authority of a court or official organization to make decisions and judgments.”³

Impunity

“Freedom from punishment or from the unpleasant results of something that has been done.”⁴

Money Laundering

“The crime of moving money that has been obtained illegally through banks and other businesses to make it seem as if the money has been obtained legally.”⁵

Cartels

“A combination of independent commercial or industrial enterprises designed to limit competition or fix prices, such as the illegal drugs cartel.”⁶

Legislation

“A law or set of laws suggested by a government and made official by a parliament.”⁷

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Production of drugs in the region and effects

The drugs produced in the Amazon rainforest have a huge impact on the region there. The procedure for growing and transferring the drugs is done with illegal means and in a harmful way for the officials, the locals and the environment. The drug traffickers cut down trees to build landing strips and roads for them to

²“Trafic de stupéfiantes.” Nations Unies : Office des Nations Unies contre la drogue et le crime, <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/drug-trafficking/index.html>.

³“JURISDICTION | Meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary.” Cambridge Dictionary | English Dictionary, Translations & Thesaurus, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/jurisdiction.

⁴ <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/impunity>

⁵“Money Laundering.” Cambridge Dictionary | English Dictionary, Translations & Thesaurus, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/money-laundering.

⁶“Cartel.” The Merriam-Webster.Com Dictionary, www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/cartel#:~:text=Definition%20of%20cartel,political%20groups%20for%20common%20action

⁷“Legislation.” Cambridge Dictionary | English Dictionary, Translations & Thesaurus, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/legislation.

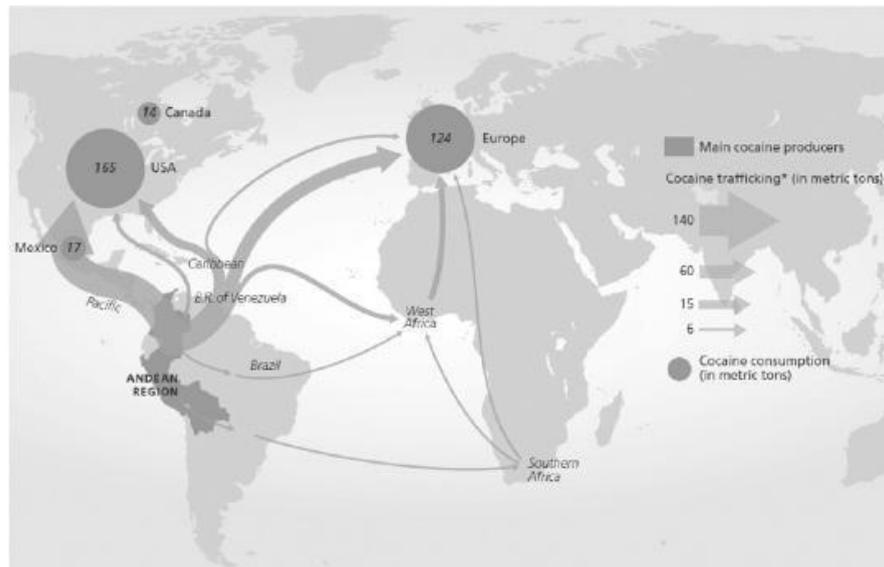
transfer the products. Usually, officials are patrolling in some parts of the Amazonia where the smugglers are. Some traffickers are bribing the officials to not intervene in the procedure. Then, they proceed with buying land from locals to convert into plantations and ranches so as to launder the illegal drug money. "The flow of drugs through the region resulted in ecological devastation." Forest loss at the hands of narco-traffickers provoked UNESCO to list Honduras's Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve as a "World Heritage in Danger" in 2011, the scientists write.⁸ The situation has gotten out of hand. With wealthy violent criminals in the area, government officials and environmental and indigenous groups have limited power and they are really conservative in the research they do. The United Nations have also withdrawn international agencies that were operating in the Amazonia.

Consumption of drugs and its effects

The population of North and Latin America is the highest consumer of drugs with huge amounts of narcotics being produced and consumed every year. The value of all illicit drugs sold annually in the United States may reach as high as US \$150 billion. Almost \$37 billion per year may be spent on cocaine alone (UNODC, 2010b: 5-6; 2011: 8). It is thought that if the consumption of drugs was reduced then the power of the cartels, who produce the drugs, would be eliminated and drug trafficking organizations would stop controlling the region. The European citizens have also increased from 4.3 to 4.75 million cocaine users, over the last decade, which represents 30% of the world-wide consumption in cocaine.⁹ This proves that the drug problem is not only affecting the United States. The global market of drugs poses a great threat to international security by causing issues such as war and terrorism, migration and state instability. The illicit use and production of drugs affects the economy seriously. Each year there are billions of dollars lost because of lack of productivity due to the extreme cost of participation in labor, the limited access to drug abuse treatment and even premature death. The treatment for drug-related diseases in combination with the cost for health care facilities and the access to criminal justice, are costly but that can be avoided if one is not involved in drug use with fatal consequences.

⁸ Howard, Brian Clark. "Drug Trafficking Poses Surprising Threats to Rain Forests, Scientists Find." Science, 4 May 2021, www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/140130-drug-trafficking-deforestation-central-america-environment-policy-reform.

⁹ Bagley, Bruce. "The Evolution of Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime in Latin Amer..." OpenEdition Journals, 1 Mar. 2013, <https://journals.openedition.org/spp/1010?lang=en>



(*) UNODC (2010c: 70).

Drug flows in 2008¹⁰

War on Drugs

The war on drugs was a US-led war in the Southern Andes. It lasted from the 1980s to the early 1990s. From the 1950s to the late 1980s when the war started, the region of Peru and Bolivia were the main suppliers for coca leaf and cocaine to the rest of the world markets. As of 1985, Peru produced roughly 65% of the world's supply of coca leaf while Bolivia grew approximately 25% and Colombia 10% or less.¹¹ Then, the US financed two eradication programs in Bolivia, the Operation Blast Furnace and Plan Dignidad. The then Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori interrupted the "air bridge" between the Alto Huallaga coca region in Peru and the clandestine cocaine laboratories located in Colombia, in support of the US-led acts. Colombia quickly became the greatest producer of coca in the late 1990s. By 2000, Colombia cultivated an estimated 90% of the world's coca leaf while production in Peru and Bolivia dwindled to historic lows.¹² Later, all cartels went against Pablo Escobar and all cartels were involved in deathly drug deals in order to gain the lead. Since then, even though the war has ended, drugs and cartels are still controlling the region and they propose a major security threat.

The effect of the use and trafficking of drugs

Consuming or producing drugs can be really dangerous and cause serious damage on a personal, national and international level. Firstly, the environment and the indigenous societies are suffering. Because of the strips built for trafficking, the

¹⁰ UNODC archive

¹¹ Bagley, 2009a: 25; Clawson and Lee III, 1998: 12-16)

¹² Bagley, 2009a: 29; UNODC, 2006).

forest is being destroyed and deforestation is at its peak. The ecosystem of the Amazon is huge and thus the rest of the ecosystems of the planet are being affected, too. Indigenous people are losing their land which is bought or taken violently from them by the drug traffickers and the criminals who take advantage of the special conditions of the rainforest. Furthermore, drug trafficking is considered organized crime since the criminal groups involved in the trade are usually involved in other kinds of criminal acts, too. So, the problems we are facing is not only drug trafficking and we are simultaneously trying to combat money laundering and illicit finance, ownership of illegal weapons, organized immigration crime and even slavery and human or wildlife trafficking. International communities should respond immediately to stop the security risk. Drugs can have an impact on the health, on the society as a whole, on the economy, on the security and on the international safety and peace.

Criminal Acts and the Security Risk

Environmental Crime

Drug traffickers should also be seen as environmental criminals. There is a thin line between drug trafficking and environmental crimes. It is important to tackle the environmental problem caused by drug trafficking but it should not be our main focus. The government acknowledges that fact and they respond to drug trafficking as an environmental crime that is becoming more regular. There have been times when criminal organizations would illegally buy land in the Amazon rainforest to start marijuana plantations and launder the money from other deals. This is a new source of income for the cartels. Other groups are involved in mining, logging, illicit gold trade and in the invasion and takeover of indigenous lands. They launder money by buying land or by cargo ships sent to foreign markets. Even though 90% of deforestation in the tropics is considered illegal, yet the most recent report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change makes no mention of environmental criminals.¹³ Environmental crime has been increasing and it has serious knock-on effects such as corruption, a sense of fear and insecurity across the Amazon and in the whole world. Although drug trafficking is a huge threat to the environment and the Amazon ecosystem, that should not be ignored, considering the issue is debated in the Security Council, the main focus of the debate should be on security and then the environment.

¹³Thomson Reuters Foundation. "An Ecosystem of Organized Crime Threatens the Amazon." News.Trust.Org, <https://news.trust.org/item/20220425092759-d6kci/>.



The Brazilian Federal Revenue Department seizing three wooden logs with 301 packages containing 342 kg of cocaine, at the Port of Itaguaí, in April 2021.¹⁴

Security Threat

The leaking of secret information and the weakening of the authority, the police and the international and national agencies by criminal organizations poses a national and international security threat. Cartels are known for the tension and conflict between them. Rivalries between drug trafficking groups can cause violent attacks for the access to routes, land and profits. The lucrative trade in methamphetamine, cocaine, and ecstasy will result in crime and violence by users and armed cartel members. Such criminal acts will be petty crimes, violence against women and children and “drug money-fueled” violence.¹⁵ Drug trafficking impacts all nations down to a personal level. There is not enough attention put on the development aspects of the effects of drug trafficking and that can be the reason why not many governments try to combat drugs. Security is in danger and the society is conservative and cannot move on from the impact of this illicit trade.

Drug trafficking and homicide

Drug trafficking is proven to be a dangerous and threatening act. In the drug trafficking organizations, a variety of people are involved. They will either be violent criminals or people who have been taken advantage of and they work illegally. These people are in danger since they help smuggle drugs or help with cutting down trees with illicit means, something that can have serious consequences on their health.

In other cases, people have been in danger or died not because they were involved in the production of drugs but because traffickers thought they were a

¹⁴Cunningham, James. “Narcotrafficking in Brazil Speeds Up Amazon Rainforest Destruction and Increases Violence.” *Diálogo Américas*, 7 Apr. 2022, <https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/narcotrafficking-in-brazil-speeds-up-amazon-rainforest-destruction-and-increases-violence/#.Yt1aGVxBzZ6> .

¹⁵“Narcotics Trafficking Impacts National Security.” *The Sunday Guardian Live*, <https://www.sundayguardianlive.com/opinion/narcotics-trafficking-impacts-national-security>.

trouble to them. For example, in 2020, in Costa Rica, a state that is relatively stable, a sea turtle conservationist, Jairo Mora Sandoval, was beaten and strangled to death after patrolling a Caribbean beach at night for egg poachers. Many believe that the crime was linked to drug traffickers. Another incident took place in the isolated Cacataibo village of Sinchi Roca in Peru. Cacataibo villager Herasmo Garcia Grau was sent death threats by text and people came looking for him in his community. They said they were going to make him disappear. Later, he was murdered by suspected drug traffickers. Such crimes should be prevented and officials and the government should step in the middle.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

Columbia

A great part of the amazon rainforest (10%) is in Colombia and it covers an area of 483,000 km², 35% of Colombia's total territory. The Colombian central government has never controlled the region and for decades it was a hiding spot for the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Farc) and now it is a hiding spot for criminals. Colombia has been known for its cartels, with the most popular being that of Pablo Escobar's. The cartels bribe land of the rainforest so as to grow drugs. The bribing of land in Colombia is not illegal and many of those who destroy the land and help with the deforestation of the forest face no consequences. Lately, some of those criminals have been caught thanks to International Law and are now in jail in Colombia facing a sentence of up to 25 years in prison for the charge of drug trafficking.



The land of the amazon rainforest in Latin America¹⁶

Venezuela

The Amazon rainforest in Venezuela covers 491.389 km², which is around 50% of the Venezuelan territory.¹⁷ The land there suffers from deforestation because of the large mining stripes across the forest. The drug trafficking problem in Venezuela, though, is not more serious than the gold mining issue. For both actions, the large stripes are used by airplanes who transfer illegal goods for taking off and landing in the region. This situation makes the area dangerous and even officials do not go into the land there. Even though Venezuelan law finds drug trafficking a serious crime and drug traffickers are supposed to face from 8 to 15 years in prison, not many arrests have been made and the problem remains a national security risk.

Peru

The Peruvian Amazon covers 782,880.55 km², east of the Andes Mountain Range and it is more than 60% of the Peruvian territory. Cartels take advantage of that land. Peru is one of the biggest cocaine producers worldwide. Cartels are present in the nation and they hold great power. Peru is known for the harsh conditions in its prison facilities and the law sentences all drug traffickers or anyone involved in the use of narcotics, even if it is possession of drugs, to up to 25 years of prison. The time criminals usually stay in jail is less than 15 years. Despite the strict measures applied, Peruvian police have not got the handle of things and cartels remain in control of most things in Peru.

¹⁶ Costa, Camilla. "Amazon Under Threat: Fires, Loggers and Now Virus." BBC News, 21 May 2020, www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-51300515.

¹⁷ "The Amazon in Venezuela." Synod, <http://secretariat.synod.va/content/sinodoamazonico/en/the-pan-amazonian-region/the-amazon-in-venezuela.html#:~:text=The%20Amazon%20region%20of%20Venezuela,portion%20>



The Peruvian Amazonia¹⁸

Bolivia

The Amazonia covers 43% of the territory of Bolivia. Drug trafficking is an issue in Bolivia, too, as it is in most of the Latin American countries. There are not many cartels in the region but still Bolivia is third in the world in the production of cocaine. Bolivia does not have a clear policy for drug trafficking and how to deal with drug traffickers. The sentence for drug trafficking is from 1 to 25 years. Under the same category fall both major drug traffickers and local drug dealers with no exception.

¹⁸"The Amazon in Peru." Synod, <http://secretariat.synod.va/content/sinodoamazonico/en/the-pan-amazonian-region/the-amazon-in-peru/>



The Brazilian Amazonia¹⁹

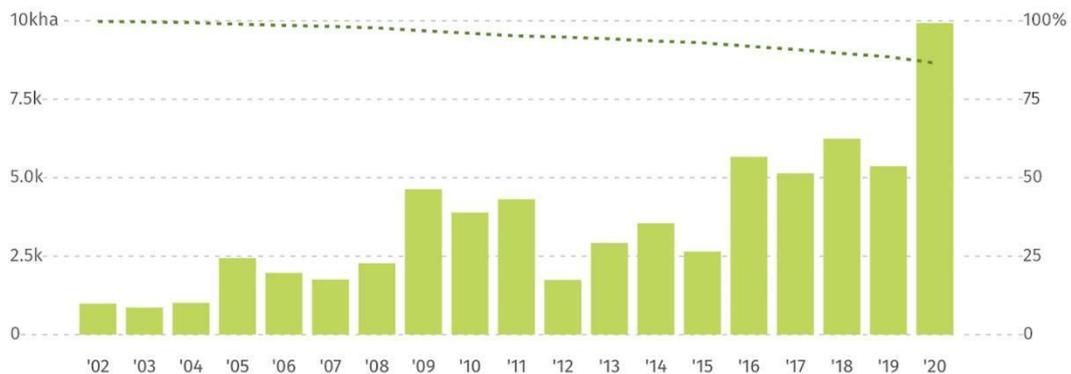
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

The Amazon rainforest has been declared a world heritage by UNESCO. UNESCO is deeply concerned about the future of the rainforest. The land has been taken advantage of by traffickers of gold and narcotics and national officials cannot gain control of their regions. On the environmental aspect, there is major loss of forest land in recent years and deforestation is ruining the greatest source of oxygen on our planet. On the social and security part of the problem, the reason behind the destruction of the Amazonia is drug trafficking which is a national and international security threat and puts the life of the general population in great danger. UNESCO has announced that the Amazon rainforest is in danger and calls for immediate action before it is too late.

¹⁹ "The Amazon in Bolivia." Synod, secretariat.synod.va/content/sinodoamazonico/en/the-pan-amazonian-region/the-amazon-in-bolivia.html#:~:text=The%20Bolivian%20Amazon%20constitutes%2043,a%20total%

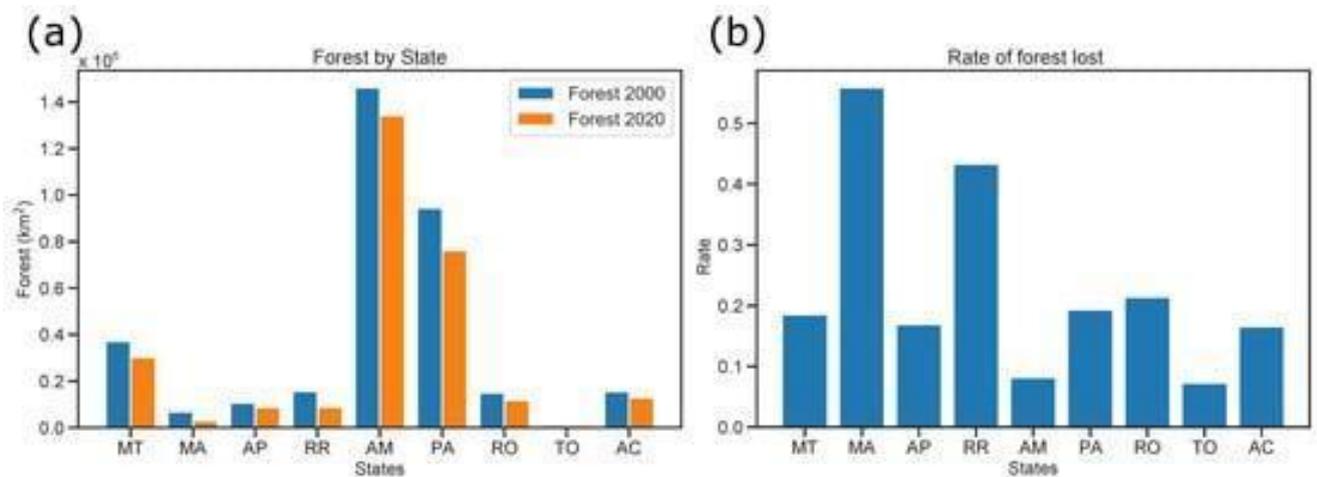
PRIMARY FOREST LOSS IN RIO PLATANO BIOSPHERE RESERVE

From 2002 to 2020, selected area lost 67.4kha of humid primary forest, making up 61% of its total tree cover loss in the same time period. Total area of humid primary forest in selected area decreased by 13% in this time period.



2001 primary forest extent remaining | >30% tree canopy

The loss of forest land²⁰



(a) Forest area by State in 2000 and 2020. (b) Rate of forest lost by the State. States: Amazon: AM, Roraima: RR, Acre: AC, Rondonia: RO, Mato Grosso: MT, Amapá: AP, Pará: PA, Tocantins: TO, Maranhão: MA.²¹

²⁰"Drugs and Agriculture Cause Deforestation to Skyrocket at Honduran UNESCO Site." Mongabay Environmental News, 30 Apr. 2021, news.mongabay.com/2021/04/drugs-and-agriculture-cause-deforestation-to-skyrocket-at-honduran-unesco-site/.

²¹"Forecasting Amazon Rain-Forest Deforestation Using a Hybrid Machine Learning Model." MDPI, 9 Jan. 2022, www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/14/2/691/htm.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

The UNODC has been very active and committed to the issue of drug trafficking in the Amazonian Region. The UNODC signed an agreement in 2021 with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for financing and supporting the project Combating Transnational Conservation Crimes in the Amazon. The project is aiming in the improvement of communication and cooperation between the nations, advance the forces of the region and make the legal systems more powerful and able to “detect, interdict, investigate and prosecute transnational conservation crimes in the Amazon, including wildlife, forestry, minerals crimes and crimes in the fisheries sector.”²²

“This partnership demonstrates the commitment by both USAID and UNODC to address the many complex challenges posed by crime syndicates who have for so long been trafficking and plundering South America’s abundant, yet dwindling, natural resources.”, said Jorge Rios, Chief of the UNODC Global Program for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime and Chief of the Sustainable Livelihoods Unit.²³

European Union

The EU has also been active on the matter and constantly urges its member-states to recognize the crisis that South America is facing and help with stopping the drug trafficking market. The EU is an international body that has helped the Colombian government create a new way of stopping coca production, having the experience of previous missions in Peru and Bolivia. The EU has proposed many times the recognition of the 2016 peace accord. The peace accord legally prioritizes substitution before forced eradication, a confrontational strategy that tends to put the brunt of counter-narcotics efforts on impoverished farmers and has been proven ineffective in reducing crops.²⁴ Furthermore, the EU has dedicated programs in providing aid to the special ethnic and gender groups mentioned in the accord, which are evident in the region of the Amazonia. It also calls for the support of the Attorney General’s Office so as to increase chances of decreasing the crime rate and fight impunity. The EU has also participated and funded voluntary missions which were effective but lacked funds and were sabotaged by the political world.

²²“UNODC and USAID Join Forces to Fight Transnational Conservation Crimes in the Amazon Region.” United Nations : Office on Drugs and Crime, www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2021/May/unodc-and-usaid-join-forces-to-fight-transnational-conservation-crimes-in-the-amazon-region.html.

²³“UNODC and USAID Join Forces to Fight Transnational Conservation Crimes in the Amazon Region.” United Nations : Office on Drugs and Crime, www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2021/May/unodc-and-usaid-join-forces-to-fight-transnational-conservation-crimes-in-the-amazon-region.html.

²⁴ “Tackling Colombia’s Next Generation in Arms.” Crisis Group, 1 Feb. 2022, www.crisisgroup.org/latin-america-caribbean/andes/colombia/tackling-colombias-next-generation-arms.

BLOCS EXPECTED

Bloc 1

The first alliance is supposed to be created by countries that have banned the use of drugs in their country and drug possession within the nation is considered illegal. Countries in this alliance may also have lighter measures applied but follow the same train of thought. These countries could have already taken action against drug trafficking in the rainforest or be a part of an organization with this cause.

Bloc 2

The second alliance will consist of delegations with drug-friendly policy meaning that they either have legalized all drugs or do not consider the possession and trade of narcotics a serious crime. These countries might also keep a distance from the issue on hand and not recognize that the matter is a threat to international security.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of event
1961	The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs was signed.
1971	The Convention on Psychotropic Substances was signed.
1972	The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs was amended.
1988	United Nations Convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances was conducted.
11 November 1990	United Nations Convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances came into force.
2000	Palermo Convention was signed.
2000	1267 Committee is launched by the SC.
2009	Political Declaration and Plan of Action were adopted by UNODC.
2016	Columbia's Peace accord was signed.

RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

[United Nations Convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, 1988](#)

This Convention was adopted by the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in Vienna in 1988. The convention followed the other two main international drug control conventions: the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1954 as amended by the 1972 Protocol and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971.²⁵ The convention was signed by 87 out of 193 member-states and came into power in 1990. This Convention proposes measures for tackling drug trafficking and money laundering. It urges international cooperation through tracked and monitored deliveries and extradition of drug traffickers.

2016 Peace Accord, Columbia

Colombia's 2016 Peace Accord was adopted by the Security Council to put an end to 50 years of conflict with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and came to provide Columbia with peace. With the correct implementation of the accord, security can be strengthened and economic opportunities will be given to the population of Colombia. The security of the region is necessary in order to be united to combat the drug trafficking issue that is at its peak in Columbia.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

The Mechanism

The Special High-Level Mechanism for Ethnic Peoples is launched by the implementation of the peace accord of 2016. The role of the mechanism is to ensure that Indigenous peoples and Afro-Colombians keep their constitutional rights and prerogatives and they are not affected by criminality or conflict. Territorial autonomy of the region is also to be protected. Unfortunately, this organ does not have enough funding to operate correctly so it was never actually implemented as the peace accord ordered.

Political Declaration and Plan of Action

The Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem were adopted at the 52nd session, in 2009, of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (UNODC). The plan of action was based on the feedback collected by the open-ended, intergovernmental expert working groups set by the General Assembly which were responsible to monitor the progress on the issue. The plan focuses on the development of cooperation between MEDCs and LEDCs and it also includes measures about the enhancement of international cooperation, the identification of

²⁵ "Conventions." United Nations : Office on Drugs and Crime, www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/conventions.html.

problematic areas in need of improvement and further acts as well as the tackling of the world drug problem.

The UN Committees

The Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) has engaged in many talks on the question of crime prevention, criminal justice and international drug control. It still debates on the matter and supports the actions taken by the UNODC and the SC. Previous efforts of the UN to eliminate drug trafficking and maintain peace were seen as failures. Such efforts were the creation of a 10-year plan of action relating to the threat of illegal drugs. Later on, the Palermo Convention against organized crime was signed, in 2000, and the 1267 Committee was created by the Security Council to combat international terrorism.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Education of the public

Raising awareness for the issue of drug trafficking and drug possession does not mean that narcotics are getting promoted. The general population needs to understand the international threat that drugs are and support the governments that try to gain back the control of their land in the Amazon rainforest. Another factor that everyone needs to be aware of is that one of the two most common drugs, Ayahuasca, which is also used in cultural practices by indigenous groups, and by the total ban of all kind of drugs or the dramatic limitation of them, even nations that are in danger but use this kind of drugs for their culture or religion, will not promote it to their people. Clarifying the topic and providing the society with valid information is a key for tackling the crisis.

Application of legal frameworks

Drug trafficking is an international issue that poses a threat to international peace and security. The international law and International Humanitarian Law (IHL) should refer to this problem as it is a problem for the environment, security and public health. International Courts such as the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC) should apply their jurisdiction and take over cases on the regions in Amazonia about narcotics and help eliminate the power of the cartels. The registration of new legislations and legal frameworks can improve and strengthen national and international law. The impunity gap in the region and the flaws of the legal system, which drug traffickers take advantage of, should be seen as actually issues that put world safety in danger. The policy against narcotics should be clarified and all nations should keep a similar policy against them.

Tracking black market and trade

The trafficking of drugs is achieved by airplanes and helicopters which take off in the stripes cut in the Amazon rainforest. The drugs are then sold in the illegal black market. The cargo can be tracked by the position of the planes and officials can start getting hold of things. The tracking can be achieved by devices of the officials and the supervision of the airspace. A no-fly zone for aircrafts can also be implemented so as to prohibit flights for traffickers.

UN observer mission on Amazon rainforest

The UN should be present in the region so as to help the officials patrolling and working in the rainforest and also to be able to observe the trafficking market. An observer mission of the United Nations should be sent in the land of the Amazon and especially in places where the presence of cartels is noticeable or where stripes for the landing of the aircrafts of the traffickers. This will give us a better insight of the crisis and we will have higher chances of gaining the control back on the forest since a team force can be sent immediately after the notice to the headquarters by the mission if the situation gets out of hand. If the UN sees how the cartels work and how drugs are transferred, they will be able to conduct and adopt better legislations and act accordingly so as to be able to face the cartel leaders and hold them accountable for all the illegal actions.

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