

*Preventing International Drug  
Trafficking*

**Committee Guide**

*Economic and Social Council*



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## 1. Personal Introduction

Dear Delegates of the ECOSOC 2018,

My Name is Anna Bartholomäi and me and Tom are chairing the ECOSOC this year.

I am 17 years old and until April I was attending the 12th grade of the Graf-Anton-Günther Gymnasium in Oldenburg where I also did my Abitur. In my free time I play theatre, I go to the gym. I love Art and I am also interested in Politics. I started my MUN career at our local school MUN, the Anton goes UN. In the following years, I took part at several MUNs including the OLMUN and the BERMUN.

This OLMUN is my 11th MUN Conference. Last year I already chaired the ECOSOC at the OLMUN and decided to do it again. For two years I am now part of the Inner Circle and this year I was president of our school MUN. I am looking forward to working with you and have successful debates and good resolutions.

See you in June,  
Anna Bartholomäi

Dear Delegates,

My name is Tom Reckmann and I am happy to be one of your Chairs at the Economic and Social Council of OLMUN 2018. I am 17 years old and I currently attend the 11th grade at the Altes Gymnasium Oldenburg. As I am interested in a couple of things, I have quite a lot of hobbies. I do ballroom dance and I love to make music and sing, to name just a few of them.

This year's conference will be my third MUN experience. I participated at OLMUN twice as a technical staff. Already in my first year I was absolutely impressed by how just a few students can afford an event like this - way over 700 participants from all over the world, gathered together to discuss politics. And as I felt a desire to take on more responsibility, I decided to become a member of the Inner Circle and now chair a committee.

So I am really looking forward to meeting you guys and having a good conference. Until then take care of yourselves and have a great time.

See you soon,  
Tom Reckmann

## 2. The Economic and Social Council

The ECOSOC is one of the principal organs of the UN and was established in 1946. It serves as the central forum for discussing International Economic and Social issues.

It features fifty-four voting member states, including 14 African states, 11 Asian states, 6 Eastern European states, 10 Latin American and Caribbean states and 13 states of Western Europe and other parts of the world.

Its specialized agencies work with a wide range of issues – for example, health issues (World Health Organization), food and agriculture or telecommunication. The Council is the place where such issues as economic, social and environmental challenges are discussed and debated. It also has functional commissions, for example, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs or the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. Many various stakeholders involved with the Economic and Social Council are furthermore engaged in a productive dialogue on sustainable development through a programmatic cycle of meetings. An annual theme accompanies each of these cycles to ensure that discussion can be sustained and can remain focused.

## 3. Content

Drug usage has become increasingly problematic in the last decade.

According to the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (you should get some information about their work), which is investigating the drug situation worldwide, and according to their annually published World Drug Report (in the following referred to as WRD), round about five percent of the global adult population used drugs at least once in 2015. Shocking is that mostly every tenth of them suffers from it. However, every day more and more people get into drug using.

Drug flows are in a constant state of flux. With the changes brought by globalization and the spreading of new communication technologies, drug flows are characterized more than ever by rapid changes in trafficking routes. That is also a reason why the drug seizing increased rapidly in the last years.

Not only usage and abuse are dangerous, concomitant with drugs organized crime is involved. In addition, every tenth crime is directly associated with drugs. Also terrorism often is financed through drug trafficking. That basically is a threat not only for drug users, but for every citizen in the world. So drug trafficking must be decreased. Indeed, there had been certain accomplishments in the past years, as for instance the seized amount of drugs has increased already. But that could probably be explained by the increasing of drug trafficking in general. So the fight against drugs must continue.

In the future we will meet two challenges. Firstly, the reduction of commonly used drugs (cocaine, cannabis, opiates, opioids etc.) and their trafficking.

Secondly, the monitoring of New Psychoactive Substances (in the following referred to as NPSs) and the control of their prevalence.

An obstacle we will have to overcome in order to achieve certain results definitely is corruption. Especially in South America and Africa drug trafficking is facilitated because of corruption. As it is a general issue you might consider it during your search for measures and solutions.

### 3.1 Different types of drugs

You might know the common drugs like Cannabis or Heroin and Cocaine. And you might know that some drugs are worse than others and have a different impact on the human body. It needs to be differentiated between how common drugs are and how dangerous and addictive they can be.

**Generally, there are three big classes of drugs that we talk about in our conference:**

**Plant-Based Drugs (in the following referred to as PBDs)**

**Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATs)**

**New Psychoactive Substances (NPSs)**

#### 3.1.1. *Plant-Based Drugs (PBD)*

There are three major Plant-Based Drugs. Those are: Cannabis, Cocaine and Opiates (Opium, Heroin, Morphine).

Generally, the production of PBDs depends on certain conditions. A plant can only grow in habitable and comfortable conditions. The cultivation of some drugs is easier than others, so some drugs' production is distributed more than others.

Cannabis plant cultivation was reported in 135 countries from 2010 to 2015. Its use has remained quite stable at the global level in recent years, despite indications that it continues to increase in Africa and Asia.

Cannabis mostly is traded intraregional. This is not traceable that easily, so there is no exact information on the frequency of consumption or trading in any country. Mainly the illegal transnational or international shipping is recognizable (for example in Mexico. A country which is often associated with drug trafficking). Cannabis is spread all around the world not only because of its easy cultivation but also because of its accessibility. Which also makes it hard for local authorities to discern.

It also needs to be considered that cannabis consumption in some states (e. g. Netherlands or parts of the US) is completely licit, in some states it is permitted only for medical use and in other states it's absolutely forbidden.

With about 17,1 Million consumers, Cocaine seems to be one of the most dangerous drugs. According to the world drug report, the coca bush cultivation decreased from 2000 to the year 2013 to then increase again about 30% in two years. In the year 2015, cocaine seizures reached the highest level ever reported with 864 tons.

Most of the cocaine produced in South America is then traded to North America where the largest consumer market worldwide can be found followed by Mexico and Canada. In South America the Cocaine production is even

rising while in other producing countries the trading even decreased for about 21%.

In Europe cocaine consumption and seizing is now at 0.9% of the overall population. The cocaine shipped to Europe mostly comes from Colombia followed by Perú. The Drug is mostly shipped to ports of Rotterdam, Netherlands, and Antwerp Belgium. But the country with the largest Cocaine seizures in Europe remains Spain.

In the rest of the world there is an increase of Cocaine trade via Africa, Oceania and also Asia.

Opiates meaning Opium, Heroine and Morphine increased in the last years for about 30%. Opium is illicitly produced in around 50 countries worldwide. Main areas of production being located in South-West Asia (mainly Afghanistan), Latin and South America, trading to mostly complete Europe, Asia, Africa and South Asia and the United States of America.

The seizures of Opiates decreased in recent years. While Opium remains quite stable at the global level, Morphine and Heroine decreased in the last years and increased in America.

75 % of the global Heroine and Morphine seizures but also most of the other Opiates are trafficked along the Balkan Route, the southern and the northern route.

### *3.1.2. Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS)*

In addition to the Plant-Based Drugs there are synthetic ones. The ATS are those which are already documented and acquainted as synthetic drugs, but there are many more that are not registered and noted. Those are called NPSs (look 3.1.3).

The manufacture of synthetic drugs is not limited to a certain area like PBDs, they can be manufactured everywhere in the world. Still it can be determined that the amount of ATS doubled from 2010 to 2015.

The ATS can be separated in three big groups: Amphetamine, Methamphetamine and Ecstasy. But the ATS market is not limited to those. These three big groups are sold in a variety of different forms like tablets and Crystalline (e. g. crystal meth).

Methamphetamines are the most seized ATS, followed by Amphetamines. Especially in North America as well as East and Southeast Asia, methamphetamines do occur and in oceanian countries, methamphetamines seem to become a problem over the last years.

Amphetamines can mostly be found in near, Middle East and South-West Asia but also increasingly in central America.

In contrary to Methamphetamines, seizures of Amphetamines seem to stabilize at the global level. Amphetamines are often labelled and transported under the brand Name "Captagon" especially in Turkish provinces

When it comes to Ecstasy, there are many dangers linked to this type of ATS. For example, PMMA sold as Ecstasy can lead to intoxication through an overdose because of the missing euphoric effect.

Concerning the production, Methamphetamines are manufactured by using Ephedrine and Pseudoephedrine. Both chemicals have legitimate use in the pharmaceutical industry.

But because of increasing strict drug controls, drug traffickers diversified their approach of those chemicals by for example using 1-phenyl 2-propanone (P-2-P) or other phenyl acetic acids where controls are not that expanded or strict yet.

Data indicates that there is a huge amount of chemicals that could be used for the manufacturing of ATS rather, or in addition to the common ones.

### *3.1.3. New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)*

The drug market evolves and the variety of substances grows steadily. So as the UNODC reports around 739 new substances have appeared during the period 2009-2016. Often these NPSs emerge quickly in many different forms and disappear again, which makes it very hard to figure them out. Easy availability and low prizes have made these NPSs highly attractive to some groups of drug users. According to the WDR certain NPSs have already become established on the world market. The problem with these kinds of drugs is that new substances must be found and identified first, before they can be forbidden or seized. But until one new drug has been found, 30 others are already on the market. Another big danger is that mostly synthetic NPSs contain uninvestigated and health-damaging ingredients, which can't be treated yet. In case of appearing side effects or overdose, a diagnosis is mostly impossible because then often ingredients are unknown.

## **3.2. The Drug Problem**

Linked to the consumption and trade of drugs next to sanitary problems are also some social, environmental and economical issues as well as a lack of security. Some of these Problems are listed below. But those are just the visible symptoms of a greater problem rooting in poor and devastated societies. Alongside weapon trading, drug trafficking is the main part of the black market.

### *3.2.1. Organized Crime*

Organized crime groups have already existed for centuries and they have been involved into drug trafficking for about 100 years now. Even if the importance of drug trafficking for organized crime groups has already reached its peak in the 1990s, it seems like it still is a major sector, out of which a lot of money is drawn, which enables organized crime groups to evolve and to accommodate.



### *3.2.2. Illicit Financial Flows*

Billions of Dollars flow through the hands of drug trafficking organizations each year, and what they do with that money can have a huge impact on local and wider economies. They might smuggle cash out of their home country, buy or build real estate, invest in restaurants and casinos for money laundering purposes, or stash their profits in offshore financial centers. Depending on the method they choose, property prices can be distorted, unfair competition created, licit businesses crowded out, corruption bolstered and the climate to attract international investment spoilt, ultimately eroding rule of law and economic stability.

### *3.2.3. Corruption*

As already mentioned corruption facilitates drug trafficking this, in turn benefits corruption again. So some drug trafficking organizations have the power and wealth to buy themselves protection from law enforcement agents (such as the police), criminal justice institutions, politicians or the business sector. This enables them to act mostly undisturbed. That allows them to have a not legitimized authority. If that becomes customary, we soon have cartels again.

### *3.2.4. Terrorism/Insurgency*

As terrorism is more likely the more radical version of organized warlike crime, drug trafficking also supports terrorism with money which enables them also to develop and it enlarges their operating range - that is especially in not war-affected countries very dangerous. Antigovernmental organizations benefit of drug trafficking even twice. Firstly, they are able to finance them self with drug trading and secondly a country's economy is getting harmed, which then hurts the government.

## **3.3. International Drug Trafficking**

Our topic this year is International Drug Trafficking. In the previous chapters you got acquainted with the commerce of different types of drugs and we introduced you briefly to the drug problem. Perhaps we mentioned your country as a drug manufacturing or consuming nation, or we didn't mention yours at all. That doesn't mean that your country doesn't play an active role in the international trafficking of drugs (You should know how your country's handling with drugs anyway).

Drugs are either shipped on established trading routes, smuggled by car or bus, or transported by private aircraft to avoid border checks without being monitored. That is a big issue in the regulated trade of goods in general because not only drugs are transported like that. Furthermore, the internet



trafficking needs to be considered. With advancing globalization and technology new markets emerge for consumers and traders. Especially in the Darknet; big drug markets appear, which are hard to find and even harder to smash.

### **3.4. Measures and Solutions**

Like you read in the past clauses, international drug trafficking is a really big topic and the prevention is not easily done. Therefore, the UN already installed the UNODC, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Every year the UNODC creates the World Drug report, monitoring and noting all activities around drugs.

Our task is to find a way to prevent import and export of illegal substances but also to prevent people from consuming drugs. Therefore, we would like you to bring up some solutions, which on the one hand reduce drug trafficking and drug consumption and on the other hand prevent the emergence of new substances.

We came up with the idea of an operating instance, which interferes drug trafficking or cultivation. How do you imagine something like that? What do you think is conceivable and realizable? Think about the viability of your solution as well as about the financial feasibility.

Also keep in mind that there is already an instance installed to monitor, you could use this as a starting point.

## **4. What is next?**

This Committee Guide provides a basis for this year's topic that will be debated and discussed in the Economic and Social Council.

Though, it is only the foundation for the delegates' research on this topic and is not meant to be used as an all-inclusive analysis. Accordingly, this guide serves as a thought-provoking impulse to introduce every delegate to the topic. Indeed, the delegates will acquaint themselves with further information to be well prepared for the discussions and for the debates. This can be done by consulting scholarly materials, international news and more detailed proved background knowledge. Find out how that country is currently progressing in illegal drug matters. What goals has your country set? What barriers might your country be facing?

In your research you might notice that the World Drug report is very long, that is why we already mentioned and shortened a lot of topics in this Committee Guide. But if you need more information or if you want to find out more about your country's role you can always have a look at the drug report (When referring to the drug report make sure it is the one from 2017).

There is also an interactive Map that shows the drug import and export of every country.

Furthermore, we would like to state that medical use of drugs should not be in the center of the debate and that it is more about prevention and not about legalization of illegal substances.

To give you a short guideline we added some links down below to make your research easier.

## 5. Organizational Matters

Every Delegate is expected to write a Policy Statement and a draft Resolution. Send us your draft Resolution by May 31st. The P5 members will read out their Policy Statement in committee session prior to the lobbying. As every year, we will have a dress code at OLMUN 2018. If you have never heard of the word “dress code” before, you should have a look at the OLMUN Handbook on our website [www.olmun.org](http://www.olmun.org). First timers should look through the handbook in any case.

You should receive an email from us a month prior to the OLMUN the latest. If you don't, please contact us as soon as possible! Furthermore, we will establish a Facebook/ WhatsApp group soon for quick and easy communication.

If you have any kind of questions concerning the topic, OLMUN or what color your tie should have - don't hesitate to contact us! We are open to any kind of questions via our email address.

Our email address is: [ecosoc@olmun.org](mailto:ecosoc@olmun.org)

Reminder:

At June 26th the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is celebrated!

## 6. Useful Websites

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illegal\\_drug\\_trade](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illegal_drug_trade)

<https://www.un.org/ruleoflaw/thematic-areas/transnational-threats/drug-trafficking/>

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2009/gashc3948.doc.htm>

<https://www.un.org/en/events/drugabuseday/un-action.shtml>

<https://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/index.html>

<https://www.unodc.org/wdr2017/en/interactive-map.html>