

55 MUN VI

UNSC



STUDY GUIDE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction to the Committee
2. Relevant Key Terms & Definitions
3. History & Background
4. Global Impacts of Narcoterrorism
5. Relevant Case Studies
6. Major Stakeholders
7. Past UN Actions
8. Questions the Resolution Must Answer
9. Bibliography



INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is a principal organ responsible for maintaining international peace and security. The UNSC prevents and resolves conflicts, imposes sanctions, authorizes peacekeeping missions, and addresses threats to international security, requiring 9 votes, including concurring P5 votes, for decision-making, with P5 members holding veto power. Key topics include conflict resolution, counter-terrorism, nuclear disarmament, human rights, and climate change, with committees like The Red Council (CRISIS), Border Defense Command Center (BDCC), Delegate Crisis Cell, and General Assembly working together to promote collective security, protect human rights, advance sustainable development, and foster international cooperation.



RELEVANT KEY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

1. **Narcoterrorism:** The use of violence and intimidation by drug trafficking organisations to influence political decisions or undermine governmental authority, often involving the assassination of public officials.
2. **Cocaine Trafficking:** The illicit production and distribution of cocaine, primarily sourced from coca plants in South America.
3. **Cartel Violence:** The brutal tactics employed by drug cartels to assert control over territories, which include kidnappings, beheadings, and bombings.
4. **Drug Wars:** Ongoing conflicts fueled by competition between drug trafficking organisations and government efforts to eradicate drug production.
5. **Money Laundering:** The process by which drug cartels disguise the origins of illegally obtained money, often using legitimate businesses to funnel cash.
6. **Hybrid Warfare:** Tactics combining conventional military strategies with asymmetric approaches, including drug-related violence.
7. **Supply Chain Disruption:** Targeting the logistics of drug trafficking to disrupt the operations of narcoterrorist organisations.
8. **Corruption Networks:** The interplay between narcotics trafficking and corruption in government and law enforcement.
9. **Transnational Crime:** The cross-border nature of narcoterrorism, linking various countries in a web of drug trade and terrorism.
10. **Illicit Economies:** The economic systems built around illegal drug trade and their effects on national and regional stability.



HISTORY AND BACKGROUND OF NARCOTERRORISM

There are multiple historical events that have shaped modern narcoterrorism around the world.

1. Rise of Pablo Escobar and the Medellín Cartel in Colombia:

- Pablo Escobar rose to power in the 1970s, founding the Medellín Cartel, which became the dominant cocaine supplier globally, controlling around 70-80% of the cocaine trade in the U.S. by the late 1980s.
- Escobar employed tactics such as assassinations, bombings, and kidnappings, which led to the emergence of the term narcoterrorism to describe the intersection of drug trafficking and terrorism
- In 1989, the Medellín Cartel carried out the Avianca Flight 203 bombing, killing 107 people in a failed assassination attempt, showcasing the extreme measures taken to eliminate threats
- Escobar targeted Colombian political figures, most notably assassinating Luis Carlos Galán
- His Medellín Cartel controlled about 80% of the world's cocaine trade in the 1980s
- He continued to operate from a prison until his death in 1993.

2. Iran-Contra Affair:

- Emerged in the mid-1980s, involving the U.S. government's covert sale of arms to Iran to secure the release of American hostages held by Hezbollah.



- This manoeuvre was conducted despite an arms embargo against Iran.
- Profits from the arms sales were illegally funnelled to support the Contras, a Nicaraguan rebel group fighting against the Sandinista government, which was perceived as leftist and aligned with the Soviet Union.
- Investigations indicated that the Contras were heavily involved in drug trafficking, with estimates suggesting that up to 70% of the cocaine entering the U.S. during this period was linked to their operations
- The influx of cocaine contributed to a rise in drug addiction rates in the U.S. during the 1980s
- The scandal was revealed in 1986, resulting in indictments of several high-ranking officials within the National Security Council, including Oliver North

3. Formation of the Sinaloa Cartel

- The Sinaloa Cartel originated in the early 1990s, following the arrest of Miguel Ángel Félix Gallardo, leader of the Guadalajara Cartel.
- This shift allowed former cartel members to establish new drug trafficking networks.
- Under the leadership of Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán, the Sinaloa Cartel rapidly expanded, reportedly controlling about 40% of the cocaine and heroin entering the United States by the early 2000s.
- The cartel employed innovative smuggling tactics, including sophisticated drug tunnels beneath the U.S.-Mexico border, and leveraged connections with corrupt officials to facilitate their operations
- By the 2010s, the cartel was generating annual revenues estimated at around \$3 billion, while accounting for approximately 25% of the heroin entering the U.S. market



- The power struggle between the Sinaloa Cartel and rival groups during the Mexican drug war resulted in over 300,000 deaths between 2006 and 2021, with a significant portion of this violence attributed to cartel conflicts
- As a consequence, narcoterrorism became a pressing international issue, affecting various regions, including West Africa, Europe, and Asia, as Mexican cartels expanded their operations beyond Latin America.

GLOBAL IMPACTS OF NARCOTERRORISM

Narcoterrorism has created ease for terrorist groups to carry out their operations, leading to an increased threat to global security. To elaborate, consider the links between terrorist organisations and drug traffickers, which can take many forms: facilitation, protection, transportation, and taxation or direct trafficking by the terrorist organisation itself in order to finance its activities. Terrorists provide military skills, weaponry, and access to covert organisations, which benefit drug traffickers. Terrorists obtain a source of income and skill in the illegal transfer and laundering of money from unlawful transactions. Both parties strengthen each other's networks of corrupt officials, whose services provide mutual benefits such as easier access to false documents such as passports and customs papers. Drug traffickers may also obtain significant freedom of movement when they collaborate with terrorists who control huge areas of territory. As a result, these parties' operations run more smoothly than they did previously.



Political ramifications also arise from this dynamic. Narco-terrorism weakens political authority in the government. Drug trafficking gives terrorist groups and drug cartels financial influence, which they frequently utilise to undermine state sovereignty, bribe public servants, and erode law enforcement. For instance, the Taliban has historically relied on heroin trafficking in areas like Afghanistan to fund their operations, establishing a link between regional drug producers and global terrorist organisations. Similar to this, in Colombia, throughout the 1980s and 1990s, drug cartels, particularly the Medellín Cartel led by Pablo Escobar, were known for assassinations, bombings, and kidnappings intended at pressuring the government to abandon extradition policy.

This political power spans across borders. Drug-trafficking terrorist groups have the ability to destabilise areas, which makes it more difficult for international organisations like the UN to uphold peace and security. In addition to undermining the government, the violence and corruption linked to narco-terrorism also sour international relations as nations fight to stop the flow of drugs across international borders and the terrorism it harbours. It encourages corruption, weakens the legitimacy of governments, and increases violence. It complicates international attempts to combat organised crime and terrorism by fostering an environment where terrorist operations can develop unchecked.

Narco-terrorism also drains resources from state economies. Large amounts of national budgets in many nations are devoted to fighting drug trafficking and terrorism, taking money away from social services like infrastructure development, healthcare, and education. In order to combat drug cartels,



for instance, Colombia and Mexico have spent billions of dollars on military and law enforcement operations; but, their efforts to stop the bloodshed and corruption that go hand in hand with the drug trade have not been entirely successful. This economic pressure exacerbates poverty in the impacted communities and undermines national development, reinforcing a cycle of reliance on illegal activity.

Money laundering by narco-terrorism disrupts markets and economic systems. Drug trafficking generates enormous revenues, which are frequently used to launder money via legitimate enterprises, distorting the competitive landscape. Cartels invest in real estate, agriculture, and other industries, driving out legitimate businesses through unfair pricing and violent coercion. This weakens trust in regional economies, deters foreign investment, and fuels a black market economy that threatens legitimate trade. For example, the heroin trade in Afghanistan provides funding to the Taliban, who not only undermine the legitimacy of the government but also force farmers to plant opium rather than food crops.

RELEVANT CASE STUDIES

1- FARC in Columbia:

Introduction

The FARC (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia) is a Marxist-Leninist guerrilla organisation that has been active in Colombia since the 1960s. The group's origins, ideology, and activities have shaped the country's political and social landscape, making it an essential topic of study. The FARC's complex history has been marked by periods of intense conflict, shifting political alliances, and ultimately, a peace process that has transformed the group's role in Colombian society.



Origins and Ideology

The FARC was founded in 1964 by a group of communist farmers and intellectuals who were dissatisfied with the Colombian government's handling of land reform and social inequality. The group's founders, including Manuel Marulanda Vélez and Jacobo Arenas, were influenced by the Cuban Revolution and the writings of Marx and Lenin. They sought to create a socialist state in Colombia, where the means of production would be owned and controlled by the people, rather than by wealthy elites.

The FARC's early years were marked by a focus on land reform and peasant rights, which resonated with many rural Colombians. The group's ideology emphasised the need for radical social and economic change, and its leaders saw armed struggle as a necessary means of achieving their goals. Over time, the FARC's ideology has evolved, incorporating elements of nationalism, anti-imperialism, and environmentalism.

Activities and Conflict

The FARC's activities have been characterised by armed insurgency, kidnappings, and extortion. The group has been involved in a protracted conflict with the Colombian government, which has resulted in the deaths of thousands of people, including civilians, soldiers, and guerrilla fighters. The FARC has also been accused of human rights abuses, including the use of child soldiers and forced displacement of communities.

The FARC's military strategy has involved a range of tactics, including ambushes, bombings, and sabotage. The group has also engaged in kidnappings for ransom, including the high-profile abduction of presidential candidate Ingrid Betancourt in 2002.



The FARC has also been involved in the illegal drug trade, using profits from cocaine production and trafficking to fund its military operations. FARC has relied heavily on drug trafficking to finance its operations. By the 1990s, it was deeply involved in the production and distribution of cocaine, particularly in the regions of Colombia where coca plants were cultivated. FARC established control over coca-growing regions and collected "taxes" from local farmers. They often provided protection to these farmers in exchange for a share of the profits, creating a symbiotic relationship. The group was involved in the entire cocaine supply chain, from production to export. They often collaborated with drug cartels and other criminal organisations to transport drugs to international markets, especially in the United States and Europe.

Peace Process and Demobilization

In 2012, the FARC and the Colombian government initiated peace talks, which culminated in a peace agreement in 2016. The agreement called for the FARC's demobilisation, disarmament, and reintegration into civilian life. The group's leaders, including Timoleón Jiménez, have since transitioned into politics, with many former fighters joining the newly formed Common Alternative Revolutionary Force (FARC) political party.

The peace process was marked by several key milestones, including the establishment of a ceasefire in 2015 and the signing of a final peace agreement in 2016. The agreement addressed a range of issues, including land reform, political participation, and transitional justice. The FARC's demobilisation and disarmament process has been overseen by the United Nations, which has verified the group's compliance with the peace agreement.



2- Taliban and its opium trade

Introduction

Afghanistan has long been the world's largest producer of opium, and the Taliban has played a central role in this industry, particularly during the Afghan war. With opium production deeply ingrained in the country's economy, the drug trade became a significant source of revenue for the Taliban, supporting their insurgency and governance. As of 2020, Afghanistan accounted for about **85% of the global opium supply**, and the Taliban's involvement allowed them to profit immensely by taxing and controlling this illicit trade.

Opium Trade Under Taliban Rule

a. Financing Through the Opium Economy

During both their initial reign in the late 1990s and after their resurgence following the U.S. withdrawal, the Taliban maintained close control over the opium trade. As the group recaptured territory across Afghanistan, they used taxation and protection schemes in poppy-growing regions to raise funds. Farmers in these areas were required to pay a “tax” to the Taliban, typically around **10% of their income** from opium cultivation, making the group one of the primary beneficiaries of the global heroin market.

b. Role in the Global Drug Trade

Beyond taxation, the Taliban played a role in facilitating the entire supply chain—from the cultivation of opium to its refinement into heroin and its eventual export to markets in **Europe, Iran, and Central Asia**. . . Reports suggest that the Taliban collaborated with international drug cartels and other criminal organisations to ensure the smuggling of narcotics.



This interaction made Afghanistan a critical node in the global heroin trade, supplying significant portions of the European heroin market.

The 2022 Opium Ban: A Turning Point

a. Taliban's Unexpected Ban on Opium

In April 2022, the Taliban imposed a strict ban on opium production, reminiscent of their earlier ban in 2000. This decision surprised many, as opium had been a cornerstone of their financial strategy. The motives behind the ban were complex: it was seen as a bid to gain international recognition, secure legitimacy, and potentially seek sanctions relief. However, the Taliban also emphasised religious reasons, citing Islamic principles that prohibit intoxicants.

b. Enforcement of the Ban

The enforcement of the ban has been inconsistent across Afghanistan. In some provinces, opium cultivation ceased entirely, while in others, the Taliban allowed farmers to continue under certain conditions, primarily due to economic pressures and local dynamics. The variability in enforcement is also a reflection of the decentralised nature of Taliban governance, where regional commanders often make independent decisions.

Economic and Social Impacts of the Opium Ban

a. Devastation of Rural Economies

The opium ban has had devastating effects on Afghanistan's rural economy. For millions of farmers, opium poppy cultivation was their primary livelihood, providing an income that was otherwise unattainable in a war-torn country with limited job opportunities. With the ban in place, **thousands of farmers** have lost their main source of income, driving many into poverty.



b. Ripple Effect on the Afghan Economy

Opium trade also created jobs beyond farming. Labourers who harvested poppy, truck drivers, and workers in the drug processing facilities all relied on the industry. The ban caused a ripple effect, impacting many livelihoods across multiple sectors. The UN estimates that **more than 120,000 full-time jobs** were affected by the abrupt halt in opium production

International Reactions and Impacts on the Global Drug Market

a. Reactions from International Organizations

International organisations like the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** initially welcomed the Taliban's opium ban, seeing it as a potential breakthrough in global narcotics control. However, the ban has also been viewed with scepticism due to concerns about enforcement and the Taliban's long-term commitment. Western governments, including the **U.S.**, have been cautious in their response, linking future aid to the sustained enforcement of the ban.

b. Effects on the Global Heroin Market

While the opium ban has disrupted the supply chain, global heroin markets have shown resilience. Reports suggest that some actors in the drug trade anticipated the ban and stockpiled opium, mitigating immediate shortages. As a result, the initial effects on heroin prices have been moderate, though the long-term consequences are still unfolding. Some fear that the global drug trade will simply shift to new producers or routes, potentially making way for drug cartels in other regions to fill the gap left by Afghanistan.



Long-term Outlook: Will the Ban Hold? The Taliban's opium ban is a significant development, but its long-term viability remains uncertain. With Afghanistan facing a severe economic crisis, international isolation, and rising domestic discontent, maintaining the ban could become increasingly difficult. The future of Afghanistan's role in the global drug trade hinges on **external economic aid**, the Taliban's political stability, and the ability to provide farmers with viable alternatives to opium cultivation.

3- Drug Cartels in Mexico

Historical Context: The Rise of Drug Cartels in Mexico

Mexican drug cartels have been central players in the global drug trade for decades, evolving from smaller-scale smuggling operations into powerful transnational criminal organisations. Their rise can be traced back to the 1980s when Mexican drug traffickers emerged as key intermediaries between South American cocaine producers and U.S. consumers.

In the 1990s, the fall of Colombia's Medellín and Cali cartels created a vacuum that allowed Mexican cartels to dominate cocaine trafficking into the United States. This shift transformed cartels from merely facilitators to primary controllers of the supply chain. Some of the most notorious cartels that emerged during this period include:

- **Sinaloa Cartel:** Led by Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán, it became the most dominant cartel with a global footprint.
- **Tijuana Cartel:** Focused on the Baja California region and known for its violent turf wars with rivals.
- **Gulf Cartel:** A powerful organisation that later gave rise to the more violent faction known as Los Zetas.



Political Corruption and Impunity

Corruption has played a pivotal role in the growth and sustainability of Mexican drug cartels. Over the years, cartels have deeply infiltrated political systems at every level, from local municipalities to national offices. Corruption allows cartels to function with relative freedom, ensuring that law enforcement either turns a blind eye or actively collaborates with criminal operations.

1. **Bribery and Co-optation:** Cartels often bribe police, judges, and politicians to avoid prosecution. This enables cartel leaders to evade capture, manipulate judicial outcomes, and protect their vast illicit operations.
2. **Infiltration of Law Enforcement:** In some cases, cartels directly recruit members from law enforcement agencies. The most notorious example of this is the formation of Los Zetas, which was originally composed of defectors from Mexico's elite special forces.
3. **Weak Judicial Systems:** The Mexican judicial system has long struggled to provide accountability. Corrupt officials in the judicial process—ranging from prosecutors to judges—often ensure the release of cartel members or weaken charges brought against them.

Major Cartels and Their Tactics

While numerous drug cartels operate in Mexico, a few major players have dominated the narcoterrorism landscape:

- **Sinaloa Cartel:** Known for its global network, the Sinaloa Cartel has long controlled major drug routes, primarily smuggling cocaine, methamphetamine, and heroin into the U.S. It operates through alliances with smaller cartels and corrupt officials, using a mix of diplomacy and strategic violence.



- **Los Zetas:** A hyper-violent group formed by ex-military personnel, Los Zetas are notorious for their brutal massacres, extortion, and human trafficking. Their military background gave them an edge in tactics, making them a deadly force in the cartel landscape.
- **Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG):** This cartel rapidly rose to prominence in the 2010s, engaging in high-intensity battles with both the government and rival cartels. They are known for their ambition to control large swathes of Mexico and international drug markets, as well as for their extreme brutality.

Each of these cartels operates through a strict hierarchical structure with specialised roles dedicated to logistics, enforcement, intelligence, and propaganda. They also engage in diversification of their revenue streams, expanding into areas such as extortion, human trafficking, and control of local economies.

Economic Impact of Cartels on Mexican Society

The economic impact of cartels extends far beyond drug trafficking. Mexican cartels have embedded themselves in local economies, offering employment and infrastructure development in regions where the state is absent. This allows them to control large areas of rural Mexico, gaining loyalty from impoverished communities.

1. **Narco-Economies:** In many regions, cartels serve as the de facto government, providing jobs, services, and protection in exchange for allegiance. For example, in areas under cartel control, local businesses often pay “protection fees” to avoid violence.
2. **Money Laundering and Legitimate Businesses:** Cartels often invest their illicit profits into legitimate businesses, ranging from construction



- companies to agriculture. This not only helps them launder money but also deepens their integration into Mexico's legal economy.

3. **Displacement and Violence:** The violence perpetrated by cartels, especially in territorial disputes, has led to the displacement of thousands of civilians. Whole communities are forced to flee as cartels fight over strategic drug routes and cities.

Terrorist-Criminal Nexus in Mexico: Hezbollah and Los Zetas

The alliance between Hezbollah, a Lebanese political and militant organisation, and **Los Zetas**, one of Mexico's most violent drug cartels, highlights the dangerous intersection of terrorism and organised crime. This **terrorist-criminal nexus** is driven by the need for both groups to expand their financial networks and operational reach. Hezbollah's anti-Western ideology and long-standing hostility toward the U.S. have led them to seek funds through illicit means, including drug trafficking, arms smuggling, and money laundering.

Hezbollah's Involvement in the Drug Trade

Hezbollah has long been involved in the global drug trade, leveraging it as a major revenue source to fund its operations. While traditionally focused on Middle Eastern activities, Hezbollah has expanded its network into Latin America, establishing a presence in countries like Venezuela and Chile. Mexico, with its proximity to the U.S. and weak state control in cartel-dominated areas, represents a strategic location for Hezbollah's operations. The partnership between Hezbollah and Los Zetas provides mutual benefits: **Los Zetas** gain access to Hezbollah's international smuggling networks and



expertise in covert operations, while Hezbollah profits from the cartel's established drug trafficking routes and violence-driven control over key regions. This collaboration enhances the **operational capacities** of both organisations.

Security Implications for the U.S.

The Hezbollah-Los Zetas nexus poses significant security risks for the United States. Hezbollah's established criminal infrastructure in Latin America, coupled with Los Zetas' violent territorial dominance in Mexico, means that both organisations have the capacity to exploit the U.S. border for smuggling drugs, weapons, and potentially even militants. Hezbollah's growing financial independence from its state sponsors, like Iran, through these criminal ventures strengthens its capability to conduct future attacks against U.S. interests.

The presence of Hezbollah's influence in Mexico could also facilitate **terrorist infiltration** into the U.S. through immigration and drug trafficking channels controlled by Los Zetas. This scenario raises concerns about **homeland security** vulnerabilities, as the cartel-terrorist alliance could enable the transfer of illicit goods and individuals across borders with relative ease.

Adaptation of Transnational Organizations

This partnership exemplifies the evolving nature of **transnational criminal and terrorist organisations**. Both groups demonstrate a willingness to cooperate with external actors, blending their objectives to enhance their reach and profitability.



Hezbollah's venture into organised crime illustrates its pragmatic approach to securing funding, even if it means collaborating with non-ideologically aligned partners like Los Zetas. Both Hezbollah and Los Zetas have continuously adapted their strategies to evade detection and counterterrorism efforts. By intertwining their operations, they capitalise on each other's strengths, making them more resilient and difficult to dismantle through traditional law enforcement or counterterrorism tactics.

International Cooperation and Combat Efforts

Mexico's efforts to combat cartels have increasingly relied on cooperation with international partners, especially the United States. The **Mérida Initiative**, launched in 2008, represents one such partnership aimed at providing Mexico with resources to counter drug trafficking, improve law enforcement training, and strengthen judicial reforms.

However, despite billions of dollars in aid and military support, Mexican cartels continue to adapt. Factors that complicate the fight against cartels include:

- **Fragmentation of Cartels:** Even after major cartel leaders are captured or killed, their organisations often splinter into smaller, more violent factions. This has led to more unpredictable, dispersed violence throughout the country.
- **Transnational Networks:** Mexican cartels collaborate with other criminal groups globally, from European mafias to Colombian drug producers. This allows them to maintain resilience and adapt to changing security landscapes.



MAJOR STAKEHOLDERS

1- United States: The United States considers narco-terrorism to be a serious danger to both international stability and national security. It has long been involved in the fight against drug trafficking, especially with programs like Plan Colombia in Latin America. As a major concern in international counterterrorism measures, the United States concentrates on funding for terrorist organisations associated with the drug trade. In order to handle this international issue, it places a strong emphasis on law enforcement collaboration and intelligence exchange with other countries.

The ramifications of narco-terrorism affect the United States on a national and worldwide level. Domestically, transnational drug syndicates with links to terrorist groups are often linked to the opioid crisis and drug-related criminality. Through organisations like the DEA, the United States leads the world in the battle against drug trafficking and has counter-narcotics initiatives in Afghanistan and Latin America. Its primary objectives are to break up cartels, stabilise areas impacted by both drugs and terrorism, and stop financial support going to terrorist organisations that are financed by drug money. As a global power, the U.S. also emphasises sustaining international security, realising that destabilised regions like Central America and the Middle East constitute a long-term security danger to the Western hemisphere.

2- United Kingdom: Given its link to both international crime and terrorism in Europe, the UK has a vested interest in combating narco-terrorism. The UK encourages international cooperation on anti-drug operations and has worked extensively with European partners,



particularly in intelligence sharing and tracing illegal cash flows from drug trafficking, as part of its larger counterterrorism and anti-organized crime agenda. Additionally, it continues to emphasise reducing the impact of narco-terrorism in formerly colonised areas, especially in Africa and the Caribbean.

Narco-terrorism is a serious worry because the UK is a key transit centre for drugs, particularly cocaine from Latin America and heroin from Afghanistan. The UK has a stake in keeping organised crime and terrorism from spreading within its borders. British police track the funding of terrorist organisations and intercept drug shipments in conjunction with their European and international allies. In the Caribbean and Africa, where poor governance can foster conditions that encourage drug-related terrorism, the UK also places a strong emphasis on aid to former colonies. Targeting the financial infrastructure of terrorist groups that profit from drug trafficking is part of the UK's counterterrorism strategy

3- Russia: Russia views narco-terrorism as a major concern, particularly in light of the drug lines that flow from Afghanistan through Central Asia and support extremist organisations in the area. Moscow is determined to keep its borders secure and restrict the flow of drugs that fuel both internal crime and terrorism. Russia focusses on drug interdiction initiatives in collaboration with former Soviet states and emphasises regional cooperation, especially through institutions like the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO).

Russia's geographic proximity to key drug-producing regions leaves it especially vulnerable to narco-terrorism. Russian national security is directly impacted by the heroin trafficking from Afghanistan through Central Asia, which supplies both terrorist organisations in the North Caucasus and domestic organised crime. The Russian government sees the relationship between drugs and terrorism as a danger to both its



national sovereignty and the stability of the region. Moscow has mobilised resources to defend its borders and fights drug shipments through regional institutions like the CSTO. Russia also utilises its influence in international groups to press for a greater global response to narco-terrorism.

4- China: China's main worries about narco-terrorism are in relation to its borders, particularly with Southeast Asia. trafficking of drugs, particularly from Southeast Asia. Historically, instability has been fuelled by drug trafficking from areas such as the Golden Triangle, especially in provinces like Yunnan. Furthermore, China is cautious about the connection between drugs and extremist organisations that are active in Xinjiang and other areas close to its western frontiers. Beijing adopts a tough position opposing both the manufacture of drugs and terrorism, advocating stringent domestic law enforcement measures as well as encouraging international collaboration to break the link between drugs and terrorism.

China is particularly concerned about the stability of the Southeast and Central Asian regions when it comes to narco-terrorism. China's anti-drug initiatives continue to centre on the Golden Triangle, which was formerly one of the world's most important opium-producing regions. China has adopted a tough stance against drug trafficking because it sees it as a danger to domestic security, especially in the provinces in the west of the country where extremist groups like the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) are active. Beijing is concentrating on regional collaboration and tough law enforcement, especially in areas close to Myanmar and Laos' borders. China has stepped up its participation in international drug control programs in an effort to reduce drug production and terrorism in recent years.



5- France: Narco-terrorism is France's main worry in relation to its former colonies, especially in West Africa, where terrorism and drug trafficking have contributed to instability in nations like Mali. In addition to sending military personnel into the area to fight terrorism, France has played a significant role in closing narcotics routes and disrupting terrorist networks that are supported by them. Paris also works closely with European and international allies to boost border security and counter-narcotics initiatives abroad.

PAST UN ACTIONS

1. United Nations Global Plan of Action on Trafficking in Persons (2010):

- Published by UNODC, evaluated the extent of human trafficking worldwide and measured efforts to combat it, utilising data from 155 nations.
- Aligned with the 2003 United Nations Protocol against Trafficking in Persons and encompasses an analysis of trafficking trends, legal measures implemented in response, and detailed information regarding reported trafficking cases, victims, and prosecutions in various countries.

2. United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000):

- Adopted by General Assembly resolution 55/25 on 15 November 2000 and came into force on 29 September 2003.
- It was signed by Member States at a conference in Palermo, Italy, from 12-15 December 2000.
- The Convention is supported by three Protocols:



- Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (entered into force on 25 December 2003).
- Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea, and Air (entered into force on 28 January 2004).
- Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms (entered into force on 3 July 2005).
- The Trafficking Protocol aims to establish a common legal definition of trafficking, promote international cooperation, and protect victims' rights.
- The Smuggling Protocol addresses organised crime in migrant smuggling, establishing a legal definition and aiming to protect migrants' rights.
- The Firearms Protocol focuses on preventing illicit arms trafficking and mandates states to establish related criminal offences and control measures.

3. UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic substances (1988):

- Outlines measures against drug trafficking, including provisions addressing money laundering and the diversion of precursor chemicals.
- It promotes international cooperation through mechanisms such as the extradition of drug traffickers, controlled deliveries, and the transfer of legal proceedings.
- The 1988 United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances is aimed at combating drug trafficking and related offences.
- It defines narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, establishing controlled measures for their production and distribution.



- Article 3 addresses criminalization of drug trafficking, requiring parties to adopt legislation making trafficking and related activities punishable offences.
- Article 4 establishes measures for extradition, mandating that parties cooperate in extraditing individuals involved in drug-related crimes.
- Article 5 promotes international cooperation, including controlled deliveries and shared investigations among states.
- Article 14 focuses on money laundering, requiring parties to implement measures to prevent, investigate, and prosecute money laundering related to drug offences.
- The Convention encourages states to strengthen law enforcement capacities and promote public awareness about drug-related issues.

4. UNSC Resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011), 2253 (2015):

- Background:
 - Established under resolution 1267 in 1999 with a focus on the Taliban.
 - Evolved to include targeted sanctions against Al-Qaida and ISIL
 - The listing criteria under resolution 2734 (2024) include:
 - Activities such as financing, supporting, or committing acts of violence for ISIL or Al-Qaida.
 - Involvement in sexual and gender-based violence as a tactic of terrorism is also recognized for designation.
- Currently, The Security Council Committee monitors sanctions against ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida, and related entities under resolutions 1267, 1989, and 2253.



- The main sanctions include:
 - Assets Freeze: All states must freeze funds and financial assets of designated individuals/entities.
 - Travel Ban: States must prevent entry or transit of designated individuals.
 - Arms Embargo: States must prohibit arms and related materials supplied to designated individuals/entities.

QARMA

Questions a Resolutions Must Answer:

1. How should the UNSC define narcoterrorism?
2. What specific financial sanctions or mechanisms should be implemented to disrupt the funding networks of narcoterrorist groups while maintaining accountability across member states?
3. What strategies can enhance global intelligence sharing on narcoterrorism, and how can the UNSC ensure compliance and cooperation from all regions?
4. What humanitarian interventions are needed to address the displacement, violence, and human rights violations caused by narcoterrorism, and how can these be integrated into broader counterterrorism strategies?
5. What role should regional organisations, such as the Organization of American States (OAS), African Union (AU), or ASEAN, play in addressing narcoterrorism within their regions?
6. What role do educational programs play in preventing youth from becoming involved in narcoterrorism?
7. Under what conditions should the UNSC consider authorising peacekeeping or military interventions in regions heavily impacted by narcoterrorism, and what would be the scope of such operations.



8 .How can the UNSC assess the effectiveness of its resolutions and actions against narcoterrorism, and what mechanism should be put in place for regular evaluation and reporting?

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/mexicos-long-war-drugs-crime-and-cartels>
2. <https://insightcrime.org/colombia-organized-crime-news/pablo-escobar/>
3. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Pablo-Escobar>
4. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran%E2%80%93contra_affair
5. <https://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/iran-contra-affair>
6. <https://www.insightcrime.org/news/30-years-after-escobar-how-the-cocaine-trade-has-changed>
7. <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/mexicos-long-war-drugs-crime-and-cartels>
8. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-38467937>
9. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/FARC>
10. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-36605769>
https://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/nssi/files/docs/capstone%20projects1/valencia_evolving-dynamics-of-terrorism.pdf
<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/southasiasource/afghanistans-drug-trade-is-booming-under-taliban-rule/> <https://www.usip.org/publications/2023/06/talibans-successful-opium-ban-bad-afghans-and-world>
https://www.unodc.org/documents/crop-monitoring/Afghanistan/Opium_cultivation_Afghanistan_2022.pdf
11. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/intro/UNTOC.html>



12. [https://www.un-
library.org/content/periodicals/24118443#:~:text=In%20July%202010%20the%20UNGA
,mainly%20between%202012%20and%202014](https://www.un-
library.org/content/periodicals/24118443#:~:text=In%20July%202010%20the%20UNGA
,mainly%20between%202012%20and%202014)
13. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/illicit-trafficking.html>
14. https://www.unodc.org/pdf/convention_1988_en.pdf
15. <https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/sanctions/1267>
16. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/45072708>
17. [https://www.economicsandpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/GTI-2024-
web-290224.pdf](https://www.economicsandpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/GTI-2024-
web-290224.pdf)
18. [https://www.thessismun.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/3rd-GA-Study-Guide-
Topic-A.pdf](https://www.thessismun.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/3rd-GA-Study-Guide-
Topic-A.pdf)
19. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09585192.2015.1091371>
20. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/drogue-terreur.pdf>
21. [https://www.brookings.edu/articles/narcoterrorism-and-the-long-reach-of-u-s-law-
enforcement/](https://www.brookings.edu/articles/narcoterrorism-and-the-long-reach-of-u-s-law-
enforcement/) <https://2001-2009.state.gov/p/inl/rls/rm/29726.html>
22. [https://committees.parliament.uk/work/7673/the-uks-international-
counterterrorism-policy/](https://committees.parliament.uk/work/7673/the-uks-international-
counterterrorism-policy/)
23. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26323157> <https://www.unodc.org/>
24. [https://digitalcommons.chapman.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?
article=1225&context=chapman-law-review](https://digitalcommons.chapman.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?
article=1225&context=chapman-law-review)
25. <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/secret-world-narcoterrorism>

