



## UNODC: Commission on Narcotic Drugs

### I. Background

Narcotic drugs have been around for quite some time and have been used by humans for thousands of years. The use of narcotics can be dated back as far back as 4000 B.C. yet long ago though they were known as herbs for “home remedies” used to relieve pain. In the beginning natives discovered plants that contained alkaloid the key component to both cocaine and quinine. Originally cocaine was used by South American Indian chiefs as a form of medicinal drug. For a while, there were no restrictions against these drugs this was true and consistent for hundreds of years. But in continuing years the use of cocaine and other drugs would be exploited showing the negative effects of such drugs. By the 1900s, the illicit transportation of such drugs led this problem to become internationally recognized. The problem with narcotics was apparent when a startling statistic showed that there were about 250,000 addicts to narcotics in the United States alone. Measures to solve this problem were initiated by Nixon with his War on Drugs. Such tactics did lead to the decline in use of common drugs in the 1980s. However, the use of cocaine and marijuana increased and it is only recently that international cooperation has been used to solve this problem.

### II. UN Involvement

The first national law against drugs was the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906. And then in 1914, another act was passes but this one was against the commissioning of illegal drugs unless by licensed doctors and pharmacies. This was called the Harrison Narcotic Act. After Prohibition was provoked, a campaign was started by the U.S. Federal Bureau of Narcotics, which is now called the Drug Enforcement Administration. The campaign enforced that marijuana will lead people into narcotic addiction. As an effect to Nixon’s campaign, he passed the Comprehensive Drug Abuse and Control act. This act put restrictions to the drugs that were the most dangerous. This was later updated and possession was then made illegal. By 1970, there were over 55 federal drugs laws passed along with numerous state laws. In 1986 and 1988, Anti-Drug Abuse Acts were passed. These acts encouraged for increasing funding for treatment and rehabilitation. The Office of National control Policy was created by the 1988 Anti- Drug Abuse Act. The United Nations Office of drugs and Crime (UNODC) has developed the commission on narcotic drugs. The last time they met was during the 54th session in Vienna on March 21-2 of 2011. The next time they will meet will be in December 12-13 of 2011. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs is the main policy-making body that deals with drug related issues.

### III. Possible Solutions

Although Narcotic drugs have been around for a while, they haven’t been eliminated which means that solutions are still necessary. To combat the commission of narcotic drugs, some possible solutions can include forcing restrictions and laws on countries that forbid the commission on narcotic drugs. By placing regulations on this issue, it will become more difficult



for people to obtain and sell narcotic drugs. Countries should also implement checkpoints at borders so that people cannot get away with the narcotic drugs and therefore they will not be sold outside of the area that they were obtained from. Along with the laws, penalties will be enforced for those who do get caught. The penalties will not be subtle but they will be strict and in some cases harsh. Awareness also needs to be raised on the issue so that people do not come into contact with the commission of narcotic drugs or the narcotic drugs themselves.

#### **IV. Bloc Positions**

**Asian Bloc:** The commission and use of narcotic drugs in Asia is continuing to increase. Because of that, Central and West Asia are in agreement with the implementation of security, justice and development in at risk areas.

**Latin Bloc:** The Latin Bloc also has a high rate of selling and using of illegal drugs. Therefore, Latin America has contributed to the meeting of national drug law enforcement agencies (HONLEA) in order to prevent the commissioning of narcotic drugs to further expand.

**European Bloc:** There is a lot of the selling of illegal drugs in this region. The European Union has worked with UNODC to combat this issue. The European bloc has joined the 54<sup>th</sup> Commission on Narcotic Drugs and is highly against the commissioning of illegal drugs.

**African Bloc:** In east Africa, the use of heroin is increasing and so is the commission on narcotic drugs. Along with other regions, South and West Africa also want to implement the process of greater security to reduce and hopefully eventually eliminate the commissioning on narcotic drugs.

**Middle Eastern:** Synthetic drugs are continuing to increase in use in the Middle East. Along with all the other blocs, the Middle East is no enthusiast of the commissioning of narcotic drugs in their country. They also want to combat this issue so that it does not continue in their area.

#### **V. Guiding Questions**

1. Does your country agree or disagree with the commissioning of narcotic drugs? Why?
2. How will your country obtain funding in order for solutions to be carried out?
3. What solutions has your country come up with and with whom have they worked with?
4. Is your country affected greatly by this issue or is it not prominent in your country?