



UNODC

Chair: Alejandra Ramos
and Sydney Humphries



LETTER FROM SECRETARY GENERAL

Hi everyone!

Before I introduce myself, I would like to give a quick thank you to everyone that made this possible. Thank you to Dr. Arguelles for her constant support of LelyMUN as a team and for TrojanMUNC I as a conference. Thank you to Ms. Bledsoe for approving this project of the Model UN team and to all of the administration that supported us throughout the way. Thank you to the social studies department for your support in advertising this event as well as for educating us on important world-wide matters as well as to the Lely staff for contributing to our growth as the Lely Model UN team. Thank you to all of our volunteers who are helping us throughout this conference and the biggest of my thank yous goes to my staff. You all put in a lot of effort to make the conference a possibility and have been listening to me talk about the idea of Lely hosting its own Model UN conference since my freshman year. I am very appreciative of all of you (:<3.

My name is Alejandra Ramos and I am your Secretary General for TrojanMUNC I! I am so excited to welcome you all onto Lely's campus for our first ever conference. I have been a Model UN delegate since my freshman year and have successfully participated in all types of rooms including General Assemblies, Crisis Rooms, and Specialized Rooms. Although I was born in the USA, I lived in Mexico during my childhood so although English is not my first language, I developed my interest in international relations from an early age. Outside of Model UN, I am involved in a variety of activities some of which include debate, teen court, spanish honor society, national honor society, and student government. Outside of school though, I love traveling, listening to Taylor Swift, watching Gossip Girl, and hanging out with friends.

TrojanMUNC I is something very special to me as it is something that I have dreamt of since my freshman year. Since Lely High School is a Title I school, extracurriculars like Model UN are not accessible to many students due to the high prices and fees that come with participating. This was one of the main reasons why I first thought of hosting a Model UN conference of our own and why the Lely Model UN team and Lely High School staff was so supportive in this endeavor. After this conference officially starts, Lely High School will be the only Title I school in the county and one of the few schools on a regional, state, and national scale to host its own model un conference. At first, this conference started off as something that was going to be specifically tailored for Lely students. Having this opportunity to train delegates and introduce students to what Model UN is like is something that will allow students to enrich their social studies knowledge outside of the classroom. Additionally, students will be exposed to world-wide issues and will have to analyze them through different lenses, developing who they are as people. Ultimately though, opening up this conference to more schools will allow these benefits to be applicable to all students that wish to participate.

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Alejandra Ramos

UNEP

Albert Lopez-
Villagomez

UNHRC

Jordan Keller and
Jamesly Malande

UNODC

Alejandra Ramos
Sydney Humphries

UNDRR

Luca Galvez
Miguel Godinez

UNOCT

Miranda Ramos
Kensy Nova



LETTER FROM SECRETARY GENERAL

SECRETARY GENERAL

Alejandra Ramos

TrojanMUNC I, as a result, has a purpose of providing equal access to opportunities for all students that are willing to learn and are driven to succeed. As part of your TrojanMUNC staff, I speak on behalf of all us when stating that we are all more than willing to help you and your team seek out any external resources to help fund your club and to look for more opportunities to help the delegates of your club grow. This conference revolves around the idea of helping one another and establishing strong connections as delegates, as students, and as people.

UNEP

Albert Lopez-
Villagomez

We at LelyMUN are lucky enough to have delegates that work hard in order to fundraise money for the club as well as the very generous support of The Cooper-Bos Family, the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, and the Lely High School SAC. With an increase in fundraising and community outreach this year, my freshman year dream will finally come true with the start of this conference and the beginning of TrojanMUNC.

UNHRC

Jordan Keller and
Jamesly Malande

I am looking forward to meeting all of you and cannot wait to hear about the amazing performances that are going to be seen at TrojanMUNC I.

UNODC

Alejandra Ramos
Sydney Humphries

Best of luck and please reach out if have any questions at alejandrarry239@gmail.com or lelyhsmun@gmail.com

UNDRR

Luca Galvez
Miguel Godinez

Appreciatively,

Alejandra Ramos

TrojanMUNC I Secretary General

UNOCT

Miranda Ramos
Kensy Nova



LETTER FROM STAFF

I'm Alejandra and I am your chair (:

I have always been interested in the War on Drugs. I have dedicated various research projects on it and am super excited to share this knowledge with all of you.

My main goal throughout this conference is to help all you grow as delegates and to enjoy this new experience. I hope that all of you enjoy this room as much as I will and that you can learn everything you need to know for future conferences. I think I covered everything in my Secretary General letter but when you guys are in this room, please feel free to ask any questions about anything. I look forward to answer anything that you may have doubts about including the room topic, general Model UN terminology, and questions about me.

My favorite color is yellow, I listen to a variety of artists including Taylor Swift, Arctic Monkeys, and Chalino Sanchez. I also really like watching the Big Bang Theory and Young Sheldon. There will be plenty of time for us to get to know each other but also plenty of time for us to do Model UN work.

Feel free to contact me. My email is alejandrarry239@gmail.com and the LelyMUN email is lelyhsmun@gmail.com

I look forward to this committee.

Best,
Alejandra Ramos

Hi everyone! My name is Sydney Humphries and I look forward to helping chair for this conference. I am super into volunteering and am very active in the performing arts at my school. I personally really enjoy taking care of the environment but know that this room will provide me a good opportunity to expand my horizons and to learn about more issues. Best of luck!

Respectfully,
Sydney

Please reach out if you have any questions. We believe in providing resources to anyone and everyone that needs them in order to provide a fair and equal chance to everyone. Equity and equality are the main goals of this conference.

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OVERVIEW OF THE ROOM

The War on Drugs was an issue that was originally limited to just a few nations however, with an increase in transportation methods as well as developments in technology, it has become an issue on a global scale. The proper way to tackle this issue is in the air due to a variety of factors and whether or not a nation can impose regulations on another. Additionally, nations have different laws regarding the status of different drugs and have different penalties for a different level of possession. It will be up to delegates to decide on the proper actions to take to try and combat this war on drugs and where it is appropriate to draw the line.



INTRODUCTION

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Introduction

The War on Drugs began when former president Richard Nixon addressed the country on June 17, 1971, announcing drug addiction as the number one “public enemy” (Vulliamy 2011). Since 1971, the War on Drugs has developed from a domestic term used only within the borders of the United States of America to a term used for an issue that is recognized internationally.

The “original” War on Drugs can be traced back to drug trafficking between Colombia and the USA but has become borderless through the decades due to the demand of illicit drugs from each country (illicit being larger impact drugs while soft drugs being those that are accepted more as recreational). This has facilitated the growth of the industry of illicit drugs and has impacted the economies and cultures of people across the globe. Although the results of the War on Drugs have international impacts, the effects of the War on Drugs have only been thoroughly studied on individual nations and within a smaller geographical context. With this gap in research, the question of whether the War on Drugs has negatively impacted international relations among states or not arises. There are different ways that this can be analyzed; however, for the context of this background guide there will be a focus on the different policies of states, the resulting economies of countries as a result of the War on Drugs, and the different ways countries have tried to combat the War on Drugs together.

International drug policy mainly relies on three overarching United Nations treaties: the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotics and Drugs, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and the 1988 Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (International Drug Control Conventions). Aside from these three overarching international policies, there is no other strong or foundational policy for international or domestic drug affairs, which leaves power up to the individual states. For instance, Japan has some of the harshest penalties towards drug crimes with a zero-tolerance policy towards drugs (Possession or Use of Drugs in Japan). This means that drug trafficking in Japan faces extremely large consequences even in instances where the illicit drug affairs are not at large conflict. For instance, Cannabis and Cocaine have up to five years of imprisonment, for even a small amount of possession, and the smuggling of methamphetamine will have at least one year of imprisonment (Possession or Use of Drugs in Japan).



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Introduction

For example, eight ounces of marijuana brought into the country by Sir Paul McCartney resulted in him spending nine days in a Japanese jail (Punishment, 2016). In other states, such as the Netherlands, there are more open policies to drugs. In fact, it can be considered common knowledge that soft drugs are sold in coffee shops and are more accessible because they are legal (Amsterdam Drugs Laws). The different country policies that each nation selects to implement impacts the way that their country faces the War on Drugs. States believe that their policies are the most effective way to combat the War on Drugs and ultimately believe that other States should follow in their lead. These differences in actions have caused strains on the relationships between States.



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The Issue With Country Example

With each nation having their own policies and determining how to prosecute drug possession, there are disagreements among them. Using Japan and the Netherlands as examples, Japan implementing the Netherlands' policies or the Netherlands implementing the policies that Japan uses would be a contradiction to each of their nations core values. The direct relationship between the impact of the War on Drugs to the cultural differences has not been thoroughly analyzed; however, there can be cultural trends and impacts noticed. In Japan, there are people that go abroad to experiment with drugs in nations where drug policies have been "loosened up" as well as using them for medical treatments (Dooley and Hida 2021). As a result of this exposure, the Japanese citizens are pushing for their government to liberalize the laws that they currently have on marijuana and CBD, cannabidiol, but it is very unlikely that this will happen due to Japan's drug policies becoming less tolerant (Dooley and Hida 2021). As the popularity of CBD grows in Japan, mimicking the growth it has had in the United States of America, the Japanese government is worried that it will create a path to the "gateway" drug, a soft drug that leads to the use of stronger and addictive drugs, marijuana. With people wanting the policies in Japan to mimic those of other countries that have more liberalized policies because of visits abroad to nations and experimentation with drugs, the Japanese government may struggle to meet with both its own values and what the people want. This is putting a strain on the nation's leaders to either follow their own policies or try and fit the wants of the people.

It is important to note, however, that although there may be possible strains due to conflicting policies and values, that countries are coming together and trying to find some way to combat the War on Drugs together as one. There are over fifty members in the Commission on Narcotic Drugs with rotating seats every three years (UNODC 1). The member states are also covering different parts of the world that have different drug policies such as Canada and Malaysia, but all want to achieve one common goal with the UNODC, United Nations of Drugs and Crime. Through the UNODC, countries have come together to combat the negative impacts of international drug trafficking and to find the best ways to combat and illicit drug acts. Focusing on alternative development as a strategy to combat drugs and enforce drug control is something that the member states of the UNODC have focused on when developing the drug control policy (Success Stories). Through the alternative development strategies, approaches that want to reduce the impact of drug cultivation and eliminating it over time, that member states are focusing on, both developed and developing nations are allowed to help one another in providing alternative jobs to drug harvesters and focusing on growing different pillars of society, such as infrastructure and food security (Success Stories).



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The Issue With Country Example

Additionally, the relationship between the War on Drugs and the economies of nations has been impacted. The size of the overall drug market is estimated to be worth three-hundred-twenty billion dollars (Mejia and Csete). Although this is what is estimated by the United Nations, this is only what can be estimated based off of what is known about the illicit drug market meaning that a portion of drug markets goes unaccounted for. This amount that is not accounted for can represent either (or both) the money spent by nations, or the money gained by nations. Developing nations are usually the nations that harvest and cultivate drugs to meet the demand of developed nations which means that developing nations most likely are the ones that benefit the most, economically, from the War on Drugs while developed nations might not benefit as much. Additionally, although the illicit drug market itself is at an estimated value of three-hundred-twenty billion dollars, policies and other methods to try and stop the War on Drugs has cost nations around one-hundred billion dollars annually (Mejia and Csete). These are two different viewpoints to examine the War on Drugs in order to fully analyze the impact it has had economically.



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The “Positives” With Country Examples

In terms of the positive impacts that the War on Drugs has had on nations, it can be argued that developing nations have had a strengthening in their economy. With the large cultivation of drugs in developing nations, there are people that have to take up the jobs of the farmers, the jobs of those that transport the drugs, and any other job that is required to export the drugs. Due to the current demand of drugs in the world, with nations such as the United States of America having large demand for drugs, the GDP, Gross Domestic Product, of countries that cultivate the drugs is growing. Looking at Bolivia, the illicit drug industry has added around seven hundred million dollars to the economy, which is about fifteen percent of the GDP of the nation (Economic and Social Consequences). Although the seven hundred million dollars are added to the economy as a whole and only six percent gets added to the GDP of Bolivia, the other ninety-four percent of the money goes into the different factors of the production of the drugs Bolivia exported. The different factors, such as transportation and harvesting of drugs, are providing employment to a portion of the population in Bolivia which is a common pattern in other nations, such as Colombia and Mexico. In the rural areas of the nations, it is harder to find jobs and many families depend on the cultivation of drugs on farms or fields. More closely examining Colombia, this is the case for Colombia.

The Drug on Wars has a large presence in Colombia since it is tied with the political and economic scene (Oregon 1). In fact, in 1985 the illicit drug economy was so big that the drug lords during this time had offered to pay the debt Columbia had of approximately fourteen billion dollars which (Oregon 1). This would have repositioned Columbia as a strong nation among other nations since it would not owe other countries anything and demonstrate economic prosperity. Cocaine and other illicit drugs were also seen as a business that would help the lower class due to the social programs that were established as a result of the economic benefits of the War on Drugs. El Barrio Pablo Escobar was a program created by former drug lord, Pablo Escobar, where people that lived in the city dumps could live, painting his as a good man in colombia (at the time) (Oregon 1). Having a stronger and more stable population of people allowed for Colombia to be seen as a stronger nation to the rest of the world. It was able to grow its economy while providing jobs to its people.



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An Analysis of the Presented Issue

Although there has been development in the economies of nations, such as Colombia, as a result of the war on drugs which in turn places it on the same level as typically “stronger” nations, it is necessary to examine the negatives that the War on Drugs has brought through the economy onto international relations. The economy of the War on Drugs relies on the supply people have available and the demand that is being met. Usually, the exchanges of illicit drugs for money are between developing and developed nations. Mexico makes around twenty-five to forty billion dollars from the global drug operations every year but majority of their cocaine and methamphetamine exports are smuggled into the United States (Reuters). Looking at this exchange more historically, it can be recognized that Mexico made more money through drug exportation in 2009 than in oil exportation which is its largest exportation (Reuters). Although Mexico is gaining money, other countries are losing millions of dollars in their economies as a result of illicit (drug) affairs. More recently, in 2019, the United States deployed thousands of military troops to the U.S.-Mexico border and Mexico followed by sending twenty-five thousand National Guard members (CFR). This further shows the strains between two nations since there was an increase in violence in this area when the troops were sent.

The War on Drugs has impacted international relations both negatively and positively. It has helped nations prosper in terms of economy but hindered others through this same process. It has brought unity through countries trying to solve this problem but also country disputes over the way to solve it. Your task as delegates is to respond to this issue and doing so in the best way possible. The management of the global War on Drugs is something that must be addressed but in a way in which all nations are properly considered and their national sovereignty is respected.



GOALS OF THE COMMITTEE AND GUIDING QUESTIONS

SECRETARY GENERAL

Alejandra Ramos

UNEP

Albert Lopez-
Villagomez

UNHRC

Jordan Keller and
Jamesly Malande

UNODC

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Sydney Humphries

UNDRR

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Miguel Godinez

UNOCT

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The goals of the committee:

- To find an effective way to reduce and address the global war on drugs.
- To compromise with other nations in terms of what regulations can be placed on an international scale.
- To mitigate the impacts the current drug war is going to have on future generations.
-

Guiding Questions:

1. Economically, what factors must be considered?
2. What nations, if any, should get the largest say in drug policy?
3. How should nations that benefit from drug trafficking be addressed?
4. Who should be punished, the provider or the demander and should it be the government or the people?



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