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Abstract:

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Simulating a Meeting of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)

“Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling”

Introduction

The United Nations Office On Drugs And Crime (UNODC) is a member of the United Nations Development Group. It operates via field offices in more than 150 countries with about 500 staff members and has its headquartered in Vienna, Austria. The UNODC focuses on the fight against illicit drugs and international crime. The fight against drugs is based on three United Nations Conventions: the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961), the Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971) and the Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988). International crime is tasked in the General Assembly's resolution 55/25, which entered into force on 29 September 2003. The convention is supported by the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition. In the Millennium Declaration, the position of the UNODC was enhanced by the member states confirming that they will intensify their efforts to fight transnational crime in all its dimensions, including human trafficking and money laundering, and to redouble their efforts to counter the world drug problem.

The UNODC was established in 1997 when the United Nations Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention were merged. The working-process of the UNODC is shaped within a triangle of three pillars aiming at the fight illicit drugs, crime and terrorism. Most of the time it works on the fields of prevention and fight against (organized) crime, corruption, drug abuse, and illicit trafficking. Other important themes include human trafficking and migrant smuggling, money Laundering, HIV/AIDS and the major issues of the last decade, namely international terrorism and piracy. Field-based technical cooperation projects to enhance the capacity of member states, research and analytical work to increase knowledge and understanding of the existing and upcoming issues as well as normative work to assist states in the ratification and implementation of relevant international treaties and the development of domestic legislation make the UNODC such an powerful organization. The two activities of the UNODC most noticed by the public are the publication of the annual World Drug Report, which presents a comprehensive assessment on the issue of drugs, and the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, which is held annually on 26 June.

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)

The duty of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) is to guide the United Nations on these topics. The Commission is based on the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control and was established by the Economic and Social Council. The CCPCJ is a governing body of the UNDOC and approves the budget of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Fund.

The Commission is responsible for the Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which is held every five years. The last congress took place in Brazil in April 2010. When requested, the Commission also works in working or expert groups on certain issues, for example on "Conducting A Comprehensive Study On The Problem Of Cybercrime".

Migrant Smuggling and Human Trafficking

The efforts of the UNODC to combat the crimes of migrant smuggling and human trafficking are written down in the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols on trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling.

Migrant Smuggling

Article 3 of the Protocol on Smuggling of Migrants defines the crime as the "procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a state party of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident." The crime of migrant smuggling involves almost every country and can only be tackled by international cooperation. Migrant smuggling is a deadly and growing business. The profit-seeking criminals are highly organized and can build on a growing network all over the world. They take advantage of help-seeking migrants without insuring them safety. The high profit and the indifference of the smugglers have cost thousands of lives and will cost even more if no serious action will be taken. The Protocol on Smuggling of Migrants aims at "preventing and combating the smuggling of migrants, protecting the rights of smuggled migrants and promoting cooperation between states". The UNDOC tries to fulfill these aims by assisting states in bringing their legislation in line with the protocol and assisting states in developing an effective criminal justice response to migrant smuggling.

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is the acquisition of people by improper means such as force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them. Similar to the situation in Migrant Smuggling, the crime of human trafficking affects almost every country in the world, as a country of origin, transit or destination for victims. One of the main difficulties is to find an exact definition of human trafficking. Article 3, paragraph (a) of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons defines human trafficking as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons (**The Act**), by means of threat, use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person (**The Means**), for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs. (**The Purpose**).” This definition was brought in with the purpose of increasing the awareness of the existence of human trafficking. The member states are encouraged to implement this definition in their domestic legislation. This would form a good basis for combating the crime internationally. The UNODC offers different types of help to prevent the trafficking of persons, protect the victims of human trafficking, and prosecute the trafficking offenders.

At VIMUN 2012, the CCPCJ will seek to come forth with durable solutions to prevent and combat human trafficking and smuggling of migrants. The goal will be to find ways how to increase the international cooperation even further and to find better control mechanisms and standards against which these crimes can be measured and the number of victims can be reduced.