



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Lake Erie International Model United Nations

Lake Erie Conference XVIII
November 3-6, 2011

CHAIRING STYLE

Hello delegates and welcome to the Lake Erie Conference. First off, I would like to introduce myself and give you a little bit of information about my chairing style. This will be my eighth year being involved in Model UN, with 4 years experience as a delegate and this being my 4th years as a chair. Though I am not perfect, I like to say that I have some knowledge of what's going on. As both a delegate and chair, I have experience in every different sort of council, but this is my first time chairing the UNODC.

As for my chairing style, I am very laid back and I like to just see where the council goes. But, I like to stay on task. I expect that you know the rules of procedure and be pretty well versed on each of the topics of discussion. Being prepared in general is very important for all of us participating. I want you all to be able to have fun, but I will not tolerate any sorts of disrespect. We can have fun while maintaining an acceptable level of professionalism. In order to gain anything out of this experience it is necessary to participate. Some sort of participation is expected of each delegate. In the words of Franklin D. Roosevelt, "only thing we have to fear is fear itself."

I do understand that sometimes rules get "lost in translation" and there are questions that may arise in certain situations. We will address those questions when we come to them, and I will do my best to clear up any confusion. General rules should be well understood by each delegate in the council. I suggest reading over the rules provided on the LEIMUN website before coming to council.

The same goes for research. This letter is meant to give you an idea of the basics of what each topic is about and lead to you formulating questions of your own. You are expected to dig much deeper than the information that has been provided for you. Specifically, you should research the topic, the country you are representing and their policies, and get some information about what your country has done, is planning to do in the future, and know a little about the other countries as well. This will lead to you being a well rounded delegate and successful in council.

You can find a copy of the rules of procedure and answers to any other general LEIMUN conference questions on the website, www.leimun.com

THE TOPICS

Alternatives to Drug Development

The General Assembly defines Alternative Development as "A process to prevent and eliminate the illicit cultivation of plants containing narcotics and psychotropic substances through specifically

designed rural development measures in the context of sustained national growth and sustainable development efforts in countries taking action against drugs, recognizing the particular socio-economic characteristics of the target communities and groups within the framework of a comprehensive and permanent solution to the problem of illicit drugs."

Alternative development programs were designed to minimize the number of farmers who depend on the cultivation of illegal drugs as a means of supporting themselves and their families and instead turn to different forms of farming that are more economical and sustainable. They aim to reduce a farmer's dependence on drug lords that employ them. Basically, alternative development programs give viable, alternate options to the production of coca, opium, and cannabis plants. Alternative development products include beans, cacao, palm hearts, coffee, honey, coconuts, and dairy.

The areas in which illicit crops are grown tend to be undeveloped areas that are isolated and lack markets, impoverished, and often are facing times of some type of ethnic or civil unrest. The UNODC are leaders in assisting countries in developing and improving their drug control policies by offering alternative development programs. These programs are designed to benefit small rural farms that are at risk. The UNODC currently has programs in 6 countries: Afghanistan, Bolivia, Colombia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Peru. The UNODC takes measures in health, education, community development, and food security for those who rely on illicit drugs as means of supporting themselves.

Alternative development programs are aimed at alleviating poverty, teaching sustainable agriculture, and rural development. Alleviating poverty is a big issue because programs are less likely to succeed if poverty exists in that area.

Questions to Consider:

1. What has already been done by the UNODC in helping implement alternative development programs?
2. What can the UNODC do to help implement alternative development programs into certain areas?
3. What has your country done in the past to curb the cultivation of illegal drugs? Can these steps be effective in other countries?
4. What lessons, if any, can be taken from the current UNODC alternative development programs?

Sources:

www.unodc.org/unodc/en/alternative-development/index.html?ref=menuaside
www.dai.com/work

Alternative Development: A Global Thematic Evaluation (2005)

An assessment of the Impact of the Global Financial Crisis on Sustainable Alternative Development (2010)

Mainstreaming Alternative Development in Thailand, Lao PDK, and Myanmar. A process of Learning. (2010)

My Paradigm or Yours? Alternative Development, Post-Development, Reflexive Development

Money laundering is defined as "the method by which criminals disguise the illegal origins of their wealth and protect their asset bases to avoid suspicion of law enforcement agencies and prevent leaving a trail of incriminating evidence."

The Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds and the financing of terrorism (GPML) was created by the UNODC to assist member states in the development and implementation of programs that help combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. The Law Enforcement, Organized Crime, and Anti-Money-Laundering unit of the UNODC is responsible for the Global Programme. They provide technical assistance in the detection process and confiscation of illegal proceeds.

The UNODC works to assist states to create new policies that counter money-laundering crimes. They work to analyze the issues that exist with money-laundering and relate those issues to other underlying economic, social, and political issues that exist in a certain area. They also work to coordinate anti-money-laundering projects being developed by the UN as well as other international organizations. Another important task of the UNODC is to inform the public about the issues.

In relation to the financing of terrorism, money-laundering is a key resource to funding terrorist operations. They use laundered money to pay for arms, attacks, etc. Terrorists seek to conceal the destination and purpose of the money they launder. Globalization, specifically of the world economically, has led money-laundering to become a much more common practice and more difficult to catch because the transfer of wealth across borders is much more difficult to track.

Money-laundering creates an atmosphere for corruption and organized crime to flourish. Anti-money-laundering programs and initiatives can be very effective in the search for terrorists or terrorist organizations. These initiatives can limit terrorist groups financially, making carrying out acts of terrorism much more difficult.

Questions to Consider:

1. What Anti-Money-laundering programs have been effective in the past?
2. What can the UNODC do to assist member states in implementing their own anti-money-laundering programs?
3. What countries have anti-money-laundering programs already? Have these programs been effective?
4. How can we improve anti-money-laundering programs to help target terrorist organizations?

Sources:

www.unodc.org/unodc/en/money-laundering/introduction.html?ref=menuside

www.imf.org/external/np/leg/amlcft/eng/

Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism: The United Nations Response

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

The International Monetary Funds Involvement in Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism (2003)

Countering the Financing of Terrorism by Thomas J. Bierstker and Sue E. Eckert

Transnational Organized Crime is crime that crosses borders. This includes activities like drug trafficking (which is the largest), human trafficking, arms trafficking, smuggling migrants, and money laundering. Transnational Organized Crime is considered a major threat to the social, economic, and political atmospheres of countries across the globe. Like many other UNODC issues, globalization plays an important role in the normal functioning of transnational crimes. Loose networks of people exist and they work together in multiple ways.

With the help of national governments and other international organizations, the UNODC helps countries use the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime to help states create domestic programs to combat crime. They facilitate extradition and help law enforcement with technical assistance. The UNODC works closely with national governments to enhance cooperation among states and international organizations.

The goal of the UNODC is to monitor the implementation of the convention. It seeks to assist in the development of better programs in countering organized crime across the globe. Improving the exchange of information between states and organizations is key to what the UNODC tries to promote. Technical assistance and the promotion of transparency are the ways in which the UNODC assists member states in implementation of the convention.

Questions to Consider

1. Has the UNODC been effective in the implementations of the principles of the UN convention against transnational organized crime? What more can be done?
2. What has your country done to help curb organized crime?
3. What programs have been effective in combating organized crime? What new programs can governments use to combat transnational organized crime?
4. What can individual governments do, if anything, to help combat organized crime?

Sources:

www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/index.html

www.nij.gov/topics/crime/transnational-organized-crime/welcome.html

www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/index.html

Identifying, Countering and Categorizing Transnational Criminal Organizations by Louise Shelley

Anti-Corruption & Judicial Integrity

Corruption is a problem that every country faces. It affects countries politically, economically, and socially. It can cause slowing economic development and disrupt the electoral process. Economically, corruption can be damaging to governments, specifically developing governments.

The UN Convention against Corruption (UNAC) covers five main issues. Prevention, criminalization and law enforcement, international cooperation, asset recovery, technical assistance and information exchange. It covers different forms of corruption. This is the only document created to legally combat corruption on a global scale. The UN acts as an assistant to states to implement the provisions covered in the convention as well as the Thematic Programme on Action against Corruption and Economic Crime.

The UNODC also works to help strengthen the judiciary. Objectives of strengthening the judiciary are to formulate the concept of judicial integrity and create a way in which to introducing that concept to the public. The idea is to communicate effectively to create a strong judiciary system to

curb corruption. Without Judicial integrity, combating corruption can be a much more difficult process.

Questions to Consider:

1. Has the implementation of the UNAC been effective?
2. What other options does the UNODC have to fight corruption?
3. What polices has your country implemented to fight corruption?
4. Are the efforts to strengthen the judiciary effective?

Sources

www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/index.html?ref=menuseide

www.unodc.org/pdf/crime/gpacpublications/cicp10.pdf

The Role of a National Integrity System in Fighting Corruption

Strengthening Judicial Integrity against Corruption by Peter Langseth