

**STUDY GUIDE OF
UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE ON DRUGS
AND CRIME**

Committee: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Agenda Item: The controversy caused by Pablo Escobar's drug extradition with a special focus on Latin America and Colombia

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Letter From the Under-Secretary-General

Esteemed delegates, I, Ece Bilir will be serving as the under-secretary-general of the committee UNODC. This is going to be my seventieth MUN conference and 5th experience as a committee board member. I will be a senior this year in ANKU College so these are probably my last MUN conferences in high school.

I expect you to read the study guide carefully and prepare to find solutions. Please keep in mind that you are also responsible for further research about your own country policies and other useful information. While delivering speeches and writing the draft resolution you will also be responsible for the current impacts, reasons and solutions of the illegal drug trade in the world. Please make sure that at the end of the conference the clauses in the questions to be addressed part must be covered and solutions must be added to the resolution. On behalf of the organising team and the academic team of MUNACTIVE'20, I wish you fruitful debates and an unforgettable conference.

Letter From the President Chair

Hi everyone! My name is Zeynep Ağca and I will be your president chair. I am now a fresh 11th grader in the Pakistan Embassy International School, ready to go back to school. This will be my 5th chairing experience and my 5th online conference overall, so I can assure you that everything will flow smoothly. I like painting, reading, and watching TV shows, but otherwise, I am a pretty boring

person. When this quarantine began, I did not expect to attend online conferences but a friend of mine invited me to theirs and I gave it a shot.

What my Under-Secretary-General, my co-chair, and I expect from you is that you thoroughly understand your country's stance on the issue and act accordingly. This topic, in my opinion, is really interesting, so I hope you guys have fun and learn something new!

Introduction of the Issue

Starting from the 1960s till his last breath, the Drug Lord, Pablo Escobar had worked on establishing the world's largest drug trade network. This situation led today's world in a hard situation. Even the governments and many organisations have taken many actions against the production and marketing of illegal drugs, however, the past makes it unstoppable.

There are people that believe Pablo Escobar was a hero however, the crimes that he committed the lives he has taken cannot be ignored. Also, his movements led the world to a darker place in the 21st century about illegal drug marketing.

The drug trade network he established and nurtured while he was alive still maintains its impacts and spread the other regions around the world. The way he affected young people and made them addicted was also a cruel crime he has committed.

Countries have taken actions in the past in order to stop illegal drug trade however, some states are not putting their best effort to stop drug cartels or just ignoring how harmful it could be for the citizens of the country.

UNODC is specifically working on decreasing the drug usage and raise awareness to give useful information about the illegal drug trade, marketing and usage.

Useful Vocabulary

Smuggle: moving the goods illegally to another country ex: drugs, cigarettes etc.

Drug trafficking: Drug trafficking is a global illicit trade involving the cultivation, manufacture, distribution, and sale of substances which are subject to drug prohibition laws. (*Drug Trafficking - United Nations and the Rule of Law, 2020*)

Drug Cartel: can be described as any criminal organisation which pursues illegal drug trafficking operations. This term commonly used for the large trafficking organisations which have been agreed to execute the production and the distribution of drugs.

Extradition: the act of making someone return for a trial to another country or state where they have been accused of doing something illegal. (*EXTRADITION | Cambridge Dictionary, 2020*)

Ransom: the crime of asking for money or a price to return the kidnapped victim.

Guerillas: an unofficial military group that is trying to change the government by making sudden, unexpected attacks on the official army forces. (*GUERRILLA | Cambridge Dictionary 2020*)

Coca cultivation: In a country, less than 10 per cent of the coca is being used for traditional purposes and the remaining 90 per cent is being used for illegal drug production. Coca cultivation is basically farming the plant and producing cocaine from the coca plant.

Extradition Treaty: Extradition is the formal process of one state surrendering an individual to another state for prosecution or punishment for crimes committed in the requesting country's jurisdiction. It typically is enabled by a multilateral or bilateral treaty. Some states will extradite without a treaty, but those cases are not common. (*What Is Extradition?*, 2020)

Narco-States: the countries that drug cartels produce, sell, smuggle drugs, such as cocaine and marijuana.

Background Information

Historical Background of the issue

Pablo Escobar's Biography

Pablo Emilio Escobar Gaviria, generally known as Pablo Escobar was born in 1949 December 1st in Rionegro. Pablo grew up in Medellin and studied in "Universidad Autónoma Latinoamericana" for a brief time period and left without graduating. Pablo Emilio Escobar Gaviria was a drug trafficker who eventually took over the control over 80 per cent of the cocaine transported to the U.S. and made him earn the rank of one of Forbes Magazine's 10 wealthiest people in the world.

Pablo Escobar begins the cocaine trade in the early 1970s, cooperating with the other criminals to establish the Medellin Cartel. He earned popularity by funding charity projects and soccer clubs, but as time flew by, terror campaigns that resulted in the murder of thousands turned public opinion against him.

From some different aspects, as Escobar's fortune and fame grew, he dreamed to be seen as a leader. In some ways, he positioned himself a figure like Robin Hood, which was echoed by many locals as he spent money to expand social programs for the financially unstable people. However, Pablo Escobar was responsible for thousands of deaths. Some of the casualties are even just ordinary citizens. After he realised there is no chance for him to be the president of the Colombian government at the same time the U.S government was pushing his extradition. His aim was a no-extradition clause in exchange for giving up the drug trade so, he hoped to influence Colombian politics.

Thus, Pablo Escobar's terror campaign claimed more than a thousand lives which include Colombian Presidential Candidates, an attorney general, judges, and police officers. While Escobar was trying to escape the law on December 2, 1993, he tried to escape through the rooftops however, he was shot and killed.

Extradition

Probably the most significant threat posed to the Medellin Cartel and the other traffickers was the implementation of an extradition treaty between the Colombia and United States. It allowed Colombia to extradite to the US any Colombian suspected of drug trafficking and to be tried there for their crimes. This was an important problem for the cartel since the drug traffickers had little access to their local power and influence in the US, and a trial there would most likely lead to imprisonment. Among the staunch supporters of the extradition treaty were Colombian Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara who was pushing for more action against the drug cartels, Police Officer Jaime Ramírez, and numerous Colombian Supreme Court judges.

Yet, the cartel implemented a "bend or break" strategy towards several of these supporters, using bribery, violence, or extortion. Nonetheless, when police efforts started to cause major casualties, some of the major drug lords themselves were temporarily become distant to Colombia, forcing them into hiding from which they have given the order to cartel members to take out key supporters of the extradition treaty.

The cartel issued death threats to the Supreme Court Judges, requesting them to denounce the Extradition Treaty. The warnings were overlooked. This led Pablo Escobar and the group he called The Extraditables to begin a violent campaign in order to put pressure on the Colombian government by committing a series of crimes such as kidnappings, murders, and narco-terrorist actions.

Medellin Cartel

Medellin Cartel was a highly organised, powerful Colombian drug cartel and was originating Medellin by being a terrorist-type organisation, which was established and led by Pablo Escobar. Medellin Cartel was being operated from 1972 to 1993 in Colombia, Bolivia, Central America, Panama, United States, Peru, and Canada. In the process of the drug trafficking operations cartel smuggled tons of cocaine each and every week into other countries all around the world and gained US\$60 million daily in drug profits. At that time, the Medellin Cartel was responsible for the supply of 80% of the world's cocaine market.

In the late 60s cocaine trade became a crucial problem. Pablo Escobar, also being called "the Drug Lord" deployed cocaine for the Cartel in New York City and later in Miami he was establishing a crime network which was trafficking approximately 300 kilos of cocaine per day.

By 1982 cocaine export passed the coffee in the Colombian trade network. Between the last period of 1981 and the first period of 1982, members of the Medellín Cartel, the Colombian military, the U.S.-based corporation Texas Petroleum, small industrialists the Colombian legislature, and wealthy cattle ranchers gathered in a series of meetings in "Puerto Boyaca" and formed a paramilitary organisation known as Death to Kidnappers (Muerte a Secuestradores "MAS") to protect their economic interests, and to provide protection for local elites from extortion and kidnappings. By 1983, Colombian internal affairs had enlisted 240 political murders by MAS death squads, mostly elected officials, community leaders and farmers.

War on Drugs

War on drugs was a global campaign led by the US government. The phrase, term War on Drugs is being used for the struggle and effort that the government has given to stop illegal drug usage and trade. This movement began in the 1890s, even if the policies changed and many other actions have taken this is still an issue in today's world. As time passed by in the early 20th century many actions were taken, and laws were implemented in order to decrease the drug usage and still is just not enough.

In June 1971 Nixon officially declared the war on drugs and since then serious actions have been taken. The war on drugs has not ended yet, the world is still struggling with many drug-related issues. Some of these even affect the governments' welfare of the society because especially drug cartels' illegal activities will put governments in an unwanted situation.

Recent Impacts

Expanded Drug Network

Illegal drug production and marketing, drug trafficking has been a significant issue since the 19th century. However, especially the drug trafficking network created by Pablo Escobar led the issue to whole another level, even after he died the drug trade did not stop. Governments, organisations, individuals took precautions established brand new laws, developed the existing ones but drug trade network has expanded and still spreading worldwide. There are many reasons for this unstoppable problem.

Pablo Escobar's unthought but at the same time planned drug trade network is the architect of this huge problem however, current governments are not putting the necessary effort to fix the illegal drug trade problem or the drug cartels.

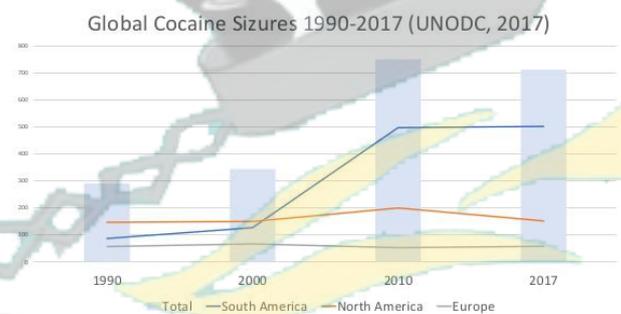
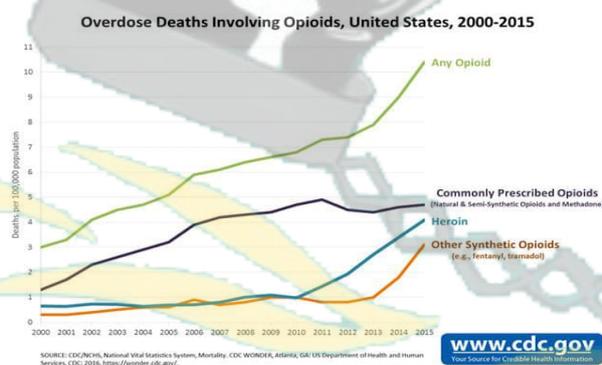
Especially in some states finding illegal drugs is easy for a normal citizen, this is totally wrong and a sign for further and more significant problems which will affect the reputation of the government and the executives in the future. So, every nation must take precautions to act in order to prevent drug marketing.

Negative Impact on Teenagers

In recent years teenager drug usage increased because of the easy access and insufficient information given inside the family and schools. Even social media platforms might have a negative impact on teenagers about drug usage. Before Pablo Escobar's illegal drug trade period, possession of drugs between teenagers was not as common as it is now. Pablo's aim to be a hero turned out to be a total fiasco and even affected the youth in a negative way.

Around the beginning of the 1970s, drug trafficking started to become widespread in Medellin and the surrounding metropolitan places. By the middle of the decade, police had noted the existence of 200 gangs and some 5,000 young gang members.

Some of them were involved in drug trafficking. These groups became involved in territorial wars that took innocent lives from poor neighbourhoods and through the 1980s, drastically increased the city's murder rate. In 1980, 730 people were killed violently in Medellín. In 1985, homicide had become the city's main cause of death, accounting for 1,684 victims, and by 1990, there were 5,500 homicides in this city of 1,700,000. So, even the innocent young lives have turned into homicidal and sometimes suicidal people because of this reckless move of Pablo Escobar.



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Timeline of the Major Events

<p>1969 July 14</p>	<p>In a special message to Congress, President Richard Nixon described drug abuse as "a serious national threat." Citing a dramatic jump in drug-related juvenile arrested and street crime between 1960 and 1967, Nixon called for national anti-drug policy at the state and federal level.</p>
<p>June 1971</p>	<p>Nixon officially declared a "war on drugs," and identified drug abuse as "public enemy number one"</p>
<p>July 1973</p>	<p>Nixon created the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to coordinate the efforts and actions of all other agencies</p>
<p>November 1975</p>	<p>Colombian police seized 600 kilograms of cocaine the largest seizure to date from a small plane. Drug traffickers responded with a vendetta, killed 40 people in one weekend in what is known as the "Medellin Massacre." The event signalled the new power of Colombia's cocaine industry, headquartered in Medellin.</p>
<p>1979</p>	<p>Carlos Lehder, the co-founder of the Medellin cartel, purchased a 165-acre island in the Bahamas. Small planes transported drugs from Colombia to the United States used the island to refuel. Operations continued on the island until 1983.</p>
<p>1981</p>	<p>The Medellin cartel rose to power. The alliance included the Ochoa family, Pablo Escobar, Carlos Lehder and Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha. The drug kingpins worked together to manufacture, transport and market cocaine. The United States and Colombia ratified a bilateral extradition treaty.</p>
<p>1982</p>	<p>Panamanian leader Gen. Manuel Noriega allowed Pablo Escobar to transport cocaine through Panama. In the United States, Vice-President George H.W. Bush gathered agents from multiple agencies and military branches to form the South Florida Drug Task Force, Miami was the main entry point at that time.</p>
<p>1985</p>	<p>Colombia extradited drug traffickers to the United States for the first time. U.S. officials discovered that the Medellin cartel has a "hit list" which includes embassy members, their families, journalists and U.S. businessmen.</p>
<p>1987</p>	<p>In February, Carlos Lehder was being captured by the Colombian National Police and extradited to the United States, where he had convicted of drug smuggling and sentenced to life in prison without parole, plus an additional 135 years. In May, after receiving personal threats from drug traffickers, the justices on the Colombian Supreme Court ruled by a vote of 13-12 to annul the extradition treaty with the</p>

	United States.
1991	The Colombian assembly voted to ban extradition in its new constitution. Pablo Escobar surrendered to the Colombian police the same day. He was confined in a private luxury prison, though reports suggested that he travelled in and out as he pleased. When Colombian authorities tried to move Escobar to another prison in July 1992, he escaped.
December 1993	Pablo Escobar was hiding since mid-1992 and had found by Colombian police using American technology that could recognize his voice on a cell phone call and estimated his location. He tried to flee but had killed.
January 2006	Authorities announced the discovery of the longest cross-border tunnel in the United States history, the work of what they called a well-financed and well-organised drug-smuggling group. The half-mile-long tunnel links a warehouse in Tijuana, where about two tons of marijuana were seized, to a warehouse in the United States, where 200 pounds of the drug were found.

Relevant Organisations and Countries

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

UNODC has been working on decreasing the drug usage by taking many different actions in a variety of ways. Crime prevention and criminal justice, drug prevention, treatment and care are the two topics from many projects that they are working on. For example, in order to prevent drug usage among teenagers, there are skill training programmes for families in order to protect their children from illegal drug usage. UNODC is also working with employees and employers together in order to implement policies against substance abuse in workplaces. Also, since the schools are one of the easiest ways for the children to reach illegal drugs, in order to protect them and prevent such activities series of a session is given by trained teachers which will give information to the students about how dangerous the drug can be.

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)

The main aim of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is to enforce the controlled substances regulations and laws of the United States and bring to the civil justice and criminal system of the United States, or any other competent jurisdiction, those organisations and principal members of organisations, involved in the manufacture, growing or distribution of controlled substances appearing in or destined for illicit traffic in the United States of America; and to recommend and support non-enforcement programs focused on reducing the availability of illicit controlled substances on the international and domestic markets.

United States of America

Currently, the United States of America has the largest market on the illegal drug trade. While Pablo Escobar was alive the demand for cocaine in the United States increased greatly so, Pablo organised more smuggling operations in many parts of the country.

The United States continued to fight the war on drugs while turning a blind eye to drug trafficking among its allies, most notably in Afghanistan. After the U.S. invaded Afghanistan in 2001, America and its allies toppled the Taliban military that had led the nation under strict Islamic law. In 1999, in defiance of the Taliban's fundamentalist views, Afghanistan overtook Burma as the world's leading producer of opium poppies, the plant from which heroin is derived. Under the Taliban, Afghanistan functioned as a Narco-state, with the government using profits from its state-run heroin processing labs to fund its military and keep its economy afloat. (Garden *et al.*, 2020)

Colombia

Almost all cocaine consumed around the world comes from Colombia, Peru and to a lesser extent Bolivia; countries where coca, the crop used for cocaine, is endemic and has been consumed by chewing the leaves or making tea for millennia.

In Colombia, the coca plant used to produce cocaine is grown mostly in remote areas of the country where the state has been absent, and locals have no access to the legal economy. Because of the insufficient state control, the land is available for all kinds of illegal or informal activity which includes coca cultivation.

In 2018, Colombian coca farmers use approximately an accumulated area of between 169,000 hectares to produce the country's cocaine, according to the UNODC.

At least 130,000 farming families live off coca, producing the crop mainly on a small scale. These families receive on average little less than \$1,200 monthly by selling coca, which sells at a little more than a dollar per kilo which is depending on the region.

Latin America

Being close to the USA geographically and having a significant relationship with the illegal drug trade in the past makes Latin American countries having a high risk of losing control of the trafficking-related crimes. Even today, some 20 years after his death, there is still debate in Colombia on how to interpret the mythology surrounding feared drug lord Pablo Escobar and his Medellín Cartel.

Pablo Escobar was regarded as one of the most ruthless and powerful entities within Latin America. He is also renowned for his "philanthropic" tendencies, channelling revenue earned from engagement in the coca trade back into the Medellín community, influencing control of the area.

He organised many drug transportation to Latin America and cooperated with other drug cartels. When his business and main aim got out of control the only choice left was to escape.

Currently, the most dangerous drug cartel are from Colombia and Mexico which makes Latin America the centre of the drug production.

White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)

Established in 1988 in order to coordinate the government's anti-drug efforts. There are several goals and works of the policy, which are, developing a National Drug Policy which intends to decrease substance usage through public safety measures and public health, coordinating and funding the activities of community-based coalitions, law enforcement and other relevant actors working on the ground to combat substance misuse and coordinating the activities and related funding of sixteen Federal government agencies and departments to reduce the availability of and the demand for illicit substances. (*Office of National Drug Control Policy, 2020*)

Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia or FARC)

While the escalating civil conflict in Colombia is attracting increasing international concern and interest, the complicated relationships between drug trafficking, political violence, and the many actors involved in the social conflict in Colombia are often absent from the debate. This background briefly provides a general overview of the connection between the most important guerrilla group in Colombia, the Revolutionary soldiers of Colombia ("Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia", FARC) and illicit drug production and trafficking. In policy debates in Washington, the "narcoguerrilla" theory has been employed to suggest that the guerrillas are major drug traffickers which counterinsurgency and counternarcotic operations are one and therefore the same. In fact, the role of the guerrillas in illicit drug production and drug traffic has evolved over time and remains primarily focused on the taxation of illicit crops.

Questions to be Addressed

1. Crimes that Pablo Escobar has committed and his relationship with the drug problem nowadays.
2. Drug Cartels and ways to prevent such organisations to be established.
3. Preventing the teenager to have access to drugs and illegal drug networks.
4. The effect of the media about the illegal drug trade.
5. The reason for the increasing number of deaths from overdosing illegal drugs throughout the years.
6. The impacts of the past occurrences about illegal drug trades, other related crimes especially committed by Pablo Escobar to the current situation in the world.
7. The extradition treaty and its impacts
8. The role of UNODC in the struggle against the illegal drug trade
9. The role of NGOs and IGOs between the 1960s and 1990s also the actions that are being taken currently.
10. Latin American governments' attitude and policies against the illegal drug trade
11. Discussing the reasons for the past illegal actions about drugs, beneficial actions that help these problems to come to an end and further solutions to prevent the recent problems.

Further Research

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3. *the war on drugs* <https://www.history.com/topics/crime/the-war-on-drugs#:~:text=The%20War%20on%20Drugs%20is,and%20is%20still%20evolving%20today>.
4. *Latin America* <https://theconversation.com/pablo-escobar-and-the-legacy-of-drug-warfare-in-latin-america-21061>
5. *Relevant organisation* <https://www.dea.gov/mission>

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