



General Assembly Third Committee  
**Topic 2: *Development as a Drug Control Strategy***<sup>1</sup>

26 September 2013

In 1997, the GA established the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to provide information about and help UN member states address international and domestic problems associated with drugs. In 2012, the UN estimated that the global drug trade industry was worth \$322 billion annually,<sup>2</sup> more than the gross domestic product (GDP) of 85 percent of the world's countries.<sup>3</sup> This makes it one of the largest industries in the world, second only to the global arms trade.<sup>4</sup>

According to the UNODC, the scale of the global drug trade is of concern for three reasons. First, “violent crime, much of it drug related ... has ballooned to global proportions [and...] is inflicting mayhem and scarring communities worldwide.”<sup>5</sup> Second, drug use and drug addiction are “health disorders” that, like other individual health problems, should be addressed so that people are able to live healthy and productive lives.<sup>6</sup> Third, drug production, trade, and use inhibits sustainable economic development by diverting money and energy from the production of necessary items such as food, clothing, and shelter, and from investment in new technologies. Drug growing areas are often underdeveloped, impoverished, lacking infrastructure, and even experience ethnic unrest.

According to the UNODC, the crime, health, and development effects of drugs are intertwined and can ultimately be traced back to poverty. This stance dates back to 1998, when the GA held a Special Session (UNGASS) on the World Drug Problem. At UNGASS, member states resolved to address the problems posed by drugs through a strategy of “alternative development,” which includes rural development measures within national

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<sup>1</sup> This background guide was written by Karen Adams, Montana Model UN Faculty Advisor, Kedra Hildebrand, and Nathan Bilyeu, with contributions from Samantha Stephens (2010) and Nicholas Potratz (2013). Copyright 2013 by Karen Ruth Adams.

<sup>2</sup> UN General Assembly, “Thematic Debate of the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Drugs and Crime as a Threat to Development,” United Nations, 26 June 2012, available at <http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/66/Issues/drugs/drugs-crime.shtml>.

<sup>3</sup> World Development Indicators Databank, “Gross Domestic Product 2012,” World Bank, 1 July 2013, <http://databank.worldbank.org/data/download/GDP.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> Quoted in “Stumbling in the Dark,” *Economist*, 28 July 2001, p. 1 of a 16-page “Survey” on illicit drugs.

<sup>5</sup> UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), “International cooperation can help tackle organized crime - UNODC head,” 18 October 2010, available at <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2010/October/international-cooperation-can-help-tackle-organized-crime-unodc-head.html?ref=fs1>

<sup>6</sup> UNODC, “Drug use prevention, treatment and care,” website, available at <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/drug-prevention-and-treatment/index.html>, accessed 19 October 2010.

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development contexts that recognize countries' socio-cultural characteristics. It is intended to take place in countries already taking action against drugs as part of a comprehensive method for addressing illicit drugs.<sup>7</sup>

In the 15 years since UNGASS, the UNODC has implemented alternative development strategies in six countries: Afghanistan, Bolivia, Colombia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, and Peru. The purpose of the programs is to give "farmers an economically viable, legal alternative to growing coca bush, opium poppy or cannabis plant."<sup>8</sup> Should the GA-3 encourage the UNODC to maintain and expand these programs to other countries? Alternatively, should continuing high levels of global production, trade, and use of drugs be seen as the failure of alternative development and, therefore, reason to develop other strategies to curb the use and address the effects of drugs?

### *History and Current Events*

To understand whether development reduces the production, trade, and use of drugs, it is important to understand the market for drugs. It is also important to consider the effects of drug production, trade, and use. Finally, one must understand the various strategies that have been proposed to reduce drug use, including sustainable and alternative development.

### The Market for Drugs

The market for drugs functions like any other market in that it is affected by supply and demand. In general, suppliers aim to "minimize their costs and maximize their profit."<sup>9</sup> Thus farmers often grow drug crops instead of other crops because they will receive a higher price. Similarly, drug traffickers generally take their supplies to the market where they are likely to obtain the best price. For example, between the late 1990s and late 2000s, the cocaine market in Europe nearly tripled due to the strong Euro, which allowed cocaine smugglers to charge almost twice as much as they could in the United States.<sup>10</sup> Drug users, too, are sensitive to price. When prices are low, it is less expensive to use drugs, so more people choose to do so. For example, when opium production increased in Afghanistan, heroin became more available and less expensive in Tajikistan, and there was a significant increase in the number of drug addicts.<sup>11</sup>

According to the UNODC, in 2011, between 167 and 315 million people used illicit drugs at least once. The number of "problem drug users," which is the more serious measure of drug use that requires rehabilitation, was estimated between 16 and 39 million users between the ages of 15 and 64. The drugs of choice vary between regions. Opiates are popular in Asia and Europe, while cocaine and cannabis are more often used in the Americas.<sup>12</sup>

The number of problem drug users has stabilized in recent years, although the number of total users has increased. The prevalence (number of users as a percentage of population) of cannabis, opioids, and opiates has increased since 2009, while cocaine, amphetamine type stimulants (ATS), and "ecstasy-group" substances has

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<sup>7</sup> UNODC, "UNGASS Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development," available at <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/alternative-development/ungass-action-plan-on-eradication-and-alternative-development.html?ref=menuseide>, accessed 19 October 2010.

<sup>8</sup> UNODC, "UNODC and Alternative Development," available at <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/alternative-development/index.html?ref=menuseide>, accessed 2 August 2013.

<sup>9</sup> "The Global Drugs Trade," *BBC News*, (2000), available at [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/static/in\\_depth/world/2000/drugs\\_trade/production/production.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/static/in_depth/world/2000/drugs_trade/production/production.stm)

<sup>10</sup> Henrique Almeida, "Cocaine Trade Scents Higher Profit in Europe," *Reuters*, (July 17, 2007), available at <http://www.reuters.com/article/inDepthNews/idUSL0991054520070717?>

<sup>11</sup> Catherine Davis, "Tajikistan's Battle with Addiction," *BBC News*, (June 6, 2000), available at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/774769.stm>

<sup>12</sup> UNODC, "World Drug Report 2013," available at [http://www.unodc.org/unodc/secured/wdr/wdr2013/World\\_Drug\\_Report\\_2013.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/secured/wdr/wdr2013/World_Drug_Report_2013.pdf)

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decreased. According to the 2013 World Drug Report (WDR), the amount of ATS seized during interdiction has increased, which experts posit means an increase in production, despite its decline in prevalence. In 2012, opium production reached record levels, even surpassing the previous 10 year high in 2007. One can attribute this increase primarily to Afghanistan and Myanmar, the two largest sources. Cocaine production has stabilized in recent years, with decreases in countries like Bolivia offset by increases in countries like Peru and Colombia. Because it is harder to know how much land is being used to grow cannabis and because of the relative ease with which ATS ingredients can be accessed, it is difficult to estimate trends in their production.<sup>13</sup>

### Effects of Drug Production, Trade, and Use

Although drug production, trade, and use all have costs for individuals and societies, the health effects of drug use are best known. Of particular concern is the connection between use of intravenous drugs such as heroin and diseases such as HIV/AIDS. In some countries, like Kenya, this has led governments to treat heroin use as a health issue, as opposed to a criminal issue. In 2010, Kenya began a program similar to those already used in countries like Vietnam, in which the government distributes sterile needles to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS.<sup>14</sup>

One can summarize illicit drugs negative effects in three words: crime, corruption, and violence. Because it is illegal to produce, transport, and sell non-prescription drugs in most countries, carrying out any of these activities is a crime, and often lead to other crimes like money laundering. Yet, because there is such high demand for drugs, especially in developed countries, it is lucrative to break the law. Over time, profits from doing so accumulate to the point that well-organized criminal networks develop. These networks have the cash to pay bribes to law enforcement officials to look the other way and to entice people to produce drugs. This connection between drugs and crime is why the UNODC – which addresses both problems -- was founded. Over time, these criminal networks have grown from small local operations to international drug cartels that systematically undermine the capacity of states to regulate their societies, police their borders, and protect their citizens. Thus the connection between drugs and crime also leads to human rights abuses.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, decades of drug trafficking have fueled violent crime and have made economic development extremely difficult. Central America has been especially affected. Known as a “drug pipeline” because of the drug traffickers based there who connect South American growers to North American consumers, the region has experienced soaring homicide rates, small arms trade and youth violence.<sup>15</sup>

In recent years, there has also been a significant increase in drug trafficking in Africa. African states are havens for drug traffickers seeking to meet the demand for cocaine in Europe and North America due to their easily bribed officials and unpatrolled borders. At least 33 tons of cocaine, a drug that is not produced in Africa, were seized in the region between 2005 and 2007 -- a figure that according to UNODC is just the “tip of the ice-burg” of how much cocaine is actually passing through Africa.<sup>16</sup>

Sometimes, states crack down on drug production and trade to weaken their internal opponents. For example, Myanmar’s declaration that it will be opium-free by 2014 was seen by many observers as a way to justify violence against ethnic minorities whose incomes and ability to protect themselves from the government depend on the drug.<sup>17</sup> According to the UNODC, Myanmar’s anti-drug efforts have led to an increase in human trafficking, drug abuse, and environmental destruction.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> UNODC, “World Drug Report 2013.”

<sup>14</sup> IRIC, “Kenya: Needles to be distributed to Injecting Drug Users,” UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 7 July 2012, available at <http://www.irinnews.org/report/95601/kenya-needles-to-be-distributed-to-injecting-drug-users>.

<sup>15</sup> UNODC, “Annual Report, 2008: Covering Activities in 2007,” pp. 37-38, available at [http://www.unodc.org/documents/about-unodc/AR08\\_WEB.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/about-unodc/AR08_WEB.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> UNODC, “Annual Report, 2008,” pp. 31 and 37.

<sup>17</sup> Thomas Fuller, “Crackdown Spurs a Heroin Clearance Sale in Southeast Asia,” *New York Times*, 30 September 30, 2009, available at <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/01/world/asia/01iht-drugs.html>

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### Strategies for Reducing the Drug Trade

Concerted international efforts to stop the production and sale of illicit drugs began in the 1970s. Even with international cooperation however, it has been difficult to develop policies that target both drug users and drug suppliers. There are four basic strategies for reducing the production, trade, and use of drugs:

- Source-country control, such as crop eradication and promotion of alternative crops. Eradication is carried out by burning or cutting fields, or by spreading chemical herbicides.
- Interdiction, such as seizing drugs in transit and at international borders.
- Domestic enforcement, such as seizing drugs in the hands of users and punishing users.
- Prevention programs and treatment of heavy users.<sup>19</sup>

The majority of drug trafficking regulation is aimed at stopping drug producers (source-country control) and traffickers (interdiction). Yet according to many observers, the drug trade will end only with decline in the demand for illicit drugs (domestic enforcement and treatment of heavy users).

In the 1980s and 1990s, the US Drug Enforcement Agency reconfigured US drug control policy to focus on source country control, with an emphasis on crop eradication and legal crackdowns on growers, as opposed to interdiction at its own borders.<sup>20</sup> According to RAND, a US think tank, in 1994, the US spent \$13 billion on cocaine control alone. Of that, just seven percent was being used for treatment of heavy users. RAND contends it would be more effective for the US to reduce its spending on supply control programs and expand funding for prevention and rehabilitation.<sup>21</sup>

To address drug demand internationally, the UNODC has developed prevention programs for young people and workplace environments.<sup>22</sup> The UNODC also created "Treatnet," a network of treatment and rehabilitation centers serving all of the regions of the world, regardless of the resources found in those regions. Treatnet has been funded by developed countries, especially Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, and the US.<sup>23</sup>

On the supply side, in addition to development programs like alternative development, the UNODC has established programs to help countries interdict drug traffickers. In 2006, "Data for Africa" was established to monitor and maintain records about drugs and crime in Africa.<sup>24</sup> In 2007, a number of UN member states, including

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<sup>18</sup> UNODC, "Myanmar," available at <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/alternative-development/Myanmarprogramme.html>, accessed 4 August 2013.

<sup>19</sup> Peter Rydell and Susan Everingham, "Controlling Cocaine: Supply Versus Demand Programs," *Rand Monograph Report*, 1994, available at [http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/monograph\\_reports/2006/RAND\\_MR331.pdf](http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/monograph_reports/2006/RAND_MR331.pdf).

<sup>20</sup> Nicholas Burns, "Future Engagement and Partnership with Latin America," *U.S. Department of State*, (November 20, 2006), available online at <http://2001-2009.state.gov/p/us/rm/2006/76431.htm> See also Simon Romero, "Ecuador Opposes Outpost in American War on Drugs," *The New York Times*, (May 12, 2008), available online at [http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/12/world/americas/12manta.html?\\_r=1&scp=1&sq=US%20and%20Latin%20America%20war%20on%20drugs&st=cse](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/12/world/americas/12manta.html?_r=1&scp=1&sq=US%20and%20Latin%20America%20war%20on%20drugs&st=cse)

<sup>21</sup> Rydell and Everingham, "Controlling Cocaine: Supply versus Demand Programs."

<sup>22</sup> UNODC, "Drug Abuse Prevention," (2008), available online at, <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/prevention/index.html>

<sup>23</sup> UNODC, "Treatnet," available at <http://www.unodc.org/treatment/en/drug-treatment-network---home-archive.html>

<sup>24</sup> UNODC, "Annual Report, 2008," p. 33.

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Slovenia, Turkey, Russia, South Korea, the US, and Iran worked with the UNODC to intercept shipments of chemicals used to make heroin from opium.<sup>25</sup>

### Alternative and Sustainable Development

In 1998, at the GA Special Session (UNGASS) on the World Drug Problem, UN member states resolved to use economic development to combat the world drug problem.<sup>26</sup> The idea of alternative development is compelling both because of its potential to reduce drug supplies and because of its potential to improve human lives and rights around the world by making economic growth less destructive and more sustainable.

Since the UN's establishment in 1945, member states have come to see development not only as a means to peace, but as good in itself and a fundamental human right. For example, in the 2000 Millennium Declaration, the GA declared that it would "spare no effort to free [people] from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty."<sup>27</sup> Prior to the Declaration, the idea of development went through several stages of progression over the years. In the 1950s and 1960s, development was defined in primarily national economic terms like rising gross domestic product (GDP). In the 1970s, development began to be measured in terms of benefits to individuals, measured by rising GDP per capita (per person) and social programs, such as education. During the 1980s and 1990s, it became obvious that development had to consider political factors such as good governance; otherwise the economic gains made in one decade could be wiped out by the political losses of another. .

Together, these refinements in the definition of development have resulted in the notion of "sustainable development." Today, most development agencies try to create developmental programs that advance individual well-being in ways that are economically, socially, politically, and environmentally sustainable so they can contribute to national and international progress for generations. The current importance of development to the international community is best highlighted by the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals in 2000.

### Does Development Reduce the Drug Problem?

Whether development makes any difference in the supply of and demand for drugs is a matter of debate. This is because technological improvements associated with economic development could increase the supply of drugs by making it easier to grow, manufacture, and trade them. In addition, rising incomes would increase the number of people who have money to purchase drugs. Also, skeptics of development as a drug control strategy point to Afghanistan, which continues to produce the vast majority of the world's opium despite major eradication efforts and development projects aiming to provide alternative sources of income for those cultivating the poppies used to make it.<sup>28</sup> In 2007, an Afghan farmer told NPR that although his poppy fields had been destroyed and although he was given wheat seed to plant, he would return to cultivating poppies because he would make less money growing anything else.<sup>29</sup>

Proponents of development as a drug control strategy also find confirmatory evidence in Afghanistan, in two ways. First, the provinces that continue to produce large volumes of poppy are those with the largest Taliban presence. They are where the most fighting is occurring and where the fewest development projects have been

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<sup>25</sup> Celestine Bohlen, "UN Progress on War on the Drug Trade," *International Herald Tribune*, October 7, 2008, available at <http://www.iht.com/articles/2008/10/07/europe/letter.php>

<sup>26</sup> Cindy S.J. Frazey, "The Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme: politics, policies and prospects for change," *International Journal of Drug Policy* 14:2 (April 2003), pp. 155-167.

<sup>27</sup> UN General Assembly, "United Nations Millennium Declaration," Resolution A/55/L.2, September 8, 2000, available at <http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm>

<sup>28</sup> UNODC, "World Drug Report 2013."

<sup>29</sup> National Public Radio, *All Things Considered: Teams Focus on Poppy Eradication in Afghanistan*, 31 August 2007 (Ed. 21:00-22:00 pm).

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attempted.<sup>30</sup> When it governed Afghanistan the Taliban strongly opposed poppy cultivation. But since the Taliban was deposed by the US in 2001, the Taliban has depended on drug revenues to finance its military operations.<sup>31</sup>

Second, from 2007 to 2012, Afghan production of opium fell 50 percent, from 7400 tons to 3700 tons respectively.<sup>32</sup> While Afghans themselves report fear of eradication as the primary reason (followed by governmental ban) for not cultivating poppy, Afghani farmers who do produce it cite problems like poverty, a lack of government assistance, and the high returns of poppy vis-à-vis other products (such as wheat) as their primary reason contributing to opium production. Although poor conditions account for part of the nadir in recent production that occurred in 2012, development efforts, like alternative development, are partially responsible for the country's general decline in production since 2007, especially in the largely poppy-free northern region of Afghanistan.<sup>33</sup>

According to the UNODC, whether farmers are willing to grow alternative crops depends on the existence of viable, marketable alternatives, as well as on funding to educate them about alternatives, support new production techniques, and help them find new markets. Where drug traffickers are well-entrenched, it may also be necessary to provide security to farmers and their families.<sup>34</sup> Whether and how this can be done by international organizations and other states depends on the willingness of the state in question to accept assistance.

Further evidence of the role of development in reducing the drug trade is found on the demand side. People use drugs for reasons beyond price. They also do so for personal reasons related to political, economic, and social problems. For example, when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, and people experienced the stress of political revolution, job loss, and dramatic social change, alcohol and tobacco use skyrocketed to such an extent that male life expectancy fell from 65 years in 1987 to just 58 years in 2003.<sup>35</sup> As a result, the Russian population is expected to be 20% smaller in 2050 than it is today.<sup>36</sup> According to researchers, the Russian men who have been most vulnerable to alcoholism have low levels of education and are unemployed.<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> UNODC, "World Drug Report 2009" United Nations, 24 June 2009, available at [https://www.unodc.org/documents/wdr/WDR\\_2009/WDR2009\\_eng\\_web.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/wdr/WDR_2009/WDR2009_eng_web.pdf).

<sup>31</sup> Gretchen Peters, "Taliban Drug Trade: Echoes of Colombia," *Christian Science Monitor*, 21 November 2006, available at <http://www.csmonitor.com/2006/1121/p04s01-wosc.html>

<sup>32</sup> UNODC, "World Drug Report 2013."

<sup>33</sup> Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Ministry of Counter Narcotics, "Afghanistan Opium Risk Assessment 2013," UNODC, April 2013, available at [http://www.unodc.org/documents/crop-monitoring/Afghanistan/ORAS\\_report\\_2013\\_phase12.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/crop-monitoring/Afghanistan/ORAS_report_2013_phase12.pdf); UNODC, "Afghanistan," United Nations, 2013, available at <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/alternative-development/Afghanistanprogramme.html>.

<sup>34</sup> UNODC, "Making a difference through Alternative Development," available at <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/alternative-development/making-a-difference-through-alternative-development.html>, accessed 2 August 2013.

<sup>35</sup> Irina Titova, "Russian Life Expectancy on Downward Trend," *St. Petersburg Times*, 17 January 2003, available at [http://www.sptimes.ru/index.php?action\\_id=2&story\\_id=9036](http://www.sptimes.ru/index.php?action_id=2&story_id=9036).

<sup>36</sup> Clifford J. Levy, "Russia Tries, Once Again, to Rein in Vodka Habit," *New York Times*, 2 November 2009, available at <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/03/world/europe/03alcohol.html?>

<sup>37</sup> Grace Wong, "Russia's bleak picture of health," CNN, 19 May 2009, available at <http://edition.cnn.com/2009/HEALTH/05/19/russia.health/index.html>

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Similarly, many observers attribute Thailand's high rate of drug use to pervasive corruption and political turmoil, which have made people feel hopeless. There, as young people have become addicted to alcohol and methamphetamines, national test scores have fallen and violent crime has surged.<sup>38</sup>

Regardless of the reasons people first use drugs, they may become addicted and require psychological and medical treatment to stop. When treatment programs are widely available, doing so is easier than when they are difficult to access or are stigmatized. Prevention programs, too, are important because addiction is difficult to break.<sup>39</sup> Such programs cost money, of course, and require political and social will to develop and administer.

This holistic view of drug production, trade, and use as something that is affected by international political, military, economic, and social forces is consistent with MDG 8, "developing a global partnership for development." According to MDG 8, if development is going to happen, developing countries need to do their part to create a cooperative environment, including providing foreign aid, foreign investment, and a reduction in trade barriers so developing country producers will be able to obtain fair prices for their goods and so developing country governments can provide services to their people.<sup>40</sup>

### *Previous Committee Work on this Topic*

Since 1945, the GA has played an important role in drafting treaties related to the drug trade and declaring them open for signature and ratification. For example, the UN facilitated the adoption of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and its subsequent protocols, as well as the Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971).<sup>41</sup> Most recently, in 1988, many UN member states signed and began to ratify the Convention against the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, which focuses on the connection between drugs and crime. This Convention includes provisions against money laundering and for extradition (transfer) of drug traffickers from one member state to another for legal proceedings.<sup>42</sup> In November 2000, this convention was followed by the broader Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which works to create unified procedures for dealing with criminal activity, including drug related crimes.<sup>43</sup>

In 1997, the GA founded the UNODC to help UN member states understand and respond to the related problems of crime and drugs. According to the UNODC, development is a critical component of any strategy to address these problems:

Almost 4.5 million people depend on income derived from the cultivation of illicit drug crops such as coca bush and opium poppy. In most cases, affected populations live below the poverty level ... and typically 50 per cent of their income comes from drug crop cultivation. ... In some countries, such as Colombia, many farmers have become mere employees of large commercial farms owned by drug traffickers. Moreover, farmers are continuously confronted with the threat of forced eradication of their illicit crops by

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<sup>38</sup> Thomas Fuller, "After Upheaval, Not All Is Well With Thai Youth," *New York Times*, 24 August 2010, available at [http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/25/world/asia/25iht-thai.html?ref=drug\\_abuse\\_and\\_traffic](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/25/world/asia/25iht-thai.html?ref=drug_abuse_and_traffic)

<sup>39</sup> Richard A. Freeman, "Lasting Pleasures, Robbed by Drug Abuse," *New York Times*, 30 August 2010, available at [http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/31/health/views/31mind.html?ref=drug\\_abuse\\_and\\_traffic](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/31/health/views/31mind.html?ref=drug_abuse_and_traffic)

<sup>40</sup> UN, "Millennium Development Goals: Goal 8," available at <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/global.shtml>

<sup>41</sup> United Nations, "United Nations Treaty Collection," [updated] 4 August 2013, available at <http://treaties.un.org/pages/Treaties.aspx?id=6&subid=A&lang=en>

<sup>42</sup> UNODC, "Convention against the Illicit Traffic in narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances," available at <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/illicit-trafficking.html>

<sup>43</sup> UNODC, "Convention against Transnational Organized Crime," available at <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/index.html>

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the Government, which exacerbates their precarious socio-economic condition. Given suitable alternatives and the necessary infrastructure, most families would gladly switch to other sources of income.<sup>44</sup>

In the 67<sup>th</sup> Session (2012-2013) of the UN General Assembly, Member States adopted two resolutions related to the issue of illicit drugs. Of these, Resolution 67/193, International Cooperation against the World Drug Problem, not only contains specific references to increasing efforts to address the supply, demand, and trafficking of illicit drugs, but calls for states to consider illegal drugs' effects on development and take action to implement alternative development, as well as broader development measures to stem the production and use of illicit drugs. In addition the resolution calls for states to implement the Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,<sup>45</sup> which affirms the central role of development as a drug control strategy and a commitment to human rights in combating illicit drugs.<sup>46</sup>

In June 2012, Member States held a thematic debate on the effects of drugs on development. The objective of the debate was to encourage international actors to incorporate drug control into strategies that would facilitate the MDGs.<sup>47</sup> The talks occurred on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June, coinciding with the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. According to UNODC Executive Director Yury Fedotov, the UN sees controlling the drug trade as both necessary for further development and as an outcome of development.<sup>48</sup>

### Conclusion

Development is just one of several strategies that can be used to reduce drug production, trade, and use. To what extent, and where, should the GA encourage member states to promote development as a drug control strategy? Should it be the UN's main strategy for controlling drugs or as part of a strategy involving other efforts as well?

As you develop your country's position on this issue, consider the following questions:

- What role does your country play in the international drug trade? Is it primarily a consumer, a producer, or a place of transit? What historical, political, economic, and other factors have led it to play this role?
- What are the main drugs of concern in your country? What effects have they had on the people, the society, and the state? Is drug use rising or falling? What factors have led to this trend?
- If you are representing a developing country, what has been its progress on the MDGs, especially MDG 1 on poverty?
- If you are representing a developed country, what has been its progress on MDG 8 on international partnerships?
- Has your country ratified the international treaties related to drugs and crime? If not, why not? If so, is it in compliance with them?

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<sup>44</sup> UNODC, "Making a difference through Alternative Development."

<sup>45</sup> UN General Assembly Resolution 67/193 (2012), available at [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/67/193](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/67/193).

<sup>46</sup> UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (UNCND), "Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem," in *Report on the fifty-second session* (2009), Supplement No.8, pp. 37-44, available at <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2009/June/political-declaration-states-renew-commitment-to-eliminate-drug-abuse.html>.

<sup>47</sup> UN General Assembly, "Thematic Debate of the 66<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly on Drugs and Crime as a Threat to Development."

<sup>48</sup> UN News Centre, "UN anti-drugs chief: fightin crime and illicit drug trade must be on development agenda," United Nations, 26 June 2012, available at [http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=42324#.Uf\\_tjZLOsW6](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=42324#.Uf_tjZLOsW6).



## Montana Model UN High School Conference

- What, if any, actions has your country taken to address the spread of illicit drugs? Which or what combination of the four strategies mentioned in the RAND report does your country favor, and why?
- How much emphasis should the GA put on development as a drug control strategy compared to other strategies?
- With which countries and regions is your country most concerned? What sorts of development goals and strategies would your country support?

### *Recommended Reading*

BBC. "The Global Drugs Trade." 2000. Available at [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/static/in\\_depth/world/2000/drugs\\_trade/production/production.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/static/in_depth/world/2000/drugs_trade/production/production.stm)

This web site provides an interactive map that allows you to find out what relationship different regions in the world have with the drug trade.

United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (UNCND). "Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem." in *Report on the fifty-second session* (2009). p. 37-44. Available from [http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2009/June/political-declaration\\_-\\_states-renew-commitment-to-eliminate-drug-abuse.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2009/June/political-declaration_-_states-renew-commitment-to-eliminate-drug-abuse.html).

This declaration by a commission set up by the GA discusses the role of development in a comprehensive drug control strategy.

United Nations General Assembly. "International cooperation against the world drug problem." Resolution A/RES/67/193. December 2012. Available at <http://www.un.org/en/ga/67/resolutions.shtml>

This resolution will give you a good sense of what UN member states have recently agreed to with regard to drugs.

UN General Assembly. "Thematic Debate of the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Drugs and Crime as a Threat to Development." United Nations. 26 June 2012. Available at <http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/66/Issues/drugs/drugs-crime.shtml>.

Much like the resolution cited above, this source provides some background on the current perspective and discussion of the drug trade, particularly in relation to development. The source also includes a link to the GA President's summary of the discussion that took place at the thematic debate.

United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime. "World Drug Report 2012". Available from <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/fr/data-and-analysis/WDR-2012.html>.

This report summarizes the current status of the world drug problem and focuses more on the issue of development than does the 2013 World Drug Report. See also the UNODC's site on alternative development, which has links to projects in particular countries, <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/alternative-development/index.html>

United Nations Treaty Collection. "Chapter VI: Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances." Available at <http://treaties.un.org/pages/Treaties.aspx?id=6&subid=A&lang=en>

On this site, you can find out whether, and on what terms, your state has ratified the main treaties on drugs and crime.