



# INTERPOL

MUNMX RO 2023, Campus Morelia

**Dear delegates,**

Welcome to the International Criminal Police Organization on MUN MX 2023. While we have the opportunity to meet in person, we introduce ourselves through this formality: Miranda Pólito as your president, Sebastián Flores as your moderator and Vanessa Rosales as your conference officer.

We are from campus Querétaro and it will be a great pleasure to have you on this committee for the next few days. If you need any further information please do not hesitate to contact us, we are here to support you. .

**-The Chair**



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The International Criminal Police Organization is an intergovernmental organization created in 1923 with the main purpose of helping countries to work together in order to fight international crime. Nowadays INTERPOL is made up of 195 countries and offers "a high-tech international infrastructure of technical and operational support to meet the growing challenges of fighting emerging types of crime" (INTERPOL,2022).

The objective of this committee is to reach police participation and cooperation even where diplomatic relations do not exist in order to set foot on political neutrality and to make the world a safer place.

## **Topic A: Addressing Latin America Organized Crime**

Perhaps one of the most worrying and negative effects of globalization, is the appearance of large, transnational, organized criminal networks. Latin America houses some of the most dangerous and sophisticated criminal systems worldwide. These networks are dedicated to several types of illicit activity, such as drug trafficking, money laundering, as well as human and weapon smuggling. Moreover, these criminal groups are known for controlling large amounts of territory and people across different countries, and they possess a great deal of influence. In order to gain power, authority, and large amounts of following, organized criminal networks engage in a variety of strategies. These strategies can vary from becoming allies with civilians by offering exchange of goods and resources in return for their support, to more violent tactics such as intimidating other rival groups with gruesome and terrorizing schemes.

Historically, these criminal networks have been primarily known for the large amounts of drug dealing and trafficking across different countries in and outside of Latin America. However, as of recent years, several of these groups have begun to branch out to other illicit activities. Some of these include extortion rackets, human smuggling for clandestine employment, sex trafficking, illegal markets of exotic animals, and a variety of environmental crimes. Although these activities do not provide as large of an income as drug trafficking, they have become increasingly more attractive to organized criminal groups, as they provide a more stable and secure profit, at a much lower risk. Organized crime in Latin America is constantly evolving as the political situations in each country change, which has caused a complex dynamic between the criminal networks and the political system. As a result of this, financed elections, corruption and secret collaborations between both groups are common in various places in Latin America.

According to the UNODC (2019), Latin America has, by far, the largest homicide rate in the entire world, at 19.5 homicides per 100,000 habitants. These homicides are often caused by the rivalry between criminal networks, however, in recent years, gender oriented homicides have increased significantly in Mexico and Central America. Organized crime also has a massive toll on the economy. Across all of Latin America and the Caribbean, it is estimated that on average around 3.5% of each country's GDP is lost as a consequence of the money laundering performed by criminal organizations.

Transparency International (TI) is one of the main Non-Governmental Organizations that is actively working to counter and help victims of transnational organized crime in Latin America. It has worked towards improving the transparency of data regarding organized crime, as well as promoting and creating reliable and verifiable research in order to be better informed on the topic. Additionally, TI has created safe spaces and channels for victims of Organized Crime and corruption across different countries, such as El Salvador, Venezuela, Perú and Honduras.

More recently, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime created the “UNODC strategic vision for Latin America and the Caribbean 2022-2025”, an action plan with the goal of supporting, strengthening, preventing and tackling organized crime, drug trafficking and corruption in Latin America and the Caribbean. This action plan was developed along with the authorities of many countries, and it takes a comprehensive focus on the increased vulnerability that women have in these countries, especially as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

### **Key Questions**

As your chair we suggest you consider answering the following questions during the elaboration of your position paper in order to have a more comprehensive development of the topic.

1. Is your delegation house to any criminal organizations? If so, which ones are the most important?
2. Does your delegation support directly or indirectly any criminal organizations?
3. How has your delegation (and your delegation's population) been affected by organized crime?
4. What measures has your delegation implemented to tackle organized crime?

***Topic B: International Cooperation for the prevention of bioterrorism***

Bioterrorism is defined as the intentional threat or release of toxic biological agents. This can be done with the intent of causing harm or death among the human population, food crops, or livestock. The threat of bioterrorism has been a topic of increasing concern given that it could be caused by virtually any pathogen, and specially because of their ease of use, wide availability, and the fact that it can be hard to distinguish from naturally occurring plagues. Although the history of bioterrorism can be dated back to 600 B.C., recent advances in biotechnology and biochemistry have facilitated the development of biological weapons, causing them to be even more desirable among developing countries.

One of the most notable cases of bioterrorism came in 2001, when on September 18th and on October 9th, various letters were delivered through the US postal system to several news offices and two US senators. These letters contained Anthrax spores, which caused 22 confirmed infections and 5 deaths. Another notable case of bioterrorism came in 1995. Aum Shinrikyo, a religious cult that was established in the 80s with more than 40,000 people recruited worldwide, carried out a bioterrorist attack. Dr. Seiichi Endo, a member of the cult, who was a specialist in microbiology and biological weapons, led a series of experiments and research in the Aum cult, he experimented with several different pathogens, such as anthrax, ebola and botulinum. After various failed attempts on different parts of the world, the cult finally carried out a terrorist attack, releasing toxic gas in the Tokyo subway. It is estimated that this attack harmed around 5,000 people and killed 12.

During the past few decades, various countries and international organizations have been forced to implement various methods and create multinational treaties to prevent and combat bioterrorism. The most known of these is the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), which is an international treaty that prohibits the development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling and use of biological and toxin weapons, without proper cause. It currently consists of 185 member states. The BWC was created as a supplement to the 1925 Geneva Convention, and it was signed in 1972.

Other organizations have taken measures to address this issue as well. INTERPOL, for example, created the INTERPOL Operational Manual on Investigating Biological and Chemical Terrorism on the Darknet, which is a manual used by law

enforcers in order to properly detect signs of potential criminal terrorist activity on the dark web.

Additionally, in 2020, the United Nations recognized the vulnerability of the human population to bioterrorism in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. Consequently, the UN recalled the Security Council resolution 1540, and called upon all Member States to prevent the acquisition of potentially harmful materials that could be used to develop biological weapons by terrorists.

### **Key Questions**

1. What has your delegation done to prevent or counter bioterrorism?
2. Is your delegation part of any international treaties or agreements regarding bioterrorism?
3. Have there been any bioterrorist attacks on your delegation?
4. What could your delegation do internationally to better address this threat?

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