



United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

President: Guadalupe Ramírez Valencia.

Moderator: Rodrigo Rolo Marcano

Conference Officer: Anna Lorena González Lara



WELCOME LETTER TO DELEGATES

Dear delegates, it is a pleasure for us to be with you in this model, to share experiences, and also to learn as much as we can.

First, thank you all for choosing to be part of UNODC. In this committee, we have two different topics, both related to crime, drugs, corruption, technology, and organized crime. In the 3 days of the model, you will debate important topics, defend your country's position, and work together to create solutions.

A model of the United Nations is challenging, but it's a valuable experience that allows you to understand deeply some global issues. You will learn about other cultures, from other delegates, and most importantly, you will, above all, learn about yourself.

We encourage you to actively participate, respect the rules of procedure, and work together and diplomatically with other delegations. Remember that every contribution you make, regardless of how small it is, can have a significant effect on the outcome of the debate. We also remind you that professionalism, respect, and commitment are key values that guide the work of this committee.

Furthermore, you will have the chance to develop various skills like leadership, critical thinking, negotiation, and problem-solving that are not only useful during the conference but also are important for the rest of your life. Delegates, do your best, enjoy every moment, and make this experience unforgettable.

We extend a warm greeting to you once more to be part of this committee. We expect an interesting debate and creative and innovative solutions throughout the sessions. We hope that all of you enjoy this model of the United Nations, and we wish you all the best of luck.

Sincerely,

President: Guadalupe Ramírez Valencia.

Moderator: Rodrigo Rolo Marcano

Conference Officer: Anna Lorena González Lara



ABOUT THE COMMITTEE.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was established in 1997, and today, the UNODC comprises approximately 500 civil servants and officials worldwide. Its principal headquarters are located in Vienna, Austria; however, at the present time, UNODC has 21 field offices in more than 150 countries, as well as connectivity offices in New York and Brussels. All of these initiatives are carried out in direct cooperation with governments and non-governmental organizations. The committee's field staff formulate and introduce the drug control and crime avoidance programmes tailored to the specific needs of countries.

This committee's principal objectives are to educate people of all ages and nations about the risks associated with drug use, support global efforts to combat the production and distribution of illegal drugs, and combat any associated delinquency that occurs in society as a result of them. Additionally, UNODC helps to improve criminal justice and organized crime prevention, restores the rule of law, supports stable criminal justice systems, and fights the growing risks of corruption and international organized crime. All of these factors can strengthen and stabilize the laws against organized crime.

In order to make the world a better place to live and keep it safer from terrorism, narcotics, crime, and corruption, UNODC's purpose is to promote peace and global security. UNODC is also recognized as a global leader in the fight against illegal narcotics and international crime, being an important participant in the implementation of the United Nations' premier counterterrorism program.

Numerous international agreements and a set of United Nations guidelines on criminal justice and crime prevention, including the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), serve as the committee's guidelines.

In the national and international fields, these two agreements are in charge of combating both public and private corruption. Both are also responsible for combating transnational organized crime. This involves actions like stopping money laundering, protecting and helping victims, using specialized investigative methods, exchanging legal advice, and international collaboration.

The committee has started a number of programs to help UNODC accomplish its goals, such as monitoring illegal crops, implementing anti-money laundering projects, and providing alternatives to the production and trafficking of illegal substances. This committee has different activities to support states in implementing the 18 global legal instruments against terrorism upon request. Furthermore, UNODC has several initiatives

and campaigns that have significantly impacted the war on crime and drugs. Among them are Blue Heart Against Human Trafficking, International Anti-Corruption Day, World Drug Day, and World Day against Trafficking in Persons.

References:

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2. About UNODC. (n.d.). United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/about-unodc/index.html?ref=menutop>
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Topic A: Combating the use of cryptocurrencies and blockchain technology in the global organized crime

In recent years, cryptocurrencies and blockchain technology have emerged as both innovative financial tools and serious challenges to international security. Cryptocurrencies, such as Bitcoin, Ethereum, are some of the many examples. While these innovations can promote financial inclusion, they have also been exploited by global organized crime groups who take advantage of their anonymity and nearly instant and worldwide reach.

Criminal organizations have integrated cryptocurrencies into their operations and have made tracking the transactions much harder for authorities. Darknet markets, which are built upon cryptocurrencies, facilitate the trafficking of drugs, weapons, illegal goods, and even human beings. Ransomware attacks, which have become a great threat to governments, businesses, and hospitals, almost always demand payment in cryptocurrency to hide the identity of perpetrators.

The international community faces several obstacles in countering these threats. Cryptocurrencies operate beyond national borders, which means that crimes committed in one country often impact many others, creating legal gaps and loopholes. Additionally, the rapid pace of technological innovation often outpaces regulations, leaving law enforcement agencies struggling to keep up. Privacy-focused cryptocurrencies, anonymous exchanges, and peer-to-peer transactions further complicate the process of tracking, finding, and seizing illicit goods.

Despite these challenges, states and international organizations have begun to adopt strategies to trace and seize illegally obtained assets/funds. International cooperation has proven effective in several cases, with agencies such as Europol and the FBI dismantling major darknet marketplaces and recovering millions in cryptocurrency tied to organized crime groups.

Moving forward, delegates will need to consider how best to balance two competing priorities: creating innovation in blockchain technology while preventing its exploitation, use, and abuse by organized crime. Proposals such as uniting global regulatory standards, strengthening laws of privacy tools, expanding law enforcement training, and encouraging information sharing between delegations could all contribute to an effective response. At the same time, care must be taken not to underestimate the legitimate uses of blockchain in areas such as chain monitoring, safe digital identities, and financial inclusion.

The issue of cryptocurrencies in organized crime is a complicated one, since it touches finance, technology, and security. It requires a coordinated approach that addresses not only the current exploitation of cryptocurrencies but also how criminal networks may exploit new technologies in the future.

Key questions:

1. How are cryptocurrencies and blockchain technology currently being used in organized crime within your country (e.g., money laundering, drug trafficking, cybercrime)?
2. What laws, regulations, or policies does my country have regarding cryptocurrencies, and how effective are they in preventing criminal misuse?
3. To what extent does your country cooperate with international organizations and other states in monitoring or regulating cryptocurrency-related crimes?
4. Does your country prioritize stricter regulation and surveillance of cryptocurrencies, or does it seek to balance regulation with the development of financial innovation and digital markets?

References:

1. International Labour Organization. (2017). *Global estimates of modern slavery: Forced labour and forced marriage*. International Labour Office. https://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_575479
2. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2020). *Global report on trafficking in persons 2020*. United Nations. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/data-and-analysis/glotip.html>
3. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (n.d.). *Human trafficking and migrant smuggling*. United Nations. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/index.html>
4. U.S. Department of State. (2023). *Trafficking in persons report 2023*. U.S. Department of State. <https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-trafficking-in-persons-report/>

Topic B: International strategies for the prevention and combating of trafficking in persons for sexual and labor exploitation

Human trafficking, also known as trafficking in persons, is a serious crime and a grave violation of human rights. It involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to exploit individuals for labor, services, or commercial sex acts. This crime deprives millions of people of their freedom and dignity every year, making it one of the most pressing global challenges of our time. Traffickers often deceive victims—women, men, and children alike—through false promises of employment, education, or a better life, only to subject them to exploitation and abuse once they are under control.

Human trafficking is not limited to a single country or region; it is a worldwide issue that thrives by exploiting vulnerabilities such as poverty, inequality, conflict, displacement, and lack of education. According to reports by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), traffickers frequently target individuals who are desperate for opportunity and security. Women and children are disproportionately affected, consistently making up the majority of detected victims worldwide, particularly in cases of sexual exploitation. Men, however, are also exploited in large numbers, especially in sectors such as construction, agriculture, and forced labor in conflict zones.

The economic scale of trafficking is deeply concerning. The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that forced labor and sexual exploitation generate billions of dollars in illegal profits every year for criminal networks, making trafficking one of the most lucrative forms of organized crime. These vast profits not only finance the expansion of criminal operations but also contribute to the corruption of public officials and the weakening of institutions tasked with upholding the rule of law. This creates a cycle where vulnerable populations remain unprotected, and organized crime continues to grow in power and influence.

Addressing human trafficking requires a comprehensive and coordinated global response. Stronger international cooperation is essential to track and dismantle trafficking networks that operate across borders. Governments must also strengthen their legal frameworks, ensure victim-centered approaches that prioritize rehabilitation and reintegration, and invest in tackling the root causes of vulnerability, such as poverty, inequality, and lack of education. At the same time, awareness campaigns, community engagement, and partnerships with civil society organizations are critical to prevention efforts.

Ultimately, combating human trafficking is not only a matter of law enforcement but also a matter of protecting human dignity. By addressing the economic, social, and political factors that enable trafficking, and by ensuring that survivors receive justice and support, the international community can move closer to eradicating one of the most heinous crimes in modern society.

Key questions:

1. What national laws or policies exist in your country to prevent human trafficking, protect victims, and prosecute traffickers?
2. What main factors make your country a place of origin, transit, or destination for victims of human trafficking?
3. How is human trafficking in your country connected to other crimes like drug trafficking, smuggling, or corruption?
4. Are victims in your country treated mainly as survivors in need of protection, or are they often criminalized and marginalized?
5. Does your country focus more on punishing traffickers or on addressing deeper causes such as poverty, inequality, and migration, and how effective has this been

References:

1. United Nations. (2019). *Understanding human trafficking* | United Nations. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/en/peace-and-security/understanding-human-trafficking>
2. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2024). *The crime*. United Nations : Office on Drugs and Crime. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/crime.html>
3. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2019). *Global report on trafficking in persons*. Unodc.org; United Nations. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/global-report-on-trafficking-in-persons.html>

Upload your position paper via the following link. Deadline: October 8th

 [Position paper.](#)

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