

XXXVIII

TECMUN

United Nations

Convention against

Transnational Organized

Crime

XXXVIII TECMUN
Session Schedule

Wednesday, April 9th

Registration	8:00 – 9:00 h
Opening Ceremony	9:00 – 10:00 h
Break	10:00 – 10:30 h
First Session	10:30 – 12:30 h
Break	12:30 – 13:00 h
Second Session	13:00 – 15:00 h
Meal	15:00 – 16:00 h
Third Session	16:00 – 18:00 h

Thursday, April 10th

Master Conference	8:30 – 9:30 h
Break	9:30 – 10:00 h
Fourth Session	10:00 – 12:30 h
Break	12:30 – 13:00 h
Fifth Session	13:00 – 15:00 h
Meal	15:00 – 16:00 h
Sixth Session	16:00 – 18:00 h

Friday, April 11th

Seven Session	8:00 – 9:30 h
Break	9:30 – 10:00 h
Eight Session	10:00 – 12:00 h
Break	12:00 – 12:30 h
Ninth Session	12:30 – 14:40 h
Meal	14:40 – 16:00 h
Closing Ceremony	16:00 – 18:30 h

XXXVIII TECMUN
General Agenda

Secretary General: Paulo Souto Núñez

GENERAL COORDINATION

Subsecretary of General Coordination: Brenda Noreña Mejía
Supervisor of General Coordination for Co. Secretariat: Samuel Alejandro
Herrera Tapia

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

General Subsecretary: William Vázquez Hernández
Supervisor of Coordination: Mauro Carrillo Gálvez

United Nations General Assembly

President: Guillermo Pacheco Infante

A) Measures to counter the forced displacement of citizens of Idlib in the Syrian Arab Republic due to attacks by the extremist group Hayat Tahrir al Sham (HTS) through regional dynamics involving support for Bashar al-Assad by the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

B) Actions to counter the influence of the Grey Wolves in Europe, in order to mitigate ethnic tensions within Turkish expatriate communities, with emphasis on the Federal Republic of Germany, the Republic of Austria and the French Republic.

Histórico Comité Especial de los 24

Presidenta: Yésika Pamela García Trejo

A) Medidas para frenar el colonialismo en el territorio Ruanda-Urundi, actualmente República de Ruanda y República de Burundi, por parte de la República Federal de Alemania y el Reino de Bélgica, con énfasis en la reducción de prácticas discriminatorias entre los grupos étnicos Hutus y Tutsis. (1950-1962)

B) Acciones para examinar la solicitud de África Oriental Portuguesa, hoy República de Mozambique, para su independización de la República Portuguesa, buscando fortalecer la estructura económica y detener la explotación de recursos agrícolas y minerales dentro del territorio por parte de empresas del sector privado. (1964-1975)

Sixth Legal Committee

President: Sara Sofía Govantes Cruz

A) Measures to address human rights violations, including extrajudicial executions and sexual violence, in the ongoing conflict in the Republic of Sudan and their global implications for civilian protection in armed conflicts.

B) Strategies to address the legal implications of the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for Palestinian militias in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with emphasis on state sovereignty and application of international law.

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

President: Claudia Guadalupe Pfeiffer Benítez

A) Actions to cease the migrant smuggling networks in the Central Mediterranean Route of Europe, with focus on border security and dismantling of criminal networks in the frontier states of the Italian Republic and the Republic of Malta.

B) Strategies to counter human trafficking with emphasis on labor exploitation currently committed by the Albanian Mafia in Western Europe in the French Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Programa Conjunto de las Naciones Unidas sobre el VIH/SIDA

Presidente: Emiliano Melchor Romo

A) Estrategias para prevenir la transmisión vertical del VIH en mujeres embarazadas, así como mitigar el impacto que tiene en los niños y adolescentes que lo portan en la región subsahariana de África.

B) Acciones para contrarrestar los crecientes casos de VIH en la comunidad LGBTQ+ latina que reside en los Estados Unidos de América, priorizando el acceso a los tratamientos necesarios dentro del sistema de salud.

Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Refugiados

Presidenta: Abril Valdés Calva

Tópico Único) Medidas para salvaguardar los derechos humanos y la seguridad de los refugiados somalíes afectados por la crisis humanitaria en el Cuerno de África a causa de la división étnica en la República Federal de Somalia.

United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

President: Paulina de la Victoria Patiño

A) Measures to regulate and eliminate the trafficking routes and production of synthetic drugs in laboratories, with emphasis on the fabrication of methamphetamines and cultivation of opium in the Golden Triangle in Asia.

B) Strategies to cease the trafficking and smuggling of firearms across the border states between the nations that compose the Sahel region in Africa due to the presence of several organized crime groups and lack of governance.

Oficina del Representante Especial del Secretario General sobre la Violencia

Sexual en los Conflictos

Presidenta: Ana Paula García López

A) Acciones para fortalecer el marco legislativo y la cooperación internacional sobre los grupos de apoyo y las misiones de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas con base a la violencia sexual por parte de los Cascos Azules en la República de Haití.

B) Estrategias para prevenir el uso de la violencia sexual como táctica militar por parte de grupos armados en el conflicto bélico entre la Federación de Rusia y Ucrania, con énfasis en el reforzamiento de servicios de atención y rendición de cuentas.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

General Subsecretary: Miranda Senties Carmona

Supervisor of Coordination: Aarón Badillo Aguilar

Comisión de la Condición Jurídica y Social de la Mujer

Presidenta: Paulette Mayen Alvarez

A) Mecanismos para la implementación de reformas sobre la crisis de las niñas y las mujeres relacionada al consumo de sustancias nocivas agravada por la violencia de género, haciendo énfasis en la situación de la expectativa de género del Reino de Arabia Saudita.

B) Acciones para erradicar la marginación hacia las mujeres y niñas en naciones afectadas por conflictos y desigualdad de género dentro de Asia Meridional y África Subsahariana.

International Organization for Migration

President: Ana Mercado Garduño

A) Measures and strategies for enhancing security and protection of Syrian refugees transitioning in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Republic of Türkiye.

B) Strategies for reintegration of incoming migrants in Central America, focusing on the Republic of El Salvador and the Republic of Honduras.

United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

President: Diego Ortiz Martínez

A) Actions to combat crimes linked to exploitation of critical minerals derived from weak law enforcement in the states of Africa, emphasizing in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

B) Measures to counter organized criminal groups nexus with firearms trafficking networks in the Latin American region with emphasis in the Triple Frontier.

Organización Mundial del Comercio

Presidenta: Mariana Méndez Cruz

A) Estrategias para mitigar el comercio ilícito y fraudulento de productos médicos y farmacéuticos en la región de Asia y el Pacífico.

B) Medidas para contrarrestar el conflicto político relacionado al comercio de minerales energéticos y esenciales de América latina y el Caribe.

Comisión de Prevención del Delito y Justicia Penal

Presidenta: Natalia Forcada Nava

A) Estrategias para prevenir la trata de personas perpetuada por el grupo terrorista Tren de Aragua, con un enfoque en la República Bolivariana de Venezuela y la República de Colombia

B) Mecanismos para terminar la influencia del grupo terrorista Hizbulá en el Medio Oriente y América Latina, con énfasis en la República Libanesa y la República Bolivariana de Venezuela

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

President: Gabriel Salazar Valdovinos

A) Measures to counter the environmental and economic impacts of sea levels' rising, and the climate change on island nations, through new technologies and sustainable solutions with emphasis on the Republic of the Maldives and Tuvalu.

B) Strategies to boost Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education and increase investment in scientific and technological development in Latin America, with emphasis on the United Mexican States.

Instituto de las Naciones Unidas de Investigación sobre el Desarme

Presidenta: María José Parra Meza

A) Acciones para neutralizar el conflicto armado dentro de la región del Sahel, con énfasis en los ataques de grupos extremistas yihadistas.

B) Acciones para neutralizar el conflicto armado dentro de la República de la Unión de Myanmar causado por el enfrentamiento de grupos religiosos dentro de la región.

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

President: Mariana Carolina Guerrero Zárate

A) Strategies to reduce the trafficking and consumption of synthetic drugs within Latin American prisons due to the inadequate penitentiary security systems, with an emphasis on the Federative Republic of Brazil.

B) Measures to reduce the production of synthetic drugs due to the presence of drug trafficking groups in rural areas of Latin America, focusing on illicit coca leaf in the Republic of Peru and the Republic of Colombia.

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND REGIONAL ORGANISMS

General Subsecretary: Aranza Michelle Castro Rivero

Supervisor of Coordination: Sofía Torres Escalante

United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs

President: Patrick Eduardo Cunillé Paniagua

A) Strategies to regulate the use of Artificial Intelligence in outer space to ensure global peace, development and prevent militarization.

B) Measures to promote fair and sustainable utilization of space resources, seeking equitable access, and collaboration among nations to foster global development in the space economy.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization

President: Axl Paris Ortega Rodríguez

A) Strategies to address security challenges and environmental responsibilities in the Arctic, countering militarization and fostering regional stability.

B) Measures to enhance NATO's role in the Serbia-Kosovo conflict, foster reconciliation in the Balkans, and mitigate Russian influence.

Comité Internacional de la Cruz Roja

Presidenta: María José Zárraga García

A) Medidas para garantizar la protección de las minorías étnicas de la República de la Unión de Myanmar frente al uso de minas antipersonales, debido al actual conflicto armado civil.

B) Estrategias para mitigar el impacto del conflicto armado en la infraestructura sanitaria de la República del Sudán, priorizando el acceso a servicios médicos para las comunidades afectadas.

International Criminal Police Organization
President: Fátima Fuente del Campo González

Unique Topic) Measures to address transnational trafficking networks responsible for human trafficking, sexual and labour exploitation of women and girls.

Security Council
President: Samantha Salgado Nájjar

A) Measures to mitigate the maritime security crisis in the Republic of Yemen, with emphasis on the Red Sea violence and security restoration.

B) Strategies to prevent a possible military deployment from the Republic of the Philippines and the United States of America to the People's Republic of China, due to recent territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

Conseil des Droits de l'Homme
Président: Oscar Avila Pérez

A) Actions visant à renforcer l'enquête sur les homicides et les crimes de haine envers les femmes trans aux États-Unis Mexicains, mettant en évidence l'inefficacité du système judiciaire à rendre justice et à garantir leur sécurité.

B) Dispositifs légaux pour arrêter les atteintes aux droits des femmes en République Islamique d'Afghanistan en raison des lois talibanes, en portant une attention particulière à la violence sexuelle subie.

Histórica Asociación de Naciones del Sudeste Asiático
Presidenta: Daniela Alexa Alcántara Sosa

A) Acciones para frenar las violaciones de derechos humanos cometidas por el Tatmadaw en la Unión de Birmania a causa del conflicto civil, con énfasis en los abusos sufridos por el grupo étnico Rohinyá y el incumplimiento de la Carta de la ASEAN. (1968)

B) Estrategias para regular la migración de refugiados vietnamitas con énfasis en los desplazados provenientes de las ciudades de Saigón y Hanoi a países del Sudeste Asiático, a causa del conflicto bélico entre la República Democrática de Vietnam y la República de Vietnam. (1955-1975)

Corte Penal Internacional
Presidenta: Andrea Abigail Salazar López

A) Acusación contra Benjamín Netanyahu, primer ministro del Estado de Israel, por presuntos crímenes de guerra perpetrados en Gaza.

B) Investigaciones contra Nicolás Maduro y el gobierno de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela por posibles crímenes de lesa humanidad.

“At first, dreams seem impossible, then improbable, and eventually inevitable.”
- Christopher Reeve

Dear delegate,

I want to start by asking you: do you know what dreams are made of? Dreams are made of images, sensations, feelings and experiences. And yes, dreams do come true. I know you may have heard that phrase countless times, but believe me, if it weren't true, I wouldn't be giving you this message. I still remember the excitement I felt when I found out that one of my biggest dreams had come true: becoming the president of a committee here in TECMUN. Because like you, I was also once a delegate, I was also in your shoes and I had dreams too. That's why I know how overwhelming a UN model can be whether it's your first model or not. However, I also know how incredible and transformative it can be.

Day by day I learn something new from the people that surround me, people that I now consider not only my family but my safe place. Being able to share the passion and love I have for this model for the second time as president has been incredible and unimaginable. Without a doubt, it has been one of the best things that has ever happened to me, and I wouldn't change anything of what I have lived here. I have created great and not so great memories along the ride, but no matter what, they will always have a special place in my heart. The best thing of all is that every model is unique and different, you will never have the same experience twice.

The future is uncertain but that doesn't mean you should forget about the present and stop working for what you want. Dreams do come true but you have to work for them. It may not be easy but it is absolutely worth it. That is why I invite you to give your best during these three days, learn something new, make new friends, but above all have as much fun as I have had. I cannot thank you enough for participating in this journey that is just beginning, because without you, none of this would be possible.

Paulina de la Victoria Patiño

President of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime for the
XXXVIII TECMUN

Background

Formed on November 15, 2000, after the General Assembly's resolution 55/25, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) is the main international instrument to prevent and fight against transnational organized crime. It entered in force on September 29, 2003, and it is integrated by 192 Parties that reunite every two years. The objective of the Convention is to prevent and combat organized crime, so as to provide the necessary tools and strategies that enhance international cooperation to reduce criminal conduct, illicit activities and trafficking across borders. Its objective relies on three protocols focused on specific areas of organized crime: Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children; Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; and Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition.

Faculties

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime ensures to achieve its objectives through different actions such as:

- Create, adopt and update legal frameworks for extradition and criminal offenses to promote law enforcement;
- Strengthen international cooperation by implementing policies and strategies to enhance the authorities and work groups of the Member States;
- Investigate, collect and provide information through reports and publications of specialized organs such as the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime to address the emerging forms of organized crime;

- Facilitate and offer practical training and technical assistance to victims to increase awareness and understanding of the matter;
- Implement protective measures and provisions with trained units to execute coordinated efforts in crucial borderline points to ensure security and control across borders;
- Create programs by Member Parties to review and observe ongoing processes to establish their effectiveness, analyze and identify areas of improvement;
- Punish crimes and confiscate any instrument, equipment or device that contributes to the trafficking of people, trafficking of firearms or any other kind of illegal case.

Topic A

Measures to regulate and eliminate the trafficking routes and production of synthetic drugs in laboratories, with emphasis on the fabrication of methamphetamines and cultivation of opium in the Golden Triangle in Asia

Introduction

The production and trafficking of synthetic drugs, especially methamphetamines and opium, have been increasing in Asia since the early 2000s. The accessible cultivation of opium and the manufacturing of methamphetamines, and its versatility, contributed to the rate of increase. The growth was also enhanced by the COVID-19 pandemic and the political instability at the time, which allowed organized crime groups to expand their operations. Therefore, 82 tons of methamphetamines were seized¹ in 2020, 172 tons in 2021 and 190 tons in 2023, which 139 were seized only in the Golden Triangle region, while opium cultivation increased 18 % in the same year according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Additionally, the complexity of the zone and the lack of security and control over the area has facilitated drug trafficking for delinquent groups.

The Golden Triangle is the border region constituted by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Kingdom of Thailand. The three countries play a fundamental role in the production and trafficking of these drugs. For instance, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is where most of the laboratories of methamphetamines and opium are situated. Although there is not an exact number of facilities in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the amount has increased since 2021 due to a military coup² in the country that has weakened the law enforcement. After its production, it passes through the Lao People's Democratic Republic and then to the Kingdom of Thailand, where it is distributed to the rest of Asian countries. However, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Indonesia, and Malaysia are other border territories that serve as routes for the smuggling of drugs.

¹ **Seize:** Take something and hold it. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2024)

² **Coup:** A sudden illegal taking of government power. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2024)

Background and Causes

The Golden Triangle has become one of the most significant centers of drug production and trafficking in Asia. This is mainly attributed to the significant increase in the production of opium and methamphetamines in the last couple of years and the ineffectiveness of strategies to control it. These drugs gained popularity due to its facility to make and transport. Additionally, they are commonly used to produce heroin and other kinds of synthetic drugs. The laboratories that are used to produce them can be easily moved or covered as they are made of ordinary equipment, while crops are more likely to be seen and not been removed or relocated, making the production of it more attractive for organized crime groups. Besides, these laboratories are located in challenging zones for authorities to access due to the significant number of obstacles and dense forest.

The COVID-19 pandemic was also an important element for the opium and methamphetamine production as it led to economic hardships³, forcing vulnerable populations into illegal activities such as drug farming to generate income. Another factor responsible for the increment in the production of these substances are the armed conflicts that have been taking place in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. The coup supplanted the democratic government, causing the militia to take over the control of the country, while using force against the civilian opponents. This has led to the undermining⁴ of the State power, which rebels and organized crime groups have taken advantage of to expand their operations. The initiative One Belt One Road, established by the People's Republic of China, has also contributed to make the transportation easier as the project intends on building roads that connect over 60 Asian and European countries such as Ukraine, Republic of Slovenia, Romania, Republic of Serbia, Mongolia, Republic of Indonesia, Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Burkina Faso, Republic of Maldives, Malaysia, and the Republic of the Philippines.

³ **Hardship:** Difficult or unpleasant conditions of life. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2024)

⁴ **Undermine:** To make someone less powerful or to make something weaker. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2024)

Opium cultivation and methamphetamines production in the Golden Triangle

The Golden Triangle owes its name to the amount of economic resources produced in the zone by activities such as drug trafficking and smuggling of arms and people. The territory presents optimum conditions for drug cultivation and fabrication; the climate and soil conditions, scarce control, and remoteness in the zone constitute the production of it. Therefore, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is one of the largest opium producers, having 88 % of the cultivation and occupying 4,700 hectares in 2023 according to the UNODC. The increase in the planting hectares led to the expansion in the opium production of 20 % in the state of Shan, 10 % in the state of Chin, and 6 % in the state of Kachin.

Unlike opium, methamphetamines can be synthesized using multiple methods, making their production more adaptable. Synthetic drugs imply the use of various substances to create an artificial narcotic. Hence, there is an unknown number of methamphetamine laboratories due to the lack of resources and the expanse of the territory that can reach industrial scales in borderline areas. The facilities are strategically placed in remote areas and are used to heat and crystallize these types of drugs; although they can be identified through tactical surveillance⁵, their mobility allows them to be dismantled and relocated quickly. These operations are financed and overseen by organized crime groups, which not only profit from their production but also consolidate power through corruption, economic exploitation of local communities, and control of supply chains that extend into international markets.

Transnational organized crime groups

Among the most developed and powerful criminal networks in the region, there are multiple organized multinational crime groups that operate in the Golden Triangle. Their operations extend into nearby nations like the People's Republic of China, the Socialist Republic of

⁵ **Surveillance:** The careful watching of a person or place, especially by the police or army. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2024)

Vietnam and the Kingdom of Cambodia, as well as international markets, especially in regions like North America, Oceania, and East Asia, where there is a significant market for synthetic pharmaceuticals. The lack of local manufacturing in certain areas and the rise in consumer addiction has made these markets profitable locations for drugs, as a consequence of multiple reasons, such as poor governance, difficult-to-enforcement terrain, and prolonged political and social instability. The property under control may vary, but it usually consists of vast, remote areas that are ideal for hiding drug labs and opium fields. For instance, Shan State in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, is a crucial location where criminal networks use its treacherous terrain and sparse government presence to manufacture and distribute opium and synthetic drugs. One of the main reasons for these groups' transnational character is that they transport narcotics across countries by taking advantage of open borders and established trade channels such as the Asian Highway.

The United Wa State Army (UWSA) and groups associated with the Triads like the 14K and Sun Yee On are notable cases of transnational organized criminal organizations in the region. The UWSA controls a substantial section on the north of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and serves as both an armed militia and drug trafficking organization. However, methamphetamine exports to foreign markets are eased by the Triads' huge networks that reach nations including the United States of America, Canada, Commonwealth of Australia, and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, which are key destinations outside Asia for their illicit operations, especially to North America, Europe, and Oceania. These groups' global reach and operational complexity are further strengthened by their reliance on sophisticated logistical systems, such as official corruption, the use of digital currencies for payments, and cross border collaborations with other criminal organizations such as European mafia organizations or Mexican cartels, which consolidate their power in international marketplaces and distribution.

The capacity from organizations to wield across borders, coordinating distribution, transportation, and production through a combination of domestic and foreign networks, makes their operations transnational. Delinquent groups take advantage of international commerce systems by employing reputable companies as fronts and offshore⁶ accounts to launder profits. These organizations also work with local farmers in the Golden Triangle, supplying resources for opium growing before taking control of the drugs' process and trafficking. Their scheme not only interferes with local governance, but also affects global security as a result of the narcotics made in this area contributing to drug addiction and criminal activity that extends beyond Asia's boundaries.

Criminal organizations use a highly coordinated modus operandi to maintain and grow their multinational businesses. Their operations are carefully planned, with a division of labor that includes logisticians organizing transportation and distribution, chemists producing synthetic medicines, and local farmers growing opium. The supplies travel safely by frequently using threats and corruption to take advantage of flaws in border procedures and governance. A key component of their activities is cross-border cooperation, as these organizations collaborate with other criminal groups to open up new markets, acquire chemical precursors, and facilitate smuggling routes. It is also employed cutting-edge technology to avoid detection and carry out financial transactions, including blockchain-based digital currency and encrypted communication. These groups further conceal their illegal operations by infiltrating renowned industries like banking, logistics, and transportation, which keeps their networks firmly established in the international criminal economy.

⁶ **Offshore:** Based in a different country with different tax rules. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2024)

Vulnerable Frontiers

Opium, heroin, and methamphetamines can be transported by criminal organizations with relative simplicity in the boundary areas due to a lack of efficient monitoring and safety measures. These areas are strategically significant since the government attempts to safeguard borders are restricted and frequently impeded by corruption, lack of financing and an insufficiency of international coordination. Traffickers are able to smuggle drugs between nations by making use of well-traveled trade routes, rivers, and forests, due to ineffective border restrictions, resulting in an uncontrolled flow of illegal substances into regional and international markets. The lack of oversight not only facilitates the movement of drugs but also fuels organized crime, destabilizes local communities and undermines public health and safety in the frontiers.

Weak intergovernmental⁷ cooperation among the affected countries makes security issues more serious. Despite calls for collaboration on drug control from regional initiatives such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), that focuses on regional cooperation, stability and development; there have been minimal noticeable outcomes. Furthermore, each nation has different goals, frequently putting internal stability ahead of coordinated efforts to combat trafficking networks. For instance, criminal organizations are able to take control of places like the state of Shan due to the deficiency of official authorities, making them hubs for drug manufacture and trafficking. Likewise, traffickers take advantage of substantial loopholes⁸ left by the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Kingdom of Thailand's inability to implement laws consistently throughout their borders. Effectively combating transnational drug trafficking requires the implementation of

⁷ **Intergovernmental:** Between two or more governments. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2024)

⁸ **Loophole:** A failure to include something in an agreement or law, which allows someone to do something illegal or to avoid doing something. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2024)

comprehensive border security measures, such as coordinated patrols or shared intelligence systems, which are hardly achievable by the lack of a cohesive strategy.

Moreover, border security initiatives are impeded by the political and economic circumstances in these areas. Enforcement actions become highly political on account of the drug trade frequently funding for the financial security of local communities. Governments are hesitant to take strong action against these groups as they expect unrest or revenge from impacted groups; as a consequence, corrupt authorities often impede enforcement by taking payments or helping to transport illegal products. As a result, trafficking networks establish themselves in local economies and political systems, and are able to operate with impunity. The security problems in the Golden Triangle will continuously increase and represent an obstacle to curb drug production and trafficking routes until these systemic problems are addressed, notably by addressing corruption and creating closer cross-border cooperation.

Trafficking routes and their economic impact

Methamphetamines and opium are mostly transported through the Golden Triangle trafficking routes from the Republic of the Union of Myanmar's production facilities to high demand markets of Asia, including the People's Republic of China, Kingdom of Thailand, and the Republic of Philippines. These routes use a combination of vehicles, human couriers⁹, and concealed compartments in commercial cargo to take advantage of permeable borders, isolated mountain roads, and river networks like the Mekong, situated in Southeast Asia from People's Republic of China up to the Kingdom of Cambodia. The three main routes for trafficking are: on the South along the Mekong River into Lao People's Democratic Republic, from the North into the People's Republic of China across the Yunnan Province, and at the East in the Kingdom of Thailand past the border towns of Tachileik and Mae Sai. Traffickers

⁹ **Couriers:** A person that takes messages, letters or parcels from one person or place to another. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2024)

rely on bribery to ensure the safe transportation of drugs, advanced logistical networks, including GPS tracking devices, encrypted communications, and meticulous route planning, in addition to taking advantage of weak customs enforcement to avoid finding its location.

These roads have very effective operating processes, functioning through extremely efficient systems because of their flexibility, cooperation, and capacity to utilize both human and technical resources. Larger shipments are hidden among commercial commodities¹⁰ and delivered by trucks, boats, or trains, while couriers with small scale, referred to as "mules," carry drugs across distant routes on foot or motorcycle. Apps for encrypted texting are frequently used to reroute shipments and manage logistics in order to evade detection. Since offenders pay officials to allow them to travel through border checkpoints and areas under government control, corruption is highly significant. The Golden Triangle is an essential center around the world for drug trade due to these tactics, which guarantee the continuous supply of narcotics to areas with significant demand.

Drug manufacture has a sophisticated economic interaction with local residents and farmers in the area. For example, growing opium yields greater profits than legal crops, with farmers making between \$300 and \$400 per hectare every year. Despite being significant in underdeveloped regions, these gains are irregular and frequently exploitative as they are disproportionately distributed to drug traffickers and bosses. The illegal trade captures families in cycles of vulnerability and poverty by disrupting legitimate economic activity and encouraging dependence on black markets.

The Asian continent is becoming the world's largest market for synthetic narcotics, especially methamphetamines, since the demand for these compounds has surged throughout the region. Affordability and accessibility are the main drivers of rising consumptions in nations like the Kingdom of Thailand and the Republic of Philippines. The methamphetamine

¹⁰ **Commodity:** A substance or product that can be traded, bought or sold. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2024)

market in Asia is worth over \$61 billion a year, and the rate of increase in demand keeps production networks and trafficking routes active. Despite intensive law enforcement efforts, the profitability of these substances encourages their continued production and distribution. This cycle can be broken only by addressing the supply chains and the underlying socioeconomic conditions that influence cultivation in the Golden Triangle.

Solutions taken by the United Nations

Efforts to combat drug manufacturing and trafficking in the Golden Triangle have been implemented by the United Nations (UN) through various programs aimed at addressing both the supply and demand of drug trade. The project Alternative Development initiative, run by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, gives farmers access to cash crops like coffee, rubber, and other resources that are viable alternatives to opium growing. Additionally, by improving coordination and communication among regional law enforcement organizations, the United Nations has promoted cross-border cooperation. The UN has also promoted the development of frameworks such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Work Plan on Securing Communities Against Illicit Drugs, which seeks to improve regional coordination to counter drug manufacturing and trafficking. A key component of the UN's approach is the implementation of public awareness campaigns regarding the risks associated with synthetic substances, such as methamphetamines, in addition to these measures. Workshops, informational sessions, and media outreach are all part of these initiatives, which are frequently conducted in collaboration with regional Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), ASEAN, the World Health Organization (WHO), and local governments.

These efforts have had a range of results, including both achievements and ongoing difficulties. Although these actions have increased awareness and made local progress,

systemic problems in the area have limited their wider influence due to the established profitability of opium production, logistical difficulties, and lack of economic resources; alternative development programs have had little impact in providing farmers sustainable means of survival. Similarly, these accomplishments have had a minimum impact on overall production and trafficking, while increased law enforcement cooperation has led to the recovery of large amounts of drugs. Due to deficiencies in regional enforcement and enduring corruption, plans like multilateral task forces, combined information networks, and coordinated border operations have increased interception rates but have not significantly impacted trafficking networks. Furthermore, methamphetamine production in particular, is still rising because of the continued low cost of synthesis in clandestine laboratories. The magnitude and intricacy of drug traffic in the Golden Triangle highlight the limitations of current tactics.

Although there are still obstacles to maintaining long term funding and participation, the UN is still dedicated to solve this problem through global cooperation, the deployment of security systems, and the application of cutting-edge technologies for oversight. The UNODC encourages the implementation of more strong policy measures, such as the creation of shared intelligence databases to identify and intercept trafficking networks and the formulation of uniform laws throughout Member States to prohibit drug trafficking. The UNODC also provides technical assistance, despite Member States' erratic lack of funding and political commitment that has limited the success to combat the situation. Raising international awareness and encouraging regional collaboration have been crucial for the UN, but sustained assistance and active participation from impacted countries are crucial to the organization's ability to cut down trafficking routes and fabrication of drugs.

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Topic B

Strategies to cease the trafficking and smuggling of firearms across the border states between the nations that compose the Sahel region in Africa due to the presence of several organized crime groups and lack of governance

Introduction

The Sahel region crosses all Africa from West to East in the northern region of the continent. The territory is constituted by 10 countries: the Republic of Senegal, Republic of the Gambia, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Republic of Guinea, Republic of Mali, Burkina Faso, Republic of Niger, Republic of Chad, Republic of Cameroon, and the Federal Republic of Nigeria. These countries are part of the most common hubs and transportation routes for the smuggling of illicit matter. In particular, the smuggling of firearms has been rapidly increasing in the past couple of years, on account of the scarce control along the area, lack of security, presence of organized groups and ineffectiveness of the measures taken by the authorities, such as surveillance missions, which have contributed to the undermining of the government, increasing the trafficking of weapons. For instance, in 2022, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) seized 480 firearms, and 6,000 arm components and ammunition in 8 of the 10 countries that constitute the Sahel.

This area has become one of the main markets for firearms across the continent due to the extent of the territory. The weak governance and the socio-economic position of the region has made systematic loopholes in the majority of the countries in the Sahel, leading to a scarcity of security in the frontiers. Influential organized crime groups such as Boko Haram in the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), which operates in Burkina Faso and the Republic of Mali, take advantage of the lack of surveillance to facilitate the armament trafficking, generating profit from it. Although the United Nations (UN) has established strategies and programs like the Global Firearms Programme (GFP) in 2020 to reduce the smuggling, they have shown sparse progress as the countries in the Sahel lack the capacity to entirely implement the GFP guidelines.

Background and Causes

The Sahel region is host to 300 million people and is characterized by serious challenges concerning weak governance, economic instability and cross-border volatility. Historically, the territory has been involved in several conflicts such as the Tuareg rebellions, which consisted on groups taking over the government in the Republic of Mali and the Republic of the Niger, that represent a significant factor for the persistence of the problem since the weapons used in these conflicts are obtained through illegal markets. A similar situation was reported in 2011, in the State of Libya, where the Gaddafi regime collapsed, leading to a change in the political order where rebel groups took over the government. The ease of seizing government power along with multiple insurgent rebellions are common and incessant along the area, reaching high levels of instability, which facilitate the smuggling of illicit matter without sanctions.

The development of the issue highlights a shift in the region's dynamics, where economic pressures have created an environment conducive to such illegal activities. Irregular borders, combined with the presence of organized crime and non-state armed groups, including Liptako-Gourma in the central Sahel, the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA), Boko Haram, among others. These groups facilitate the transactions of firearms and other illicit armaments. However, the arms have reignited conflicts, perpetuating cycles of violence and hindering¹¹ efforts to stabilize and secure the territory. Therefore, the constant violence has left authorities with few to no control within, but most importantly, it has driven government entities to involve themselves in activities with fraudulent tendencies.

¹¹ **Hinder:** To limit the ability of someone to do something, or to limit the development of something. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2024).

Firearms and Weapons in the Sahel Region

The most common manufactured¹² weapons in the Sahel since 2019 have been the assault rifles due to their accessibility, durability and ease to use. However, hand guns, long guns and machine guns were seized along the Sahel, totaling up to 2,400 weapons in 2024, according to the INTERPOL. The seizures emphasize the diversity of firearms that are made in illegal workshops in the region and the scale of trafficking networks. Even though the main consumers for these weapons are located in small villages, they are also transported through international routes. For instance, firearms are transported by air from the Republic of Turkey through the Federal Republic of Nigeria up to the French Republic, that eventually will reach other markets.

Due to a lack of governmental oversight and the growth of illicit workshops, the Sahelian guns industry has developed. These illegal businesses can produce a variety of arms, from simple handguns to more complex assault rifles, and are frequently established in isolated locations with little official monitoring. The region has become a center for weapon manufacturing due to the ease of obtaining raw materials and local expertise in weapon development. These clandestine manufacturers frequently operate with little fear of government interference, particularly in areas with almost no official presence. Although these weapons are usually made with crude techniques, they are functional enough to support the region's ongoing wars and criminal activity.

Regarding the distribution channels, it is challenging to trace and stop the smuggling of firearms due to its complex network of networks that cover several nations. A large number of firearms in the Sahel are transported via international trafficking routes, coming from nations like The Republic of Turkey that have weak export laws or lax arms control

¹² **Manufacture:** To produce goods in larger numbers. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2024)

enforcement. After passing via The Federal Republic of Nigeria, a significant center in West Africa, they are frequently flown to other locations, such as the French Republic and other North African or European nations. These weapons are occasionally smuggled in smaller, more covert operations, frequently across permeable borders, or transported in big cargo shipments or hidden in containers with other illegal products. After there, the weapons make their way to both valid and illicit markets, where they support both domestic insurgencies and global organized crime.

The trafficking of firearms in the Sahel has led to the death of inhabitants in 2022 due to the violent cycles perpetuated by the extremist groups. These groups often look forward to securing resources that are crucial to maintaining their power and growing their presence in the region. Furthermore, these organizations use strategic force and coercion to drive communities to purchase firearms, therefore leaving them with little choice but to arm themselves for self-defense. Because local populations are increasingly involved in armed conflicts after first seeking protection, this forced militarization intensifies cycles of violence. Furthermore, guns have strong cultural value in certain of the region's nations and are frequently connected to social standing, masculinity, or past resistance. This cultural normalization reinforces a societal acceptance of armed violence as a method of resolving conflicts by facilitating the widespread acquisition of firearms and reducing the stigma associated with their use. As a result, disarmament attempts encounter strong opposition due to a mix of external pressure and deeply rooted cultural elements, which further prolongs instability and insecurity.

The Sahel region is suffering greatly as a result of the widespread proliferation and normalization of guns. Communities are enmeshed in conflict, and humanitarian crises are made worse by the violent cycles that are fueled by easy access to firearms. Initially a reaction to insecurity, the use of armed self-defense by civilian populations frequently

contributes to the increased militarization of society, which hinders the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations. Disarmed populations are frequently more vulnerable since they are not shielded from criminal networks or armed gangs. Furthermore, the easy access to firearms promotes the violent escalation of local conflicts into confrontations, destabilizing entire regions and making peace agreements more difficult to implement.

Another important element in maintaining the military norm is culture. Armed violence is not only accepted but frequently viewed as a valid way to settle disputes in society due to the cultural normalization of firearms as symbols of masculinity and authority. This normalization makes it more difficult for foreign groups trying to promote peace in the area and presents a serious obstacle to disarmament efforts. A deeply ingrained system where violence becomes a commonplace aspect of daily life and the possibility of a peaceful resolution is still far off is created by the combination of political instability, economic hardship, and cultural acceptance of firearms. Since every new generation is raised in a world where armed conflict is a major aspect of their life, the cycle of violence and instability makes it more and more difficult to find lasting solutions.

Organized crime groups

Criminal groups now operate with considerable impunity in the Republic of Senegal and the Republic of Sudan, taking advantage of their unsecure borders, poor government, and growing political unrest. These organizations penetrate and carry out illegal activities including drug trafficking, kidnapping for ransom, and smuggling by taking advantage of the political unrest and the ineffective state authority in some areas. The illegal movement of persons, goods, and weapons is made easier by the porous and inadequately guarded borders, and their operations are covered by the instability. Furthermore, while the disjointed security apparatus finds it difficult to respond effectively, these groups frequently resort to violence to

coerce local communities and maintain control over regions. Representative criminal organizations active in the region include Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, Boko Haram, and the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS). Originally founded on the ideology of extremism, these organizations subsequently modified their operations to include engaging in a variety of illegal activities, with arms sales as their main source of income. AQIM have origins from civil unrest starting in the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria during the mid-1990s, mainly arising as a result of the Algerian Civil War. Boko Haram had been gaining prominence since the early 1990s, introduced in the Federal Republic of Nigeria by a combination of local concerns and socio-political tensions. Both have operated in the Sahel region and are part of a complex network of transnational criminal organizations.

These groups have highly organized and adaptable systems that utilize both local and international connections. These networks comprise local operatives and international partners working together to find and exploit possible markets for the illicit goods. In effect, this involves linking multiple smuggling routes across a number of borders, which often remain unnoticed due to the low levels of inspection and enforcement. Firearm trafficking is interconnected with other forms of illicit trafficking and criminal activity, such as drug trafficking, smuggling of people, and the illegal extraction of resources. The guns sold in these contexts are often available in the illegal trade across borders through established smuggling routes that escape undetected. Such criminal enterprises are facilitated by systemic corruption within government institutions, bribery, collusion with local government officials allowing for legal practices to persist. Further, poor law enforcement, in combination with assigned limited resources meant to combat such activities, allows criminal syndicates to operate with relative ease and impunity. Often, these groups exploit the economic vulnerability of certain regions by extending financial inducements or applying pressure on local authorities, forcing them into complicity or coercion. These complex and multilayered

influences allow for an inviting environment for organized crime with consequences that work against peace in regions and opportunities for resolutions against the illicit arms trade.

This tactic takes advantage of the loopholes in governance systems and geographies therein. They exploit vast, irregular borders to facilitate the movement of arms as well as other types of illicit goods. These groups use capital to forge alliances with lesser crime enterprises, establishing ways of operating for other countries concerning maritime borders. Revenue from arms smuggling is used to sustain their activities, as well as to expand their control and market influence and recruit new members, adding to the destabilization of the region. Organized crime in the Sahel region poses substantial challenges to security and governance in the area, in a manner contrary to state authority, which contributes to the cycle of violence, ultimately exacerbating humanitarian issues.

Trafficking routes and their economic impact

The geographical and political vulnerabilities of countries like the Republic of Mali, the Republic of Niger, the Republic of Chad, and the Republic of the Sudan are exploited by the trafficking of guns throughout the Sahel. In order to create and sustain covert networks, organized criminal groups take advantage of open borders and inadequate state institutions like border control agencies, customs enforcement, and law enforcement bodies. These routes, which act as conduits for drugs, weapons, and other illegal products, usually cross paths with established trans-Saharan commerce routes. In terms of the economy, the spread of illegal firearms destroys stability by increasing disputes, which prevents foreign investment and increases security costs for both local businesses and governments. The financial pressure is increased because violence undermines livelihoods and destroys economic resilience.

Routes that run from the State of Libya into the Republic of Niger or from the Republic of Sudan into the Republic of Chad are important routes for trafficking. These routes link areas of current violence in the Sahel to areas with excess weapons, such as post-war zones in North Africa. The transfer of weapons through these routes is made easier by the absence of efficient border controls, corruption, and the collusion of certain officials. Economically, the proliferation¹³ of firearms discourages trade and agricultural output, which are essential to the lives of millions of people in the area, and prolongs violence. In addition to decreasing trade and international aid, this instability puts further financial pressure on nations that are already dealing with underdevelopment and economic hardship..

There are several creative and covert ways to transport firearms. Criminals frequently transport guns on camels and other pack animals across isolated desert areas, alter vehicles to include hidden compartments, or concealed weapons within shipments of legitimate items. Traffickers commonly make use of unofficial trade routes and ethnic networks that are familiar with the area in the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of Chad. In order to discreetly coordinate their activities, organized criminal groups also employ technology, such as encrypted communications, or pay officers at checkpoints. Effectively destroying these trafficking networks is challenging due to these tactics and the government's poor control over the area.

Solutions taken by the United Nations

The United Nations have put in place a number of measures to stop firearm smuggling and trafficking in the Sahel. For example, the creation of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS), which aims to address governance, security, and development challenges in its entirety, is a crucial component of these initiatives because it offers a

¹³ **Proliferation:** The fact of something increasing a lot and suddenly in number or amount. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2024)

thorough framework for addressing the underlying causes of regional instability. By emphasizing better governance, the plan aims to fortify governmental institutions and curb corruption, hence reducing the impunity of criminal organizations. Furthermore, combating security issues by strengthening border security and peacekeeping personnel directly tackles the illegal firearms trade. The focus on development seeks to generate economic opportunities, lowering communities' susceptibility to organized crime and armed group recruitment. Therefore, the UNISS is a multipronged strategy that aims to address the root causes of instability in the Sahel as well as stop smuggling. Furthermore, the UN has assisted regional organizations like the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), in implementing arms control agreements. In an effort to improve tracking and enforcement systems, border control authorities are also receiving technical support and building capacity.

Weapons proliferation throughout the Sahel has fostered violent conflicts and increased instability, weakening state authority and increasing the humanitarian situation. Trafficking networks have made it possible for extremist and organized crime groups to grow, destabilizing entire regions and making efforts to maintain peace more difficult. In addition to escalating intercommunal violence, these armament movements have increased displacement rates and mostly affected civilians. Additionally, a cycle of poverty and instability has been sustained by the illicit weapon trade, which has diverted substantial resources that could have been used for development. It is also impossible to ignore the environmental effects, since armed groups frequently use natural resources to pay for their activities, adding to already delicate ecosystems.

Through programs like the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which sets worldwide guidelines for controlling arms transfers, the UN has actively worked with regional organizations to combat arms trafficking. Additionally, in order to improve national capabilities for recognizing and confiscating illegal firearms, the UNODA has organized

training courses and workshops. With the aim of secure areas and obtain information on smuggling networks, peacekeeping operations like the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) that is a peacekeeping mission established by the UN to support the stabilization and security of The Republic of Mali, focusing on protecting civilians, promoting human rights, and assisting in the political process, are essential. Aiming to guarantee that traffickers receive justice regardless of their location, the UN has also pushed for uniform laws among its member states in an effort to fortify legal and law enforcement systems.

Even with the UN's multi pronged strategy, these actions have still not been effective enough. Progress has been hampered¹⁴ by enduring issues like open borders, corruption, and the high demand for weapons by non-state actors. The overall effect has not been able to stop the flow of firearms throughout the Sahel, despite the fact that some measures, like building capacity programs, have produced limited achievements. Future plans call for expanding investments in border security technologies, strengthening regional cooperation frameworks like the G5 Sahel Joint Force, and supporting economic development initiatives to make it less alluring the affiliation criminal networks. Enhancing firearm traceability through sophisticated labeling and record-keeping systems is another aspect of these proposals. Mali's Republic, The Republic of Chad, and The Republic of Niger, among other member countries, have faced challenges in implementing these programs due to a lack of political will and intermittent financial support. Furthermore, the range and effectiveness of actions have been constrained by the lack of thorough data and coordination across international actors. The UN must increase its emphasis on addressing the underlying causes of instability while promoting closer regional and global cooperation if it hopes to produce significant outcomes.

¹⁴ **Hamper:** To prevent someone doing something easily. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2024)

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XXXVIII TECMUN
Glosary of Forbidden Words

Forbidden Words

Defined by the United Nations, are non diplomatic terms participants must avoid to mention during their speeches on the debate and in the writing of resolution projects

Forbidden Words	Permitted equivalents
First world countries	Developed countries
Third world countries	Developing countries
Gay ¹⁵	Member of the LGBTIQ+ community
War ¹⁶	Belic conflict
Rape	Sexual abuse
Terrorist	Extremist
Kill or murder	Deprive someone of their life
Death	Casualties
Assassination	Homicide
Army	Military forces
Money	Economic resources
Poor	Lack of resources
Okay	Yes or agree
Black ¹⁷	Afrodescendant

¹⁵ The word Gay is replaced by a more inclusive term, recognizing that not all people within the LGBTIQ+ community identify in the same way.

¹⁶ The word War can be used in order to refer to historical contexts, such as the Cold War, the First World War, etc. It can only be used in the Security Council to refer to armed conflicts.

¹⁷ The word Black, in reference to ethnicity, is not prohibited but it is recommended to limit its use and refer to this sector as a dark-skinned person or afrodescendant as the case may be.

XXXVIII TECMUN
Glosary for Resolution Projects

Preambulatory Phrases

Preambulatory Phrases are used at the beginning of every Resolution Paper in order to give context about the resolutions made for the topic. Preambulatory Phrases must be written in italics followed by a sentence that gives said context. For each Resolution Paper there must be five sentences beginning with a Preambulatory Phrase.

Affirming	Desiring	Noting with deep concern
Alarmed by	Emphasizing	Noting with satisfaction
Approving	Expecting	Noting further
Bearing in mind	Expressing its appreciation	Observing
Believing	Fulfilling	Reaffirming
Confident	Fully aware	Realizing
Contemplating	Further deploring	Recalling
Convinced	Further recalling	Recognizing
Declaring	Guided by	Referring
Deeply concerned	Having adopted	Seeking
Deeply conscious	Having considered	Taking into consideration
Deeply convinced	Having examined	Taking note
Deeply disturbed	Having received	Viewing with appreciation
Deeply regretting	Keeping in mind	Welcoming

XXXVIII TECMUN
Glosary for Resolution Projects

Operative Clauses

Operative Clauses are used at the beginning of every resolution within the Resolution Paper on the debated topic. They must be written in italics and bold.

Accepts	Endorses	Notes
Affirms	Draws the attentions	Proclaims
Approves	Emphasizes	Reaffirms
Authorizes	Encourages	Recommends
Calls	Expresses its appreciation	Regrets
Calls upon	Expresses its hope	Reminds
Condemns	Further invites	Requests
Confirms	Further proclaims	Solemnly
Congratulates	Further reminds	Affirms
Considers	Further recommends	Strongly
Declares accordingly	Further requests	condemns
Deplores	Further resolves	Supports
Designates	Has resolved	Takes note of
		Transmits
		Trusts

[illegible]

[illegible]