



COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Lake Erie International Model United Nations

Northcoast High School Conference XXXI
March 30 - April 1, 2010

CHAIRING STYLE

On behalf of the Secretary General, I would like to welcome you to the 31st LEIMUN Northcoast Model United Nations Conference. I am pleased to be serving as your President for this conference and look forward to working with you to make your experience at the upcoming conference a positive one.

The degree to which the conference and the deliberations of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) are successful rests largely with you, the delegates, and I am sure that you will be up to the task.

In that vein, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to my chairing style, to describe how I believe that this style should facilitate keeping the business of the CND on track, how I believe that it will help in your growth as delegates over the course of the conference, and how it impacts my expectations of the Committee.

I believe very strongly in the educational mission and value of Model United Nations and I expect to see growth and improvement in you as individual delegate, as teams of delegates, and as a committee over the course of the conference. The very best delegations will improve on all three of these facets, using strong leadership skills to build consensus and facilitate the participation of less skilled delegations in the work of the committee. My promise to you is that I will do what I can to facilitate this growth. Debate, Caucusing, and Portrayal of Country are all vital components of the Model United Nations experience, as is Recommendation Writing, which, in my experience, is often underemphasized. I can assure you however, that Recommendation Writing will not be underemphasized in the CND. The Recommendation is the primary tool through which CND communicates its intentions, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly and thus to the global community. As such it should be precise, while at the same time efficient, and should strive to provide elegant solutions to the problems it addresses. Mark Twain once said that the difference between the right word and the almost right word is like the difference between lightning and a lightning bug and I hope that you will consider this axiom when in the process of Recommendation Writing and work as a group to draft recommendations that say exactly what you intend them to say. It is my hope that at the end of the conference you will each have a better understanding of the intricacies of Recommendation Writing to go along with improved negotiation, caucusing, and debating skills

As you are aware, as Chairs we serve not only as moderators of the debate in the Committee chamber, but as evaluators of delegate performance. Thus, I cannot and will not answer specific questions regarding individual topics, country policies, or parliamentary procedure. If a question is posed, it should be done through the proper parliamentary procedures and will be answered to the committee as a whole. For this reason, your preparation for the conference should include a thorough review of LEIMUN's rules of procedure. As the membership of CND is different from

Security Councils or other committees of the United Nations, our committee will likely have a dynamic that is different from other committees at the conference and upon which you might have participated in the past. I hope that you embrace these differences and strive to use the CND structure to consider dynamic, interesting solutions to contemporary problems.

My expectation is that all delegates do each of the following.

1. Substantial research concerning the United Nations and the CND (its goals, principles, and mandates), the delegate's individual country (including history, government, resources, allies and enemies, and foreign policy), and the assigned topics.
2. Know the Rules of Procedure and know how to use them. Failure to know and use the rules properly will cause delegations to receive lower evaluations.
3. Know the Conference Handbook and the Conference Policies therein. Failure to adhere to these policies will cause delegations' evaluations to suffer.
4. Come to the conference prepared. Arrive at each session on time. Be ready to debate at the beginning, middle, and end of each and every session.
5. Treat one another, as well as the conference staff, with respect and common courtesy.
6. Learn from and teach one another, while having fun.

More detailed information on the evaluative process, rules of procedure, and conference policies can be found on the conference website: www.leimun.com.

RESEARCH

I recommend the following resources on Negotiation and Conflict Resolution for both country specific preparation and for preparation on debate, negotiation, and conflict resolution skills in general:

- Syracuse University, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs – Program on Analysis and Resolution of Conflict – Conflict Management Center: <http://sites.maxwell.syr.edu/cmc/links.html>
- Harvard University, Harvard Negotiation Project: <http://www.pon.harvard.edu/hnp/>
- Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs – Center for International Conflict Resolution: <http://www.sipa.columbia.edu/cicr/>

As negotiators and diplomats, you should be particularly interested in the concept of BATNA (Best Alternative To A Negotiated Agreement) and of the principals espoused in Professor Roger Fisher's books "Getting to Yes" and "Difficult Conversations". Simply, a BATNA is the course of action that will be taken by a party if the current negotiations fail and an agreement cannot be reached. In CND, where there is no veto power, we can expect countries' BATNAs to differ depending on the circumstance. Will a single country that opposes a line in a proposed recommendation maintain a solitary stance against that line, voting no on the recommendation on principal but causing no great harm to the recommendation itself? Or, will that country feel so strongly (perhaps because it believes that the recommendation will have a profoundly negative effect on its region) that it rallies other countries to its side, causing an otherwise strong recommendation to fail to be adopted? As negotiators you must strive to understand the motivations of those around you. Listen to them and use the information you glean to develop ways of coming to win-win agreements.

Other sites of interest for Negotiators and Conflict Resolution Specialists include:

- The United States Institutes of Peace: <http://www.usip.org/>
- The Association for Conflict Resolution: <http://www.acrnet.org/>
- The International Association for Conflict Management: <http://www.iacm-conflict.org/links/>

As will become apparent in the following section concerning CND's agenda areas, even the development of specific agenda topics for the committee will require delegates to access debate and negotiation skills.

THE TOPICS

The agenda for CND at Northcoast XXXI will include topics related to the following broad areas: Strengthening Alternative Development as a Drug Control Strategy, Narcotic Trade Financing of Global Conflict, and Combating the International Cocaine and Opiate Trades. Delegates should note that these agenda areas are purposefully broad and any number of specific agenda topics might fall under each. For this reason, I would advise the committee to consider each agenda topic as a starting point for drafting more specific, targeted agenda topics. Doing so will focus debate on a specific region, country, or issue; this will make the recommendation writing process more streamlined and result in more focused, workable recommendations.

It will also become apparent to delegates that there is a good deal of overlap in terms of these broad areas. For example, issues surrounding alternative development, whether the discussion focuses on environmental or gender related issues, can be seen to be a macro-category of discussions that will impact the ability of governments and non-state actors to finance conflict through the sale of narcotics. Similarly, combatting the international cocaine and opiate trades has obvious implications for finance of conflict through the sale of narcotics - not all proceeds from narcotics are used to finance conflict, but a good percentage are. This should make clearer the prerogative that rests with the committee to work together to develop specific, targeted agenda topics upon which actionable recommendations might be drafted. Agenda topics that the committee develops may be combinations of the three broad topics with which you are being provided today, assuming that the combination results in a topics that is narrower, more specific, and more focused than the base topics. We hope that the research links provided are of help in focusing the committee's thinking. In the following section, we provide a brief overview of each agenda area, several questions designed to assist in focusing delegates' research, and a number of specific research sources that can serve as a starting point for this pre-conference research.

Strengthening Alternative Development as a Drug Control Strategy

Alternative development strategies are designed to provide individuals, families, and communities engaged in agriculture alternatives to cultivation of poppy, coca, and other plants that are raw materials for narcotics production. While it may seem simple on the surface, this is actually quite a complicated and far reaching issue. Consider some of the reasons that someone might devote cropland to cultivation of these plants. First, it may be that the country in question does not have infrastructure conducive to getting more traditional crops to a marketplace where they could be purchased. In this case, alternative development strategies would have to include development of infrastructure. Second, it may be that a lack of certain industries makes cultivation of other cash crops, such as cotton, impractical. In this case, alternative development strategies might need to include capacity building efforts as a way of introducing textile and other industries to the country or region in question. Third, in extreme cases, it may be that local farmers are pressured into cultivating these crops by warlords or other non-state actors involved in conflict or terrorist activities. In this case, alternative development strategies must concentrate on developing the capacity of the government to

extend effective control over the geographical area in question and to provide rudimentary services to the population of that area (oftentimes one of the main reasons that governments are not able to exercise such control has to do with an inability to provide basic services such as sanitation, health care, etc. - warlords and private armies are seen by the population as being better equipped to do so).

As is clear from this discussion, any attempt to consider alternative development strategies as a drug control mechanism will have to take into account local conditions in terms of history, politics, culture, and climate. There can be no one size fits all, cookie cutter approach. In this regard it will be incumbent on the CND to be deeply aware of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to alternative development strategies in the regions it chooses to consider.

Questions to Consider:

1. What does your country feel should be done to improve alternative development strategies in narcotics producing parts of the world? What experiences with alternative development have been attempted in your country or in your country's region? What has accounted for the relative success or failure of these attempts?
2. How does your country feel about narcotics related issues generally?
3. What would be the economic impact for your country or of your country's sub-region of any alternative development strategies that CND might consider?
4. What are the various other issues that might be connected to alternative development? What specific economic or social issues that can be connected to alternative development are salient for your country?
5. What specific issues related to the current global economic climate affect the alternative development debate?

Research Links:

<http://www.unops.org/ENGLISH/WHATWEDO/UNOPSINACTION/Pages/Alternative-Development-Peru.aspx>

<http://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CND-ECOSOC/CND-ECOSOC-RES-2000to2009/ECOSOC-2008/CND-51-ECOSOC-Res-2008-26e.pdf> (A great example of an ECOSOC recommendation)

http://www.americasnet.net/Commentators/Jorge_Pulecio/pulecio_06_eng.pdf

http://dwms.fao.org/narcotics/data/proceed/bnk/Day2-01.11.07/WorkingGroups/Recommendations/Country_Recommendations_Stakeholders.pdf

<http://www.embassyofafghanistan.org/documents/RemarksatUSInstituteofPeace5-15-07.pdf>

<http://www.unodc.org/afghanistan/en/alternative-development/index.html>

<http://www.unagb.org/pdf/GCR08/UNCND%20-%20TradeandAltDevelopment.pdf>

Narcotic Trade Financing of Global Conflict

This issue sits at the intersection of the two other topics that CND has on its agenda for our conference. The end users of funds connected to the international cocaine and opiate trades often use these monies to finance civil wars, uprisings, terrorist activities, etc. At the same time, alternative development strategies are often blocked or impeded by those interested in maintaining a trade in narcotics in order to finance conflict. When we consider, for example, that over 90% of global poppy production for opiates is now located in Afghanistan it should not surprise us that we are considering a country where the local government is not in direct control of most of the land and that there are warlords and other non-state actors interested in prolonging the conflict that is going on there. Similarly, it should not surprise us that 80% or more of global coca production is centered in Colombia and Peru, two countries that have been battling anti-government insurgencies and where there are paramilitary organizations interested in funneling funds from the narcotics trade into these conflicts.

The question of importance for CND, of course, is what steps can be taken by the international community to combat this issue. At what points along the narcotics supply line can efforts be made to interrupt the flow of drugs, and with it, the flow of monies to organizations interested in financing conflict? To an extent, the issue is complicated by the nature of narcotics themselves. It may be helpful to consider the financing conflict through the illicit trade of diamonds (i.e., conflict diamonds). In this case, the international community and the legitimate diamond industry were able to come to an agreement on a system to certify diamonds for sale as having come through a supply chain that does not include individuals financing conflict (the Kimberley Process). While effective, the question is whether there is anything in this process that can translate into the issue under consideration. The biggest, and most obvious, problem is that there is a legitimate diamond trade where there may not be a legitimate narcotics trade. It is incumbent on the CND, however, to consider whether there might be some lessons from the diamond context that can point the way to workable solutions where the narcotics trade is concerned.

Questions to Consider:

1. What does your country feel should be done to regulate narcotics trade? What issues are particularly salient in your country or in your country's region? How do traditional policing efforts impact these problems?
2. What would be the economic impact for your country or of your country's region of any measures taken to block the financing of conflict through the narcotics trade?
3. What are the various other issues that might be connected to the issue of financing of global conflict through the narcotics trade (i.e., piracy, etc.)? What specific economic or social issues that can be connected to these are salient for your country?
4. What specific issues related to the current global climate in terms of conflict affect the discussion concerning the financing of conflict through the narcotics trade?

Research Links:

<http://www.fafo.no/pub/rapp/380/380.pdf>

http://www.silkroadstudies.org/new/docs/publications/2007/Cornell_SCT.pdf

http://www.loc.gov/rr/frd/pdf-files/NarcsFundedTerrs_Extrems.pdf

<http://ijci.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/full/4/5/1074>

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/30042417?seq=1>

<http://www.review.upeace.org/index.cfm?opcion=0&ejemplar=17&entrada=86>

<http://www.terrorisminfo.mipt.org/Terrorism-and-Drug-Trafficking.asp>

Combatting the International Cocaine and Opiate Trades

Once again, it should be relatively clear that there is a connection between this topic and the other agenda topics discussed thus far. Clearly, the production of narcotics such as cocaine and opiates serves as a source of funding for various organizations interested in starting or continuing conflicts or engaging in terrorist-type activities. Further, the necessary funds for these endeavors do not exist in the countries where cocaine and opiates are produced. So it is logical that there would be an international trade in these substances and that the value attached to these substances would increase the further along the pipeline one travels. This raises a central issue that the CND must consider: Is it better to combat the international opiate trade at the source, at the end user, or at some point along the value chain? Or, is a more effective approach to attack the problem at various “pressure points” along the lines that supply these substances? Is it better to take a direct, active role, hunting down production centers, drug traffickers, drug pushers, and others and bringing these individuals to justice, or is it better to take a more indirect approach, relying on education programs to reduce demand and on alternative development strategies such as those discussed above to reduce supply?

For CND one of the questions of greatest import is what role the international community can have in policing the international cocaine and opiate trades. To what degree can the United Nations use the mechanism of the Security Council, for example, to inhibit the flow of drugs around the world? Is the cocaine and narcotics trade an international issue that falls within the purview of the Security Council to consider? Are there other mechanisms within the UN that would be more suitable?

Questions to Consider:

1. What does your country feel should be done to combat the international cocaine and opiate trades? What impacts of the cocaine and opiate trades are particularly salient in/for your country or in/for your country's region?
2. How does your country feel about narcotics related issues generally?
3. What would be the economic and/or social impact for your country or of your country's region of any measures to combat the international cocaine and opiate trades?
4. What are the various other issues that might be connected to the narcotics problem? What specific economic or social issues that can be connected to the narcotics problem are salient for your country?
5. What specific issues related to the current global political climate affect the discussion around cocaine and/or opiates in your country or region?

Research Links:

http://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CND_memberships/CNDmembers2010.pdf

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/illicit-drugs/definitions/index.html>

http://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=VI-19&chapter=6&lang=en

<http://www.unodc.org/afghanistan/en/illicit-drugs.html>

<http://www.unis.unvienna.org/unis/pressrels/2009/unisnar1058.html>

<http://trendsupdates.com/cocaine-moves-50-billion-worldwide-un-report-shows/>

<http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Cocaine-trafficking-Africa-en.pdf>

Conclusion:

Based on this critique of the agenda topics we will be dealing with at the upcoming conference, I would encourage delegates to think first broadly about the issues discussed here, to study the programs that are ongoing at CND, the U.N., the World Bank, and other international organizations and to consider these programs and initiatives to be a guide. Our mission should not be to duplicate existing initiatives, but to use our knowledge of these ongoing programs to point to effective, elegant solutions to problems not yet addressed. CND delegates should consider these agenda topics to be a starting point for development of more focused topics that address specific, actionable problems.