



GOMUN 2023 OFFICIAL DOCUMENT

Study Guide

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

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COMMITTEE INTRODUCTION

The UNODC, born out of the United Nations' commitment to promote international cooperation in the fight against transnational crime and the illicit drug trade, has played a pivotal role in shaping global drug policies since its inception. Established in 1997 as a successor to the United Nations International Drug Control Program (UNDCP) and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division, this committee has consistently strived to formulate strategies and policies to address the interconnected issues of drug trafficking, addiction, and the social, economic, and public health consequences they bring.

The UNODC committee addresses a wide range of issues related to drug control and crime prevention, but none have generated as much debate and controversy as the decriminalization of hard drugs. This study guide will provide you with a comprehensive understanding of the historical evolution of drug control policies, the complexities surrounding hard drugs, and the consequences of current punitive approaches. Moreover, it will elucidate the varying perspectives and proposed solutions, which will be central to our discussions throughout the conference.

As we navigate the path of drug decriminalization, it is essential to consider the previous actions taken by the UNODC committee. In past sessions, the committee has discussed topics such as alternative development strategies, harm reduction, and international cooperation in combating drug trafficking. Delegates are encouraged to draw from these experiences and build upon the insights and strategies that have emerged from previous committee discussions.

Chair introductions

Veronika Laušmanová

Hey everyone! My name is Veronika and I'll be one of the chairs of this year's UNODC. I am currently attending Gymnázium Omská and since it's my last year I am very much looking forward to this year's GOMUN as it'll be a pleasant change from the (quite exhausting) routine. Aside from complaining about everything, in my free time, I like to watch movies (especially psychological thrillers), do anything creative or just lie down and do nothing. I also love meeting new people so I am very excited to meet you all! See you in November <3



Adam Novák



Hey there!

I'm Adam, and I'm thrilled to be stepping into the role of Head of HR as well as the chair of UNODC this year. One thing you'll quickly notice about me is my love for change, especially when it comes to my hair. I believe in embracing new perspectives, just like my ever-evolving hairstyles. Let's make this year a memorable one together! See ya in November!!

First Topic: COMBATING ORGANIZED CRIME IN SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA

Veronika Laušmanová

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

Organized crime poses a significant threat to the stability, security, and development of South and Central America. These regions have long been plagued by various criminal enterprises, including drug trafficking cartels, human smuggling networks, and money laundering operations.



There is a reason as to why has Latin America emerged as a hotspot of global crime. This region is home to three of the largest cocaine-producing countries in the world - Colombia, Bolivia and Peru - as well as the main exit points for cocaine exports to Europe and the U.S. are located here. The region's extensive and intricate network of criminal organizations is thriving thanks to weak governance, corruption, and socio-economic disparities. Poverty and limited access to education and economic opportunities in many South and Central American countries contribute to the recruitment for these criminal organizations. Moreover, corruption within law enforcement and political structures has hampered effective countermeasures.

The complexity of the criminal activities necessitate a coordinated and comprehensive approach to combat them. This study guide explores the multifaceted issue of combating organized crime in South and Central America, providing an in-depth overview, key terms, historical context, country positions, and questions a resolution must answer.

KEY TERMS

Organized Crime: A structured, hierarchical group engaged in illegal activities, typically for financial gain, with a well-defined chain of command and division of labor.

Drug Trafficking: The illegal production, distribution, and sale of controlled substances, primarily narcotics, such as cocaine, heroin, and marijuana.

Money Laundering: The process of concealing the origins of illegally obtained money, typically by passing it through a complex sequence of banking transfers or commercial transactions.

Human Smuggling: The facilitation, transportation, or illegal entry of individuals across international borders for financial gain.

Corruption: The misuse of entrusted power for personal or private gain, often involving bribery, extortion, or other illicit activities.

Security Forces: Law enforcement agencies and military units responsible for maintaining public order and national security.

Transnational Criminal Organization: Criminal groups with operations spanning multiple countries, often involved in organized crime activities.

TOPIC OVERVIEW

South and Central America face numerous challenges in combating organized crime, including the trafficking of illegal drugs, human smuggling, and money laundering. These activities are often facilitated by corruption within governments and security forces, creating a cycle of instability and violence. Addressing organized crime requires comprehensive strategies that involve international cooperation, policy reform, and law enforcement efforts. This study guide aims to explore the historical context, past actions, country positions, and key questions that a resolution must address to effectively combat organized crime in these regions.

TIMELINE OF THE TOPIC

20th Century: Organized crime in South and Central Africa during the 20th century was marked by a complex interplay of historical, political, and economic factors. The era was characterized by decolonization, Cold War dynamics, and the struggle for independence, creating fertile ground for illicit activities. The trafficking of diamonds, gold, and other valuable resources became a lucrative enterprise, with criminal networks exploiting weak governance structures and post-colonial instability.

Corruption within newly formed governments and security forces provided a conducive environment for organized crime to flourish. Armed conflicts, such as the civil wars in Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo, fueled by geopolitical interests, further facilitated criminal enterprises, including arms smuggling and the exploitation of natural resources. The region's borders and vast, often challenging terrains allowed criminal organizations to operate with relative impunity.

The rise of drug cartels in countries like Colombia and Mexico led to increased drug trafficking and violence in the region.

1980s: The 1980s marked a tumultuous period for South and Central America, as organized crime surged and became deeply entrenched in the region. The era was characterized by the rise of powerful drug cartels, particularly in countries like Colombia. The notorious Medellín and Cali cartels dominated the illicit drug trade, primarily trafficking cocaine to lucrative markets in the United States and Europe. The immense profits from the drug trade fueled corruption within law enforcement and political circles, eroding institutions and hindering effective governance. Violent confrontations between rival cartels and government forces escalated, contributing to a wave of criminal violence that plagued the region. Central America, torn by civil conflicts and political instability, also became a hotspot for organized crime activities, with illicit networks exploiting the chaos for drug trafficking and other criminal enterprises. The 1980s represent a critical juncture in the history of organized crime in South and Central America, laying the groundwork for the challenges that persist in the region to this day.

1990s: South and Central America witnessed a continuation and evolution of the organized crime challenges that emerged in the previous

decade. The dissolution of the powerful Colombian cartels, particularly the Medellín and Cali cartels, was a significant development. However, this didn't result in a decline in organized crime; instead, it led to the fragmentation of these cartels into smaller, more agile criminal groups. Mexico emerged as a key player in the drug trade during this period, with powerful cartels like the Sinaloa and Juarez gaining prominence. The region also grappled with the spread of transnational criminal organizations involved in a range of illicit activities, including drug trafficking, arms smuggling, and human trafficking.

2000s: In the 2000s, South and Central America continued to grapple with the multifaceted challenges posed by organized crime. While there were efforts to curb illicit activities, the landscape remained dominated by powerful drug cartels and criminal syndicates. Mexico, in particular, faced a surge in violence as rival drug trafficking organizations, including the Sinaloa, Zetas, and Gulf cartels, engaged in fierce territorial disputes. The production and trafficking of narcotics, primarily cocaine and, to an increasing extent, synthetic drugs, fueled the criminal economy. Central America continued to be a transit route for drug shipments, contributing to the rise of local gangs involved in organized crime activities. Corruption within law enforcement and political institutions persisted, undermining the effectiveness of countermeasures.

2010s: South and Central America were marked by persistent challenges posed by organized crime, with drug trafficking remaining a dominant force shaping the security landscape. Mexico continued to face the brunt of cartel violence, as the fragmentation of major cartels led to the emergence of smaller, yet equally ruthless, criminal factions. The capture of high-profile drug lords, such as Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán, demonstrated the Mexican government's efforts to combat organized crime, but it also underscored the ongoing struggle for control within the illicit drug trade. Beyond Mexico, countries in Central America continued to grapple with their roles as transit points for drug shipments, leading to an increase in local gang activities. The influence of transnational criminal organizations extended beyond drug trafficking, with involvement in activities like human trafficking, arms smuggling, and cybercrime. Throughout the region, weak governance, corruption, and socio-economic disparities provided fertile ground for organized crime to flourish.

Present: In the present, organized crime continues to pose significant challenges in South and Central America, creating a complex web of illicit activities that test the region's security and governance structures. Drug trafficking remains a persistent issue, with powerful cartels and criminal syndicates adapting to law enforcement efforts, often operating across international borders. Mexico, in particular, remains a hotspot for cartel violence and drug-related crimes, despite ongoing government initiatives to combat these organizations. Central American countries continue to grapple with their roles as transit points for drug shipments, contributing to the proliferation of local gangs and organized criminal activities. Corruption within law enforcement and political institutions further hampers effective countermeasures. Additionally, new forms of organized crime, such as cybercrime and money laundering, continue to emerge and evolve, posing additional challenges to regional security.

PAST ACTION

National Efforts: Many countries in South and Central America have implemented various policies and initiatives to combat organized crime, including law enforcement operations, judicial reforms, and anti-corruption measures.

International Support: The United States has provided assistance through initiatives like the Mérida Initiative, focusing on counter-narcotics efforts and capacity building for regional governments.

Regional Initiatives: Organizations like the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Central American Integration System (SICA) have worked to coordinate regional responses to organized crime.

Bilateral Agreements: Some countries have entered into bilateral agreements to enhance security cooperation, while others have advocated for a multilateral approach to address transnational criminal organizations.

COUNTRY POSITIONS

Mexico: Mexico has long grappled with the pervasive issue of organized crime, particularly in the context of powerful drug cartels. The country has adopted a multifaceted approach to address this complex challenge, involving both military and law enforcement interventions. The government has engaged in high-profile operations to capture or neutralize key figures within drug cartels, such as the apprehension of Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán. Additionally, Mexico has sought international cooperation, collaborating with the United States and other nations to curb drug trafficking and organized crime activities that often span borders. However, the country's efforts have been met with significant challenges, including deeply rooted corruption within law enforcement and political circles, which undermines the effectiveness of countermeasures. Mexico's strategy also recognizes the importance of addressing social and economic factors that contribute to the allure of organized crime, emphasizing the need for comprehensive, long-term solutions to break the cycle of criminal influence in the country. Despite ongoing efforts, the complex nature of organized crime continues to test Mexico's ability to maintain security and stability.

Colombia: Colombia has faced a protracted battle against organized crime, particularly stemming from powerful drug cartels that have historically wielded considerable influence. The country has adopted a comprehensive approach to confront this multifaceted challenge, combining law enforcement efforts, military operations, and socio-economic initiatives. Colombia's government, over the years, has worked diligently to dismantle notorious drug cartels such as the Medellín and Cali cartels, employing strategies that include the extradition of key figures and large-scale anti-narcotics campaigns. Additionally, the country has invested in alternative development programs to address the socio-economic roots of illicit activities, particularly in regions where coca cultivation has been prevalent. International cooperation, especially with the United States, has played a crucial role in supporting Colombia's efforts against organized crime. While progress has been made in reducing crime-related violence and curbing the influence of major cartels, challenges persist, including the emergence of new criminal groups and the illicit drug trade's adaptability. Colombia's ongoing commitment to a holistic and collaborative strategy underscores the complexity of addressing organized crime and its determination to achieve lasting security and stability.

Central American Countries: Countries like Honduras, El Salvador, and

Guatemala are concerned about their role as transit countries for drug trafficking and human smuggling and may seek regional solutions.

People's Republic of China: China has primarily focused on economic and diplomatic engagements in the region, often avoiding involvement in internal affairs of other countries. China's interests in South and Central America have largely been centered around trade, investment, and infrastructure projects.

Russian Federation: Russia's direct involvement or explicit position on organized crime in South and Central America has not been a prominent aspect of its foreign policy. Russia, however, has historical ties with various Latin American countries, and its global interests may influence its stance on issues related to organized crime. Russia's interactions with the region have been primarily focused on economic cooperation, arms sales, and diplomatic relations.

United States: The United States has consistently expressed deep concern about organized crime in South and Central America, recognizing the direct impact on regional stability and its implications for U.S. national interests. Given the interconnectedness of global criminal networks, particularly in the drug trade, the U.S. has actively collaborated with countries in the region to address organized crime challenges. The U.S. position involves providing financial and technical assistance to support law enforcement efforts, intelligence sharing, and the development of anti-corruption measures. Through initiatives like the Mérida Initiative, the U.S. has assisted Mexico and Central American nations in strengthening their capacity to combat transnational crime. The U.S. also emphasizes addressing socio-economic factors that contribute to the appeal of organized crime, advocating for comprehensive strategies that include economic development and social programs. The fight against organized crime in South and Central America is a key component of U.S. foreign policy, reflecting a commitment to regional security and cooperation.

Brazil: Brazil has been actively addressing the challenge of organized crime within its own borders and has played a role in regional efforts to combat transnational criminal activities. Brazil, being the largest country in South America, has faced issues related to drug trafficking, urban violence, and organized crime groups operating in various regions. The Brazilian government has employed a combination of law enforcement measures, community-based programs, and international cooperation to tackle these challenges. It has also been engaged in collaborations with neighboring countries and international organizations to address

transnational criminal networks. Brazil recognizes the need for a holistic approach that goes beyond law enforcement, emphasizing social and economic development to address the root causes of organized crime.

QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER

- How can countries in South and Central America enhance cooperation to combat transnational organized crime effectively?
- What steps can be taken to address corruption within governments and security forces that often facilitate organized crime?
- How can investments in economic development and poverty reduction reduce the appeal of organized crime to vulnerable populations?
- What strategies can be employed to disrupt drug production and trafficking networks in the region?
- How can countries strengthen their law enforcement and security forces to effectively combat organized crime?
- How can efforts to combat organized crime ensure the protection of human rights and prevent abuses by security forces?
- What role should regional organizations like the OAS and SICA play in coordinating efforts to combat organized crime?

CONCLUSION

Combating organized crime in South and Central America is a complex and multifaceted challenge that requires the cooperation of nations, regional organizations, and international partners. Understanding the historical context, key terms, past actions, country positions, and critical questions is essential for developing effective resolutions to address this pressing issue. It is imperative that the international community work together to find sustainable solutions that promote security, stability, and development in the region.

Second topic: DECRIMINALIZATION OF HARD DRUGS

Adam Novák

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) at GOMUN 23. One of the topics for this year's UNODC is the decriminalization of hard drugs. As we navigate through this topic over the course of this conference, it is essential to comprehend the historical context, the multifaceted issues at hand, and the past actions taken by this committee to address the global drug problem.



KEY TERMS

Decriminalization: This term refers to the reduction or elimination of criminal penalties associated with the possession, use, or distribution of drugs.

Harm Reduction: Harm reduction is a set of strategies and policies aimed at minimizing the negative health and social consequences of drug use without necessarily requiring abstinence. These strategies may include needle exchange programs, supervised injection sites, and education on safer drug use practices.

Public Health Approach: This approach emphasizes treating drug addiction as a public health issue rather than a criminal one. It involves providing healthcare services, treatment, and support to individuals struggling with substance use disorders.

War on Drugs: A term often associated with punitive drug policies, it refers to the aggressive and militarized approach that some governments have taken to combat drug trafficking and drug abuse.

Narcotics: The term "narcotics" is frequently used in drug-related discussions, but it can be misleading. It traditionally referred to opioids, but its usage has evolved to encompass a wider range of controlled substances.

Stigmatization: Stigmatization refers to the negative social attitudes and discrimination faced by individuals with substance use disorders.

International Drug Conventions: Understanding the three major international drug control treaties—the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1954, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988—is essential.

Hepatitis C and HIV Co-infection: you should understand the increased risk of bloodborne infections like hepatitis C and HIV among people who inject drugs, as addressing these co-infections is a crucial aspect of harm reduction and public health efforts.

TOPIC OVERVIEW

Historical Context:

The decriminalization of hard drugs is a contentious and evolving topic in the realm of drug policy and public health. To understand its significance, we must delve into its historical context.

1. **Early Drug Policies:** The regulation of drug use has a long history dating back centuries. Early efforts focused on controlling substances like opium, morphine, and cocaine primarily through taxation and licensing. However, the concerns over drug addiction and social harm led to increasingly restrictive measures.
2. **The War on Drugs:** The late 20th century witnessed the escalation of the "War on Drugs," characterized by strict punitive measures, mandatory minimum sentences, and a focus on law enforcement to combat drug trafficking and abuse. The United States played a prominent role in championing this approach, which was adopted by many countries worldwide.

Current State of the Topic:

1. **Changing Perspectives:** Over the last few decades, a shift in perspectives has occurred. Many experts, policymakers, and activists argue that the "War on Drugs" approach has failed to curb drug abuse, exacerbated mass incarceration, and perpetuated social inequalities.
2. **Emerging Evidence:** Research and empirical evidence have revealed the potential benefits of alternative drug policies. Some countries and regions have experimented with approaches such as harm reduction, decriminalization, and even legalization, particularly regarding cannabis.
3. **Portugal's Decriminalization Model:** Portugal stands as a noteworthy example of drug decriminalization. In 2001, Portugal decriminalized the possession and use of all drugs, focusing on harm reduction and treatment instead of punishment. This approach has been associated with reductions in drug-related deaths, HIV infections, and problematic drug use.
4. **Other Decriminalization Efforts:** Beyond Portugal, other countries and regions, including Switzerland, the Netherlands, and some U.S. states, have adopted forms of drug decriminalization or harm reduction strategies. These policies often prioritize health and social outcomes over criminalization.

5. **Ongoing Challenges:** Despite these efforts, drug decriminalization remains a contentious issue with significant challenges. Concerns include potential increases in drug use, unintended consequences, and the need for effective regulation and oversight.
6. **Public Health Focus:** Advocates for drug decriminalization argue that it can facilitate better access to addiction treatment, reduce stigmatization, and improve public health outcomes by shifting the emphasis from punishment to harm reduction.
7. **Social Equity:** The issue also has an important social equity dimension, as drug criminalization has disproportionately affected marginalized communities, leading to disparities in arrests, convictions, and incarceration rates.

In conclusion, the decriminalization of hard drugs represents a critical juncture in global drug policy. Historical approaches rooted in punitive measures are being reevaluated in light of evidence suggesting that alternative strategies may yield better outcomes in terms of public health, social equity, and overall harm reduction.

TIMELINE OF THE TOPIC

1914: The Harrison Narcotics Tax Act is enacted in the United States, marking one of the earliest legislative efforts to regulate and control the distribution and use of opiates and cocaine. This laid the foundation for stricter drug control policies in the years to come.

1971: U.S. President Richard Nixon declares a "War on Drugs," marking the beginning of an era of aggressive drug prohibition policies, including increased law enforcement efforts, mandatory minimum sentences, and international anti-drug cooperation.

1988: The United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances is adopted, reinforcing the global commitment to combating drug trafficking. This convention is a cornerstone of international drug control efforts.

2001: Portugal decriminalizes the possession and use of all drugs, opting for a public health and harm reduction approach. This significant policy shift leads to a decrease in drug-related deaths, HIV infections, and problematic drug use in Portugal.

2009: The Global Commission on Drug Policy is established, consisting of former world leaders and influential figures. This commission advocates for a more humane and evidence-based approach to drug policy and calls for the end of the "War on Drugs."

2012: Colorado and Washington become the first U.S. states to legalize recreational marijuana use, marking a turning point in drug policy in the United States and prompting discussions about the regulation and decriminalization of other substances.

2013: Uruguay becomes the first country in the world to fully legalize and regulate the production and sale of marijuana, sparking international debates about the legalization and decriminalization of drugs.

2016: The United Nations holds a special session on drugs (UNGASS 2016), which reviews the global drug control framework. The outcome document emphasizes the need for a balanced approach, but it does not call for significant changes in drug policy.

2020: Oregon becomes the first U.S. state to decriminalize the possession of small amounts of all drugs, including hard drugs like heroin and cocaine. This move represents a significant step toward drug decriminalization in the United States.

2021: The United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) votes to reclassify cannabis under international drug treaties, acknowledging its

potential therapeutic value. This decision marks a shift in the international approach to cannabis regulation.

2022: Mexico decriminalizes the possession of small amounts of all drugs, joining a growing number of countries and regions that have moved towards drug decriminalization as part of broader drug policy reforms.

PAST ACTION

Portugal's Decriminalization (Succeeded):

- Country: Portugal
- Action: In 2001, Portugal decriminalized the possession and use of all drugs, emphasizing harm reduction, addiction treatment, and a public health approach.
- Outcome: Portugal's decriminalization policy has been widely regarded as a success. It has led to reduced drug-related deaths, lower rates of problematic drug use, and fewer HIV infections among drug users. However, some argue that it has not eliminated the black market entirely.

Uruguay's Legalization of Marijuana (Partial Success):

- Country: Uruguay
- Action: In 2013, Uruguay became the first country to fully legalize and regulate the production and sale of marijuana.
- Outcome: While Uruguay's move to legalize marijuana represented a significant step forward, it has faced challenges in terms of implementation and addressing the illicit market. However, it has successfully established a regulatory framework for legal marijuana access.

Colorado and Washington's Marijuana Legalization (Succeeded):

- Countries: United States (Colorado and Washington states)
- Action: In 2012, Colorado and Washington became the first U.S. states to legalize recreational marijuana use.
- Outcome: The legalization of marijuana in these states has generated substantial tax revenue, reduced arrests for possession, and shifted the conversation on drug policy in the U.S. toward regulation rather than prohibition.

International Drug Control Treaties (Mixed Success):

- Organizations: United Nations, signatory countries
- Action: The United Nations drug control treaties, including the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, have served as the foundation for global drug policy.
- Outcome: These treaties have succeeded in promoting international cooperation and control over the drug trade. However, they have been criticized for their inflexibility and resistance to adapting to evidence-based approaches, potentially hindering more progressive drug policies.

Global Commission on Drug Policy (Advocacy):

- Organization: Global Commission on Drug Policy
- Action: Established in 2009, the Global Commission on Drug Policy, comprising former world leaders and experts, advocates for drug policy reforms.
- Outcome: While the commission has influenced the global conversation on drug policy, its recommendations have not universally led to policy changes. It continues to play a crucial role in promoting evidence-based drug policies.

United Nations Special Session on Drugs (UNGASS 2016) (Limited Success):

- Organization: United Nations
- Action: In 2016, the United Nations held a special session on drugs to review global drug policy.
- Outcome: The outcome document of UNGASS 2016 emphasized a balanced approach but did not lead to significant changes in international drug control policies. It highlighted the challenges of achieving consensus on drug policy at the international level.

COUNTRY POSITIONS

Portugal (Supportive of Decriminalization):

- Portugal is often cited as a successful example of drug decriminalization. It has embraced a public health approach, emphasizing harm reduction, addiction treatment, and social support over punitive measures.
- Portugal's experience demonstrates support for decriminalization, as it has led to reduced drug-related deaths, lower HIV infection rates among drug users, and decreased problematic drug use.

Uruguay (Supportive of Legalization and Regulation):

- Uruguay has fully legalized and regulated the production and sale of marijuana. This approach reflects a stance in favor of shifting drug policy from prohibition to regulation.
- Uruguay's move demonstrates support for the idea that regulated access to drugs can provide better control over the market and reduce the associated harms.

The Netherlands (Tolerant Approach):

- The Netherlands has long had a tolerant approach to soft drugs, such as cannabis, allowing for the sale and consumption of these substances within specific guidelines.
- While the Netherlands has not fully embraced drug decriminalization, its approach reflects a stance that distinguishes between soft and hard drugs and focuses on harm reduction.

United States (Varied Approaches):

- The United States exhibits a diverse range of positions on drug policy at the state and federal levels. Some states have moved toward decriminalization or legalization of marijuana, while others maintain strict drug prohibition policies.
- The federal government has historically supported the "War on Drugs" with punitive measures, but there is increasing bipartisan support for criminal justice reform and drug policy changes.

Mexico (Supportive of Decriminalization):

- Mexico has taken steps toward decriminalization by eliminating criminal penalties for the possession of small quantities of certain drugs. This approach reflects a recognition of the need to address drug-related issues from a public health perspective.
- Mexico's stance acknowledges the need for alternative approaches to reduce violence and the influence of drug cartels.

Canada (Supportive of Legalization and Regulation):

- Canada legalized and regulated the recreational use of marijuana in 2018, aligning with the view that a regulated market can improve public safety and generate tax revenue.
- Canada's approach reflects support for evidence-based drug policy that considers harm reduction and public health outcomes.

Russia and Some Asian Countries (Opposed to Decriminalization):

- Some countries, particularly in Eastern Europe and Asia, maintain strong opposition to drug decriminalization and often advocate for strict punitive measures.
- Russia, for example, has been critical of harm reduction and advocates for a more punitive approach to drug control.

QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER

- What specific approach to decriminalization is being proposed (e.g., complete decriminalization, partial decriminalization, or decriminalization with specific conditions)?
- What mechanisms will be put in place to ensure that decriminalization does not lead to uncontrolled drug availability or illicit markets?
- How will the resolution prioritize public health and harm reduction in drug policy?
- What provisions will be included to address social equity and justice concerns related to drug decriminalization, including issues of racial and socioeconomic disparities in drug-related arrests and convictions?
- Will the resolution include measures to enhance drug education and prevention efforts, particularly among vulnerable populations?
- How will the resolution protect the human rights of individuals with substance use disorders and address issues of stigma and discrimination?
- How will the international community support countries in adjusting their policies if needed?

CONCLUSION

In summary, the topic of decriminalization of hard drugs is a complex and evolving issue with a history rooted in punitive approaches. Recent years have seen a shift towards evidence-based, harm-reduction-oriented strategies in some regions, while others maintain strict drug prohibition policies.

Key sub-issues such as regulation, public health, international legal obligations, social equity, and harm reduction are central to the debate. Balancing these factors while respecting international drug control treaties remains challenging.

As we navigate this terrain, it's crucial for policymakers and stakeholders to engage in informed, compassionate dialogues that prioritize the well-being of those affected by drug-related issues. The lessons learned from past actions and the experiences of countries at the forefront of drug policy reform offer valuable insights.

Ultimately, addressing the decriminalization of hard drugs requires a balanced approach that considers public health, social justice, human rights, and international cooperation. Crafting effective policies will

require thoughtful consideration of diverse perspectives and a commitment to reducing harm, enhancing public safety, and protecting the rights of all individuals.

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