

The background of the entire page is a photograph. It shows a person from the waist up, wearing a patterned short-sleeved shirt and dark trousers. Their hands are behind their back, and they are wearing metal handcuffs. The person's face is partially visible on the left side of the frame, looking down. A large, semi-transparent blue rectangle is overlaid on the lower half of the image, containing the text 'UNODC' and the topic information.

# UNODC

United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime

**Topic:** Taking decisive action against drug trafficking while integrating professional support to address severe mental health disorders



**Committee:** United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

**Topic:** Taking decisive action against drug trafficking while integrating professional support to address severe mental health disorders

**Director:** Sofía Victoria Rojas Gómez

**Moderator:** César Emilio Briseño Sánchez

## **I. Committee Background**

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was established in 1997 as a result of the merging of the United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme. Its purpose was to raise the awareness of drugs throughout the world and to strengthen the actions against drug addiction and trafficking. UNODC has converted into being the official leader of fighting drug trafficking in the world. It's pretty common that this organization collaborates with other organizations to combat drugs in countries where drug traffic is common like Mexico, Afghanistan, Myanmar and South America. UNODC collaborates with organizations such as Lions Club International, Benevolentia Foundation, Drug Abuse Prevention Center, Caixa Seguradora, etc., are some examples of UNODC's collaborations. This committee is now fighting the intense trafficking of drugs in the world.

## **II. Topic Information**

### **a. History of the Topic**

Demand for drugs continues to be a major challenge in the war on drugs. As long as there is a market for illicit substances, drug trafficking will persist. Some studies have revealed that people with mental disorders such as anxiety and depression are more likely to use drugs or alcohol as a form of self-



medication. While some drugs can help reduce symptoms, they can also worsen symptoms. It is very important to address the causes of drug addiction and implement effective prevention and treatment programs that are vital to reduce demand and weaken the drug trade.

### **b. Current Issues**

Substance abuse in the United States is a serious public health problem that generates economic losses of more than \$442 billion annually. In addition to medical costs, it impacts productivity and the penal system. These disorders often coexist with mental illness, exacerbating the situation. Investing in prevention and treatment is crucial to improve public health and the economy.

### **c. Bloc Positions**

Mexico is trying to give better access to help get better service for mental health, even though it is still not enough. The United States is treating drug issues as public health concerns, with reforms at improving mental health care. The United States is shifting from the "War on Drugs" to legalization and harm reduction, integrating mental health services into addiction treatment. Canada is working on improving services to all people, they are also trying to use technology to reach more people in need. Brazil has a National Anti-Drug System, this system works on reducing drug supply, and helps people use fewer drugs. It also makes a plan on how to organize everything and check if it's working. Germany has been working for a long time to help reduce problems from drug use. They've had a methadone program for over 20 years that helps people who are addicted. Because of this, people in Germany are now more accepting and understanding of those struggling with addiction.



### **III. Conclusion**

In addressing the global threat posed by drug trafficking, it is crucial to adopt a multi-faceted approach that not only targets the criminal networks responsible but also integrates mental health support systems for those affected, especially individuals with severe mental health disorders such as schizophrenia, severe depression, and bipolar disorder.

This includes providing rehabilitation for users and training law enforcement to handle mental health crises. Ensuring access to professional mental health care in regions most impacted by trafficking is vital. By fostering collaboration and prioritizing severe mental health as a key component of anti-drug policies, we can work toward reducing both the supply and demand for illicit substances while safeguarding vulnerable populations from the severe psychological consequences of drug addiction.

### **IV. Essential Questions**

1. Is drug consumption a cause of mental disorders, or do mental disorders contribute to substance use?
2. What types of mental disorders are caused by drug use?
3. How does drug consumption negatively impact mental health?
4. Do all drugs lead to mental health issues, or are there specific substances that are more likely to cause these problems?
5. How can we effectively reduce drug use over time?
6. How long does it take for drug addiction to stop after rehabilitation?
7. How do people with addiction to illegal substances impact society integration?



## V. References

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