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*Topic area A: 'The war against drugs:
building a comprehensive response to
prevent and eliminate illicit trafficking of
drugs.'*



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Topic Area A: The war against drugs: building a comprehensive response to prevent and eliminate illicit trafficking of drugs

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1. Welcoming Letter

Distinguished delegates,

We are very excited to cordially welcome you to Thessaloniki International Student Model United Nations (ThessISMUN) 2018, and the Social, Cultural & Humanitarian Committee, the 3rd Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. We are looking forward to presiding over the committee sessions, as we have the utmost confidence in your abilities to debate, cooperate, compromise, and produce the best possible work during our sessions.

Our Committee has two very intriguing items in its Agenda, and thus, it is of high importance that your preparation before the simulation is fruitful, organized, and efficient. To assist this, we have prepared this Study Guide, on which we will elaborate on Topic Area A: “The war against drugs: building a comprehensive response to prevent and eliminate illicit trafficking of drugs”. While challenging, we hope that you share our belief that this is a very fascinating issue, as well. In the following pages, we have managed to include all the important principles regarding this topic. Based on few main pillars, we have gathered information that will kick-start your personal research, we have provided you with the proper material, the galvanizing force for you to achieve valuable work and supply yourselves with the diplomatic ammunition needed – the proposals that you submit, always by virtue of your countries’ policies.

From this very moment, and until the closure of ThessISMUN 2018, we remain at your disposal for any inquiries that you may have, or clarifications that you may need.

Now, it is up to you to welcome this experience with zeal, courage, and knowledge, and mark our words, it will all make for some very valuable memories to reminisce, and some remarkable lessons to learn.

Invest the time that you have, and start working! You have the tools, you have the floor, take a stand and **bring your thesis to the world!**

Best regards,
Georgios-Nikolaos Skourtis, Chair
Grigorios Aspridis, Co-Chair

2. The 3rd Committee of the General Assembly

The 3rd Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, known as the Social, Cultural & Humanitarian Committee, is one of the six fora of the United Nations General Assembly. It is the primary forum for the allocation and consideration of questions on social, humanitarian and cultural issues, especially when related to human rights.

Along with the other five main Committees of the United Nations General Assembly, it was established in 1947. It follows the rules of the United Nations General Assembly, which constitute Chapter IV of the Charter of the United Nations.

Resolutions passed within the context of the 3rd Committee of the United Nations General Assembly are not binding. Its Resolutions are, in general, a set of recommendations for the Member States to ratify, and in accordance of which they will adjust.

Participating in the works of the 3rd Committee of the United Nations General Assembly are all 193 sovereign states that hold the United Nations membership. In addition, the United Nations has designated two States as Permanent Non-Member Observer States: the Holy See & the State of Palestine. The Observer States have all the rights of a Full Member – except for sponsoring, nominating candidates, and voting. Other entities may be granted an Observer status by the United Nations General Assembly, in order to participate and assist in its works.

3. The War against Drugs: An Introduction

Despite the advancements and the development seen in the contemporary world, there is a number of factors that is still holding the world back from becoming a better and safer place for people to live in. One of those issues is the war against drugs. With the

term “the war against drugs” the issues under discussion are: drug trafficking, drug addiction, drug production and drug accessibility, among others.

Starting from the basis, it is important to mention the exact definition of “drugs”. In detail, “*a drug is any substance (with the exception of food and water) which, when taken into the body, alters the body’s function either physically and/or psychologically.*¹ *Drugs may be legal (e.g. alcohol, caffeine and tobacco) or illegal (e.g. cannabis, ecstasy, cocaine and heroin).*”²

The use of drugs has many side effects. More specifically, the effects of drugs are different from person to person depending its physical characteristics, the amount of the drug itself, the way it was used and the environment that a person is while using drugs. In detail, a person may experience different emotions due to drug-taking, such as depression, anger, aggressiveness, lack of motivation, paranoia, anxiety, an extreme want for sleep and/or talk a lot. Having said that, drug use can lead to emotional and social problems of different types and different impact on relationships with family and friends, among others.^{3 4}

There are at least two reasons why the drug issue is on top of the agenda. Firstly because of the catastrophic implications of drug addiction, and secondly because of the enormous share in the black market in which drug dealers make profit through drug trafficking.

To start with, in relation to the first reason, is imperative to understand what drug addiction is: “*the repeated use of a psychoactive substance or substances, to the extent that the user is periodically or chronically intoxicated, shows a compulsion to*

¹ Drug Aware. (n.d.). *What are drugs?*. [online] Available at: <http://drugaware.com.au/getting-the-facts/faqs-ask-a-question/what-are-drugs/#what-is-a-drug> [Accessed 26 Nov. 2017].

² *Ibid*

³ Drug Aware. (n.d.). *What are drugs?*. [online] Available at: <http://drugaware.com.au/getting-the-facts/faqs-ask-a-question/what-are-drugs/#what-are-the-short-and-long-term-effect-of-drugs-on-the-body-and-mind> [Accessed 26 Nov. 2017].

⁴ drugabuse.com (n.d.). *Cocaine*. [image] Available at: <https://drugabuse.com/wp-content/uploads/cocaine-additives.jpg> [Accessed 13 Dec. 2017].

*take the preferred substance (or substances), has great difficulty in voluntarily ceasing or modifying substance use, and exhibits determination to obtain psychoactive substances by almost any means.*⁵

Since named as the second reason and of the same importance is the drug trafficking issue. In detail: *“the selling, transportation, and illegal import of unlawful controlled substances, such as marijuana, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamines, and other illegal drugs”*⁶. Based on the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *“drug trafficking is a global illicit trade involving the cultivation, manufacture, distribution and sale of substances which are subject to drug prohibition laws”*⁷. Additionally, *“it is considered a crime and the punishment for drug trafficking can vary widely depending on several factors, including the type and amount of drugs involved, the type of drugs, geographic area of distribution, and whether children were targeted. Sentences for drug distribution and trafficking can generally range from 3-5 years to life in prison”*⁸.

3.1. The Different types of Drugs

Briefly, drugs can be categorized as: Stimulants, Depressants, Opiates & Opioids and Hallucinogens⁹. In detail, the first type, the Stimulants, interfere in the central nervous system of a person, produce feelings of euphoria, well-being and increase the mental and motor activity of the user. Cocaine, crack cocaine, amphetamines (speed) and ecstasy are considered stimulants.¹⁰ On the other hand, the second type, the Depressants, are considered chemicals that impact the central nervous system by

⁵ UNODC. (2016). *World Drug Report 2014*. [Online]. Third edition. [Accessed 15 Dec. 2017]. Available at:

https://www.unodc.org/documents/scientific/Terminology_and_Information_on_Drugs-3rd_edition.pdf, p. 50

⁶ Findlaw. (n.d.). *Drug Trafficking/Distribution - FindLaw*. [online] Available at: <http://criminal.findlaw.com/criminal-charges/drug-trafficking-distribution.html> [Accessed 26 Nov. 2017].

⁷ Unodc.org. (2017). *Drug trafficking*. [online] Available at: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/drug-trafficking/index.html> [Accessed 6 Dec. 2017].

⁸ See reference 8

⁹ Castlecraig.co.uk. (n.d.). *Types of Drugs Information | Castle Craig*. [online] Available at: <http://www.castlecraig.co.uk/resources/drugs/types-drugs> [Accessed 26 Nov. 2017].

¹⁰ Ibid

slowing it down and suppressing the activity of the brain, resulting to a feeling of relaxation and relief from anxiety. Alcohol and cannabis are the most common depressants.¹¹

Also, the third type of drugs, the Opiates and Opioids, impact the brain by causing pain relief, euphoria, sedation, while in increasing doses may cause coma. Examples of opioid drugs are heroin, morphine, opium, methadone, dipipanone and pethidine.¹² Finally, the fourth type, the hallucinogens, alter the way the brain functions and the way the user perceives reality. Cannabis, LSD, ecstasy and psilocybin (magic mushrooms) are considered hallucinogens.¹³

Some of the most well-known drugs with regards to drug trafficking are considered cannabis, heroin, cocaine, ecstasy, methamphetamine and hallucinogens. It needs to be underlined that cannabis -also called bongo, ganja, grass, marijuana, pot and Thai sticks, is considered the most cultivated, trafficked and abused illicit drug, while at the same time it may cause grave impact on human lives and especially the cannabis users.¹⁴

4. Key terms & Definitions

In order to understand fully the topic under discussion it is deemed necessary to comprehend some of the most crucial terms regarding drugs even though defining drugs is controversial since the term applies differently to each country. However, for the scope of the specific Study Guide, the terms are defined as follows:

¹¹ *Ibid*

¹² *Ibid*

¹³ *Ibid*

¹⁴ Unodc.org. (2017). *Get the Facts - World Drug Campaign*. [online] Available at: <https://www.unodc.org/drugs/en/get-the-facts/cannabis.html> [Accessed 26 Nov. 2017].

4.1. Drug

Some definitions that can be found regarding the word “drug” are:

1. *a chemical substance that affects the processes of the mind or body;*
2. *any chemical compound used in the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of disease or other abnormal condition;*¹⁵

4.2. Narcotics

As narcotics’ definition, one could consider the following points:

*“an agent that produces insensibility or stupor, applied especially to the opioids, i.e., to any natural or synthetic drug that has actions like those of morphine.”*¹⁶

In other words *“any drug derived from opium or opiumlike compounds with potent analgesic effects associated with both significant alteration of mood and behavior and with potential for dependence and tolerance.”*¹⁷

4.3. Illicit Drugs

Illicit drugs can be met as “street drugs”¹⁸, as well. Therefore, street drugs are defined as *“a substance purchased from a drug dealer; may be a legal substance, sold illicitly (without a prescription, and not for medical use), or it may be a substance that is illegal to possess.”*¹⁹

More importantly, an illicit drug is considered *“a substance taken for nonmedical purposes. Street drugs comprise various amphetamines, anesthetics, barbiturates, opiates, and psychoactive drugs, and many are derived from natural sources (for*

¹⁵ drug. (n.d.) Dorland's Medical Dictionary for Health Consumers. (2007). Retrieved November 25 2017 from <https://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/drug>

¹⁶ narcotic. (n.d.) Miller-Keane Encyclopedia and Dictionary of Medicine, Nursing, and Allied Health, Seventh Edition. (2003). Retrieved November 25 2017 from <https://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/narcotic>

¹⁷ narcotic. (n.d.) Farlex Partner Medical Dictionary. (2012). Retrieved November 25 2017 from <https://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/narcotic>

¹⁸ street drug. (n.d.) Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine. (2008). Retrieved November 25 2017 from <https://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/street+drug>

¹⁹*Ibid*

example, the plants *Papaver somniferum*, *Cannabis sativa*, *Amanita pantherina*, *Lophophora williamsii*).”²⁰

4.4. Drug Trafficking

“Drug trafficking is a global illicit trade involving the cultivation, manufacture, distribution and sale of substances which are subject to drug prohibition laws.”²¹ More than that, “drug trafficking is considered the smuggling, distribution, and sale of illegal drugs”²², which constitutes a crime in most of the countries’ domestic legislation.

4.5. Drug Manufacturing

Drug manufacturing could be considered “the crime of being involved in any step in the drug production process. [...] The term (drug) manufacturing encompasses a broad range of activities related to the production of drugs. While producing illegal substances in an in-house lab is clearly drug manufacturing, the crime also targets those who sell necessary precursor chemicals, specialized drug production equipment, or provide other operational support.”²³

4.6. Narcoterrorism

Narcoterrorism can have two meanings. Firstly, it is “the financing of terrorist activities through illegal drug trafficking”²⁴. Secondly, it is connected with “violent criminal actions relating to the trade in illegal drugs”²⁵.

²⁰ street drug. (n.d.) Farlex Partner Medical Dictionary. (2012). Retrieved November 25 2017 from <https://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/street+drug>

²¹ United Nations and the Rule of Law. (n.d.). *Drug Trafficking - United Nations and the Rule of Law*. [online] Available at: <https://www.un.org/ruleoflaw/thematic-areas/transnational-threats/drug-trafficking/> [Accessed 25 Nov. 2017].

²² Oxford Dictionaries | English. (n.d.). *drug trafficking | Definition of drug trafficking in English by Oxford Dictionaries*. [online] Available at: https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/drug_trafficking [Accessed 25 Nov. 2017].

²³ Justia.com. (n.d.). *Drug Manufacturing Overview :: Justia*. [online] Available at: <https://www.justia.com/criminal/offenses/drug-crimes/drug-manufacturing/> [Accessed 25 Nov. 2017].

²⁴ Narcoterrorism. (n.d.) Segen's Medical Dictionary. (2011). Retrieved November 25 2017 from <https://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Narcoterrorism>

4.7. Drug Lord

A drug lord is “*a criminal who controls the distribution and sale of large quantities of illegal drugs*”.²⁶ He is “*the head of an organization or network involved in illegal drug trafficking*”²⁷ and, in other words, *the leader of a cartel or gang that illegally traffics in drugs*”²⁸.

4.8. Drug Cartel

A drug cartel is considered “*an illicit group formed to control the production and distribution of narcotic drugs*”²⁹.

5. Historical Background

“It’s a war without a clear enemy. Anything waged against a shapeless, intangible noun can never truly be won” — President Clinton’s drug czar Gen. Barry McCaffrey said as much in 1996.³⁰

Drug trafficking has its roots back in time and still is one of the most difficult problems to resolve in the contemporary world. Since the Chinese history begins, there are the first signs of drug abuse and drug trafficking. For hundreds of years, the Chinese used to smoke opium, first without being aware of the danger it had and later

²⁵ Dictionary.cambridge.org. (2017). narcoterrorism Meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary. [online] Available at: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/narcoterrorism> [Accessed 25 Nov. 2017].

²⁶ Collinsdictionary.com. (n.d.). Druglord definition and meaning | Collins English Dictionary. [online] Available at: <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/druglord> [Accessed 26 Nov. 2017].

²⁷ Dictionary.com. (n.d.). the definition of drug lord. [online] Available at: <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/drug-lord> [Accessed 26 Nov. 2017].

²⁸ drug lord. (n.d.) American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition. (2011). Retrieved November 26 2017 from <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/drug+lord>

²⁹ drug cartel. (n.d.) WordNet 3.0, Farlex clipart collection. (2003-2008). Retrieved November 26 2017 from <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/drug+cartel>

³⁰ Suddath, C. (2009). The War on Drugs. [online] TIME.com. Available at: <http://content.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1887488,00.html> [Accessed 27 Nov. 2017].

with full awareness of the results they continued, ending up abusing it and becoming addicted.³¹

Starting with the recreational use of narcotics, this category dates back to the days of Hippocrates.³² Then, people would use drugs so as to alter their mood and, therefore, reduce inhibitions. Hundreds of years later, and apart from the Chinese, during the times of slavery, the wealthy would smoke opium to relax.³³

Way back to Ancient Egypt, there are writings and hieroglyphics mentioning stories where Romans and Egyptians used to use opium poppy to relieve pain specifically when giving birth to a child, by chewing poppy leaves.³⁴

During 1960s drugs turned into a symbol, especially in the United States. In detail, the use and abuse of drugs would become the symbol of youth rebellion, social upheaval and political dissent. As a result, the US government halted scientific research in order to evaluate their medical safety and efficacy.³⁵

June 1971 is a date-landmark, as this is how the “war against drugs” started. Specifically, Mr. Nixon, the President of the United States then, declared the “war on drugs”, an act that became the beginning of a new era to fight drug trafficking and drug abuse.³⁶ In detail, he increased the size and the presence of federal drug control agencies, while also he pushed through various measures to fight the phenomenon, such as mandatory sentencing and no-knock warrants for drug traffickers.³⁷

³¹ Narcotics.com. (n.d.). *History of Narcotics*. [online] Available at: <https://www.narcotics.com/history/> [Accessed 27 Nov. 2017]

³² *Ibid*

³³ *Ibid*

³⁴ *Ibid*

³⁵ Drug Policy Alliance. (n.d.). *A Brief History of the Drug War*. [online] Available at: <http://www.drugpolicy.org/issues/brief-history-drug-war> [Accessed 27 Nov. 2017].

³⁶ *Ibid*

³⁷ *Ibid*

5.1. *The history of Drug Cartels & Drug Lords*

The earliest form one can notice is **Mafia Drug Smuggling**, a fact that was mostly seen in American Mafia families.³⁸ In detail, those American Mafia families were smuggling and selling illicit drugs since the beginning of the 1950s. Mafia is one of the many organized groups that could be considered a drug cartel and, more specifically, it paved the way for future drug cartels that focused mainly on the illicit drug trafficking for their revenue.³⁹

Moreover, a very important figure of drug trafficking was **Pablo Escobar** and its drug cartel, **the Medellin Cartel**.⁴⁰ In the late 1970s, the illegal cocaine trade became a global opportunity for money making.⁴¹ The Medellin Cartel was based in the city of Medellin, Colombia and started its operations in 1980s.⁴² The drug cartel brought up to \$60 million a day, by trafficking cocaine and other drugs, through many channels, including Panama - with the help of General **Manuel Noriega**. Pablo Escobar surrendered to the Colombian police in 1991 and later escaped, to be relocated again by police in 1993, where he was killed as he tried to escape once again from the authorities.⁴³

After the collapse of the Medellin Cartel, the **Cali Cartel** stepped up, in early 1990s, based in southern Colombia. Its founding leaders were **brothers Gilberto and Miguel Rodríguez Orejuela, José Santacruz Londoño and Hélder Herrera**. During its fruitful years, the organization was thought to have control over about 80% of the cocaine supplied to the United States. Having said that, the Cali Cartel became a multi-billion-dollar smuggling business by the mid-90s. The members of the organization were captured and arrested within 1995-1996.⁴⁴

³⁸ HISTORY.com. (2017). *History of Drug Trafficking*. [online] Available at: <http://www.history.com/topics/history-of-drug-trafficking> [Accessed 28 Nov. 2017].

³⁹ *Ibid*

⁴⁰ *Ibid*

⁴¹ *Ibid*

⁴² *Ibid*

⁴³ *Ibid*

⁴⁴ *Ibid*

During the mid-1980s, the border between the United States and Mexico became the main route for the transportation of several drugs, such as cocaine, marijuana and others.⁴⁵ The **Sinaloa Federation** was then acknowledged as the most well-known Mexican drug cartel - a drug cartel that is actually still operating.⁴⁶ The Sinaloa Federation is also known in other names, such as the Pacific Cartel, the Guzman-Loera Organization, the Federation and the Blood Alliance.⁴⁷ The U.S. Attorney General's office stated that, the Sinaloa cartel trafficked almost 200 tons of cocaine and large amounts of heroin between 1990-2008.⁴⁸ The infamous drug lord **Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman** was the leader of the Sinaloa Federation in 1989, while in 2003 he was considered the most powerful drug trafficker in the world by the United States Department of Treasury. El Chapo was arrested and has escaped multiple times, but in 2016 he was captured by the Mexican authorities and in 2017 he was extradited in the United States to face criminal charges.⁴⁹

A Sinaloa Federation's rival in the 2000s was the **Gulf Cartel**, which worked with **Los Zetas**, a group consisted by former elite members of the Mexican military, that worked as hitmen.⁵⁰ The two groups split in 2010 with a lot of violence marking the history of organized crime in Mexico. Los Zetas had a reputation for ruthless violence that included leaving body parts in public places and posting killings on the Internet. The group's former leader, **Miguel Angel Treviño**, was arrested in 2013.⁵¹

6. Current Situation

It would be inconvenient to consider that drug trafficking is a past issue. No one shall ignore the developments that have taken place throughout these years in terms of

⁴⁵ *Ibid*

⁴⁶ *Ibid*

⁴⁷ *Ibid*

⁴⁸ *Ibid*

⁴⁹ *Ibid*

⁵⁰ *Ibid*

⁵¹ *Ibid*

technology and arms and trade, so as to rethink and redefine the new, and rather innovative, way that drug trafficking is still being operated today.

In order to deeply comprehend the current situation, this chapter will analyze the different uses of drugs, their impact on humans, and the state that drug trafficking is today.

6.1. *Uses of Drugs*

Preventing drug use and trafficking it may be useful to understand the reasons why people feel the need to become drug addicts.

Firstly, one of the reasons could be “to fit in” or “to experiment”.⁵² Many adolescents claim to use drugs because other people in their age -or in general- use them. Consequently, they use drugs in fear of not being accepted in the social circle that they have built, due to the possibility of other members of this circle using drugs.⁵³ Having said that, the sense of belonging motivates them to use drugs and experiment on them.⁵⁴

Secondly, people tend to use drugs “to escape, relax, feel good or better”.⁵⁵ In detail, with the use of drugs, those substances interact with the neurochemistry of the brain resulting to cause feelings of pleasure, relaxation and euphoria - depending the type of drug. More than that, people suffering from depression, social anxiety, stress-related disorders and physical pains claim to use drugs so as to ease those feelings of

⁵² Foundation for a Drug-Free World. (n.d.). *Watch Truth About Drugs Documentary Video & Learn About Substance Addiction. Get The Facts About Painkillers, Marijuana, Cocaine, Meth & Other Illegal Drugs.* [online] Available at: <http://www.drugfreeworld.org/drugfacts/drugs/why-do-people-take-drugs.html> [Accessed 29 Nov. 2017].

⁵³ Drugabuse.gov. (n.d.). *Why do adolescents take drugs?* [online] Available at: <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/principles-adolescent-substance-use-disorder-treatment-research-based-guide/frequently-asked-questions/why-do-adolescents-take-drugs> [Accessed 29 Nov. 2017].

⁵⁴ drugabuse.com (2017). *Drug Abuse.* [image] Available at: https://drugabuse.com/wp-content/uploads/drugabuse-shutterstock138946526-man_holding_head_stressed-drug_abuse_info.jpg [Accessed 13 Dec. 2017].

⁵⁵ See reference 90

distress.⁵⁶ Other than that, people may seek pleasure generally and positivity, due to lack of those characteristics in their personal and/or social life.⁵⁷

Another reason is “to rebel” or simply from “curiosity”⁵⁸. This means that people -and especially young people- may want to express defiance and rebel against the rules placed on them by the society, parents or other factor of social pressure.⁵⁹

Also, any kind of “celebration” may be a reason enough to use drugs.⁶⁰ More specifically, the consumption of drugs -including the use of alcohol- could be a part of a cultural or religious celebration or practice, for example a party or a gathering.⁶¹

Strange as it may seem, the use of drugs is augmented through the “exposure of the media”.⁶² One could admit that the media almost glorify people using drugs, as they can be found in advertisements, magazines, events and films, among others. This affects the way people view the issue, even though subconsciously.⁶³

6.2. The impact on Humans

Taking under consideration the aforementioned, it is deemed necessary to refer to the impact that the use of drugs has both individually and in terms of society.

6.2.1. Psychological & Physical Effects

As stated before, the use of drugs has severe effects both on psychological and physical level. The chronic use of drugs results in both long-term and short-term changes in the way the brain functions, a fact that has may lead to more serious

⁵⁶ See reference 91

⁵⁷ The Cabin Chiang Mai. (n.d.). *Eight Main Reasons Why People Use Drugs - The Cabin Chiang Mai*. [online] Available at: <https://www.thecabinchiangmai.com/eight-main-reasons-why-people-use-drugs/> [Accessed 29 Nov. 2017].

⁵⁸ See reference 90

⁵⁹ Tackett, B. (n.d.). *How Teens Are Exposed to Drugs and Alcohol*. [online] Project Know. Available at: <https://www.projectknow.com/research/drugs-and-alcohol/> [Accessed 29 Nov. 2017].

⁶⁰ *Ibid*

⁶¹ *Ibid*

⁶² *Ibid*

⁶³ *Ibid*

mental health issues, such as paranoia, depression, anxiety, aggression and hallucinations, among others.⁶⁴

Firstly, it needs to be underlined that one of the most common psychological effects of drug abuse is the “craving”.⁶⁵ Specifically, “craving” is considered the obsession of the addict to obtain and use the drug, excluding all others.⁶⁶ As a result, the addict believes that s/he cannot function, live or handle life itself without using the drug.⁶⁷

Other psychological effects of drug addiction include: wild mood swings, depression, anxiety, paranoia, violence, decrease in pleasure in everyday life, complication of mental illness, hallucinations, confusion, psychological tolerance to the drug's effects creating a desire to do ever-increasing amounts of the drug and/or desire to engage in risky behavior.⁶⁸

Moving on to the physical effects of drug abuse, they differ by the type of the drug, but in general they are noticed in all systems of the body.⁶⁹ In detail, drug addiction affects the way the brain works and how the body itself perceives pleasure - a fact that affects the addict psychologically, as well.⁷⁰ This happens due to the fact that the chemicals dopamine and serotonin flood the brain during the use of the drug, so the brain comes to depend on the drugs to produce feelings of happiness and completion.

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⁶⁴ Drugabuse.gov. (2017). *Mental Health Effects*. [online] Available at: <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/health-consequences-drug-misuse/mental-health-effects> [Accessed 29 Nov. 2017].

⁶⁵ Tracy, N. (2016). *Effects of Drug Addiction (physical and psychological) - Drug Addiction - Addictions | HealthyPlace*. [online] HealthyPlace. Available at: <https://www.healthyplace.com/addictions/drug-addiction/effects-of-drug-addiction-physical-and-psychological/> [Accessed 29 Nov. 2017].

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*

⁶⁷ *Ibid..*

⁶⁸ *Ibid*

⁶⁹ *See reference 71*

⁷⁰ *Ibid*

⁷¹ *Ibid*

Other physical effects of drug addiction include: contraction of HIV, hepatitis and other illnesses, heart rate irregularities, heart attack, respiratory problems such as lung cancer, emphysema and breathing problems, abdominal pain, vomiting, constipation, diarrhea, kidney and liver damage, seizures, stroke, brain damage, changes in appetite, body temperature and sleeping patterns.⁷²

6.2.2. Society

Drug addiction is a major public threat that can be developed into a humanitarian and/or political crisis, also posing a threat for a country's national security.⁷³

Firstly, drug abuse is tightly linked with criminality and domestic violence.⁷⁴ In detail, crimes related to drug abuse include many forms -such as stealing, to obtain money in order to buy drugs-, buying or selling drugs and, also, offences related to the lifestyle of drug abusers, resulting in illegal activities, including murder, robbery and assault. Countering these illegalities may have an enormous cost on countries due to the fact that it takes law enforcement, court and imprisonment, to restore stability.⁷⁵

Another effect of drug abuse which is of high importance is the health of society.⁷⁶ Specifically, drug abuse may lead to an increasing percentage of unhealthy people in a society, making it dangerous to live in, as well as health care costs, as a result of substance abuse. The most obvious effects of drug abuse, which are manifested in the individuals who abuse drugs, include ill health, sickness and, finally, death.⁷⁷

⁷² *Ibid*

⁷³ The Atlantic (2017). *Drug Abuse in the Society*. [image] Available at: <https://cdn.theatlantic.com/static/mt/assets/food/imasges.jpeg> [Accessed 13 Dec. 2017].

⁷⁴ Rose, G. (2017). *Effects of Drug Addiction on Society*. [online] LIVESTRONG.COM. Available at: <https://www.livestrong.com/article/161381-effects-of-drug-addiction-on-society/> [Accessed 29 Nov. 2017].

⁷⁵ *Ibid*

⁷⁶ *Ibid*

⁷⁷ Justice.gov. (2006). *The Impact of Drugs on Society - National Drug Threat Assessment 2006*. [online] Available at: <https://www.justice.gov/archive/ndic/pubs11/18862/impact.htm> [Accessed 29 Nov. 2017].

Another important threat to the society is child abuse and neglect, as a result of the parents' preoccupation with drugs.⁷⁸ Researches and studies operated in the United States indicated that parents who are addicted to drugs consider their need to obtain and consume drugs of primary importance, while the health and welfare of their children comes second.⁷⁹ Moreover, children, who have a drug addict as a parent or in their close family, are often physically or emotionally abused and at the same time they may lack proper immunizations, medical care, dental care, and necessities such as food, water, and shelter.⁸⁰ Also, some drug addicts often produce the drug they use in their own homes, where their children live.⁸¹ As a result, the children inhale the dangerous chemical fumes and gases or ingest toxic chemicals or illicit drugs.⁸² That way, the children are commonly tested positive in drugs and suffer from long-term and short-term health problems, as a consequence of living in the same place where drugs are produced.⁸³ This phenomenon is very common in houses where methamphetamine is produced.⁸⁴

6.3. Drug Abuse & Drug Trafficking Today

It is worth noting that around 5% of the global adult population used drugs at least once in 2015.⁸⁵ More than that, about 0.6% of the global adult population is suffering from disorders caused by drug use.⁸⁶ This estimates that 28 million years of "healthy" life was lost worldwide in 2015, due to the premature deaths and disabilities caused by drug abuse.⁸⁷

⁷⁸ *Ibid*

⁷⁹ *Ibid*

⁸⁰ *Ibid.*

⁸¹ *Ibid.*

⁸² *Ibid.*

⁸³ *Ibid.*

⁸⁴ *Ibid.*

⁸⁵ World Drug Report. (2017) *EXECUTIVE SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS*. 1st ed. [e-book] Vienna: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, pp.9-10. Available at: https://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/Booklet_1_EXSUM.pdf [Accessed 30 Nov. 2017].

⁸⁶ *Ibid.*

⁸⁷ *Ibid.*

Also, in recent years the variety of substances available on the drug market has increased and widened due to the fact that new psychoactive substances (NPS) emerge every year and the other traditional/common drugs remain.⁸⁸ Having said that, the phenomenon of polydrug use is also increasing, though it is not considered a new phenomenon to combine drugs to use them altogether, and it poses an even more serious risk for drug abuse and drug trafficking.⁸⁹

The top used and trafficked drug in the world is cannabis - about 3.8% of the adult population is estimated to have used cannabis in 2015.⁹⁰ Cannabis use has increased in North and South America, while in Europe its use is declining or stabilizing.⁹¹

The second most commonly used and trafficked drug worldwide are the amphetamines, with an estimated score of 35 million users in 2015.⁹² The use of amphetamines -particularly methamphetamine- is considered to be increasing in sub-regions, such as North America, Oceania and most parts of Asia.⁹³

Moreover, in 2015 nearly 17 million people used cocaine, with increasing percentages in North America and Oceania, and decreasing or stable percentages in Europe.⁹⁴ At the same time, the use of ecstasy is also threatening, as in 2015 21.6 million people used ecstasy, mostly in Oceania, Europe and North America.⁹⁵

Seeing that, there many new facts about drug abuse, it needs to be underlined that drug trafficking is also reaching new levels. A new factor that has aroused and helps drug trafficking is the darknet.⁹⁶ In detail, in the darknet users are allowed to buy drugs through cryptocurrency, such as bitcoin, and have them delivered to them in a

⁸⁸ *Ibid.*

⁸⁹ *Ibid.*

⁹⁰ *Ibid*, p.13

⁹¹ *Ibid.*

⁹² *Ibid.*

⁹³ *Ibid*, p.13

⁹⁴ *Ibid*, p.15

⁹⁵ *Ibid*, p.15

⁹⁶ *Ibid*, p. 10

concealed manner.⁹⁷ Although the darknet is fit for only a small percentage of drug sales, the market has been growing by around 50 per cent per year in recent years.⁹⁸

Moreover, it is very important to mention that group who master drug trafficking, especially in Europe, are frequently “expanding their interests” and get involved in the counterfeiting of goods, trafficking in human beings, smuggling of migrants and trafficking in weapons.⁹⁹

According to the European Police Office (Europol), about 5.000 international organized crime groups are operating in countries of the European Union in 2017 and more than one third of them are involved in trafficking of drugs, a fact that makes drug trafficking more “popular” than organized property crime, smuggling of migrants, trafficking in human beings, excise fraud or any other illicit activity.¹⁰⁰

To elaborate more on international drug trafficking, below there is a table referring to organized crime groups active in illicit drug markets, mostly in Europe but also in other regions as well.¹⁰¹

	Strong evidence of involvement of organized crime groups from specific countries/regions
Heroin	Albanian, Balkan, Turkish, African, Bulgarian, Romanian, other eastern European, British, Dutch, Italian mafias, other Italian, Lithuanian, motorcycle gangs, Middle Eastern, other Asian, North African
Cocaine	Colombian, African, Albanian, Italian ('Ndrangheta), Spanish, British,

⁹⁷ *Ibid.*

⁹⁸ *Ibid*

⁹⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁰ *Ibid*

¹⁰¹ *Ibid*, p.19

	Finnish, French, other Italian, motorcycle gangs, other western European, Balkan, Bulgarian, Romanian, Russian/Georgian, Mexican, North African, South American
Cannabis	Albanian, Chinese, Dutch, North African, other Asian, Spanish, African, Russian/Georgian, Turkish, Italian mafias, British, Finnish, French, Irish, motorcycle gangs
Other Illicit Drugs	British, Dutch, Lithuanian, other eastern European, British, Finnish, motorcycle gangs, other western European, Albanian, Russian/Georgian, Turkish, Chinese, other Asian

The financial impact of drug trafficking, nowadays, is also a crucial issue. In details, drug trafficking organizations get to have billions of dollars and the way they spend them can have a huge impact on local and wider economies.¹⁰² Possibilities are that they might smuggle cash out of their home country, buy or build real estate, invest in restaurants and casinos for money laundering purposes, or stash their profits in offshore financial centers.¹⁰³ This may lead to distorted property prices, unfair competition, licit businesses crowded out, corruption bolstered and the climate to attract international investment spoilt, ultimately eroding rule of law and economic stability.¹⁰⁴

For example, in Afghanistan the value of opiate exports is estimated to be between 7% and 16% of the GDP in 2011-2016, according to UNODC.¹⁰⁵ On the other hand, in Colombia there is a consistent fall regarding the illicit income from all crime

¹⁰² *Ibid*, p. 22

¹⁰³ *Ibid*.

¹⁰⁴ *Ibid*

¹⁰⁵ *Ibid*

activities -including drug trafficking, as well as in the production of opium and the cultivation of coca.¹⁰⁶

The relation between drug trafficking and corruption is also worth noting. Corruption has a mutually reinforcing relationship with drug trafficking and drug production, due to possible benefits between powerful governmental institutions and powerful drug trafficking groups.¹⁰⁷ In detail, the wealth and the power that some drug trafficking organizations have may be much more than those of local governments, a fact that allows to the groups to threaten the government, which leads to buying protection from law enforcements agents, criminal justice institutions, politicians and others.¹⁰⁸ Fitting examples of the above are the Cosa Nostra and the N'drangheta in Italy, some Mexican drug cartels and other drug cartels in Guinea Bissau.¹⁰⁹

6.3.1. Narcoterrorism

To start with, in the early 1980's President Fernando Belaunde Terry of Peru had to deal with attacks that Peru's Police Forces were facing from drug traffickers.¹¹⁰ He came up with the name "narcoterrorism" as a way to name the events that were taking place, then.¹¹¹ Later on, this term was extended into two different definitions, that expressed two types of terrorism: the first, international drug dealers who use terrorist tactics to maximize their profits, and the second being the terrorists who use drugs to fund their organization and operations¹¹². Having said that, Latin America is considered the birthplace of narcoterrorism, due to the augmentation of drug cartels and their activities there, among of which is the use of terror tactics to make more money.^{113 114}

¹⁰⁶ *Ibid*

¹⁰⁷ *Ibid*, p. 30

¹⁰⁸ *Ibid*

¹⁰⁹ *Ibid*

¹¹⁰ Trackingterrorism.org. (2017). *Narcoterrorism / TRAC*. [online] Available at: <https://www.trackingterrorism.org/article/narcoterrorism> [Accessed 30 Nov. 2017].

¹¹¹ *Ibid*

¹¹² *Ibid*

¹¹³ *Ibid*

Funding for armed violence has long been linked to the illicit drug trade from countries of the Latin America to the Middle East - and not only.¹¹⁵ In detail, some examples could be considered the Taliban and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). Specifically, the Taliban in Afghanistan get almost half of their income from narcotics -mostly opiates.¹¹⁶ On the other hand, the FARC seem to be relying on the trade of cocaine due to the fact that it proves to be very profitable for the organization.¹¹⁷ More than that, in West Africa there are indications that there are terrorist organizations that might be involved in the smuggling of cocaine and cannabis.¹¹⁸

At this points it is interesting to reference some statements of Douglas Century, an author in Tablet Magazine ¹¹⁹, in his article “*ISIS and the New Face of Narcoterrorism*”: “[The borders of Narcoterrorism have] *now vastly expanded from being a crisis limited to Latin America. In fact, I’d argue that whatever the nomenclature, Israel was among the first nations to be affected by the phenomenon of narcoterrorism. During the 1970s, Yasser Arafat’s Palestinian Liberation Organization controlled clandestine laboratories in Lebanon, laying some of the foundations for the current narcoterrorism infrastructure, which boosted the PLO’s stashed bank accounts. According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, an*

¹¹⁴ The Commentator (2017). *Narcoterrorism*. [image] Available at: http://www.thecommentator.com/system/articles/inner_pictures/000/000/170/commentary_thumb/e97ad70b5f975c91b47e537209353490a75b3f94.jpg?1349456085 [Accessed 13 Dec. 2017].

¹¹⁵ World Drug Report 2017 THE DRUG PROBLEM AND ORGANIZED CRIME, ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS, CORRUPTION AND TERRORISM. (2017). 1st ed. [ebook] Vienna: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, pp.34. Available at: https://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/Booklet_1_EXSUM.pdf [Accessed 30 Nov. 2017].

¹¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁹ Tabletmag.com. (2017). *Douglas Century - Tablet Magazine – Jewish News and Politics, Jewish Arts and Culture, Jewish Life and Religion*. [online] Available at: <http://www.tabletmag.com/author/dcentury> [Accessed 30 Nov. 2017].

estimated 40 percent of the PLO's weaponry was financed by the trafficking of heroin and hashish."¹²⁰

*"ISIS, perhaps the greatest current threat to stability in the Middle East, is also engaged in narcoterrorism. Counter-narcotics experts tell me that ISIS now receives a sizable amount of its revenue through narcotics, specifically through drugs manufactured at labs they've seized in the Syrian city of Aleppo. These are former legitimate pharmaceutical manufacturing plants, containing the chemicals and equipment necessary to make high-grade methamphetamine that can then be distributed throughout the Middle East and Europe."*¹²¹

To conclude with narcoterrorism, the link between terrorism and crime is considered to be some activities that benefit them both, such as -but not limited to- illegal arms trafficking, extortion and protection rackets; kidnapping; prostitution rings and human trafficking; credit card, social security and immigration fraud and identity theft; tax fraud; counterfeiting currencies, pharmaceuticals, cigarettes, alcohol, etc.; pirating videos, compact discs, tapes, and software; and illegal oil trade.¹²² Having said that, it is obvious that drug trafficking results to be quite beneficial for terrorist groups around the world due to the increasing demand on the international market.

7. Case Studies

So as to understand the topic in detail, it is helpful to refer to some case studies about some key-countries regarding the issue of drug trafficking and the distribution of drugs. Below, the cases of Afghanistan and the Andean States are briefly showcased.

¹²⁰ Century, D. (2017). *ISIS and the New Face of Narcoterrorism*. [online] Tablet Magazine. Available at: <http://www.tabletmag.com/scroll/186110/isis-and-the-new-face-of-narcoterrorism> [Accessed 30 Nov. 2017].

¹²¹ *Ibid*

¹²² Ehrenfeld, R. (n.d.). *Defeating Narco-Terrorism*. [online] HuffPost. Available at: https://www.huffingtonpost.com/dr-rachel-ehrenfeld/defeating-narco-terrorism_b_175537.html [Accessed 30 Nov. 2017].

7.1. Afghanistan

Afghanistan faces problems with opium production and its illicit trafficking globally.¹²³ The interesting point in the case of Afghanistan is the fact that there are areas in the country where opium poppy cultivation is taking place and these areas are controlled by different terrorist organizations, insurgent and other armed groups, including the Taliban.¹²⁴

UN officials pointed out that opium production in the country has increased by 43% in 2015, while the UNODC stated that the area used to farm the poppy plant, the source of opium, increased by 10% to 201,000 hectares, lately.¹²⁵

This indicated that Afghanistan is the world's largest producer of opium, which is the main ingredient used for the production of heroin.¹²⁶ The cultivation of opium is considered a crime in the country, however, there is still opium farming and money transferred for it in the country.¹²⁷

The 2017 record levels of opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan create multiple challenges for the country, its neighbors that become transit areas and/or final destinations of Afghan opiates.¹²⁸ The significant levels of opium poppy cultivation and illicit trafficking of opiates will probably further fuel instability, insurgency and increase funding to terrorist groups in Afghanistan. Heroin of high quality and low

¹²³ World Drug Report 2017 THE DRUG PROBLEM AND ORGANIZED CRIME, ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS, CORRUPTION AND TERRORISM. (2017). 1st ed. [ebook] Vienna: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, pp.10, 38-39. Available at: https://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/field/Booklet_1_EXSUM.pdf [Accessed 30 Nov. 2017].

¹²⁴ *Ibid.*

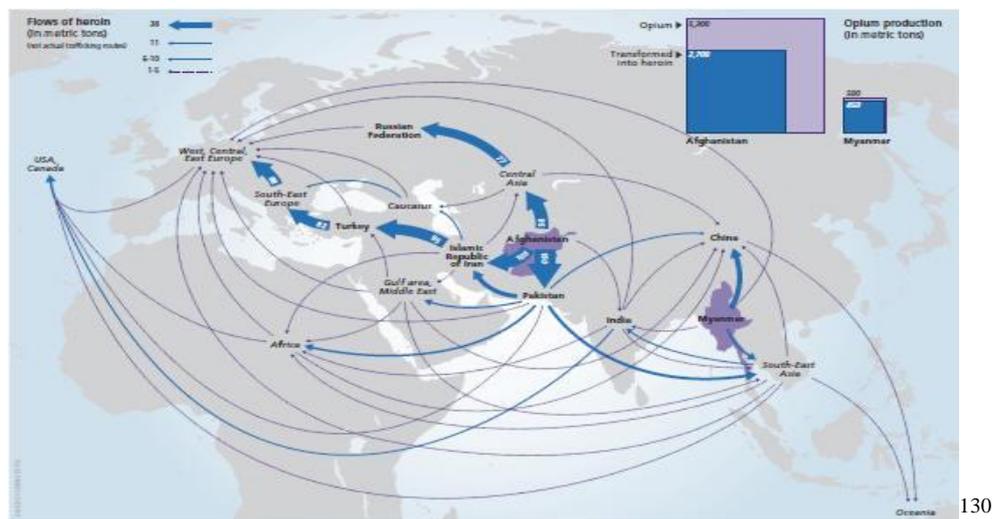
¹²⁵ BBC News. (2016). *Afghanistan opium production up 43%*. [online] Available at: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-37743433> [Accessed 2 Dec. 2017].

¹²⁶ *Ibid*

¹²⁷ *Ibid*

¹²⁸ Afghanistan Opium Survey 2017 - Cultivation and Production. (2017). 1st ed. [ebook] United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), p.9. Available at: https://www.unodc.org/documents/crop-monitoring/Afghanistan/Afghan_opium_survey_2017_cult_prod_web.pdf [Accessed 2 Dec. 2017].

coasted will reach consumer markets across the world, with increased consumption and related harms as a likely consequence.¹²⁹



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7.2. The Andean States

The term “Andean States” refers to the countries in South America that are connected by the Andes Mountain range - namely: Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia.¹³¹

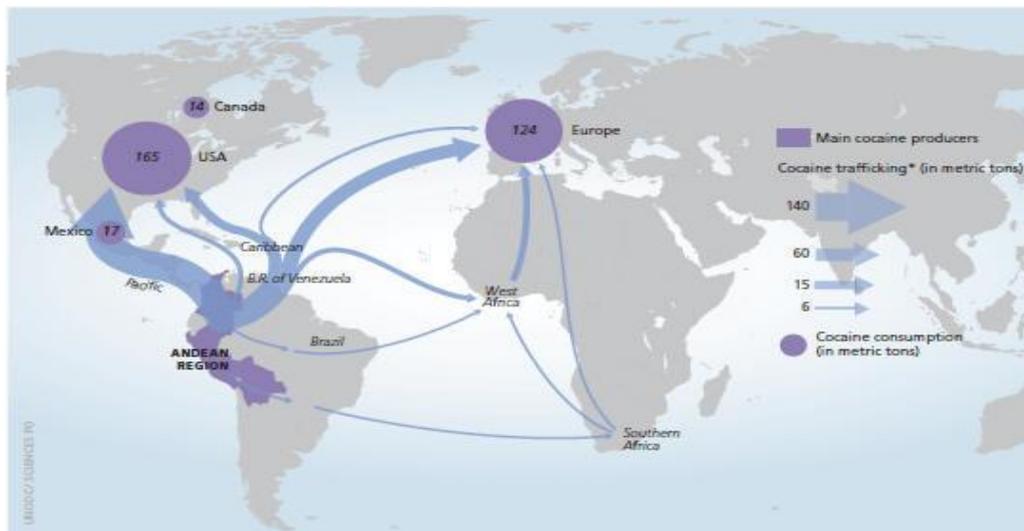
Colombia, Peru and Bolivia are the countries of the largest amount of cocaine production, that is being transmitted later on to countries of Central America, such as Mexico and the Caribbean, where cocaine is transported into the United States and Europe.¹³²

¹²⁹ *Ibid*

¹³⁰ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2017). *Global heroin flows from Asian points of origin*. [image] Available at: <https://www.unodc.org/images/drug%20trafficking/Global-heroin-flows-WDR2010.jpg> [Accessed 13 Dec. 2017].

¹³¹ Misachi, J. (2017). *What are the Andean States of South America?*. [online] WorldAtlas. Available at: <http://www.worldatlas.com/articles/which-are-the-andean-states-of-south-america.html> [Accessed 4 Dec. 2017].

¹³² Drug Policy Alliance. (n.d.). *The International Drug War*. [online] Available at: <http://www.drugpolicy.org/issues/international-drug-war> [Accessed 4 Dec. 2017].



Additionally, there appears to be a trend toward the further fragmentation, horizontalization and expansion of the production of cocaine and the trafficking networks in the region, creating a sort of a “franchise model” for the aforementioned activity with “brand names” and “operating licenses”, selling drugs to smaller criminal groups and even individuals.¹³⁴ For example, Mexican traffickers are invading to the Andean cocaine supply markets and are striving to expand their activities in Europe, particularly in Spain.¹³⁵ At the same time, other European criminal groups appear to be constructing a strong presence in South America, where it is estimated that they are aiming to build a strategic position, due to the fact that the illegal market is even more crowded and competitive.¹³⁶

¹³³ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (2008). *Main global cocaine flows*. [image] Available at: <https://www.unodc.org/images/drug%20trafficking/Global-cocaine-flows-WDR2010.jpg> [Accessed 13 Dec. 2017].

¹³⁴ Schultze-Kraft, M. (2016). *Evolution of estimated coca cultivation and cocaine production in South America (Bolivia, Colombia and Peru) and of the actors, modalities and routes of cocaine trafficking to Europe*. 1st ed. [ebook] European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, p.3. Available at: http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/system/files/publications/2373/downloads/EDMR2016%20Background%20paper_Schulze-Kraft_Evolution%20of%20estimated%20coca%20cultivation%20and%20cocaine%20production.pdf [Accessed 4 Dec. 2017].

¹³⁵ *Ibid*

¹³⁶ *Ibid*

Taking all the aforementioned under consideration, it can be understood that the region has suffered a lot. Specifically, there was a variety of consequences caused by US-led efforts to limit, eradicate and, finally, resolve the situation in the Andean Region.¹³⁷ To be exact, in countries that produce drugs those US-led efforts included environmental and community damage from forced eradication of coca crops such as aerial spraying and the funding of guerrilla insurgent groups through illicit crop cultivation and sale, most notably, FARC in Colombia and the Shining Path in Peru.¹³⁸

These phenomena could not, of course, leave the society and the locals' way of life untouched. The Andean States and, by extension, Central America face big problems with homicide, crime and terrorism.¹³⁹ Subsequently, the region is not fit for defenders of human rights, journalists that expose violent incidents, as it is no longer a safe place to be; the same applies for politicians and security officials that do not wish to be corrupted by various drug trafficking groups. But most importantly, citizens are not living free and safe there, due to the possibility of getting caught in a crossfire between rival gangs.¹⁴⁰

Moreover, it is important to mention that the organized crime in the aforementioned states is not conventional. In detail, most of the groups possess extensive paramilitary capabilities, as well as counterintelligence capabilities, which allow them to fight state security forces and operative successfully through deep networks of corrupted officials that are located in key offices and high in the hierarchical leadership blocks.¹⁴¹

¹³⁷ See reference 96

¹³⁸ *Ibid*

¹³⁹ *Ibid*

¹⁴⁰ See reference 96

¹⁴¹ Seelke, C., Sun Wyler, L., Beittel, J. and Sullivan, M. (2011). *Latin America and the Caribbean: Illicit Drug Trafficking and U.S. Counterdrug Programs*. 1st ed. [ebook] Congressional Research Service, pp.3-4. Available at: <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R41215.pdf> [Accessed 4 Dec. 2017].

8. Legal Framework

So as to research on the already existing Legal Framework concerning the war on drugs, one shall focus -but not limit to- the following:

- ❖ Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol¹⁴²
- ❖ Commentary on the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961¹⁴³
- ❖ Commentary on the Protocol Amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961¹⁴⁴
- ❖ Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971¹⁴⁵
- ❖ Commentary on the Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971¹⁴⁶
- ❖ United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988¹⁴⁷
- ❖ Commentary on the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988¹⁴⁸
- ❖ Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGASS) devoted to Countering the World Drug Problem Together, 1998¹⁴⁹

9. Conclusion

Bearing in mind all the aforementioned, we shall conclude that drug abuse, drug production and drug trafficking, in general, are some issues that are more relevant than ever nowadays. Their use can be seen everywhere and by anyone, a fact that makes this phenomenon serious enough and in need of direct solutions. Drug trafficking and drug abuse affect not only individuals, but also families,

¹⁴² Unodc.org. (2017). *Treaties*. [online] Available at: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/index.html> [Accessed 5 Dec. 2017].

¹⁴³ *Ibid*

¹⁴⁴ *Ibid*

¹⁴⁵ *Ibid*

¹⁴⁶ *Ibid*

¹⁴⁷ *Ibid*

¹⁴⁸ *Ibid*

¹⁴⁹ Unodc.org. (2017). *Drugs: legal framework*. [online] Available at: <http://www.unodc.org/lpo-brazil/en/drogas/marco-legal.html> [Accessed 5 Dec. 2017].

neighborhoods, societies, even countries. This issue creates instability and uncertainty, not to mention its extent on the abuse of human rights and the wellbeing of a community.

But more than that, drug addiction can lead to serious problems to the way a person functions or lives, resulting to pose a threat to the place where s/he lives. With that being said, narcotics tend to affect all aspects of life. Some of the common results of drug addiction could possibly result to job loss, financial insecurity and/or debt, poverty, grades slipping, isolation, relationship problems, family problems, violence, gang membership, and dissatisfaction with life, among others. Of course, a major issue is considered the health of the addicted person, due to the fact that s/he is also exposed to many more infectious diseases.^{150 151}

In conclusion, the topic of the war on drugs is still an untackled issue that however the efforts it never reaches an end. The international community needs to find common ground and conclude to the measures to prevent and eliminate the illicit drug trafficking, drug addiction and all its aftermaths.

10. Points to be Addressed

- ❖ How can the United Nations respond to the issue of illegal drug trafficking?
- ❖ How can the international community proceed to the elimination of drug manufacturing and the illegal diaspora of drugs?
- ❖ Taking into consideration the physical effects of drug use on humans (HIV, etc), what can be done in order to limit such phenomena?
- ❖ How to protect children from drug trafficking and drug manufacturing?

¹⁵⁰Addictions. (n.d.). *What Are The Key Dangers Of Narcotic Abuse And Addiction?*. [online] Available at: <https://www.addictions.com/opiate/dangers-of-narcotic-abuse/> [Accessed 5 Dec. 2017].

¹⁵¹Larson, K. (2001). *Narcotic Abuse Overview, Risk Factors - Narcotic Abuse - HealthCommunities.com*. [online] Healthcommunities.com. Available at: <http://www.healthcommunities.com/narcotic-abuse/overview-of-narcotic-abuse.shtml> [Accessed 5 Dec. 2017].

- ❖ How is it possible to prevent the accessibility to drugs, in the future?
- ❖ How to prevent terrorist groups from accessing and controlling drug production in countries where narcoterrorism is taking place?
- ❖ Is it possible to decrease the effect of organized crime involved in the process of drug trafficking?
- ❖ How can the United Nations provide safety to the member states in terms of drug accessibility domestically?
- ❖ How can the effect of drug cartels be decreased and eliminated?

11. Proposals for further research

- ❖ United Nations (UN)
- ❖ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- ❖ World Health Organization (WHO)
- ❖ Global Commission on Drugs (GCD)
- ❖ United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)
- ❖ United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

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