



UNITED NATIONS Office of drugs and crime

CHAIR- Vishal Chowdary

VICE CHAIR- Nagapranadeep Yenigalla

Greetings Delegates,

On behalf of the conference, we warmly welcome you to the United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime. We're absolutely elated to be serving on the Executive Board of the United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime at VIVA MUN, and look forward to having you be a part of the UNODC as well, rendering this a magnificent three days. We will always be there for you at every step, to encourage you, push your boundaries, and recenter focus when needed. We count on you, as much as you might count on us. We look forward to mutual growth, and learning, albeit within the frame of discipline and cooperation. Here are a few instructions we'd like to give with this study guide:

- This study guide is a mere framework for your deeper research. It consists of readings from various sources and we have attempted to make it as comprehensive as possible, covering various angles and viewpoints so that you have a good idea about the concepts associated with the agenda. We cannot stress enough that you need to pursue your own sources, especially because the study guides will not cover your individual foreign policies and foreign policy compliance is very important to us. It is very likely that we, in our limited knowledge, have also omitted some crucial insights, perspectives or initiatives that are really effective or could be implemented later on. This background guide cannot be used as a base of proof, as this guide is meant to be a reference only.
- We are following the UNA-USA Rules of Procedure (RoP) in the committee, which looks for consensus-building rather than conflicting and adverse debate. Please base your research on this basis. Oftentimes, Delegates may simply pursue research whose approach is more aggressive and accusatory. We would discourage this greatly. Please concentrate on concerns where all states may find common ground. Those unaware of this set of RoP, please make sure to read through it comprehensively, before committee sessions begin.
- The sources used in this study guide are all open-source. The reason we chose not to write it ourselves was because we wanted to avoid a certain bias which may be too evident in the language that it is being written in. We have tried instead to bring a certain balance in the way we assign you readings, but then again, there may be a chance that it may be seen as favoring any one side. We would like to assure you that it is not done by intention, but merely the constraints of time and sources. Read widely and extensively. Be aware of your foreign and domestic policies. We wish you all the best and please don't hesitate to contact us if you have doubts or even if you just want to have a casual chat about the agenda.

Chairperson: Vishal Chowdary Vice Chairperson: Nagapranadeep Yenigalla

Rules of Procedure (RoP)

Before the conference days, we expect the delegates to acknowledge themselves with the rules of procedure, structure and verbatim debate. They are expected to go through this section of the background guide carefully, please note that the delegates will be briefed about this during the delegate training session and first committee session as well.

~~Language~~

- - Delegates are expected to speak in English throughout the committee session during the formal and informal debate.
 - - Delegates are encouraged to refrain from using personal pronouns and address themselves as their allocated country.
- instead of saying "I believe that the agenda..." use the verbatim, "The delegate of (your country) believes that the agenda..."
- - Delegates are expected to use formal respectful and topic-related jargon to express their views. Use of offensive, derogatory, informal, inappropriate or abusive language is highly discouraged by the EB and will result in consequences.
 - - Delegates will be recognized through the raising of their placards and will be given the chance to address the EB to communicate their point or motion.

Formal Debate The formal debate consists of three sections, the General speaker's list, Moderated Caucus and Special Speaker's List. During the formal debate, delegates are expected to remain seated and act following the expectations of behavior and diplomacy. *General Speaker's List (GSL)*: The GSL is a time when all the delegates wishing to speak can address the agenda as a whole or as a specific part of the agenda. This time can be used to discuss their country's stance, agenda's scope, other country's stance, or specific facets of the agenda to familiarize the committee with their stance

and overarching ideas. The GSL is non-exhaustive meaning it will be a continuing list throughout the three days and the exhaustion of the GSL leads to the failure of the committee. *Moderated Caucus (Mod Cauc)*: The moderated caucus is another part of the formal debate but unlike the GSL it is the discussion of a specific part of the agenda that the committee agrees to discuss. Moderated caucuses are a great way to enhance debate and delve deeper into the various aspects of the agenda. Moderated caucuses can be used to share resolutions to the agenda, discuss the impact of the agenda, or discuss historic events or treaties concerning the agenda. The main purpose is to engage in effective debate through sub-topics and simplifications of the agenda.

Special Speaker's List (SSL):

The Special Speaker's List follows the same structure as the GSL. The SSL is established during a crisis and delegates are expected to discuss the crisis during their speeches. The delegates can address their country's stance, and other countries' actions or investigate the crisis during this time.

Informal Debate

Unmoderated Caucus:

An unmoderated caucus is a period where the delegates can move around the committee and lobby with other delegates. This time can be used for discussion on the agenda, moderated caucus topics, resolution paper writing, bloc building or crisis discussion. Delegates are encouraged to make the most of this time to strengthen the quality and flow of debate during the formal session.

Motions & Verbatims

- Motion to start roll call:- "The delegate of (your country) would like to motion to start roll call"
- Motion to start a formal debate:- "The delegate of (your country) would like to motion to start a formal debate"
- Motion to establish the General Speaker's list:- "The delegate of (your country) would like to establish the General Speaker's List with total speaker's time 60/90 seconds"
- Motion to raise a Moderated Caucus:- "The delegate of (your country) would like to raise a motion for a moderated caucus on the topic (your topic), with a total time period of (___ minutes) and individual speaker's time (___ seconds)"
- Motion to establish the Special Speaker's list:- "The delegate of (your country) would like to raise a motion to establish the special speaker's list with individual speaker's time 60/90 seconds"
- Motion to adjourn committee: used to end a committee session in the middle of the conference day
- "The delegate of (your country) would like to raise a motion to adjourn this committee session"
- Motion to suspend committee: used to end a committee session at the end of the day- "The delegate of (your country) would like to raise a motion to suspend the committee session"
- Motion to raise an Unmoderated Caucus:- "The delegate of (your country) would like to raise a motion for an unmoderated caucus for a total time period of ___ minutes"
- Motion for entertainment:- "The delegate of (your country) would like to raise a motion for entertainment"

Points

- Point of parliamentary inquiry: Used to ask the EB questions regarding the parliamentary procedure - “Point of parliamentary inquiry, what is the SSL?”
- Point of personal privilege: Used to address the delegate’s discomforts - “Point of personal privilege, the delegate is inaudible”
- Point of information: Used to ask another delegate a question regarding their speech or stance- “Point of information, what is your country’s stance on the agenda?”
- Point of Order: Used to address a factual inaccuracy made by another delegate- “Point of order, the delegate of _____ stated that “Donald Trump is the current President of the United States” this is factually incorrect as the current President of the United States is Joe Biden”

Yields

Yields are used to allocate the remaining time from a delegate’s speech. Yield to the EB: The time is yielded to the EB, the

EB may proceed with the next speaker or might recognise Points of Information for the current delegate at their discretion.

Yield to Points of Information: The time is yielded for points of information and the committee is allowed to ask questions to the delegate.

Yield to another delegate: The remaining time is yielded to another delegate to address their speech. Please note this can only be done if the other delegate is informed in advance.

Please note that draft resolutions and amendments will be discussed in the committee.

The Agenda:

Legalisation of Marijuana: Intricacies surrounding global use and its socio economic implications.

About the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



For two decades, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has been helping make the world safer from drugs, organized crime, corruption and terrorism. We are committed to achieving health, security and justice for all by tackling these threats and promoting peace and sustainable well-being as deterrents to them.

Because the scale of these problems is often too great for states to confront alone, UNODC offers practical assistance and encourages transnational approaches to action. We do this in all regions of the world through our global programmes and network of field offices. The Office is committed to supporting Member States in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at its core. The 2030 Agenda clearly recognizes that the rule of law and fair, effective and humane justice systems, as well as health-oriented responses to drug use, are both enablers for and part of sustainable development.

Tackling the world drug problem through balanced, evidence-based responses to address drug abuse and drug use disorders, as well as the production and trafficking of illicit drugs. Preventing corruption by promoting integrity and good governance and helping recover stolen assets.

Countering terrorism through effective, accountable and inclusive legal, crime prevention and criminal justice measures in line with international norms and the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy.

Combating organized crime by providing technical assistance and support and strengthening international cooperation to address organized criminal activity and all forms of trafficking.

Preventing crime and promoting criminal justice through human rights-based and victim-centered approaches that strengthen the rule of law and access to justice.

Marjuana and International Law

The UN's historical stance on marijuana has been rooted in strict control and prohibition, as reflected in the key international drug control conventions. Recent developments, including the reclassification of cannabis by the CND, indicate a shift towards recognizing its medical value. However, navigating the legalization of marijuana within the framework of international law remains a complex and evolving issue, requiring careful balance between national policies and international treaty obligations.

History & Background

The history of the United Nations (UN) and marijuana is closely tied to the development of international drug control treaties, which have shaped global drug policy for decades. These treaties primarily aimed to combat drug abuse and trafficking, placing stringent controls on substances, including marijuana. The first attempts at international drug control focused on opium and other narcotics. The International Opium Convention of 1925 included provisions to control the cultivation and distribution of cannabis. These early conventions laid the groundwork for more comprehensive treaties in the mid-20th century.

The United States took the lead both in addressing the drug trade itself and in signing bilateral agreements with other nations to combat it; however, real international cooperation began only with the 1961 UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, which banned a wide range of drugs. This convention was amended and strengthened by a protocol in 1972. In addition, the UN agreed to the Vienna Convention on Psychotropic Substances in 1971 in order to control trade in hallucinogens and amphetamines (psychotropic substances had not been included in the 1961 Convention). Between them, "these three Conventions regulate the legal production, distribution and supply of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes and make illegal all other such activities." Also in 1971, the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) was established; the United States, Germany, Sweden and Norway have been leading supporters of this body. In 1984, the UN General Assembly unanimously requested the preparation of a draft convention to complement the 1961 Single Convention (as amended) and the 1971 Psychotropic Substances Convention. A UN Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances was adopted and prepared for signature in late 1988. This convention reiterates that it is concerned with reinforcing and supplementing the earlier conventions, and "strengthening and enhancing effective legal means for international co-operation in criminal matters for suppressing the international criminal activities of illicit traffic." As of May 2002, 166 countries and the European Union had become parties to the Convention.

Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961) The 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs aimed to consolidate and streamline previous international drug control treaties. It established a framework for controlling the production, distribution, and use of narcotic drugs. Cannabis and cannabis resin were placed in Schedule I and Schedule IV of the convention. Schedule I includes drugs considered to have a high potential for abuse and dependence, while Schedule IV is for substances deemed particularly dangerous and with limited medical or therapeutic value.

Schedule I: Requires stringent control measures. Countries must limit production, manufacture, export, import, distribution, trade, use, and possession to medical and scientific purposes.

Schedule IV: Represents the most restrictive category, indicating substances that are particularly liable to abuse and harmful effects, with little to no therapeutic use. This dual classification reflected the stringent stance on cannabis.

Obligations: Signatory countries are required to establish regulatory frameworks to ensure that cannabis is used only for medical and scientific purposes. The convention also mandates measures to prevent abuse, such as criminal penalties for unauthorized production and distribution.

Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971)

This convention aimed to control synthetic psychotropic substances, reflecting the growing concern over new drugs not covered by the 1961 Convention. While the 1971 Convention does not specifically target cannabis, it addresses synthetic cannabinoids and other psychoactive substances. It underscores the need for international cooperation to prevent abuse and illicit trafficking. Schedules: The convention established four schedules for psychotropic substances, with varying degrees of control based on their potential for abuse and medical value. Some synthetic cannabinoids and related compounds have been placed under these schedules.

United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988)

This convention was designed to combat the growing problem of drug trafficking. It focuses on law enforcement measures, criminal justice responses, and international cooperation to curb illicit drug trade. The 1988 Convention requires countries to criminalize the cultivation, production, possession, and distribution of narcotic drugs, including cannabis, for non-medical purposes. It emphasizes measures to combat the illicit trafficking of cannabis. Article 3: Outlines offenses related to the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. It mandates that signatory states establish criminal penalties for the cultivation, production, and distribution of cannabis when intended for non-medical and non-scientific purposes.

Asset Forfeiture: Encourages countries to adopt measures to confiscate proceeds derived from illicit drug trafficking, including those involving cannabis.

International Cooperation: Calls for enhanced cooperation between nations in extradition, mutual legal assistance, and the exchange of information to combat drug trafficking networks.

Shift in Global Perspective?

The UN's view on the legalization of marijuana is evolving, with recent developments reflecting a greater openness to recognizing its medical benefits and the need for balanced, evidence-based drug policies. Recent developments, including the reclassification of cannabis by the CND, indicate a shift towards recognizing its medical value.

WHO Recommendations (2019) on Cannabis Reclassification

The World Health Organization's (WHO) recommendations in 2019 regarding the reclassification of cannabis were a significant development in the global discourse on marijuana. These recommendations were aimed at recognizing the medical benefits of cannabis while maintaining necessary controls to prevent abuse. The WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD) conducted a critical review of cannabis and cannabis-related substances. Based on this review, the ECDD made several recommendations to the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND).

Key Recommendations

1. Removal from Schedule IV of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs

Current Status: Cannabis and cannabis resin were listed in both Schedule I and Schedule IV of the 1961 Single Convention. Schedule IV is the most restrictive category, reserved for substances deemed particularly dangerous with limited therapeutic value. **Recommendation:** Remove cannabis and cannabis resin from Schedule IV while retaining them in Schedule I. This acknowledges their medical potential and reduces the stigma associated with their use for medical purposes. **Impact:** This change signifies a recognition of the medical benefits of cannabis and facilitates research and medical use. However, it maintains strict controls to prevent misuse.

1. Addition of Dronabinol and its Stereoisomers to Schedule I of the 1961 Convention **Current Status:** Dronabinol (synthetic delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC) was listed in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances. **Recommendation:** Move dronabinol and its stereoisomers to Schedule I of the 1961 Convention. **Impact:** This harmonizes the control measures for natural and synthetic THC, streamlining regulations and reflecting the similar risks and benefits of both forms.

2. Removal of THC from the 1971 Convention and Adding to the 1961 Convention. **Current Status:** Delta-9-THC and its stereoisomers were listed in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention. **Recommendation:** Delete delta-9-THC and its stereoisomers from the 1971 Convention and add them to Schedule I of the 1961 Convention. **Impact:** Consolidates the control of THC under a single convention, simplifying international regulatory frameworks and ensuring consistent control measures.

3. Addition of Extracts and Tinctures of Cannabis to Schedule III of the 1961 conv. **Current Status:** Extracts and tinctures of cannabis were included in Schedule I of the 1961 Convention. **Recommendation:** Add extracts and tinctures of cannabis to Schedule III of the 1961 Convention, recognizing that some preparations (e.g., CBD products) have low THC content and significant medical utility. **Impact:** Facilitates access to medical cannabis products with low THC content, promoting their use for therapeutic purposes while ensuring appropriate controls.

4. Clarification on Pure Cannabidiol (CBD) **Current Status:** Pure CBD was not explicitly scheduled under any international convention. **Recommendation:** Clarify that preparations containing predominantly CBD and not more than 0.2% THC are not under international control. **Impact:** Supports the use of CBD products for medical purposes, recognizing their low potential for abuse and high therapeutic value. It removes barriers to access and research for CBD-based treatments.

Impact of the WHO Recommendations

CND Vote (2020)

- In December 2020, the CND voted to adopt the WHO's recommendation to remove cannabis and cannabis resin from Schedule IV of the 1961 Convention. This decision acknowledged the medical potential of cannabis and was a historic shift in international drug policy.

Member States' Reactions

- The recommendations received mixed responses from member states. Some countries, already moving towards more liberal cannabis policies, supported the changes. Others, concerned about potential increases in recreational use and the challenges of regulation, were more cautious.

Medical vs. Recreational Legalization

- **Medical Legalization:** The WHO's recommendations primarily focused on recognizing the medical benefits of cannabis. By reclassifying cannabis and facilitating research and medical use, these recommendations support the

global trend toward medical marijuana legalization. Many countries have implemented medical marijuana programs, allowing patients to access cannabis for therapeutic purposes under strict regulation.

- **Recreational Legalization:** The WHO's recommendations do not directly address the recreational use of cannabis. Recreational legalization involves allowing the use of cannabis beyond medical purposes, typically under regulated frameworks similar to those for alcohol and tobacco. This remains a contentious issue internationally and is often in conflict with existing international drug control treaties.

Case Studies: Boon or Bane?

The legalization of cannabis in countries like Uruguay, Canada, and various U.S. states has had a significant impact on reducing illicit drug trafficking, though challenges remain. In the U.S., state-level legalization has reduced local black markets but faces challenges due to federal prohibition and interstate trafficking. Uruguay's government-controlled model has largely succeeded in curbing domestic illicit trade, despite initial implementation issues. The Netherlands' toleration policy has effectively managed the local market, though international illicit production persists. Each country's experience highlights different strategies and challenges in reducing illegal cannabis trade through legalization.

United States In the United States, the legalization of cannabis, particularly for recreational use, began with Colorado and Washington in 2012. As more states followed suit, the impact on illicit drug trafficking has been multifaceted. Legalization has significantly reduced the local black market for cannabis as consumers can now purchase regulated and taxed products. However, interstate trafficking remains a challenge due to the disparity in legalization status across states. For instance, cannabis legally produced in one state can be illegally transported to another where it is prohibited. Moreover, federal prohibition complicates the complete eradication of the black market, as federal authorities can still prosecute cannabis-related offenses.

Uruguay Uruguay was the first country to fully legalize cannabis for recreational use in 2013. The government controls the production, distribution, and sale of cannabis. Legalization in Uruguay has substantially reduced the domestic black market for cannabis, as consumers prefer legal avenues due to their safety and reliability. However, initial issues with supply shortages and bureaucratic hurdles have occasionally driven consumers back to illicit sources. Despite these challenges, the overall effect has been a notable decline in illegal cannabis trade within the country, as the legal framework continues to evolve and improve.

Netherlands The Netherlands has long had a unique approach to cannabis. While not fully legal, the sale of small amounts of cannabis in "co-ops" has been tolerated since the 1970s. This pragmatic approach has led to a stable and controlled market, significantly reducing the domestic black market for cannabis. However, large-scale illegal production still exists, primarily aimed at supplying international markets. The Dutch model demonstrates that toleration can control local black markets effectively, though it does not entirely eliminate illicit production aimed at external consumers.

Relevant Articles & Links

Legalizing cannabis fails to address health risks: UN drugs control board Source:

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/03/1134377>

Regarding the recreational use of cannabis, the UN panel expressed concern that the "growing" industry was fuelling the shift to even greater use of the drug, by advertising their products

“particularly to young people, in ways that lower the perception of risk”.

“In the United States, it has been shown that adolescents and young adults consume significantly more cannabis in federal states where cannabis has been legalized compared to other states where recreational use remains illegal,” the INCB’s latest report said.

New cannabis-based products, including “edibles”, or vaping products marketed in eye-catching packaging have increased the trend, the report’s authors continued, warning that these tactics have contributed to a “trivialization” of the impacts of cannabis use in the public eye, especially among a younger demographic.

“This is a major cause for concern as is the way the harms associated with using high-potency cannabis products are being played down,” said INCB President Jagjit Pavadia. Links: ECOSOC Resolution 2003/41 which states “Efforts to counter the trend towards the legalization of drugs for non-medical use”. (<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/docs/2003/resolution%202003-41.pdf>)

WHO held its Thirty-sixth Meeting in Geneva on 16-20 June 2014 with agenda Cannabis And cannabis resin with Expert Committee On Drug Dependence. (http://www.who.int/medicines/areas/quality_safety/8_2_Cannabis.pdf)
<https://www.who.int/news/item/04-12-2020-un-commission-on-narcotic-drugs-reclassifies-cannabis-to-recognize-its-therapeutic-uses>
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/323697447_Legalizing_Cannabis_Violates_the_UN_Drug_Control_Treaties_But_Progressive_Countries_Like_Canada_Have_Options

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6181739/>

Research

The first step in preparing for a rewarding Model UN experience is to gather information. Give yourself plenty of time before a conference to research, read and then formulate your arguments. Since most delegates use the Internet for about majority of their research, we have compiled a list of web resources to help you get started. However, you should not overlook the resources available in books and periodicals at your local library. While conducting research, try to keep in mind that your primary goal is to represent your country as realistically as possible. To do so, you will need to research three different areas. Follow these links for tips on researching each of the three components:

- Your country and its positions;
- The issues to be debated at the conference; and
- The UN system.

Look into the following :-

1. UN Website
2. Examine your country's website and what it values (in relation to the topic)
3. Your country's voting history in relation to the topics.
4. Past/Present enforcement of laws regarding the agenda and initiatives your country has supported.