



General Assembly

MUNMX RO 2023, Campus Morelia

Welcome

The dais of the general assembly committee extends a cordial greeting and welcome to all the delegates while it hopes that everyone has a great development through the model in order to achieve a diplomatic resolution for the challenges that will be mentioned. The dais is coordinated by president Sofía Zavala Castillo, moderator Isabella Valencia Espinoza, and conference officer Zianya Macías Guzmán; who all belong to campus Morelia.

The UN General Assembly (UNGA) was created in 1945 under the Charter of the United Nations. It is the main deliberative, policymaking, and representative organ of the UN. It provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues including poverty, development, peace, and security. It also plays a central role in the process of standard-setting and the codification of international law. (United Nations, n.d)

The General Assembly holds a general debate in the organization's New York headquarters from September to December and convenes special sessions at other times to address a range of issues, which leads to the adoption of resolutions.

In September 2015, the General Assembly agreed on a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals contained in the outcome document of the United Nations Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda. Each of the 193 Member States of the United Nations has an equal vote.

Throughout the model, the delegates will aim to act peacefully and together to find the most appropriate resolution on two different topics: Disputes of natural resources among nations derived from a threat of consumerism as well as Cross-border cooperation to stop transnational crime and synthetic drugs in the Southeast Asia region: The Golden Triangle.

Topic A: Disputes of natural resources among nations derived from a threat of consumerism

Introduction

The first topic that will be debated in the General Assembly is the *Dispute of natural resources among nations derived from a threat of consumerism*. Since 1990, at least 18 violent conflicts have been powered by the exploitation of natural resources, whether they are high-value resources like diamonds, timber, gold, oil, and other minerals, or scarce ones like fertile land and water. Unfair distribution of natural resources, corruption, and mismanagement can and lead to distinct conflicts, especially in countries with weaker institutions. These issues are growing as climate change and environmental degradation aggravate scarcity due to trends such as population growth and increased consumption.

Natural resources are increasingly subject to intense competition. In most cases, several factors are responsible for this including demographic change: migration, urbanization, and population growth; market restraint, which is a result of increased commercialization among nations; intensification and privatization of local incomes; growing integration of both national and global economies; and new economic reforms. Furthermore, the most important factor is consumerism. These forces can drive people to exceed the sustainable harvesting limits of renewable natural resources; forests, water bodies, grazing areas, wildlife, marine resources, and agricultural land. In areas where the population continues to increase, resources often need to be shared among more users with different interests.

General Statistics

According to the UN more than 40% of internal armed conflicts over the past 60 years are linked to natural resources.

In the Central African Republic, 75% of civil wars since 1990 have had funds thanks to natural assets, prolonging the conflict. Extracting minerals, charcoal, timber and wildlife has provoked violence in different regions; moreover, it is illegal

Bolivia faced foreign financial interests, which led to the privatization and the exploitation of its national wealth for the benefit of transnational corporations. Evidently, the private companies prevailed since they continued to benefit, but most of the benefits accrued to the people. GDP rose from \$9 billion to \$36 billion and continues rising while poverty has fallen sharply alongside the improvement of other major indicators of well-being and justice.

China was the world's leading primary energy consumer in 2021, recording consumption of approximately 157.7 exajoules. The United States was in second place, and India came in third.

Among industrialized nations, the United States also leads by a wide margin in most consumer categories. That is, American fossil fuel consumption is twice the average resident of Great Britain and two and a half times the average of Japan.

Present solutions

The world's natural resources are under growing strain. The constant search for natural substances such as hydrocarbons and minerals is pushing exploration into more technically challenging and environmentally sensitive areas. As the pressure mounts, so will the dispute over resources. In response to these challenges, a lot of agreements have been made, such as the European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN) entered into a partnership in 2008 for building facilities for land, conflict prevention, and natural resources.

The *Basel Convention* on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was created in 1989 and it first became operative in 1992. This Convention aims to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects resulting from the generation, transboundary movements, and irresponsible management of hazardous wastes.

The aim of the *Montreal Agreement* is to protect the ozone layer by taking effective measures to control the total global production and consumption of substances that deplete it, with the goal of eliminating them. The Montreal Agreement

is structured around several groups of ozone-depleting substances. It came into force in 1987.

The *Agreement on Biological Diversity* is a global compromise whose purpose is the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. The Convention entered into force in 1993, and from it derived the Cartagena Protocol on biosafety focused specifically on the transboundary movement of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs), and the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits derived from its use.

Key Questions

- According to the UN more than 40% of internal armed conflicts over the past 60 years are linked to natural resources. How is it that this problem has an effect on the global economy?
- What has your country done to prevent the exploitation of natural resources for the solemn purpose of using the profit for sustaining illegal activities?
- What kinds of laws would work in order to prevent human rights from being diminished thanks to exploitation?
- Many agreements and conventions have taken place but the exploitation of natural resources has kept growing. Which measures can be taken to ensure that they are carried out in a proper way?

Research Sources for the Delegates

- <https://www.middleeasteye.net/big-story/fighting-oil-21st-century-energy-wars>
- <https://www.un.org/en/land-natural-resources-conflict/>
- <https://www.fao.org/3/a0032e/a0032e04.htm#:~:text=Natural%20resource%20conflicts%20are%20disagreements,or%20inequities%20in%20resource%20distribution.>
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- <https://fedeiongs.com/2020/12/02/9-acuerdos-ambientales-internacionales-que-debes-conocer/>
- <https://www.un.org/en/observances/biological-diversity-day/convention>
- <https://www.unep.org/resources/report/basel-convention-control-transboundary-movements-hazardous-wastes>
- <https://es.statista.com/estadisticas/635203/paises-con-mayor-consumo-de-energia-primaria/#:~:text=Pa%C3%ADses%20con%20mayor%20consumo%20de%20energ%C3%ADa%20primaria%20en%20el%20mundo%20en%202021&text=China%20se%20posicion%C3%B3%20como%20el.de%20aproximadamente%20157%2C7%20exajulios.>

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United Nations Peacekeeping (n.d.). *Role of the General Assembly* Retrieved from: <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/role-of-general-assembly#:~:text=The%20General%20Assembly%20is%20the,issues%20including%20peace%20and%20security.>

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Topic B: Cross-border cooperation to stop transnational crime and synthetic drugs in the Southeast Asia region: The Golden Triangle.

Introduction

Rapid integration in the Southeast Asia region has created new economic, social, and developmental opportunities, but it has also posed significant security challenges corroborated by transnational crimes. Regional integration is a leading cause of the expansion and diversification of transnational organized crimes (TOC), which have become challenges for governments that seek to prevent the illicit flow of goods, people, and money. Alongside terrorism, TOCs are most destructive in countries with a weak rule of law, where they can corrupt and even collude with law enforcement to commit crimes. The problem of TOC in Southeast Asia is extremely severe and consists primarily of illegal migration, terrorism, money laundering, transnational prostitution, piracy, arms smuggling, credit card fraud, loads of corruption, and typical practices of human trafficking, which involves exploiting individuals who seek to migrate to other countries looking for better economic opportunities and greater living conditions, among other problems within this territories.

Drug trafficking is perhaps the most dreadful TOC faced by Southeast Asian states. Although there are no exact statistics on illegal drug and human transportation, there are thousands of illegal activities occurring around the area every day.

General Statistics

Trafficking and drug production in the Thailand region yielded a staggering \$71 billion in profits last year. Methamphetamine alone contributed \$61 billion to this figure, four times what it was six years ago. Today, the production and trafficking of it is considered the most important organ of transnational organized crime, and the armed groups they work with have power over certain territories in Myanmar, causing more problems and insecurity in the country, and at its borders.

Moreover, despite the enormous amounts of methamphetamine takeovers, the demand has increased and the cost of the drug has recently decreased compared to the prices of the decade. The methamphetamine pill, called "ya ba", currently costs

about 50 yg baht (\$1.60) in the northern area of Thailand (Mekong region), facilitating common and prone users to consume it.

As a result of the low prices given on the street and the minimum wages, Thailand is experiencing a significant increase in use, specifically among young people. This has resulted in significant challenges, as 80% of the Thai arrested population faces legal issues methamphetamine-related, it is noticeable that the combination of high levels of drug trafficking and the availability of low-priced drugs has increased and worsened the challenges of the criminal justice system.

On the other hand, human trafficking is also one of the most alarming activities that take place in the Golden Triangle. The United Nations Office recently declared that over 150,000 people are trafficked annually in South Asia, being women and girls under age the 44% and 21% of trafficking victims. Forced labor, sexual exploitation, and forced marriage are recorded as the most common ways of trafficking in this region.

Present solutions

BLOs (Border Liaison Offices), promote communication and cooperation between different national law enforcement agencies working along a common border. They also promote greater cross-border law enforcement cooperation by sharing real-time information on drug traffickers to enable rapid and effective law enforcement intervention across borders. BLOs address numberless cross-border issues, including drug and precursor chemical trafficking, migrant smuggling, human trafficking, wildlife and forestry crime, and, in some locations, the movement of terrorist fighters alongside public health and pandemic-related matters.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is a formal agreement that outlines plans for a common line of action between more than two alliances. Southeast Asia countries have striven to avoid the threat of drug production, trafficking, and abuse through the MOU deal, technical assistance from UNODC and the support of partner countries from the international community.

Southeast Asia's opium poppy reduction has been accomplished by the effective elimination of illicit opium production in Vietnam in the year 2000, and Thailand in 2003. By 2005, Laos was declared opium-free. Until nowadays, Myanmar has also noticed a continuous decline in opium production. This created a limited problem which is now concentrated only in Shan State in Myanmar.

Key Questions

- How can governments address this issue?
- How much do you think, transnational drug trade, human trafficking, and prostitution practices affect the development of your country in cultural, social, and economic aspects?
- What laws/solutions has your country proposed to eradicate human smuggling across the world?
- What support and assistance from your country do the Golden Triangle countries have received to combat drug trafficking?
- What have governments and international organizations made to combat drug trafficking in the Golden Triangle?

Research Sources for the Delegates

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- <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/cross-border-cooperation-in-action-police-raid-international-drug-trafficking-ring>
- <https://www.worldbank.org/en/events/2022/11/30/16DaysofActivismSouthAsia#1>
- https://www.unodc.org/roseap/uploads/archive/documents/Publications/2019/SEA_TOCTA_2019_web.pdf
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