



# General Assembly

Directed By: Alexander Jonas

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## TSMUN XXII BACKGROUND GUIDE 2018

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**Topic I: Promoting Sustainability in Developing Regions**  
**Topic II: Combatting Illicit Drug Trafficking**



Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2018 Tallahassee Southern Model United Nations Conference (TSMUN)! We are proud and excited to serve as the committee staff in the United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA). My name is Alexander Jonas, and I will be serving as the Director of GA.

Alexander Jonas holds an AA from Tallahassee Community College, and is currently in his senior year at Florida State University, finishing his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and International Affairs. I have been a part of the Tallahassee Community College Model United Nations team for two years, and I have attended two NMUN New York conferences at the collegiate level as well as serving as an Assistant Director of GA at TSMUN 2017.

The topics under discussion for the United Nations General Assembly are:

1. Promoting Sustainability in Developing Regions
2. Combatting Illicit Drug Trafficking

With membership guaranteed to all Member States, the General Assembly serves as the United Nations' pinnacle forum for all diplomatic issues. Covering the widest varieties of topics, the General Assembly plays a major role in setting standards across the United Nations as well as across the globe.

Delegates are encouraged to do their own research independent to this Background Guide. Although it will serve as an introduction to the topics, their history, and their status, nothing can replace independent research. Please note that in preparation for the Conference, every delegation will submit a Position Paper prior to the beginning of the Committee's first session.

If you have any further questions regarding the conference, you are more than welcome to contact the Secretary General John Griffin, at [sg@tsmun.org](mailto:sg@tsmun.org), or Director Alexander Jonas, at [ga@tsmun.org](mailto:ga@tsmun.org).

We hope that you have a fun and informative experience, and wish you all good luck!

Alexander Jonas, Director of the General Assembly  
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## Committee Overview

### *Introduction*

Holding the position of the UN's most expansive and open committee, the GA serves as a forum for discussion on a multitude of topics, and grants committee membership to all 193 UN Member States, as well as certain non-governmental organizations (NGOs), intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), and the two current UN Observer States, The Holy See and Palestine.<sup>1</sup> The GA has the power to discuss any questions or any matters within the scope of the present Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any organs provided for in the present Charter.<sup>2</sup> This high-level of inclusivity creates the appropriate setting for all Member States and relevant entities to discuss a plethora of varying issues. The GA is comprised of 6 different committees, but for the purpose of this conference, we will only discuss the focuses of two.<sup>3</sup> This committee will be based on the focuses of the GA First and Second Committees. The First Committee deals with disarmament, global challenges and threats to peace that affect the international community, and seeks out solutions to the challenges in the international security regime.<sup>4</sup> This committee's second topic, Combatting Illicit Drug Trafficking, falls directly under GA First's parameter. The Second Committee deals with Economic and Financial issues.<sup>5</sup> This includes macroeconomic policy questions and focuses on the economic development of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs).<sup>6</sup> This committee's first topic, Promoting Sustainability in Developing Regions, is an issue that is primed for the GA Second Committee.

### *Committee Mandate*

According to the UN, The GA is the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN.<sup>7</sup> Comprising all Members of the UN, it provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the Charter.<sup>8</sup> The Assembly meets in regular session intensively from September to December each year, and thereafter as required.<sup>9</sup> The premise of the General Assembly is to ensure and strengthen international peace and security through an open forum for diplomatic issues.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Charter of the United Nations, Art. 9.

<sup>2</sup> Charter of the United Nations, Art. 10.

<sup>3</sup> UN General Assembly, Main Committees.

<sup>4</sup> UN General Assembly, First Committee.

<sup>5</sup> UN General Assembly, Second Committee.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Dag Hammarskjöld Library, What is the Mandate of the General Assembly?.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Charter of the United Nations, Art. 11.



## I. Promoting Sustainability in Developing Regions

### *Introduction*

Defined by the UN as: “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs,”<sup>11</sup> the UN has made an explicit effort to promote sustainable development over the last couple of decades, promoting development in economic and social fields, while simultaneously preserving the sanctity of the global environment.<sup>12</sup> Having become a prevalent global issue of growing concern, the international community has shown that it is willing to prioritize the integration of sustainable practices and economic development.

This international commitment was established at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, also known as the Rio Earth Summit.<sup>13</sup> It was at this historic summit that leaders from across the globe, under immense pressure, acknowledged the need to take environmental protection into consideration when putting in place any economic or social policies.<sup>14</sup> In 2000, the UN decided to adopt eight goals, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), to be reached by the year 2015. The seventh of these goals was to “Ensure Environmental Sustainability.”<sup>15</sup> Once again, this showed the UN’s commitment to prioritizing sustainability throughout the future. Two years later, the UN would host the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. It was at this summit that the Member States would finally begin to commit to sustainability goals that had set end-dates and metrics in mind.<sup>16</sup> Gaining momentum in the global theatre, sustainability would seemingly become one of, if not the most sought-after goal for the UN. Finally taking steps towards sustainability policies and practices, Member States began to believe that development that encouraged sustainability was actually a feasible goal.

With sustainability’s momentum continuing to grow in 2012, UN Member States would once again meet in Rio de Janeiro, 20 years after the first UNCED. Dubbed Rio+20 UNCED, Member States would once again discuss and debate methods and logistics to further push sustainability policies. With the MDGs expiring in 2015, the delegates at Rio+20 UNCED decided to begin the process for a new set of goals.<sup>17</sup> These goals would go on to become the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).<sup>18</sup> Officially adopted in 2015, the SDGs would prove that sustainability officially occupied the forefront of the UN’s policy and agenda.

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<sup>11</sup> "Topic." International Institute for Sustainable Development. Accessed September 01, 2017

<sup>12</sup> UN General Assembly, President of the 65<sup>th</sup> Session, Main Issues (Sustainable Development).

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> UNCED, Earth Summit, 1997.

<sup>15</sup> UN, Millennium Development Goals

<sup>16</sup> UN General Assembly, President of the 65<sup>th</sup> Session, Main Issues (Sustainable Development).

<sup>17</sup> UN Sustainable Development, United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.



## ***International Framework***

Throughout the years, the UN has made a strong effort to promote sustainability through resolutions, plans, goals, world summits, and agreements. This plethora of international policy and cooperation has set the framework for sustainable development across the globe. The last few decades of international meetings and conferences have produced a slew of plans and resolutions, including several adopted by the GA Second Committee in its 71<sup>st</sup> session.<sup>19</sup>

Among these adopted was resolution 71/222, a resolution that magnifies the importance of prioritizing the sustainable development of water resources throughout the future.<sup>20</sup> The economics and finance of sustainability also played a key part in the session's discussion on sustainability. Calling for the private sector to take a lead role in sustainability, the GA adopted resolution 71/221, recognizing the value and need for entrepreneurship and trade to continue pushing sustainability across the globe.<sup>21</sup> The GA also turned a keen-eye towards the current and future debt that would be accumulated by developing countries through the process of development and acknowledges this potential crisis, as well as offering a few suggestions to mitigate the threat through resolution 71/216.<sup>22</sup> The resolution stresses the need for comprehensive debt information-sharing, improved debt monitoring systems, increased multilateral cooperation, and potential zero-interest loans.<sup>23</sup>

The UN has also set a strong precedent through several international agreements that came to fruition at world summits. At the initial UNCED, Member States adopted *Agenda 21*.<sup>24</sup> This agenda covered four main areas of concern, social and economic dimensions, conservation and management of resources for development, strengthening the role of major groups, and means of implementation. This set a framework for four broad areas of focus that would help facilitate sustainable development.<sup>25</sup> Sustainable development would receive further magnification at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development. After 11 days of diplomacy and 17 meetings, the international community decided to adopt the *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation*.<sup>26</sup> The plan expanded the focus of *Agenda 21* from four focal points to nine, consisting of more comprehensive plans of action and laid out a higher quality plan of action for worldwide sustainable development.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> UN Dag Hammarskjöld Library, *Regular Sessions, 71<sup>st</sup> Session (2016-2017)*.

<sup>20</sup> UN General Assembly, *International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028 (A/RES/71/222)*, 2017.

<sup>21</sup> UN General Assembly, *Entrepreneurship for sustainable development (A/RES/71/221)*, 2017.

<sup>22</sup> UN General Assembly, *External debt sustainability, and development (A/RES/71/216)*, 2017.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>24</sup> UN General Assembly, *President of the 65th Session, Main Issues (Sustainable Development)*.

<sup>25</sup> UN, *Agenda 21*.

<sup>26</sup> UN, *World Summit on Sustainable Development*.

<sup>27</sup> UN, *Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development*.



More recent international framework on sustainable development includes the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, of which the SDGs are a part of and the *Paris Agreement*. This groundbreaking agenda would essentially make the UN's prioritization of sustainable development official. Adopted in 2015, the agenda asserts the UN's commitment to sustainable development over the next decade and a half and implies that sustainable development should be an international goal throughout the foreseeable future. The *Paris Agreement*, however, is a far more specific agreement in comparison to the aforementioned agreements, plans, and resolutions. Whereas the other adopted plans gave a much broader take on sustainable development, the *Paris Agreement* concerns itself solely with greenhouse gas (GGG) emissions, global temperature, and climate change.<sup>28</sup> Consisting of goals that are entirely self-imposed, this groundbreaking agreement was signed by 195 of 197 Member States, indicating that 195 Member States now have self-appointed goals and blueprints regarding gradual GGG emission reductions.<sup>29</sup>

### ***Case Study: Chile***

Blessed with an ideal and unique geographical position for renewable energy production, Chile has made it a priority to implement several green energy initiatives. Chile shows high potential in the solar, biomass, wind, geothermal, and hydroelectric sectors, and may prove to be a Rosetta Stone for future renewable energy investments and implementations. There's no doubt as to why Chile is attempting to get its foot in the door and establish itself as a world leader in clean energy. A story of success, failure, then success again, up until the dawn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Chile produced up to 70 percent of its own energy, with a heavy dependence on the hydroelectric sector.<sup>30</sup> After a series of droughts dried up the hydroelectric sector, Chile decided to turn to energy imports.<sup>31</sup> This decision left Chile in the same vulnerable position as before. Relying heavily on energy imports, an unanticipated shift in global energy trends or prices could crash Chile's energy sector.<sup>32</sup> It was at this point in the early 2000's that Chile realized that its safest bet was to diversify its energy sector with domestic renewable energy sources.<sup>33</sup> In 2008, Chile pushed legislation that set an energy quota of 10 percent renewable energy by 2024, but updated legislation has increased this number to 20 percent by 2025.<sup>34</sup> This quota was to be met by establishing yearly milestones, starting in 2013.<sup>35</sup> The gradual implementation of the energy quota started with a 5 percent base in 2013, with a 1 percent yearly increase until 2020.<sup>36</sup> After that, a 1.5 percent yearly increase until 2024 would put the country at 18 percent, with a final 2 percent increase in 2025 to put Chile at an energy production of 20 percent through renewable energy resources.<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, *Paris Agreement*.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> Georgetown Journal of International Affairs, *Chile: A Role Model For A Smooth Transition To Renewable Energy*.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>34</sup> IRENA, *Renewable Energy Policy Brief (Chile)*, 2015.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.



Chile has also done an exceptional job of implementing renewable energy without amassing heavy debt. Chile began incentivizing the private sector to shift its gears towards clean energy by enacting a carbon tax in 2014.<sup>38</sup> Although the national government has made it a priority, there are no subsidy programs directed towards electricity produced with renewable sources.<sup>39</sup> National subsidies for renewable energy are instead invested in the research of renewable energy technology.<sup>40</sup> How then has Chile been so successful in its renewable energy endeavors? The answer lies in its successful venture to attract investors, while simultaneously delivering on projects. Chile has put together a variety of public-private partnerships in the energy sector and has collected over nine billion dollars USD worth of project commitments.<sup>41</sup> Chile has also seen exponential growth as far as energy sector investments. They amassed \$212 million in investments in 2011, \$933 million in 2012, \$3.1 billion in 2013, and \$3.4 billion in 2014.<sup>42</sup>

The influx in investor trust and capital is also due in part to the restructuring of their energy power auctions, which are used as a competitive method of awarding energy projects to the bid-winning investment groups.<sup>43</sup> The recent restructuring of these auctions has favored the renewable energy department. The auctions have been more inclusive to these groups, and recent trends show that they've had the advantage in successful project bids.<sup>44</sup> The move has allowed foreign and domestic companies to take complete advantage of a global drop in the cost of producing renewable energy.<sup>45</sup> Notable energy companies from Spain and Ireland have been among the beneficiaries of the recent global energy trend, as well as from the Chilean energy structure.<sup>46</sup> Another notable beneficiary of these trends is the Chilean copper industry.<sup>47</sup> With Chile being Earth's leader in copper production, their potential transition to running primarily on clean energy would be a massive victory for the renewable energy sector.<sup>48</sup> Consuming approximately one-third of the country's energy, yet currently supplying less than one-tenth of that with renewable sources, Chile's copper industry is looking towards the clean energy sector in hopes of reduced power costs.<sup>49</sup>

## ***Conclusion***

Considering the current state of our shared global environment, it is vital that all states, both developed and developing, put forth effort to ensure that all development will be pursued with sustainable methods. The UN has made sustainability its highest priority and has even laid out blueprint like milestones with the adoption of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and

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<sup>38</sup> Ibid.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> World Bank, *Infrastructure and Public-Private Partnerships, Chile rethinks renewables and gets results* 2016.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>43</sup> Georgetown Journal of International Affairs, *Chile: A Role Model For A Smooth Transition To Renewable Energy*.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

<sup>45</sup> Reuters, *Exclusive: Chile copper firms try to rejig contracts to tap renewable energy*, 2017.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.



the SDGs. All Member States are encouraged to explore sustainability through current popular methods, as well as promoting the research of innovative clean energy technologies. Developing states may experience an easier path to sustainability by strengthening current socio-political institutions, as well as enhancing government transparency for the purpose of attracting potential investors. Member States on all ends of the economic spectrum may find that sustainability can best be achieved through the focus of these three fields: Strengthening socio-political institutions to ensure the implementation of social sustainability programs, maintain an educated population to increase domestic awareness of sustainable practices and their societal benefits, and optimize the use of current renewable energy sources, as well as researching more practical and cost-effective methods of implementing green energy technology.<sup>50</sup>

## I. Combatting Illicit Drug Trafficking

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<sup>50</sup> Georgetown Journal of International Affairs, *Chile: A Role Model For A Smooth Transition To Renewable Energy*.



## ***Introduction***

With an estimated value of over \$300 billion, the worldwide trafficking of illegal drugs is the most lucrative illicit industry on Earth.<sup>51</sup> The overwhelming amount of money that is funneled in and out of this illicit industry has made it a very difficult problem to stymie. The issue is one that has persisted all across the globe, with production and cultivation being predominantly in developing regions, while drug demand appears mostly in developed states.<sup>52</sup> Another dilemma with this topic is its violent tendencies, from both the traffickers and law enforcement.

Recently, Asia has experienced an increase in drug abuse, and it has imposed a heavy strain on the societal and domestic institutions of many Member States.<sup>53</sup> Executions of drug smugglers are also extremely prevalent in Asia, with 28 of the 32 Member States that perform these executions being Asian.<sup>54</sup> Over the last decade, Asia has executed several thousand criminals with ties to drug trafficking, a culmination of the attrition that this illegal industry has imposed on Asian society.<sup>55</sup>

In the Americas, the drug trade has also taken its toll. Drug cartels in South and Central America have become so rich and powerful that they've been able to challenge the sovereignty of several states. In Honduras, the violent and overwhelming growth of the drug trade, and more specifically, drug cartels, have caused an abnormally high rate of government turnover.<sup>56</sup> The reason for this may lie in the overall strength of the state's law enforcement and executive institutions, versus the strength of the cartels' organizational structure and socio-political institutions. The South American state of Colombia dealt with a similar institutional battle against drug cartels.<sup>57</sup> The most prevalent issue that these states had was in attempting to enforce the narcotic laws on these high-level organizations, without having a high enough capacity to compete with the drug industry's structure. Contrary to popular belief, the illicit drug industry has an incredibly sophisticated and complex structure. After all, an industry cannot grow to a value of over \$300 billion without a competent and intelligent business structure.

The power and overall worth of this industry can also be observed in the Middle East. Afghanistan is the undisputed leader in opium poppy cultivation, the plant base for heroin.<sup>58</sup> In 2015 alone, Afghanistan produced close to two-thirds of the world's opium poppy cultivation, and experienced an annual value around \$28 billion from one route alone.<sup>59</sup> This value came from the Balkan route,

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<sup>51</sup> National Geographic, *How the Cocaine Trade Affects Everyone's Lives*, 2015.

<sup>52</sup> UNODC, *World Drug Report, Global Overview of Drug Demand and Supply (Figure 5)*, 2017.

<sup>53</sup> National Institute on Drug Abuse, *Social Consequences of Drug Abuse in South Asia*, 2009.

<sup>54</sup> The Economist, *Which countries have the death penalty for drug smuggling?* 2015.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid.

<sup>56</sup> U.S. Department of State, *Honduras, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (2014 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report)*, 2014.

<sup>57</sup> Business Insider, *Pablo Escobar's death cleared the way for a much more sinister kind of criminal in Colombia*, 2017.

<sup>58</sup> UNODC, *West and Central Asia*, 2015.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid.



a route that links Afghanistan to their biggest market, Europe.<sup>60</sup> The \$28 billion produced in that route is approximately an entire third larger than the entire Afghani gross domestic product (GDP).<sup>61</sup> This further shows the difficulty that many developing states may have in stopping illicit drug trafficking, seeing as many of these sub-organizations may have close to, if not more, resources at their disposal. That is why it is absolutely vital for developing states in particular to strengthening the government institutions delegated the responsibility of slowing and stopping the illicit trafficking of drugs. Otherwise, it will continue to prove difficult to impossible to stop the trade of illegal drugs if a state does not have the necessary resources or structure to compete with Earth's most lucrative illicit industry.

### ***International Framework***

Over the last few decades, the UN has adopted three major drug control treaties.<sup>62</sup> These treaties are mainly comprised of the definition and acknowledgement of modern-day drugs, both legal and illicit. The three treaties focus on the availability of needed pharmaceutical drugs, as well as the control and prevention of the illicit drug industry.<sup>63</sup> The first of the major UN drug control treaties came in 1961, at the *Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs*.<sup>64</sup> This treaty was followed by the treaty put together at the 1971 *Convention on Psychotropic Substances*, as well as by the 1988 treaty at the *UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances*.<sup>65</sup> The UN also recently passed a resolution on international drug control cooperation, at the 71<sup>st</sup> session of the GA Second Committee.<sup>66</sup> Resolution 71/211 reiterates the importance of diplomacy and international cooperation in the war on drugs.<sup>67</sup> The resolution also called for more sophisticated analysis of drug statistics, including the social variables linked to the trade.<sup>68</sup>

The UN also has several subsidiary bodies that attempt to tackle the international problem of illicit drug trafficking. The biggest UN body delegated the responsibility of fighting drug control is the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).<sup>69</sup> One of the biggest multilateral organizations devoted to preventing drug trafficking, the UNODC assists all member states in areas of crime prevention.<sup>70</sup> This assistance is most notable in the strength of the body's structure, making information relay quick and accessible.<sup>71</sup> The most valuable asset that the UNODC has to offer is its unmatched access to diplomacy and multilateral efforts. This allows the UNODC to implement successful methods from anywhere in the world. For example, a Member State in South America can quickly analyze the success and failures of certain implementation methods in Asia.

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<sup>60</sup> Ibid.

<sup>61</sup> Ibid.

<sup>62</sup> UNODC, *Legal Framework for Drug Trafficking*, 2017.

<sup>63</sup> Ibid.

<sup>64</sup> Ibid.

<sup>65</sup> Ibid.

<sup>66</sup> UN General Assembly, *Resolutions (71<sup>st</sup> Session)*, 2017.

<sup>67</sup> UN General Assembly, *International cooperation to address and counter the world drug problem (A/RES/71,211)*, 2016.

<sup>68</sup> Ibid.

<sup>69</sup> UNODC, *About UNODC*, 2017.

<sup>70</sup> Ibid.

<sup>71</sup> Ibid.



The UN also has the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND).<sup>72</sup> The CND serves as a diplomatic body that is completely focused on the illicit drug trade. Comprised of 53 Member States appointed by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), their main purpose is to convene and debate the current state of the illicit drug trade and can adopt and recommend solutions and suggestions to the GA.<sup>73</sup> The UN has also instilled the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB).<sup>74</sup> The committee was put together for the purpose of monitoring and ensuring the implementation of the conventions, while simultaneously handling the statistical data on drug control turned in by the Member States.<sup>75</sup> The committee is comprised of 13 elected Member States, which turn in an annual report to the CND and ECOSOC.<sup>76</sup> Overall, the international framework for preventing illicit drug trafficking tends to promote diplomacy and multilateral efforts, while also carrying an emphasis on information sharing.

### ***Case Study: Mexico***

Serving as the final link to the United States for cartels in South and Central America, Mexico has seen an influx of illicit drug cartels since the 2000's.<sup>77</sup> Considering its shared border with the United States, one can easily understand why the illicit drug industry holds a value upwards of \$20 billion, and has seen American powers invest billions into preventing its growth.<sup>78</sup> As previously mentioned, with such a high value on this industry, the cartels have proven to be difficult to deter. Crime and murder rates skyrocketed, with tens of thousands of homicides in the last decade.<sup>79</sup> Although there has been a reported 30 percent decrease in homicide rates under current Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto's administration, Mexico is on pace to break its modern homicide rate record.<sup>80</sup> Mexican presidential candidate, Luis Ernesto Derbez, believes that investing in the police force may help lead the victory against the drug cartels.<sup>81</sup>

Derbez has indicated that he would like to raise law enforcement salaries to around \$1,410 a month, whereas the current entry-level salary for police officers sits at approximately \$588 a month.<sup>82</sup> It is also very common for police officers in the poorer Mexican states to earn close to half of entry level salary.<sup>83</sup> Derbez also explored the idea of granting the families of law enforcement officers healthcare, viewing this, as well as a hefty raise in salary, as a potential deterrent of law enforcement corruption.<sup>84</sup> His strategy is to strengthen the institution of Mexican law enforcement, by increasing pay, benefits, and public trust.

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<sup>72</sup> UNODC, *Legal Framework for Drug Trafficking*, 2017.

<sup>73</sup> Ibid.

<sup>74</sup> Ibid.

<sup>75</sup> Ibid.

<sup>76</sup> Ibid.

<sup>77</sup> Council on Foreign Relations, *Mexico's Drug War*, 2017

<sup>78</sup> CNN, *Mexico Drug War Fast Facts*, 2017.

<sup>79</sup> Ibid.

<sup>80</sup> Reuters, *Mexico must pay police much more to end violence: presidential candidate*, 2017.

<sup>81</sup> Ibid.

<sup>82</sup> Ibid.

<sup>83</sup> Ibid.

<sup>84</sup> Ibid.



Mexico has even mobilized its military to place an emphasis on the domestic capture of illicit drug traffickers and their resources.<sup>85</sup> In December 2006, then Mexican President Felipe Calderon had decided that it was time to take on the drug cartels with firepower.<sup>86</sup> The number of military members deployed to combat drug cartels more than doubled, seeing an increase of 20,000 to 50,000 soldiers.<sup>87</sup> The military, however, has recently shared their displeasure with these assignments, arguing that the job is better fit for law enforcement, rather than the military.<sup>88</sup> Many would argue that Calderon's aggressive strategy created a vacuum in cartel leadership, with Calderon's administration capturing or killing 25 of the 37 most wanted cartel leaders.<sup>89</sup> This sudden loss in leadership led to a power scramble, with a massive increase in violence, and a splintering of large drug organizations.<sup>90</sup> Mexico has even had many holders of public office kidnapped and extorted since the creation of the leadership vacuum.<sup>91</sup> Close to 100 mayors and former mayors were targeted by the cartels since Calderon's first term.<sup>92</sup>

A quick solution must be found, however, if there's any chance of slowing the violence. Violent confrontations between the country's cartels and its military have been a subject of public focus after their clash in the nation's capital, Mexico City.<sup>93</sup> The confrontation took place on July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017, in one of the poorer boroughs of Mexico City.<sup>94</sup> Although President Peña Nieto had decided to take a slightly different approach than Calderon, focusing on protecting civilians rather than hunting the heads of the cartels, he has continued to use the military as his driving force against the drug traffickers.<sup>95</sup> Peña Nieto's administration initially had some success in reducing violence around the nation, another power vacuum may have Mexico in store for a long year of drug related violence.<sup>96</sup>

## ***Conclusion***

Combatting illicit drug trafficking has proven to be a very difficult problem to handle, across all scopes of Member States. The lucrative nature of the industry supplies many of these organizations with the funds and resources necessary to combat and evade law enforcement, even at the highest levels.<sup>97</sup> However, developing the Member States have a tougher time combatting these high-level organizations, many times lacking the funding and institutional structure necessary to put together a proper shut-down operation.<sup>98</sup> It is absolutely necessary to have strong organization and public trust in the local law enforcement institution and overall domestic rule of law. Without public trust,

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<sup>85</sup> Business Insider, *After a decade of fighting the cartels, Mexico may be looking for a way to get its military off the front line*, 2017.

<sup>86</sup> Ibid.

<sup>87</sup> Ibid.

<sup>88</sup> Ibid.

<sup>89</sup> Council on Foreign Relations, *Mexico's Drug War*, 2017.

<sup>90</sup> Ibid.

<sup>91</sup> Ibid.

<sup>92</sup> Ibid.

<sup>93</sup> NPR, *Violence from Mexico's Drug War Moves Into Mexico City*, 2017.

<sup>94</sup> Ibid.

<sup>95</sup> Council on Foreign Relations, *Mexico's Drug War*, 2017.

<sup>96</sup> Ibid.

<sup>97</sup> Ibid.

<sup>98</sup> Ibid.



it will be difficult to conduct operations to shut down drug trafficking activity, and may lead to the overall growth and recruitment of the very cartels that the Member States seek to extinguish.



Barrera, Adriana. Graham, Dave. Reuters, *Mexico must pay police much more to end violence: presidential candidate*, 2017. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mexico-politics-idUSKBN1AC3CP>

Charter of the United Nations, 1945. <http://www.un.org/en/charter-united-nations/>

CNN, *Mexico Drug War Fast Facts*, 2017. <http://www.cnn.com/2013/09/02/world/americas/mexico-drug-war-fast-facts/index.html>

Council on Foreign Relations, *Mexico's Drug War*, 2017. <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/mexicos-drug-war>

Dag Hammarskjöld Library, *Regular Sessions, 71<sup>st</sup> Session*, 2017. <http://research.un.org/en/docs/ga/quick/regular/71>

Dag Hammarskjöld Library, *What is the Mandate of the General Assembly?*, 2016. <http://ask.un.org/faq/14344>

General Assembly of the United Nations, *Main Committees*. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/maincommittees/index.shtml>

General Assembly of the United Nations, *Disarmament and International Security (First Committee)*. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/first/index.shtml>

General Assembly of the United Nations, *Economic and Financial (Second Committee)*. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/index.shtml>

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