

UNODC



Welcome Delegates,

My name is Ariel Arcaute and I am pleased to be your Chair of UNODC (United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime) at CancunMUN. I am 18 years old, and a senior at IAS Cancun (International American School of Cancun). In my free time, I like taking pictures of anything shown to me, in other words, photography, I also enjoy spending time with friends, and family, playing tennis, and playing the piano. After completing high school I would like to study photography and graphic design in the United States of America.

This will be my fourth conference, only this time I will be your Chair. My first conference was in 2022 as a delegate in the United States Senate at CancunMUN. I have been to three conferences, two in IAS and one in New York, making this one my fourth. I want this committee to have interesting or intriguing information on how to solve situations of drugs and crime that occur in daily life. I hope to offer my Co-Chair an engaging topic for all of our delegates to discuss and come to a conclusion.

We as Chairs look forward to listening to every speech or debate that is presented by our committees in a loud and clear manner for everyone to hear different positions on this topic. We would like to see open-minded, creative, and resilient individuals. When you struggle to talk in a big crowd, keep in mind that there are always more opportunities for you to speak. The background guide should not be your only source of information; there are plenty of websites for you to utilize to investigate and write down your ideas. If you have any doubts please contact me at ariel.arcaute@ciac.edu.mx We are thrilled to meet you all and wish you an unforgettable CancunMUN experience.

Ariel Arcaute, Chair

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Welcome Delegates!,

My name is Valeria Luna, and I will be your Co-Chair at UNODC. I am 17 years old and a senior at the International American School of Cancun. I love to spend time with friends, and family, and make crafts. After graduating from high school, I plan to work in Puebla's Africam Safari for a year and then study veterinary medicine in Mexico.

This will be my fourth year at a Model United Nations conference, but my first as Co-Chair. My first conference was in 2019 and I worked as a page; that's when I fell in love with MUN. Since that time, I have been a delegate in many different committees; just last year I was a delegate in UNHRC. The passion and the conviction with which the delegates defended their country's stance in each committee was inspiring, and it left me excited for more. My committee's purpose is to remind people about the dangers of drug abuse and to strengthen the international fight against drug production, trafficking, and crime. I hope you are as passionate about these topics as I am!

My Chair and I expect that you will be eager and passionate to speak up and defend your delegation's position fervently, regardless of whether it aligns with your personal beliefs. Remember that the background guide cannot be your only source of information, and we heavily recommend that you find additional sources of information so that you can stay well-informed and afloat during the debate.

If you have any questions or want to send me your position paper, please contact me at luna.v@ciac.edu.mx

We are so excited to meet you all and we wish you a memorable CancunMUN experience!

Valeria Luna, Co-Chair

United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime



COMMITTEE MISSION

The UNODC, or United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, is a committee aimed at promoting global peace and human rights by addressing illegal drug use, transnational crime, and terrorism. Established in 1997, the UNODC has since then worked to enhance security through comprehensive global action plans. Its mission includes ensuring justice for all by enforcing fair and non-discriminatory laws, especially for the most vulnerable populations.



Topic A: Reevaluation of Prison Systems and Creating Global Standards

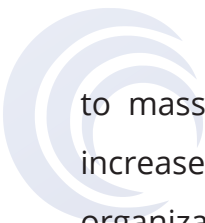
Introduction

Most countries around the world face the problem of an inefficient prison system, and ironically, this can become a big contributor to a more unsafe and crime-ridden country. In many instances, countries with large populations face overcrowding in prisons, which leads to violence, poor living conditions, and little to no access to essential services. On the other hand, developing countries often operate in deplorable conditions with limited resources, dealing with malnutrition, disease, and a severe lack of legal representation.

This issue is seen all over the world, and we are living through its repercussions. For example, the United States has one of the highest incarceration rates globally, currently facing very severe overcrowding in most if not all of its facilities, with over 2.3 million individuals currently imprisoned. Similarly, overcrowding rates exceed 150% in countries like Brazil and India, and their facilities are facing a strain on their resources and infrastructure. More than this, reports of corruption, abuse, torture, and neglect, are widespread in prisons across all continents, reinforcing the urgent need for a reform in the prison systems, and setting a global standard as a sort of guideline for all countries to try to adhere to and follow.

History


Systems of incarceration and their reform has been an evolving issue with roots dating back centuries. The ancient times are known for being extremely violent and inhumane to the prisoners. Various civilizations implemented forms of incarceration, from holding facilities to punishment-oriented dungeons. During the 18th and 19th centuries, the modern prison system emerged, along with the idea of separating prisoners from society for reform rather than mere punishment. However, conditions in many prisons remained harsh and inhumane. In the early 1900s, the concept of rehabilitation gained traction, influencing prison reform efforts in several countries, such as the introduction of educational and vocational programs. Mid-century the Civil Rights Movement in the United States drew attention to inequalities within the criminal justice system, prompting discussions on the need for fair treatment and rights of prisoners. The late 1900s gave rise



to mass incarceration and in the latter half of the century led to overcrowding and increased scrutiny of prison conditions globally. In the early 2000s, nongovernmental organizations like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch began advocating for improved prison conditions and the humane treatment of prisoners worldwide. In 2006, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT), which established a system of regular visits to places of detention by independent international and national bodies, and nine years later the UN adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including Goal 16, which aims to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels, and finally, in 2019 the Nelson Mandela Rules, adopted by the UN General Assembly, set minimum standards for the treatment of prisoners, emphasizing respect for human dignity and prohibition of torture. The history of reforming the prison system has been a constant fight and struggle because there will always be something worth improving.



Non-Governmental Organizations have played a crucial role in advocating for the rights of prisoners and pushing for reforms in prison systems worldwide. As seen, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch are only two NGOs that have been incredibly important for the cause, conducting research, raising awareness, and lobbying governments and international organizations for change. States have varied in their commitment to reforming prison systems, with some implementing progressive measures while others struggle with systemic issues such as corruption and lack of resources.



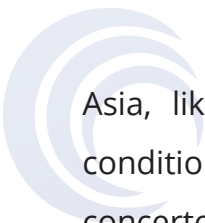
Other global actors, including international organizations, academic institutions, and legal experts, contribute through research, policy recommendations, and capacity-building initiatives. The United Nations has been important in setting global standards for the improvement of the treatment of prisoners through conventions, protocols, and resolutions. The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) work on issues related to crime prevention, criminal justice reform, and human rights, including those of prisoners. However, in spite of all of the noticeable improvements that have been made by NGOs, and the UN, challenges remain, including the implementation of these standards at the international level, addressing overcrowding and violence in prisons, and ensuring accountability for human rights abuses. While progress has been made in some regions, disparities persist, with marginalized groups often facing disproportionate barriers to accessing justice and fair treatment within the criminal justice system.

Current Situation

The current state of prison systems worldwide demands urgent reevaluation and the establishment of global standards to address widespread issues of overcrowding, human rights violations, and ineffective rehabilitation programs.

Corruption within prison systems is a worldwide challenge that goes beyond national boundaries, affecting societies and global initiatives for justice and human rights. Countries dealing with widespread corruption in their prisons face various repercussions. Firstly, compromised security and heightened criminal activities within prison walls increase the risk of repeated offenses, directly affecting public safety. Secondly, corruption undermines the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs, making it difficult for inmates to successfully reintegrate into society.

Numerous countries, including some developed ones, face issues of corruption within their prison systems. While underdeveloped nations often struggle with this problem, developed countries also face similar challenges behind prison walls. In Latin American countries like Mexico and Brazil, corruption is a major concern, involving incidents of bribery, illicit trafficking, and violence among corrupt officials. Eastern European nations such as Russia and Ukraine also experience efforts to uphold human rights standards. In parts of



Asia, like India and Indonesia, prison corruption leads to overcrowding, unsanitary conditions, and inadequate healthcare for inmates. Addressing these issues requires concerted efforts to implement reforms and ensure transparency across diverse regions. To address the global impact of prison corruption, nations, international bodies, and human rights advocates must collaborate and work together. The crucial steps involve implementing reforms, promoting transparency, and establishing strong oversight mechanisms. These measures are essential to uphold principles of justice and rehabilitation on a global scale. This may take time to confront all the difficulties that are caused by corruption in prison systems, but as long as there is collaboration within diverse countries the percentage of this situation could diminish.

Points To Consider:

- How does your country address the problem of prison corruption and their lack of organization?
- What legal framework or regulations does your country have in place to limit corruption within its prisons?
- In what ways is your country connected to this issue?
- Has your country implemented any political measures to address this situation?
- What are the specific challenges or obstacles your country faces with this current difficulty?

Useful links:

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/prisons.html>

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/justice-and-prison-reform/prison-reform-gloz85-background.html>

<https://www.penalreform.org/issues/corruption/the-issue/>

<https://www.crimeandjustice.org.uk/publications/cjm/article/penal-reform-history-failure>

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2022/nov/06/the-state-of-prisons-examined-from-inside-and-outside>

<https://www.prb.org/resources/u-s-has-worlds-highest-incarceration-rate/>



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"Prison Conditions." *Equal Justice Initiative*, 10 Mar. 2021,
eji.org/issues/prison-conditions/

Penal reform: a history of failure. (s/f). Org.uk.
<https://www.crimeandjustice.org.uk/publications/cjm/article/penal-reform-history-failure>

Prison reform background. (s/f). United Nations : Office on Drugs and Crime.
<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/justice-and-prison-reform/prison-reform-gloz85-background.htm>

Scommegna, P. (n.d.). U.S. has world's highest incarceration rate. PRB. Retrieved April 11, 2024, from
<https://www.prb.org/resources/u-s-has-worlds-highest-incarceration-rate/>

Country box:

Argentina

Australia

Brazil

Bulgaria

Canada

*Democratic Republic
of Congo*

Ecuador

Egypt

El Salvador

France

Haiti

India

Indonesia

Japan

México

Nigeria

Pakistan

Philippines

Portugal

Russia

Serbia

Spain

Turkey

Ukraine

United Kingdom

United States

Venezuela

Topic B: Strategies to Combat Global Money Laundering

Introduction

Money laundering is a constant threat to the delicate balance of the global financial system, undermining efforts to combat criminal activities. Money laundering allows criminals to disguise the origins of illicit funds, making it easier for them to integrate into the legitimate economy and continue financing their criminal activities. This not only damages the stability of financial institutions but also weakens the trust on which the global economy depends.

The challenge of combating global money laundering is multifaceted, with sophisticated criminal networks taking advantage of technological advances, cross-border transactions, and complex financial instruments to conceal the illicit origins of funds. Despite efforts at regulation aimed at stopping money laundering, the ever-changing tactics of criminals present very tough challenges to law enforcement and financial institutions worldwide. Due to all of this, there is a pressing need to explore and implement effective strategies to stop the expansion of money laundering and preserve the integrity of the global financial system.



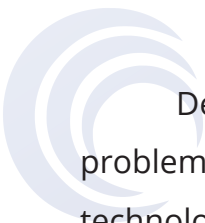


History of the topic

Money laundering is a relatively recent form of criminal activity compared to other more well-known and long-standing examples. Its story began in the 1970s and 1980s when money laundering gained international attention as criminal organizations sought ways to legitimize profits from illicit activities, prompting the development of anti-money laundering measures. In 1989, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) was established to combat money laundering and terrorist financing, providing guidance and setting standards for countries that were members of the FATF. In the 1990s, the proliferation of global financial transactions and advancements in technology increased the complexity and scale of money laundering. The 9/11 attacks in 2001 heightened the focus on disrupting terrorist activity and financing, leading to the implementation of stricter anti-money laundering (AML) regulations. The 2010s saw rapid technological advancements, including the rise of cryptocurrencies, presenting new challenges for AML efforts and requiring new and creative approaches to combat constantly evolving tactics.

Nongovernmental organizations such as Transparency International play a crucial role in advocating for greater transparency and accountability in financial systems, pushing for stronger AML regulations and enforcement. National governments implement AML laws and regulations, establish financial intelligence units to analyze suspicious transactions, and collaborate with international organizations and NGOs to combat money laundering. International organizations like the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and Interpol provide support and technical assistance to countries in developing AML frameworks and enhancing enforcement.

The United Nations plays a central role in coordinating global efforts to combat money laundering and terrorist financing through various bodies, including the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee. The UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its protocols provide a framework for international cooperation in addressing organized crime, including money laundering. Significant progress has been made in raising awareness and establishing legal and regulatory frameworks to combat money laundering globally. Increased international cooperation and information sharing have led to the disruption of major money laundering networks and the confiscation of illicit assets.

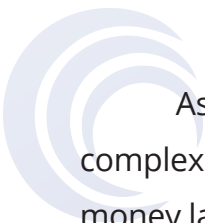


Despite efforts to strengthen AML measures, money laundering remains a pervasive problem, with criminals exploiting loopholes in regulations and leveraging new technologies to evade detection. Weak enforcement and regulatory oversight, along with limited resources, hamper the implementation of AML measures in many developing and developed countries. Additionally, the vast scale and sophistication of money laundering operations pose ongoing challenges for law enforcement and regulatory authorities. The evolving nature of this illicit activity underscores the need for continued cooperation and innovation among governments, international organizations, and society to address this persistent threat to the integrity of the global financial system.

Current Situation

Money laundering has emerged as a significant issue for numerous countries worldwide, posing challenges for banks and governments in combating it. Individuals or groups employ various techniques to conceal the illicit origins of money. These techniques typically involve a process followed by such groups: placement (introducing money into the financial system), layering (complex movement of funds to obfuscate their origin), and integration (reintroducing laundered money into the legitimate economy to appear lawful). Money laundering is not merely a legal concern; it is intricately linked to other serious crimes and terrorism financing. Criminal organizations, such as drug cartels, utilize money laundering to obscure the true source of their funds. There are even professionals who specialize in aiding others in concealing the source of their earnings. While there is no precise estimate of the extent of money laundering, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime estimated in 2023 that between 2% to 5% of the world's annual GDP is laundered each year.

Money laundering presents numerous global challenges, prompting various organizations and initiatives to combat it, including the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), StAR (Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative), and ACAMS (Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists), among others. The European Union (EU) has implemented strategies to curb the rise of money laundering, notably through the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Crime Threats (EMPACT), established between 2012 and 2013. EMPACT, driven by EU Member States, aims to identify, prioritize, and address threats posed by organized and serious international crime, including illicit financial activities.



As financial crimes evolve, the challenge of mitigating them becomes increasingly complex. Despite numerous technological advancements utilized by organizations to combat money laundering, criminal groups exploit sophisticated tools, including artificial intelligence (AI), to facilitate illegal activities. This is evident in black markets, online banking, digital transactions, and the use of digital currencies like Bitcoin, which offer heightened anonymity. Given these factors, it remains challenging for various countries to effectively curb money laundering.

Points To Consider

- How does your country collaborate in this situation?
- What technological advances or ways has your country taken to limit this issue?
- Has your country faced recent challenges or success referring to this matter?
- What legal measures does your country have to prevent and combat money laundering?

Useful Resources

<https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-trends/eu-policy-cycle-empact>

<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/m/moneylaundering.asp#:~:text=The%20process%20of%20laundering%20money,of%20transactions%20and%20bookkeeping%20tricks.>

<https://financialcrimeacademy.org/the-history-of-money-laundering-2/>


<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/money-laundering/overview.html>

<https://www.fincen.gov/history-anti-money-laundering-laws>



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- "Virtual Money Laundering: Policy Implications of the Proliferation in the Illicit Use of Cryptocurrency." *Journal of Financial Crime*, www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/JFC-07-2022-0161/full/html. Accessed 28 Feb. 2024.

A top-down view of various medical supplies on a rustic wooden surface. In the top left, a black stethoscope is partially visible. Next to it is a blister pack with four white pills. In the top center, a pair of silver surgical forceps rests on a white clipboard. To the right, another blister pack with several white pills is shown. In the bottom left, a white plastic pill bottle is tipped over, with several white pills scattered around it. Below the bottle are two clear plastic syringes. The background is a dark, textured wooden surface with vertical grain lines.

*The **UNODC**, is a committee aimed at promoting global peace and human rights by addressing illegal drug use, transnational crime, and terrorism.*

