

YKMUN 2024

ANTALYA PRIVATE YUKSELIS
HIGH SCHOOL MODEL UNITED
NATIONS CONFERENCE

INTERPOL

Agenda Item:

Global substance and human trafficking

**Under Secretary General:
Ramazan Rahmi Özcan**

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1. Letter from Secretary-General

Dear Delegates,

First of all, it is my utmost pleasure to serve you as the Secretary General for the Antalya Private Yükseliş High School Model United Nations Conference. I am more than proud of making this conference happen with my friends and waiting with a great enthusiasm to see every participant.

MUN's are great opportunities to discover your talents, improve your formal communication abilities and understand how policy is implemented. For these reasons, as a great academic team it is our mission to transfer our experiences to the new generation and to ensure that MUNs affect them in a similar way.

Lastly as an executive team, we put everything we had into this conference. My most sincere regards. Welcome to Ascend of Prestigiousness!

Yusuf Almış

2. Introduction to the Committee

Introduction of the Interpol;

The International Criminal Police Organization commonly known as INTERPOL organization facilitates worldwide police cooperation and crime control. Headquartered in Lyon, France, it is the world's largest international police organization, with seven regional bureaus worldwide and a National Central Bureau in all 195 member states. Interpol was conceived during the first International Criminal Police Congress in 1914, which brought officials from 24 countries to discuss cooperation in law enforcement. It was founded on September 7, 1923 at the close of the five-day 1923 Congress session in Vienna as the International Criminal Police Commission (ICPC); it adopted many of its current duties throughout the 1930s. After coming under Nazi control in 1938, the agency had its headquarters in the same building as the Gestapo. It was effectively moribund until the end of World War II. In 1956, the ICPC adopted a new constitution and the name Interpol, derived from its telegraphic address used since 1946.

Interpol provides investigative support, expertise and training to law enforcement worldwide, focusing on three major areas of transnational crime: terrorism, cybercrime and organized crime. Its broad mandate covers virtually every kind of crime, including crimes against humanity, child pornography, drug trafficking and production, political corruption, intellectual property infringement, as well as white-collar crime. The agency also facilitates cooperation among national law enforcement institutions through criminal databases and communications networks. Contrary to popular belief, Interpol is not a law enforcement agency.

Interpol has an annual budget of €142 million, most of which comes from annual contributions by member police forces in 181 countries. It is governed by a General Assembly composed of all member countries, which elects the executive committee and the President (currently Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi of the United Arab Emirates) to supervise and implement Interpol's policies and administration. Day-to-day operations are carried out by the General Secretariat, comprising around 1,000 personnel from over 100 countries, including both police and civilians. The Secretariat is led by the Secretary-General, currently Jürgen Stock, the former deputy head of Germany's Federal Criminal Police Office.

Pursuant to its charter, Interpol seeks to remain politically neutral in fulfilling its mandate, and is thus barred from interventions or activities that are political, military, religious, or racial in nature and from involving itself in disputes over such matters. The agency operates in four languages: Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

Essential Tools that help Interpol in their investigations;

Stolen and Lost Travel Documents (SLTD): SLTD database contains information on travel and identity documents that have been reported as stolen, lost, revoked, invalid or stolen blank. Law enforcement officers around the world can

check the validity of a travel or identity document in seconds using the SLTD database.

Automatic Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS): Authorized users in member countries can cross-check records from their national fingerprint databases against AFIS, where they think there may be an international aspect to the crime.

Notice System: INTERPOL also has the function of informing other member countries, the United Nations and the public. This action is done through **notices**. Notices are published by the General Secretariat at the request of the National Central Bureau to whom it may concern.

I) Red Notice: To seek the location and arrest of persons wanted for prosecution or to serve a sentence.

II) Yellow Notice: To help locate missing persons, often minors, or to help identify persons who are unable to identify themselves.

III) Blue Notice: To collect additional information about a person's identity, location or activities in relation to a criminal investigation.

IV) Black Notice: To seek information on unidentified bodies.

V) Green Notice: To provide warning about a person's criminal activities, where the person is considered to be a possible threat to public safety.

VI) Orange Notice: To warn of an event, a person, an object or a process representing a serious and imminent threat to public safety.

VII) Purple Notice: To seek or provide information on modus operandi, objects, devices and concealment methods used by criminals.

VIII) United Nations Security Council Special Notice: Issued for entities and individuals who are the targets of UN Security Council Sanctions Committees.

NOTICES PUBLISHED PER YEAR

 RED NOTICE	 YELLOW NOTICE	 BLUE NOTICE	 BLACK NOTICE	 GREEN NOTICE	 ORANGE NOTICE	 PURPLE NOTICE	 INTERPOL - UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL SPECIAL NOTICE
2017							
12,042	2,508	4,422	130	777	3	165	19
2018							
13,516	2,397	4,139	134	827	52	97	28
2019							
13,410	3,193	3,375	256	761	33	92	15
2020							
11,094	2,554	3,966	391	509	39	130	9
2021							
10,776	2,622	3,604	118	1,072	45	107	13

3. Introduction Of Agenda;

3.1. Global Substance Abuse

Drug addiction is a chronically relapsing disorder that has been characterized by the compulsive use of addictive substances despite adverse consequences to the individual and society. Addiction to drugs and alcohol is increasingly becoming a worldwide trend in lifestyle that is prevalent in rich and poor countries alike.

Addiction to alcohol, drugs and cigarette smoking is now regarded as a major public health problem. Other forms of addiction including computer games, gambling, sex and food also have severe consequences on the health of the individual and to society. The commonly abused drugs have profound action in the nervous system, particularly in the brain.

Some of these substances such as opium, marijuana, cocaine, nicotine, caffeine, mescaline, and psilocybin are obtained from natural sources while others are synthetic or designer drugs. Furthermore some of these substances like alcohol and nicotine are legal while some others that are legally available by prescription have addictive potential in vulnerable individuals.

A number of addictive substances are illegal in most countries and this fuel the illegal drug trafficking and business that are often associated with criminal activities. The initiation of the use of these substances induces euphoria, reward and a state of well-being that can lead to physical and psychological dependences. Withdrawal syndrome occurs when the individual attempts to stop the use of addictive substances and this leads to the cycle of dependency. The mechanisms associated with the cycle of addiction include neuronal adaptation with tolerance or sensitization involved in the action of addictive substances. A number of factors have also been associated with addiction, including the availability, cost, method of administration, environmental factors such as behaviors acceptable in a community, peer influences and genetic and epigenetic factors. Over the years a number of therapeutic approaches for drug and alcohol addiction have been utilized. However, relapse the resumption of drug taking following a period of drug abstinence, is considered the main hurdle in treating drug addiction. Unfortunately pharmacological treatment of drug and alcohol dependency has largely been disappointing and new therapeutic targets and hypotheses are needed. Drug addiction is also influenced by the interaction of genes, epigenetics and the environment.

Twin studies consistently show that there is a heritable component to drug abuse and addiction. Now using modern genomic techniques, we are able to examine genetic variants, or single nucleotide polymorphisms that contribute to addiction vulnerability. So a lot more research needs to be done to better understand the neurobiological basis of drug addiction and hence a continuous challenge for IDARS scientists. IDARS is therefore engaged in a vibrant and exciting international mechanism, not only for scientific interactions among scientists in the domain of addiction research between countries but also as a resource for informing public policy across nations. This is an exciting period in the study of the neurobiology of addiction where brain circuitry and molecular mechanisms are providing hope for understanding not only the vulnerability to addiction but also providing new targets for the treatment of various types of substance abuse/dependence as presented in this report.

New estimates of people who inject drugs are higher than previously estimated as treatment services and other interventions fall short, including for record numbers of displaced people due to humanitarian crises

- “Cheap and easy” synthetics changing drug markets with lethal results

- Drug trafficking accelerating environmental devastation and crime in the Amazon Basin
- More monitoring of public health impacts needed amid rapid regulatory changes and clinical trials with psychedelics

Vienna, 26 June 2023: Continued record illicit drug supply and increasingly agile trafficking networks are compounding intersecting global crises and challenging health services and law enforcement responses, according to the World Drug Report 2023 launched by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) today.

New data put the global estimate of people who inject drugs in 2021 at 13.2 million, 18 per cent higher than previously estimated. Globally, over 296 million people used drugs in 2021, an increase of 23 per cent over the previous decade. The number of people who suffer from drug use disorders, meanwhile, has skyrocketed to 39.5 million, a 45 per cent increase over 10 years.

The Report features a special chapter on drug trafficking and crimes that affect the environment in the Amazon Basin, as well as sections on clinical trials involving psychedelics and medical use of cannabis; drug use in humanitarian settings; innovations in drug treatment and other services; and drugs and conflict.

The World Drug Report 2023 also highlights how social and economic inequalities drive – and are driven by – drug challenges; the environmental devastation and human rights abuses caused by illicit drug economies; and the rising dominance of synthetic drugs.

The demand for treating drug-related disorders remains largely unmet, according to the report. Only one in five people suffering from drug-related disorders were in treatment for drug use in 2021, with widening disparities in access to treatment across regions.

Youth populations are the most vulnerable to using drugs and are also more severely affected by substance use disorder in several regions. In Africa, 70 per cent of people in treatment are under the age of 35.

Public health, prevention, and access to treatment services must be prioritized worldwide, the report argues, or drug challenges will leave more people behind. The report further underscores the need for law enforcement responses to keep pace with agile criminal business models and the proliferation of cheap synthetic drugs that are easy to bring to market.

Drug-related disparities and inequalities

The right to health is not granted to many people who use drugs.

Large inequalities in access and availability of controlled drugs for medical use persist, particularly for pain management. The disparity is particularly prevalent between the global North and South and across urban and rural areas, making some people feel the negative impact of drugs more than others. Some 86 per cent of the world's population live in countries with too little access to pharmaceutical opioids (as controlled under the 1961 Single Convention) – mainly low and middle-income countries.

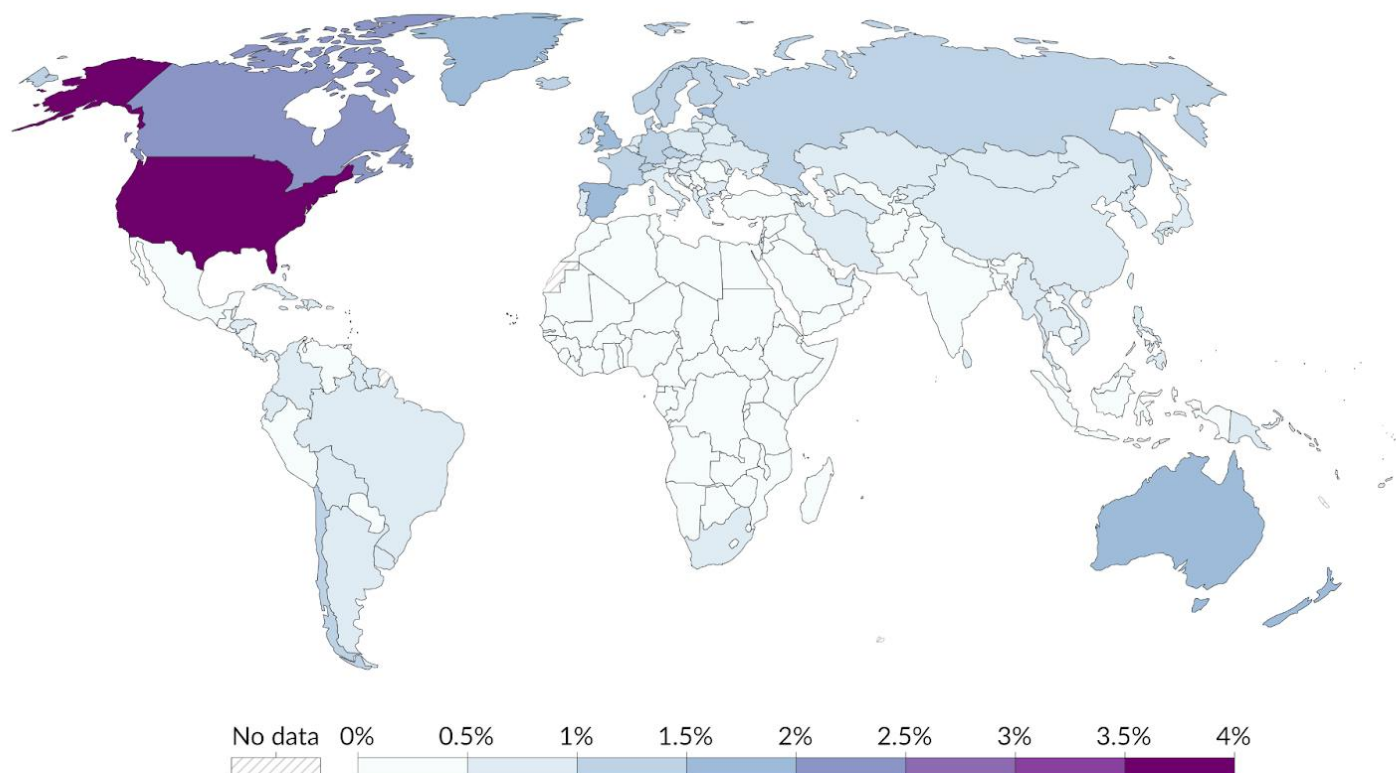
Some impoverished and vulnerable populations, such as those in the tri-border area between Brazil, Colombia, and Peru, are trapped in rural areas with a high prevalence of drug-related crimes. Their remote locations make it exceedingly difficult for them to benefit from treatment services, resources, or the rule of law. The cheap, easy, and fast production of synthetic drugs has radically transformed many illicit drug markets. Criminals producing methamphetamine – the world's dominant illegally manufactured synthetic drug – are attempting to evade law enforcements.

Various forms of marijuana preparations comes from the cannabis plant and is the most commonly used drug in the world, for recreation and suddenly, we are awakened to potential therapeutic applications. Therefore, these are high times for marijuana research with new findings on the biological effects of cannabinoids and as new potential applications in neurological and neuropsychiatric disorders.

The new advances and understanding indicate that the cellular, molecular and behavioral responses to marijuana are encoded in our genes. The discovery that specific genes codes for cannabinoid receptors (CBRs) that are activated by marijuana use, and that the human body makes its own marijuana-like substances - endocannabinoids that also activates CBRs have provided surprising new knowledge about cannabinoid genomic and proteomic profiles. These remarkable advances in understanding the biological actions of marijuana, cannabinoids and endocannabinoids, is unraveling the genetic basis

Share of population with drug use disorders, 2021

Drug dependence is defined by the International Classification of Diseases as the presence of three or more indicators of dependence for at least a month within the previous year. Drug dependency includes all illicit drugs and excludes alcohol and tobacco.



Data source: IHME, Global Burden of Disease (2024)

OurWorldinData.org/illicit-drug-use

Note: To allow for comparisons between countries and over time, this metric is age-standardized¹.

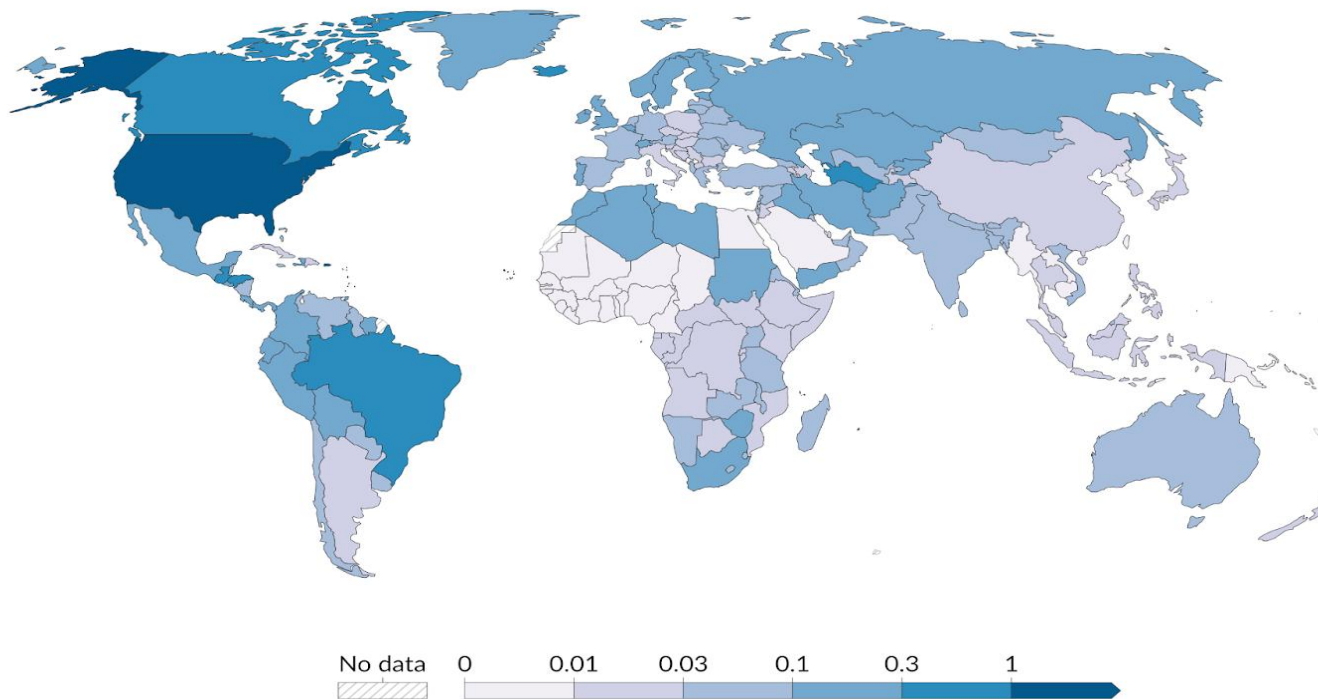
1. Age standardization: Age standardization is an adjustment that makes it possible to compare populations with different age structures, by standardizing them to a common reference population. [Read more: How does age standardization make health metrics comparable?](#)

of marijuana use and the implication in human health and disease.

We know that the two well characterized cannabinoid CB1 and CB2 receptors are encoded by *CNR1* and *CNR2* genes that have been mapped to human chromosome 6 and 1 respectively. A number of variations in cannabinoid receptor genes have been associated with human disorders including drug dependency, osteoporosis, ADHD and PTSD, obesity, and depression. Thus, because of the ubiquitous distribution and role of the endocannabinoid system in the regulation of a variety of normal human physiology, drugs that are targeted to different aspects of this system are already benefiting cancer subjects and those with AIDs and metabolic syndromes . In the coming era of personalized medicine, genetic variants and haplotypes in *CNR1* and *CNR2* genes associated with obesity or addiction phenotypes may help identify specific targets in conditions of endocannabinoid dysfunction. Most strikingly, variants of *CNR* genes co-occur with other genetic variations and share biological susceptibility that underlies comorbidity in many neuropsychiatric disturbances . Therefore, understanding the endocannabinoid system in the human body and brain will contribute to elucidating this natural regulatory mechanism in health and disease.

Cocaine use disorder death rate, 2021

Estimated annual number of deaths from cocaine use disorders per 100,000 people.



Data source: IHME, Global Burden of Disease (2024)

OurWorldinData.org/illicit-drugs

Note: To allow for comparisons between countries and over time, this metric is age-standardized¹.

1. Age standardization: Age standardization is an adjustment that makes it possible to compare populations with different age structures by standardizing them to a common reference population. [Read more: How does age standardization make health metrics comparable?](#)

3.2. Global Substance Trafficking

Uncontrolled drug trafficking is an important today's problem of national security in the modern world. The drug trade intersects with social safety threats and major national security issues such as failed states, insurgency, terrorism, transnational organized crime, and protracted intrastate conflicts. The production and distribution of drugs can be attractive for the following reasons (Ivančiks et al., 2015):

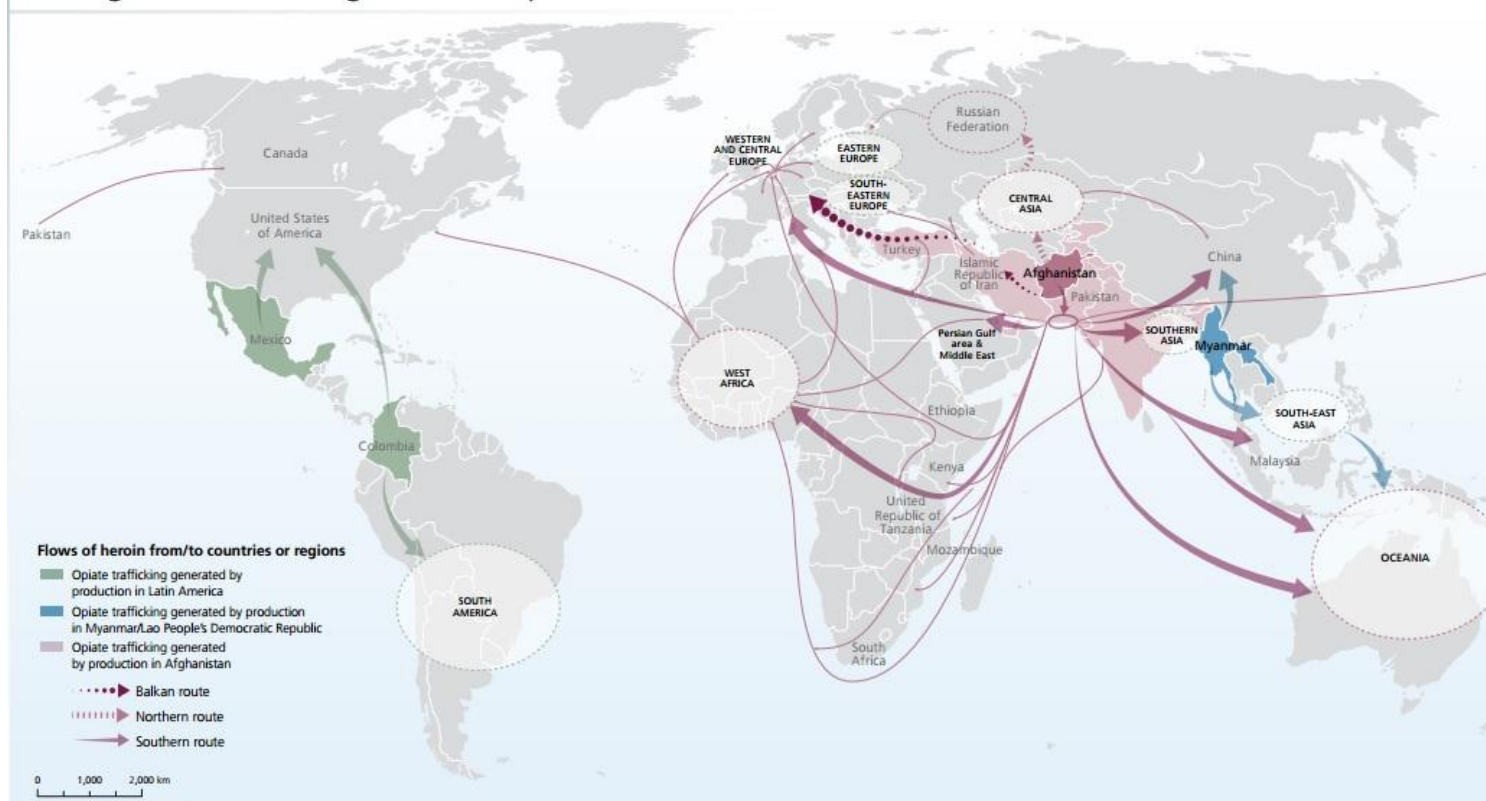
First, drug profits can be used to pay for weapons and military equipment, train militants, corrupt government officials, and recruit sympathizers. Secondly, illicit drugs also have qualities that distinguish them from other illicit goods. Unlike illegal

trade in, for example, diamonds, copper and oil, drugs are a renewable resource that can be obtained regularly. Thirdly, illicit drugs are also more attractive because of the ease of manufacture, transportation and concealment, which allows them to be widely distributed and constantly increase the profit margin. Most drugs are low in weight and high in value, making them easy to transport in profitable volumes. The trade in oil, precious stones and timber requires skilled labor and sophisticated technology, while the drug trade requires low skill and limited technology. Fourth, drugs have the added benefit that other goods do not have - they can be used by combatants for personal purposes to boost morale. Finally, the drugs themselves can be used as a weapon against the enemy.

The spread of drug addiction among the fighters of the armed forces of the enemy side is likely to reduce their combat readiness. According to Kupatadze (2014), some states in modern world politics can be classified as “narco -states”. These states that are engaged in the production and distribution of drugs on an industrial scale and receive their main income from the drug business. Like any other term, drug-state has been criticized (Paoli et al., 2007). Considering the popular “narco -states” cases, Shuvi (2016) emphasizes that, firstly, it cannot be argued that the entire state is involved in these cases in the drug business. As a rule, state institutions in such countries are weak, the power of the central government is far from extending to the entire territory, and even more so, these governments do not have a monopoly on the legitimate use of violence. Secondly, analysis of the cases of drug-states shows that only in rare cases do states receive the main income from the production and sale of drugs. As a rule, most states collect a “tax” from transit of drugs, and in any case, these revenues are not the main ones. Nevertheless, the term “narco-state” has taken root in the scientific literature and, all other things being equal, reflects the propensity of some states to the drug business. North Korea, Afghanistan, GuineaBissau have been involved in the distribution of illegal drugs to enrich the ruling elite. Bureau 39 of the North Korean government specializes in drug production, smuggling and distribution (Greitens, 2012). Members of the Afghan government are enriching themselves with the opium trade, confirming criticism from the Taliban, who claim that the national leaders are corrupt and do not care about ordinary citizens. Guinea-Bissau became the first drug-state in Africa under President João Bernardo Vieira, was murdered in 2009. The Syrian civil war has become the scene of widespread drug production and consumption by both pro-Assad forces and opposing rebel groups. A Reuters agency investigation, for example, found that “Syria has seen a huge rise in amphetamine use and production as fighters on both sides of the civil war use the drugs to survive and maintain their psyche.” Drugs also affect weak and failed states. Their production supports forces that undermine political and economic stability. Drugs undermine the legitimacy of power, because they support alternative forces. A vicious circle sets in - the more governments rely on illegal resources, the weaker they become. As a result, this may lead to the formation and expansion of areas beyond the control of the central government, where various armed groups will flourish.

The erosion of state power and its subsequent loss of the ability to ensure the public and economic security of its citizens contributes to the eventual destruction of state institutions. In countries such as Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, this dynamic has led to a situation where criminal gangs control large parts of urban spaces, gradually pushing state power to the periphery. The drug trade is also used to finance rebel and terrorist groups, which largely ensures their survival and selfdependence. Terrorist formations from the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) in Colombia to the Taliban in Afghanistan, from the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO) in Mali to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) in Mauritania they sell drugs, and with the proceeds they buy weapons and pay for the loyalty of the militants. Fidous (2010) alleges that members of jihadist groups use a wide range of drugs to carry out suicide attacks. Jihadist suicide bombers have been known to use a variety of drugs from heroin, meth to Ritalin in order not to be scared at the last moment. According to the UNODC World Drug

Main global trafficking flows of opiates



Sources: UNODC, responses to annual report questionnaire and individual drug seizure database.

Report 2022 (UNODC World Drug Report, 2022), of all the terrorist groups, the involvement of the Taliban in the drug trade is particularly well documented. It imposes a tax on entities involved in the illicit production, manufacture and trafficking of opiates in Afghanistan. Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) (United Nations Security Council Report, 2019) estimates that the Taliban's total annual income is approximately \$400 million, of which half likely comes from the illegal drug economy. Santacroce R. et al. (2018) reports that in January 2018, in the port of Genoa Italian police confiscated a shipment of drugs bound for Libya. Police arrested three containers from India in which they found 37 million tramadol tablets hidden under a load of tissues. The 75 million euro seized drug is a synthetic benzoid opioid, the active ingredient in a range of pain medications for the treatment of moderate to severe pain. Despite having a lower narcotic effect than other opioids such as morphine, tramadol abuse is on the rise, particularly in North Africa and the Middle East. Tramadol used by terrorists and militants as a pain reliever and to increase endurance (Santacroce et al., 2018). There is evidence of significant tramadol use in the Gaza Strip and among Boko Haram militants in Nigeria. In addition to tramadol, terrorists have other popular psychoactive substances. Fenetyline, sold under the brand names Captagon, Biocapton, and Fitton, is a psychostimulant that includes amphetamine and theophylline. Fenetyline is the main terrorist drug in the Middle East, and is used by ISIS and other militant groups in Syria.

Captagon was most likely in the blood of terrorists during the 2015 Paris attacks (Fond & Howes, 2016). According to the United Nations World Drug Report (2021) - it is noted that so far there is no conclusive evidence of the production of Captagon in ISIS, since there are other terrorist groups operating in the region that can produce drugs. In general, the level of violence in the illicit drug markets is extremely high, as there is no state present. The "gray zone" in which this market is located does not allow states to effectively administer it and ensure a power monopoly. If the states are present at it, they behave like drug cartels. In the drug market, violence can be used for several purposes (Felbab-Brown & Trinkunas, 2016): – To resolve territorial, contractual, disciplinary or inheritance issues within or between drug trafficking organizations; – To commit acts of retaliation against government law enforcement agencies or to force government officials to fail in their duty to uphold the rule of law;

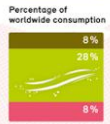
– To initiate changes in legislation or policy that affect criminal activity. In this sense, drug-related violence often affects, but is not limited to, criminals and public servants, and may involve civilians who are perceived as enemies, stranded in a conflict area or affected by repressive policies. The level of violence not only differs in countries affected by illicit drug production and trafficking, but also changes over time. The high level of violence in Colombia is due to the activities of strong drug trafficking groups, as well as the presence of an internal armed conflict. In addition, as seen in the case of Bolivia, the activities of drug traffickers are affected by pressure from civil society, in particular coca farmers, which is likely to reduce the influence of large drug trafficking organizations. Therefore, while violence is more likely to occur in coca-producing countries, the varying homicide rates suggest that this dependence is driven by socioeconomic and political factors.

DISTRIBUTION

Hard drugs are especially popular in the USA, Europe, and Asia. Crossing all borders, consumers are supplied with these illegal products by truck, ship, or small plane. Opium originates primarily in Afghanistan or Myanmar, while cocaine comes mostly from Colombia, Peru, or Bolivia.

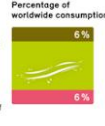
NORTH AMERICA

Consumption Worldwide largest cocaine consumption, ATS use increasing.
Trade Mexican mafias are increasingly involved in smuggling drugs across the U.S. border or via the Pacific.
Production ATS are produced for the home market.



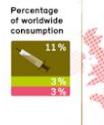
WESTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE

Consumption Cocaine consumption remains at a high level, consumption of opiates and ATS on the rise.
Trade Destination for thousands of tonnes of drugs; extensive inner-European smuggling; significant points of control in Amsterdam, Madrid, and along the German borders.
Production Large market for amphetamines; methamphetamines are mostly produced in small laboratories in the Czech Republic and less frequently in Slovakia and Germany.



EASTERN AND SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

Consumption Greater consumption of opiates due to proximity to the trade routes.
Trade Delivery of opiates to Western Europe; cocaine is smuggled in from Africa to Central Europe via this region.
Production ATS are produced in most countries.



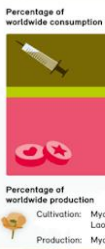
NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

Consumption High consumption of opiates due to proximity to sources, consumption of ATS on the rise.
Trade Main trade route for opium and heroin, cartels from almost 20 countries are involved.
Production Opium production primarily in Afghanistan; heroin is manufactured in almost all countries to meet European demand.



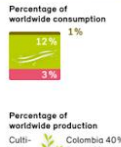
ASIA (excluding the Near and Middle East)

Consumption Largest worldwide consumption of ATS and opium.
Trade Large internal ATS market; some opiates from Myanmar and Laos are shipped over the Pacific.
Production ATS are produced almost everywhere, Myanmar is the world's second-largest producer of opiates.



SOUTH AMERICA

Consumption Increasing amounts of cocaine and ATS.
Trade In almost all the countries in the region, Venezuela and Brazil are stopovers before delivery on to Africa or Europe.
Production Almost all of the world's cocaine comes from Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia.



CENTRAL AMERICA/ MEXICO/ CARIBBEAN

Consumption Tendency on the rise.
Trade One of the axes of the South American cocaine trade supplying Europe; couriers and cargo ships transport the products.
Production Opium for North America.



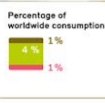
AFRICA (excluding southern Africa)

Consumption Increasing consumption of ATS.
Trade Transport route to Europe, becoming however less relevant due to strengthened controls; powerful cartels in Nigeria regulate sale in the region and further trade to Europe.
Production Insignificant.



SOUTHERN AFRICA

Consumption Increasing consumption of ATS.
Trade Routes to North Africa and Europe.
Production Insignificant.



OCEANIA

Consumption Increasing consumption of ATS.
Trade Insignificant.
Production ATS production for the internal market.



PRODUCTION in tonnes per year

Gross amounts of the drugs produced



TURNOVER in billion U.S. dollars per year

Almost 1 percent of the global gross domestic product can be assigned to the drug trade. Dealers and sellers in the consuming countries collect most of the money, and the farmers receive only 1 percent of the opiate and cocaine turnover.



CONSUMERS in millions worldwide

An increasing number of people are taking ATS, while the number of the consumers of cocaine and heroin remains constant.



Cannabis is the most widely consumed illegal drug in the world. A full presentation of the worldwide cultivation and consumption of this substance would go far beyond the scope of this infographic.

For the same reason, values under 1 percent for other drugs are not indicated in the case of manufacture or consumption.

The figures are from 2009, in as far as not otherwise indicated: * 2010, ** 2007, ***2006 (the amount produced today and the current turnover are probably much higher).

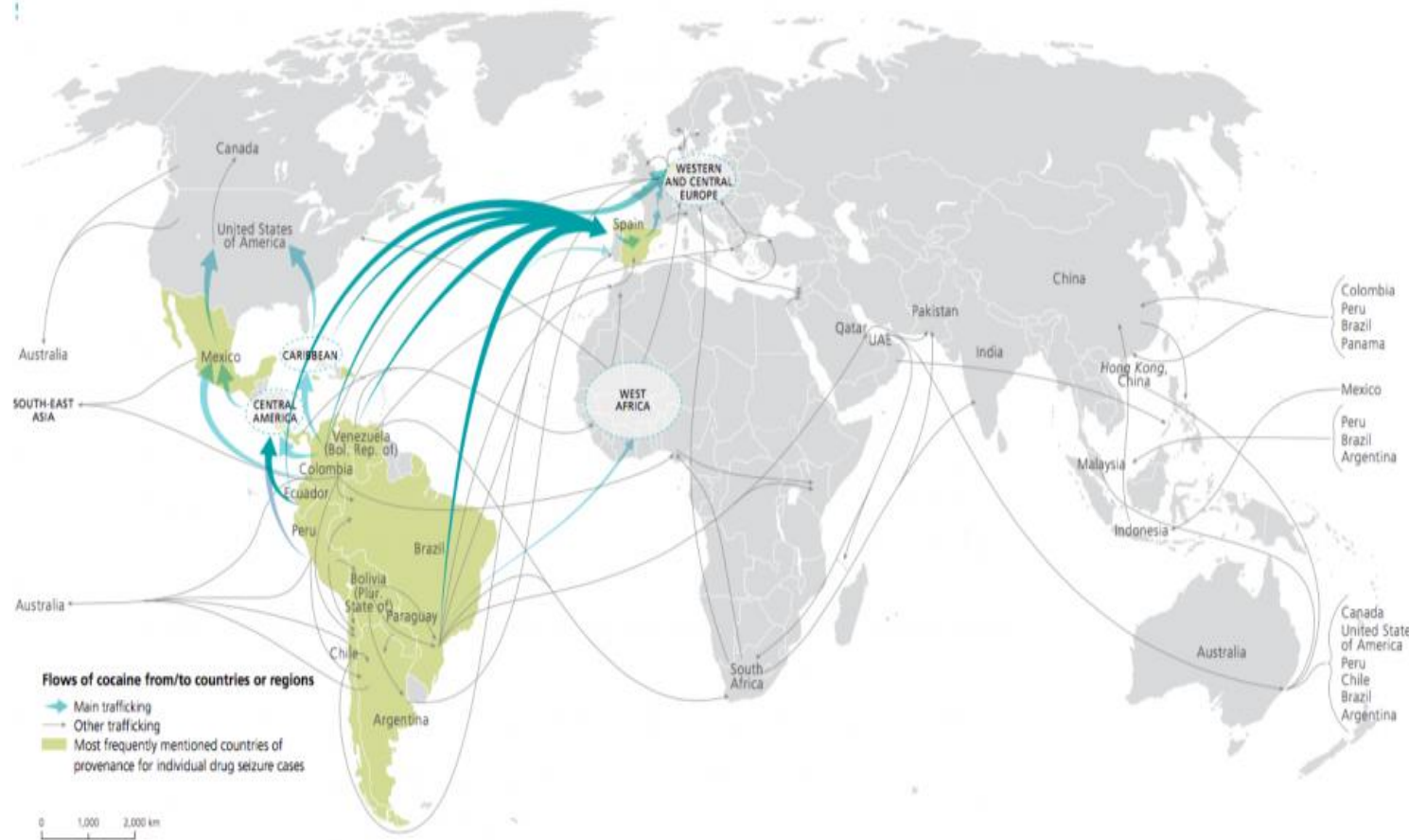
Drug Trafficking

MONEY MAKES THE WORLD GO ROUND

The level of violence associated with the illegal drug market also varies by region. For example, while Latin America and South-East Asia play a key role in the illegal production of cocaine and opium, the former region has significantly higher levels of violence than the latter (Felbab-Brown & Trinkunas, 2016). According to the United Nations World Drug Report (2021) - drug production and distribution in the Americas is more associated with violence than in Asia, including in East and Southeast Asia. The explanation lies in the differences in the nature of the links between drug traffickers. In East and South-East Asia, opium and heroin are illicitly produced and trafficked by individuals and groups, and trafficking networks can be described as isolated and decentralized. Drug couriers tend to be from ethnic groups living on both sides of the border and come from families that have been involved in drug trafficking for generations. They are also characterized by relative independence from drug dealers and buyers who run the market. While large criminal groups have played a prominent role in drug trafficking in the past, these organizations now appear to be less hierarchical and more decentralized. By contrast, cocaine supply chains in Latin America tend to form around tight-knit hierarchical organizations. In some countries, the drug trade has contributed to the complexity and prolongation of armed conflicts, often resulting in higher death tolls. Examples from Afghanistan, Colombia, Myanmar and Peru provide clear evidence of the connection between the illegal drug trade and extremists. According to an analysis in Afghanistan of the dependence of terrorist attacks and victims on opium production, with a 25 per cent increase in opium poppy cultivation between 1994 and 2008, terrorist attacks increased by an average of 0.15 and their victims by 1.43 per year (Piazza, 2012). Obviously, the relationship between the dynamics of opium poppy production and the number of terrorist attacks is insignificant. Colombia provides another example of how non-state armed groups have been generating a substantial portion of their income from drug sales since the mid-1990s. It should be noted that, as a rule, terrorist groups are engaged in the production and distribution of drugs only because it brings benefits. Terrorists and other non-state armed groups have many sources of income. If drugs cease to be profitable, these groups may engage in extortion, kidnapping for ransom, bank robbery, selling natural resources, or selling cultural property. In addition to direct financial gain, participation in the drug trade can provide other non-monetary resources that are critical to warfare, such as control of territory, military capability, and political and social legitimacy. By protecting illegal activities that provide the livelihoods of the poor, armed groups can receive support, protection and intelligence from farmers. One of the reasons the Taliban allowed the opium trade in Afghanistan was because they realized how important it was to the local economy. Indeed, support for the opium trade has been said to be one of the Taliban's most important sources of legitimacy among the local population (Felbab-Brown, 2009). The link between drugs, armed conflict and terrorism is not inevitable and differs significantly among

armed groups and countries affected by civil war. In fact, many armed groups and terrorist organizations operating in areas where they could profit from involvement in the illicit drug trade do not engage in this type of activity.

Main trafficking flows of cocaine



The UNODC World Drug Report 2022 notes the difficulty in finding information about the connection between terrorism and drugs. Much of the work in this area is tracking a small number of groups or is based on sources interested in exaggerating or understating certain connections (UNODC World Drug Report 2022). Most information about terrorism is collected by intelligence institutions and classified,

which means that researchers have to rely on media reports and studies published by non-governmental organizations and think tanks. An analysis of terrorist and extremist organizations registered in the terrorist database for the period 1998- 2005 showed that out of 395 organizations included in the data set, only about 9 percent. (35 organizations) participated in drug trafficking. During the study, it was found that organizations are often involved in drug trafficking when they have the logistical capacity and the necessary network. Drug cartels are also challenging international and national security, especially in Latin America. Drug trafficking is the most widespread and lucrative activity for criminal gangs. According to the UNODC, the cost of the drug business is about 350 billion US dollars. For example, the production and sale of cocaine alone brings criminals about 85 billion US dollars annually (Asal et al., 2015). Despite the fact that the groups involved in the illegal production and sale of narcotic substances differ from other criminals, they still have features that are characteristic of all transnational criminal associations: a clear hierarchy and distribution of positions (roles), as well as the presence of two partially isolated from each other friend of groups of people. The first group, the so-called “base” or “core”, includes those members who are directly involved in cultivation, transportation from one state to another and distribution; the second, smaller one, includes people whose the main task is to facilitate illegal activities, i.e. opposition to law enforcement agencies, sometimes with the help of various corrupt tools, as well as blackmail, threats, etc. Such a core/support scheme is the same for almost all groups associated with any kind of criminal activity (America’s habit...1986). It is worth noting that in recent years the “core” of cartels has changed. If earlier it consisted mainly of relatives, friends, people connected by a common origin, now it is many times more multifaceted. At its center there is a very small association of professional criminals, and ordinary members of the group are hired to help them, who can be “recruited” both from street hooligans and even teenagers, and from groups of specialists in such fields as security, law, economics, business, etc. It is possible to single out a number of traditional regions of the world for the production of drugs. Each of them has its own “specialization”, depending on what type of narcotic raw material is cultivated there. The main ones are the Golden Triangle (where opium and heroin are produced, include Thailand, Myanmar and Laos), the Golden Crescent, South America, Morocco, China and the Netherlands. The largest producer of opium raw is Afghanistan, which actively influences the global drug situation and is included in the Golden Crescent along with Iran and Pakistan.

Global drug trafficking

Main global drug supply routes



The bulk of cocaine is traditionally produced in South America, namely in Venezuela, Colombia (the world leader in the production of cocaine), Bolivia. In the Netherlands, marijuana is grown and light synthetic drugs are synthesized. Morocco is characterized by the production of cannabis resin (hashish). The way drug traffickers operate at the transnational level, undermining the economy, is evidenced by a very

recent fact that speaks of the scope of the drug business, its organization and volume: the Spanish Civil Guard reported on January 23, 2023 that the Spanish law enforcement authorities have intercepted a cargo ship en route to Riga near the Canary Islands, carrying 4.5 tons of cocaine. The market value of this cargo would be 180 million EUR. According to Marine Traffic, the freighter 'Blume' was on its way from Brazil and was scheduled to arrive in Riga mid-February. The ship belongs to a Greek shipping company but travelled under the flag of Togo. The Spanish investigators paid attention to the ship because, according to the documents, the ship carried only 200 tons of coffee, which is a relatively small cargo for such a large ship (Spanish authorities bust cocaine shipment headed for Riga, 2023). No doubt, control over criminal processes is under direct effect of the crime prevention quality. The more inefficient the crime prevention, the more difficult the further control of the development of criminal processes, if their conditions and reasons have not been overcome (Tumalavicius, 2017). There is a certain order, or conditional scheme, of drug trafficking. From manufacturers growing narcotic raw materials or synthesizing psychoactive substances, illegal goods fall into the hands of wholesalers. They, in turn, use the services of drug transporters. These groups of such people are often referred to as drug couriers, and their activity is drug smuggling. Especially expensive narcotic substances are often transported in the bodies (stomachs) of smugglers, which sometimes leads to tragic consequences in case of damage to the sealed packaging in which the narcotic substances are located. From drug couriers, the drugs end up in the hands of wholesale recipients, or, more commonly known, drug dealers, who already distribute the overall bulk supply to individual drug retailers. Naturally, there are other ways to transfer drugs, but the described scheme is used most often.

Questions to be Adressed

- 1-What can Interpol do to raise public awareness about drugs
- 2-Which ways can be used to take teenagers away from drugs
- 3-What steps can be taken to protect people at risk from becoming victims of drug
- 4-How to reintegrate the former drug users back into society
- 5-Which specific actions can be taken in order to stop illegal drug selling
- 6-Illegal drug sellings affects on states economy

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