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Abstract

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Simulating a Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

**"Discussing Measures to Prevent Unintended Effects of the Worldwide
Activities of the Drug Control Regimes "**

Introduction

The committee debates the improvement of multilateral measures to combat the unintended consequences of the International Drug Control Regime.

These are:

1. The huge criminal black market,
2. The policy displacement,
3. Geographical displacement,
4. Substance displacement.

In the end of the discussion we want to compile a resolution containing reasonable suggestions for the international community on improving the unintended consequences.

The Economic and Social Council established the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) in 1946 (resolution 9 (I) of 16 February 1946) as the central policy-making body of the United Nations in drug related matters. The Commission enables Member States to analyze the global drug situation, provide follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem and to take measures at the global level within its scope of action. It also monitors the implementation of the three international drug control conventions and is empowered to consider all matters pertaining to the aim of the conventions, including the scheduling of substances to be brought under international control.

Criminal black market

Is legalization a solution? From an economic vantage point, this is a plausible argument: if there is no market, there is no intermediation - criminal in this case.

Yet, legalization is no solution: it may reduce the profits to criminals, but it will certainly increase the damage to the health of individuals and society. Drugs are not dangerous because they are illegal. They are illegal because they are dangerous.

The policy displacement

Fighting drug-related crime is expensive. So, despite the fact that public health is the first principle of drug control, public security has received much greater investment, at the expense of drug prevention and treatment.

Geographical displacement (production, trafficking, consumption)

The *production* and trade in narcotics is one of the world's largest and most lucrative industries. The market for these substances is located mainly in the economically developed countries. However, drug dependence in the economically less developed countries is increasing since the option of growing alternative crops is limited for geographical and but mainly economic reasons.

The marketing of drugs conforms to the laws of supply and demand: as demand in the economically developed countries increases, production in the economically less developed countries expands. Due to a high rate of drug *consumption* in the economically developed countries these countries have been burdened with many of the negative side effects of the demand side of this phenomenon, including an increase in crime and pressure on health and welfare resources.

A main problem is the shifting of the trafficking routes. It is widely documented how Africa is currently under attack by traffickers of Colombian coca (on the Atlantic coast) and of Afghan opium (through the Gulf and the Indian Ocean), because of tighter controls along the traditional routes.

The mission of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is to contribute to the achievement of security and justice for all by making the world safer from crime, drugs and terrorism.

The present strategy translates this vision into a platform for action. It is based on the existing mandates of UNODC and links them to results and does not represent a modification of these mandates. The strategy grew out of extensive consultations with all the stakeholders of the Office.

Functional Commission of the Economic and Social Council

As a functional Commission of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs assists the Council in supervising the application of international conventions and agreements dealing with narcotic drugs. It also advises the Council on all matters pertaining to the control of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors.

Treaty and normative functions: the Drug Control Conventions (1961, 1971, 1988) and instruments

The Commission performs the functions assigned to it by the international drug control treaties and in particular those under article 8 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 30 March 1961, the Convention as amended by the Protocol of 25 March 1972; under article 17 of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 21 February 1971, and under article 21 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 19 December 1988. Pursuant to these provisions, the Commission is inter alia authorized to consider all matters pertaining to the aims of the Conventions and see to their implementation.

As a treaty organ under the 1961 and 1971 Conventions, the Commission decides, on the basis of recommendations by the World Health Organization (WHO), to place, remove or transfer narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances under international control. Pursuant to the 1988 Convention, the Commission decides, upon the recommendation of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), to place or transfer precursor chemicals frequently used for the manufacture of illicit drugs in Table I or Table II of the 1988 Convention.

Governing body of UNDCP

In resolution 1991/38 of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission was requested to give policy guidance to the United Nations International Drug Control Program, and to monitor its activities.

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/185 of 20 December 1991, the Commission approves, on the basis of the proposals of the Executive Director of UNDCP, the budget of the Fund of UNDCP. The Fund was established by the General Assembly under the direct responsibility of the Executive Director of UNDCP to finance the Program's operational activities. The Fund accounts for over 90 per cent of the resources available to the United Nations for drug control.

In resolution 1999/30 of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission was requested to enhance its functioning. To that end, the agenda of the Commission was structured into two distinct segments: a normative segment, during which the Commission discharges its treaty-based and normative functions; and an operational segment, during which the Commission exercises its role as the governing body of UNDCP.