

**Forum:** General Assembly 4th Committee

**Issue:** The Question of International Drug Control

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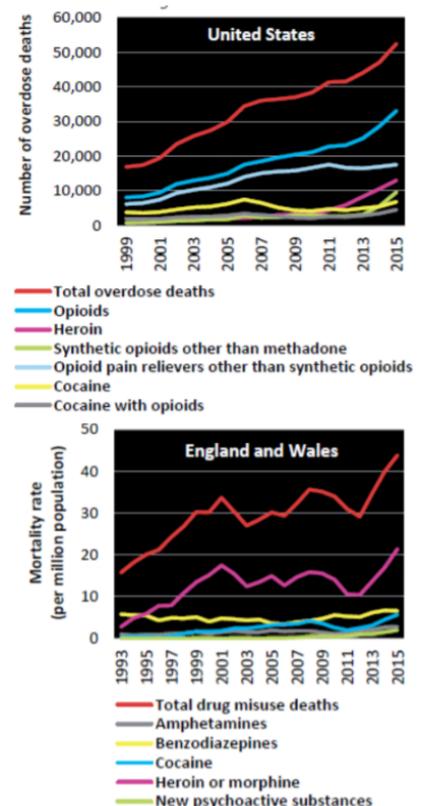
**Position:** Deputy Chair

## Introduction

Drugs are a growing international problem. Drug trafficking has increased slightly in 2015 and some drug markets, such as the cocaine and synthetic drug markets are growing.<sup>1</sup> Cocaine, heroin, and marijuana are the drugs being trafficked the most, affecting, for example, the United States of America, Africa, Mexico, and areas in Europe.<sup>2</sup> Drugs cause terrorism, corruption, illicit financial flows and organized crime. It has been estimated that transnational organized crime groups have generated between 20-30% of their revenues from selling drugs in 2014. In 2017 Europol found about 5000 international organized crime groups operating in European Union countries. It has been estimated that more than one-third of their businesses revolved around drug trafficking.<sup>3</sup>

It has been estimated that 250 million people aged 15-64 (1 in 20 people) have used drugs at least once in 2015. Drugs cause premature death and disability. It has been estimated that 28 million healthy years of life, DALYs, have been lost among the world's population due to drug use and 17 million as a result of drug use disorders. About 29.5 million people are suffering from drug use disorders and drug dependence, which require treatment.<sup>4</sup>

The darknet is a growing platform for drug trafficking, (which requires more online investigation.) It is still relatively small, but the market has been growing rapidly in the recent years. The consumers can pay for drugs



*Drug-related deaths in the USA, England and Wales<sup>5</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/Booklet\\_1\\_EXSUM.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/Booklet_1_EXSUM.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://grantdrugtrafficking.weebly.com/historical-background.html>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/Booklet\\_5\\_NEXUS.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/Booklet_5_NEXUS.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/Booklet\\_1\\_EXSUM.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/Booklet_1_EXSUM.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/WDR\\_2017\\_presentation\\_launch\\_version.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/WDR_2017_presentation_launch_version.pdf)

with cryptocurrency, such as bitcoins, and they can remain anonymous.

Purchasing drugs from the darknet doesn't always include human interaction, but the drugs can be delivered through private or public postal services. According to the Global Drug Survey, the most common drugs purchased from the darknet are "ecstasy", cannabis, NBS and LSD.<sup>6</sup>

Drug-use is common in many prisons. It has been estimated that 1 in 3 prisoners have used drugs at some point in their imprisonment, and 16% have used them past month. Prisons are a high-risk setting for infectious diseases, such as HIV and tuberculosis. They can be overcrowded, have poor ventilation and nutrition<sup>7</sup>, and can often not ensure affordable and effective prevention, treatment and care regarding drugs.<sup>8</sup> HIV and tuberculosis rates are generally higher in prisons than among general population.<sup>9</sup>

## Definition of Key Terms

### Drug trafficking

A global illegal trade of substances which are subject to drug prohibition laws. Drug trafficking involves the cultivation, production, distribution and sale of these substances.<sup>10</sup>

### Drug prohibition law

A law which prohibits the use, possession, or manufacture of certain substances.

### Drug use disorder

When a person's drug use becomes harmful to the point where they may experience drug dependence and they require treatment.<sup>11</sup>

### Opioid

A drug that is injected into a person with a needle or a syringe. E.g heroin. Opioids are the most harmful drug type because many fatal and non-fatal overdoses are attributable to opioids. Sharing contaminated injecting equipment and drug solutions when injecting drugs can also increase the chance of getting HIV<sup>12</sup> or Hepatitis C.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/Booklet\\_2\\_HEALTH.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/Booklet_2_HEALTH.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/documents/wdr2015/WDR15\\_Drug\\_use\\_health\\_consequences.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/wdr2015/WDR15_Drug_use_health_consequences.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/Booklet\\_2\\_HEALTH.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/Booklet_2_HEALTH.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/documents/wdr2015/WDR15\\_Drug\\_use\\_health\\_consequences.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/wdr2015/WDR15_Drug_use_health_consequences.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/drug-trafficking/index.html>

<sup>11</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/Booklet\\_1\\_EXSUM.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/Booklet_1_EXSUM.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs360/en/>

<sup>13</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/Booklet\\_2\\_HEALTH.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/Booklet_2_HEALTH.pdf)

## The darknet (“deep web”)

About 4 per cent of the information on the Internet is stored in so-called “surface web”. The remaining 96 per cent is in “deep web”. The darknet is not accessible through traditional search engines, such as Google. The darknet contains, for example, illegal drug trade. Drug trafficking through the darknet has been growing yearly by 50% in recent years.<sup>14</sup>

## Cryptocurrency

Cryptocurrencies, such as bitcoins are a type of digital currency. They are designed to be secure and anonymous.<sup>15</sup>

## Substance abuse

Unsafe use of psychoactive substances, such as alcohol and illicit drugs.<sup>16</sup>

## DALY (Disability-Adjusted Life Year)

One DALY can be seen as one year of “healthy” life lost. DALYs can be used to measure how healthy the population of a certain area is, and how it correlates with the ideal health situation, where there would be no diseases or disabilities.<sup>17</sup>

## Background

People have used drugs for thousands of years. Some sources suggest, that the earliest reported use of drugs can be traced back to Iraq 50 000 years ago.<sup>18</sup> Drugs were not always considered to be bad, and they were used as entertainment, relaxation, and medicine. For example, morphine and alcohol were mixed in the 1870s and the early 1900s to be given to children to help them calm down.<sup>19</sup> Many drugs can still be used as medicine for intense pain and other injuries. Today drugs should only be used as medicine under medical supervision.

## Cocaine production in Latin America

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<sup>14</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/Booklet\\_2\\_HEALTH.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/Booklet_2_HEALTH.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/0/cryptocurrency/>

<sup>16</sup> [http://www.who.int/topics/substance\\_abuse/en/](http://www.who.int/topics/substance_abuse/en/)

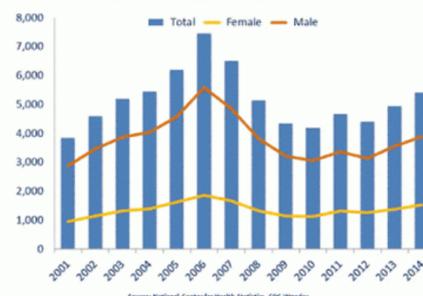
<sup>17</sup> [http://www.who.int/healthinfo/global\\_burden\\_disease/metrics\\_daly/en/](http://www.who.int/healthinfo/global_burden_disease/metrics_daly/en/)

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.newscientist.com/article/dn9924-timeline-drugs-and-alcohol/>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.woodlibrarymuseum.org/museum/item/529/mrs.-winslow's-soothing-syrup>

Cocaine is made from the leaves of the coca plant native to South America.<sup>20</sup> The most important cocaine-producing countries are Colombia, Peru and Bolivia, but the business of producing cocaine has spread to most of South America,<sup>21</sup> and these countries account for nearly all cocaine production in the world, with up to 1000 tonnes produced annually. Illegal drugs production and drug trafficking is one of the main causes of the high levels of organized crime and criminal violence in Latin America. It is particularly strong in Central America, Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Brazil.<sup>22</sup>

**National Overdose Deaths**  
Number of Deaths from Cocaine



According to the Central Intelligence Agency the United States of America is the world's largest consumer of cocaine, which is ***National overdose deaths caused by cocaine (the United States)***<sup>24</sup> shipped from Colombia through Mexico and the Caribbean.<sup>23</sup> In the United States, cocaine is the most often mentioned illegal drug reported to the Drug Abuse Warning Network by hospital emergency departments. In 2005, there were 448,481 emergency department visits involving cocaine in the United States of America.<sup>25</sup>

The UNODC has estimated that drug money can make countries poorer. It is true that drug money can boost a country's income in the short term, but the long-term effects tend to usually be negative. This is because drug money can for example inflate property prices, create unfair competition, and increase corruption. This can cause the legitimate businesses, without access to illicit funds, to be put out of the market and new legitimate investments may not take place.<sup>26</sup> This is alarming especially since cocaine is being produced mainly in areas under poverty.<sup>27</sup>

The World Drug Report 2017 shows, that the manufacture of cocaine has increased in the recent years.<sup>28</sup> In 2008, cocaine became the second most trafficked illegal drug in the world.<sup>29</sup> Latin America and the European Union have worked together to combat the illegal drug trade in the Latin America. This has been done by reducing both supply and demand.<sup>30</sup>

## Terrorist, insurgent and non-State armed groups

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/cocaine>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/publications/cultural-survival-quarterly/south-american-cocaine-production>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/23340460.2016.1276403>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2086.html>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/cocaine/what-scope-cocaine-use-in-united-states>

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.drugfreeworld.org/drugfacts/cocaine/international-statistics.html>

<sup>26</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/Booklet\\_5\\_NEXUS.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/Booklet_5_NEXUS.pdf)

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/publications/cultural-survival-quarterly/south-american-cocaine-production>

<sup>28</sup> [http://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/Booklet\\_1\\_EXSUM.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/Booklet_1_EXSUM.pdf)

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.drugfreeworld.org/drugfacts/cocaine/a-short-history.html>

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/23340460.2016.1276403>

Terrorists and non-State armed groups can profit from drug trafficking.<sup>31</sup> There is only little reliable data for estimating the overall wealth of terrorist, insurgent and other non-State armed groups, making it hard to estimate the importance of the drug trade. For example, Taliban is estimated to have influence over 85% of opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan. The group has also taxed entities involved in illicit drug production, manufacture and trafficking. Boko Haram has also reportedly helped drug traffickers to export cocaine and heroin across West Africa. Evidence also suggests that Al-Qaida has been involved in cocaine and cannabis trafficking, or at least in protecting traffickers.

UNODC has estimated that non-State armed groups raised about 150 million US dollars in 2016 from the Afghan illicit opiate trade, but the income may be higher. Forbes International has tried to compile a list of the income of the wealthiest 10 non-State armed groups but the estimate ranged from \$25 million to \$2 billion per group.<sup>32</sup> Terrorist groups can use the money they get from illicit drug trade for weapons, vehicles, and bombs.<sup>33</sup> In some cases, drugs have been used as the currency in the commission of terrorist attacks. This was the case in the Madrid bombings in 2004.<sup>34</sup>

## The War on Drugs

On June of 1971, the president of United States of America, Richard Nixon, declared drugs the “public enemy No. 1”<sup>35</sup>, and in 1973 the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) was created to tackle drug use and smuggling in the United States. The agency’s budget has been estimated to be over 2.98 billion US dollars.<sup>36</sup> The main goal of the war on drugs is to achieve a “drug-free world”, and it has been tried to achieve by establishing mandatory minimum prison sentences for certain drug-related crimes, and by increasing federal funding for drug-control agencies.<sup>37</sup> The more strict mandatory prison sentences mean that more people have been arrested and served a longer sentence for smaller crimes than before. Some sources state that the United States of America has a total of 25% of the whole world’s prisoners.<sup>38</sup>

The war on drugs has been criticized to have racist ramifications, and critics have pointed out that people of colour have been targeted and arrested more when suspected of drug use and possession.<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/Booklet\\_4\\_ATSNPS.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/Booklet_4_ATSNPS.pdf)

<sup>32</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/Booklet\\_5\\_NEXUS.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/Booklet_5_NEXUS.pdf)

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/paying-for-terrorism-where-does-boko-haram-gets-its-money-from-9503948.html>

<sup>34</sup> <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/drug-trafficking-and-the-financing-of-terrorism.html>

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=9252490>

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.dea.gov/pr/staffing.shtml>

<sup>37</sup> <http://www.history.com/topics/the-war-on-drugs>

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VO05C3WnYCA>

<sup>39</sup> <http://www.history.com/topics/the-war-on-drugs>

The war on drugs has not been finished, and the United States of America has used more than 1 trillion dollars in combating drugs. It has been stated that the achievement of a “drug-free world” is unachievable and that the war on drugs cannot be won.<sup>40</sup>

## Key member states and NGOs

### The United States of America

In 2009, the value of illicit drug trade was estimated at

1.3

trillion US dollars and is increasing.<sup>41</sup> It has been estimated that

the United States of America has used more than 1 trillion dollars

on the War on drugs.<sup>42</sup> The United States of America accounts for

approximately one-quarter of the estimated number of deaths

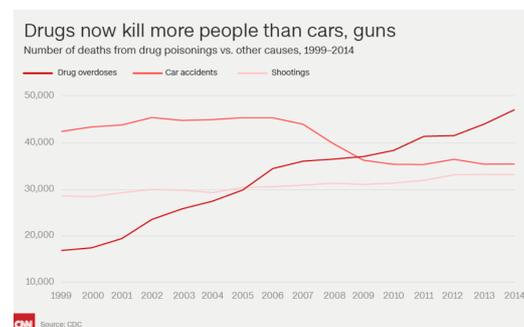
related to drug-use worldwide, and more people die from opioid

use than from road accidents or violence. During 1999-2015, the number of deaths each year related to overdosing in the United

States grew from 16,849 to 52,404 and increased by 11.4 per cent in the past year.<sup>44</sup>

### Mexico

Drug cartels have been a big problem in Mexico for a long period of time. Mexico’s major drug cartels were born in the 1980s and became more powerful after the Colombia's Cali and Medellín cartels were demised in the 1990s.<sup>45</sup> December 11, 2006, Mexico’s president Felipe Calderon sent more than 6,500 soldiers to battle drug traffickers in the state of Michoacán.<sup>46</sup> This Mexican Drug War has had a tremendous effect on the security of the country. In 2016 over 23 000<sup>47</sup> and in 2017 more than 18 000 people have been intentionally killed mostly due to drug-related violence.<sup>48</sup>



**Drugs kill more people than cars, guns<sup>43</sup>**

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VO05C3WnYCA>

<sup>41</sup> <http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/66/Issues/drugs/drugs-crime.shtml>

<sup>42</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VO05C3WnYCA>

<sup>43</sup> <http://edition.cnn.com/2016/09/23/health/heroin-opioid-drug-overdose-deaths-visual-guide/index.html>

<sup>44</sup> [www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/Booklet\\_1\\_EXSUM.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/Booklet_1_EXSUM.pdf)

<sup>45</sup> <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL34215.pdf>

<sup>46</sup> <http://edition.cnn.com/2013/09/02/world/americas/mexico-drug-war-fast-facts/index.html>

<sup>47</sup> <http://www.businessinsider.com/r-mexicos-2016-murder-tally-exceeds-those-of-many-countries-at-war-study-2017-5?r=US&IR=T&IR=T>

<sup>48</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/11/mexicos-drug-war-2017-deadliest-record-171105171259973.html>

Mexico accounts for only a small percentage of the world's total heroin production, but it has been estimated that 90% of the cocaine entering the United States of America passes through Mexico.<sup>49</sup>

## INPUD

INPUD is an organization that aims to promote the health and defend the rights of people who use drugs. They also aim to ensure effective prevention, treatment, care and support for people who use drugs and who have been affected by HIV, Hepatitis, Tuberculosis and other relevant health issues.<sup>50</sup>

## Afghanistan

Taliban is estimated to have influence over 85% of opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan. It has been stated that Taliban has been directly involved in drug trafficking in Afghanistan. The group has also taxed entities involved in illicit drug production, manufacture and trafficking. It has been estimated that the annual income of the Taliban is about 400 million US dollars. Half of the income is believed to come from illicit narcotics economy.<sup>51</sup>

## The Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs analyzes the international drug situation. The commission focuses on the connected issues of prevention of drug abuse, rehabilitation of drug users, and supply and trafficking in illicit drugs.<sup>52</sup> CND was established by Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 1946 and its primary duty was to assist the ECOSOC in supervising the application of the international drug control treaties. In 1991 the General Assembly expanded the CND's mandate to be the governing body of the UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime).<sup>53</sup>

## Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
1839-42	The first Opium War <sup>54</sup>
1856	The Second Opium War <sup>55</sup>
1870s	Anti-opium laws are passed <sup>56</sup>
1912	Hague Opium Convention

<sup>49</sup> <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL34215.pdf>

<sup>50</sup> <http://www.inpud.net/en/our-aims>

<sup>51</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/Booklet\\_5\\_NEXUS.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/Booklet_5_NEXUS.pdf)

<sup>52</sup> [http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/Mandate\\_Functions/Mandate-and-Functions\\_index.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/Mandate_Functions/Mandate-and-Functions_index.html)

<sup>53</sup> <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/index.html>

<sup>54</sup> <https://inpud.wordpress.com/timeline-of-events-in-the-history-of-drugs/>

<sup>55</sup> <https://inpud.wordpress.com/timeline-of-events-in-the-history-of-drugs/>

<sup>56</sup> <http://www.drugpolicy.org/issues/brief-history-drug-war>

1914	The first drug ban in the United States of America <sup>57</sup>
1971	President Nixon declares the War on Drugs
1973	Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is created <sup>58</sup>
1984	Nancy Reagan launches the “Just Say No” anti-drug campaign <sup>59</sup>
1997	UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) is established <sup>60</sup>
2008	INDUP (International Network for People who Use Drugs) is launched <sup>61</sup>

## UN Involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

- United Nations International Drug Control Programme, 21 June 1991 (**E/RES/1991/47**)<sup>62</sup>  
The Resolution asks all governments to provide a full financial and political support to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme.
- United Nations International Drug Control Programme, 16 December 1992 (**A/RES/47/101**)  
The Resolution points out the importance of the smooth functioning of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to achieve the best possible results. It also urges all governments to provide a full financial and political support to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, for example by increasing the voluntary donations to the programme.<sup>63</sup>
- United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961  
The Convention aims to combat drug abuse by coordinated international action. It seeks to limit for example the possession, use, trade in, distribution, transportation, and production of drugs exclusively to medical and scientific purposes. It also aims to combat drug trafficking through international cooperation to stop and discourage drug traffickers.<sup>64</sup> The Convention focuses on focus on plant-derived substances, such as opium, heroin, cocaine, and cannabis.<sup>65</sup>
- United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971<sup>66</sup>

<sup>57</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VO05C3WnYCA>

<sup>58</sup> <https://www.dea.gov/index.shtml>

<sup>59</sup> <https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=9252490>

<sup>60</sup> <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/about-unodc/index.html?ref=menutop>

<sup>61</sup> <https://inpud.wordpress.com/timeline-of-events-in-the-history-of-drugs/>

<sup>62</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/Resolutions/resolution\\_1991-06-21\\_9.html](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/Resolutions/resolution_1991-06-21_9.html)

<sup>63</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/Resolutions/resolution\\_1992-12-16\\_5.html](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/Resolutions/resolution_1992-12-16_5.html)

<sup>64</sup> <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/single-convention.html>

<sup>65</sup> <http://idpc.net/policy-advocacy/global-advocacy/global-drug-control-system/un-conventions-drug-control>

<sup>66</sup> <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/psychotropics.html>

The Convention establishes an international control system to cover more than 100 synthetic substances<sup>67</sup> according to their abuse potential on the one hand and their therapeutic value on the other.

- United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988<sup>68</sup>

The Convention was adopted to respond to large increases in demand and supply of controlled drugs for non-medical use, and the rapid growth of a profitable criminal black market. It provides enforcement measures and emphasizes the obligation of countries to impose criminal sanctions to counter drug production and trafficking. In addition it also offers flexibility for states parties to address drug use.<sup>69</sup>

## Possible Solutions

### Better education on drugs

Illegal drugs are often glamorized in movies and other social platforms, and that can encourage people to try to use them. If people are told the truth about drugs and how they can affect them, less people would take the risk and try illicit drugs.<sup>70</sup> People should be taught early about the consequences and possible diseases caused by drugs. There is information on these substances on the Internet, but not everybody can necessarily access it, and false information can be spread. If people are educated better on drugs, they can make better choices regarding them.

Some of the areas people should be educated on regarding drugs are for example the warning signs of addiction, how drugs can affect a person physically, socially, and mentally, and the consequences drug addictions can have. People should also be told how to deal with a family member or a friend who is struggling with drugs, and how to be supportive during the rehabilitation process.<sup>71</sup>

### Law enforcement cooperation close to borders

It is good to share information between countries to make it easier to control drug trafficking. In 2015, over 700 000 kilograms of illicit drugs were smuggled into the United States alone.<sup>72</sup> To reduce smuggling over borders, countries need to work together, increase the amount of law enforcement officers close to the borders, and increase their possibilities to communicate with each other. If known

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<sup>67</sup> <http://idpc.net/policy-advocacy/global-advocacy/global-drug-control-system/un-conventions-drug-control>

<sup>68</sup> <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/illicit-trafficking.html>

<sup>69</sup> <http://idpc.net/policy-advocacy/global-advocacy/global-drug-control-system/un-conventions-drug-control>

<sup>70</sup> <http://www.drugfreeworld.org/real-life-stories.html>

<sup>71</sup> <https://www.projectknow.com/research/substance-abuse-education-resources/>

<sup>72</sup> <https://drugabuse.com/featured/drug-trafficking-across-borders/>

drug traffickers are trying to cross the borders, information should be sent to neighbouring countries, making it easier to stop them from entering another country.

### **Creating more jobs**

Creating more paying jobs for people can cause them to not turn to drug dealing. Having a paying job can also help former drug users to get into sober social networks. This can make it easier to stick to drug treatment programs. On the other hand, a steady income from a job could also provide the means to support a drug habit.<sup>73</sup>

### **Ensuring fair access to essential medicines**

According to some sources, more than 80% of the world's population suffers from avoidable pain with little or no access to proper medications. Many drugs, such as morphine and cocaine possess pain-relieving properties. If people can safely and affordably buy their effective and science-based medicine, they don't have to buy illegal drugs for e.g. pain relief.<sup>74</sup>

### **Adding more law enforcement officers**

As the threat of the darknet grows, more law enforcement officers trained to investigate on the Internet are needed.<sup>75</sup> Many law enforcement officers are assigned multiple tasks as there are not enough officers to support the communities. If law enforcement officers assigned specific tasks to reduce drug trafficking, this would most likely limit the number of individuals involved in this trade.<sup>76</sup> Adding more law enforcement has been proven to be becoming increasingly effective. There is evidence of this as the estimated global interception rate of cocaine increased to between 45 and 55% in 2015. The estimated global interception rate of opiates were between 9 and 13% during the period 1980-1997, and rose to between 23 and 32% during the period 2009-2015.

### **Focusing on rehabilitation rather than controlling the supplies**

According to the World Drug Report 2017, fewer than one in six people with drug use disorders are being provided with treatment each year. A large number of the premature deaths related to drug use can mostly be avoided<sup>77</sup> by ensuring easy access to therapy and rehabilitation in a safe and controlled environment. It has been noted that controlling the sale of chemicals used to manufacture illicit drugs does not stop the production. This can be a short-term solution that can force the big mass producers out of business but can open the market for smaller businesses using different chemicals. If

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<sup>73</sup>

[https://www.scholarsstrategynetwork.org/sites/default/files/ssn\\_key\\_findings\\_shannon\\_on\\_employments\\_relation\\_to\\_crime\\_and\\_drug\\_use\\_1.pdf](https://www.scholarsstrategynetwork.org/sites/default/files/ssn_key_findings_shannon_on_employments_relation_to_crime_and_drug_use_1.pdf)

<sup>74</sup> [https://www.huffingtonpost.com/fernando-henrique-cardoso/end-global-drug-war\\_b\\_5799150.html](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/fernando-henrique-cardoso/end-global-drug-war_b_5799150.html)

<sup>75</sup> [http://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/Booklet\\_1\\_EXSUM.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/Booklet_1_EXSUM.pdf)

<sup>76</sup> <http://visionlaunch.com/4-solutions-drug-trafficking/>

<sup>77</sup> [http://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/Booklet\\_1\\_EXSUM.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/Booklet_1_EXSUM.pdf)

these chemicals are also regulated, the drugs can be smuggled into the country from elsewhere. This is why limiting the supply of drugs will not be as sufficient as offering effective treatment to the people in need of it.<sup>78</sup> For example, instead of regulating the components used for manufacturing drugs, Switzerland is focusing on “harm-reduction” after the use of heroin caused a public health problem in the 1980s. This means that the authorities provide free methadone and clean needles under medical supervision to drug users. “Harm reduction” lowered the number of drug injectors with HIV by over 50% in 10 years, and the overall mortality caused by drugs has dropped drastically.<sup>79</sup>

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