

**Forum: The 6<sup>th</sup> committee of the General Assembly**

**Topic: New measures to eliminate illicit smuggling and consumption of narcotic drugs**

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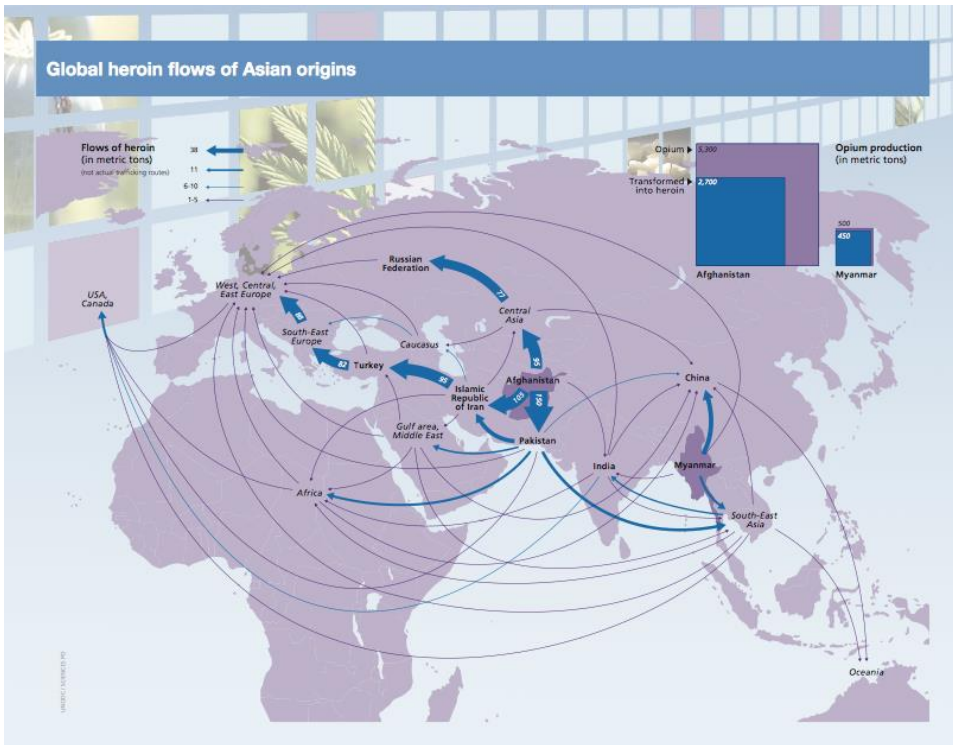
**Position: Deputy chair of the 6<sup>th</sup> committee of the General Assembly**

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**Description of the issue:**

Illicit drug trafficking has an estimated economical impact of 1% of the total trade on a worldwide basis, as mentioned in the United Nations office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) world drug report.

**Heroin** is acknowledged as a recreational drug and is illegal to manufacture and possess in almost every country of the world except the United Kingdom and Switzerland. The drug introduces a great euphoria upon the user. The world consumption, according to the UNODC, is estimated to be 340 metric tons. Of those 340, 50 tons of opium comes from Laos and Myanmar, and almost the rest of the total production of morphine and heroin is produced exclusively from Afghan Opium. The Balkan region and northern routes are the main heroin trafficking corridors linking Afghanistan to the huge markets of the Russian Federation and Western Europe. The market value of the heroin is estimated to be \$ 20 Billion. The global seizure of heroin was 73.7 tons in 2008.



Source: (UNODC world drug report 2010)

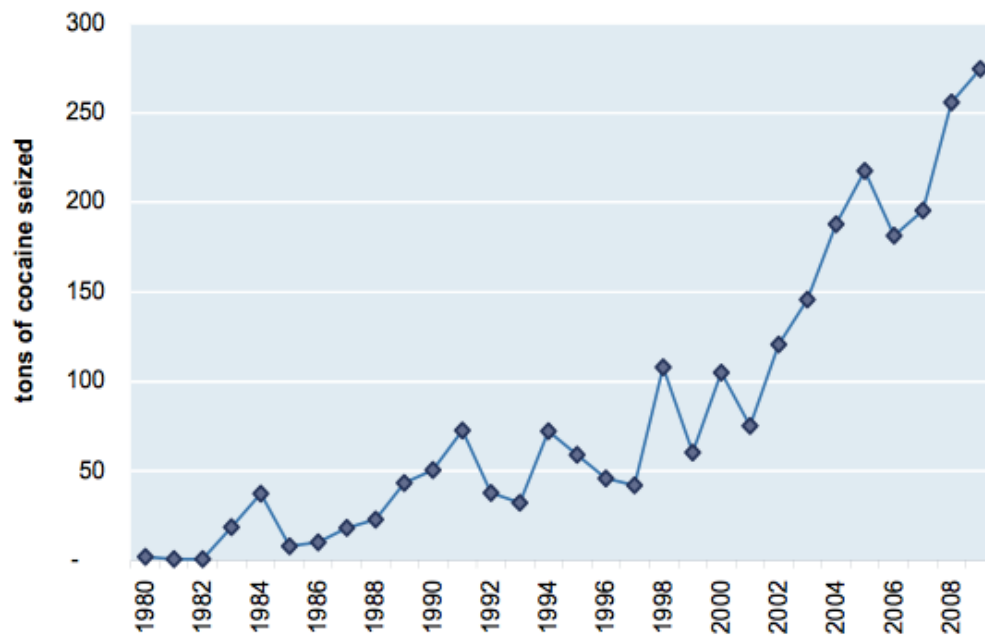
The recreational drug cocaine is obtained from the coca plant. The drug is considered stimulant and can suppress appetite. It is very dangerous as it can cause sudden cardiac death. Cocaine was used by at least 16 million people on a worldwide basis in 2007-2008. The European and North American region accounted for 80 % of the total cocaine value on the global scale.

Cocaine is almost exclusively produced in the Andean Region of South America.

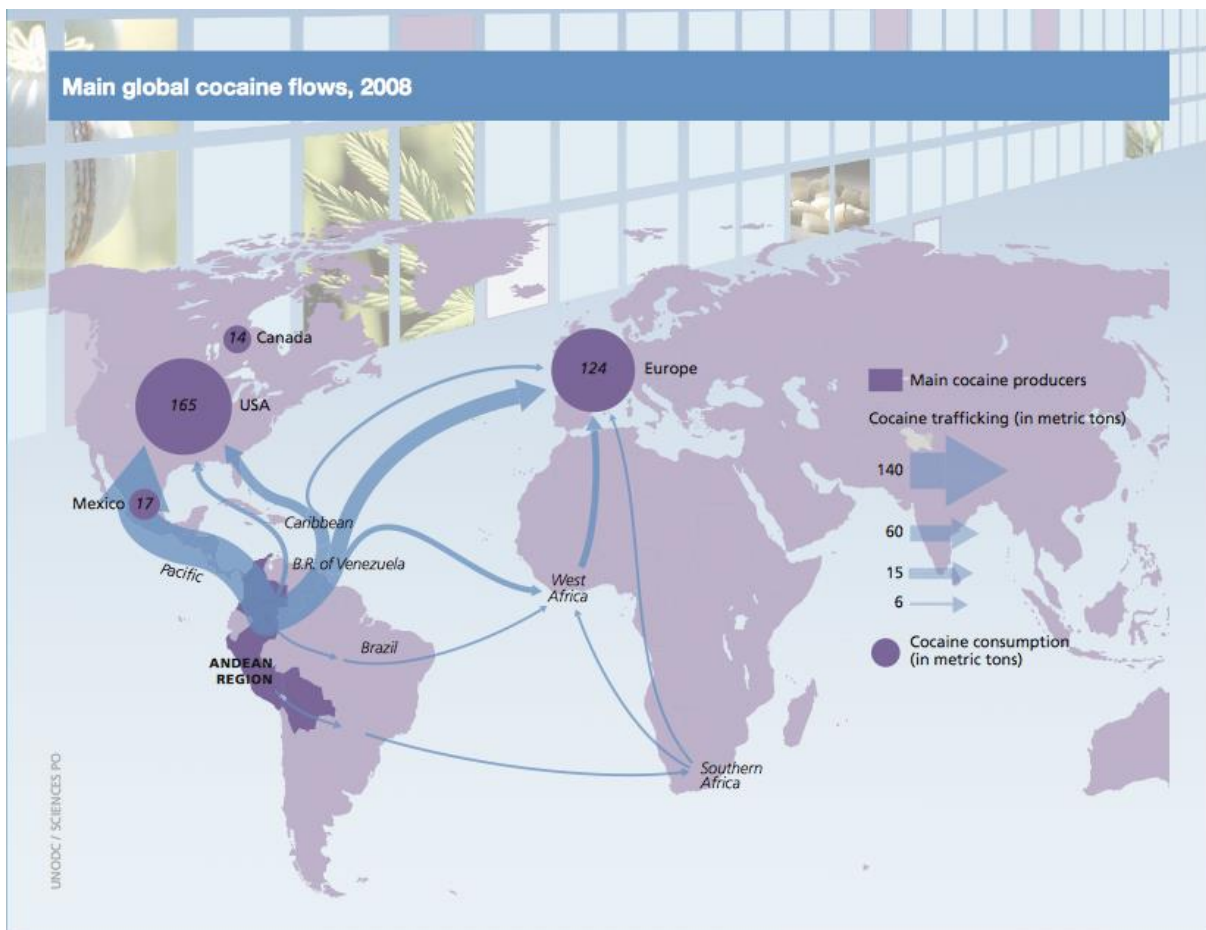
Cocaine is typically transported from Colombia to Mexico or Central America by sea and then onwards by land to the United States and Canada. The European cocaine is sent by sea, through Colombia.

Seizures of cocaine in the Southern American region accounted for around 59% of the total in 2008

**Figure 12: Cocaine seizures in Colombia, 1980-2009**

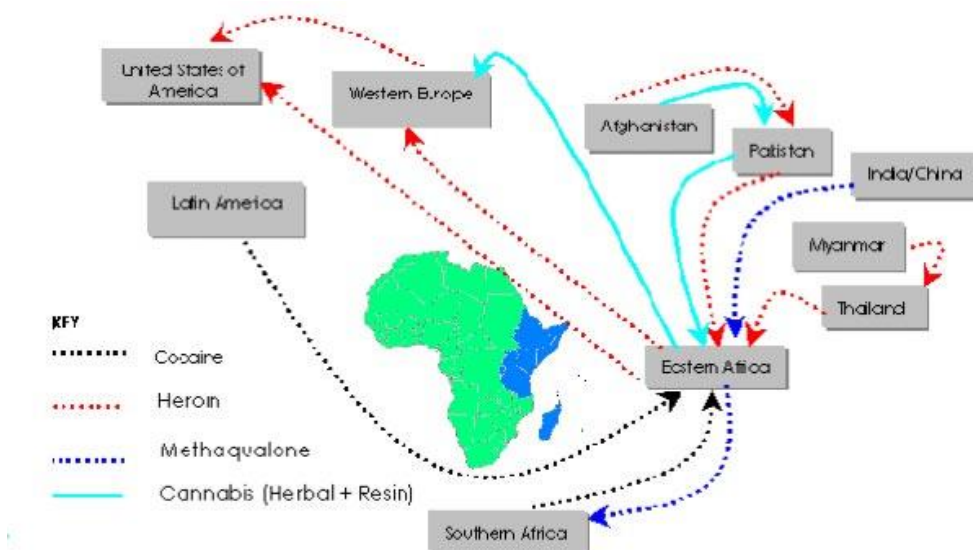


Source: UNODC DELTA.



The UNODC speak of certain “Major drug transit routes” where there is a higher trafficking than elsewhere. One of these transit routes is located in the Eastern African region of Kenya and Ethiopia.

Many airports of the region are used as transit points for drugs. In this region few resources are allocated to drug control, police interventions and maintaining the international border control therefore it is a very attractive area for org organized crime syndicates such as: the Sinaloa Cartel and ‘Ndragheta.



The Sinaloa Cartel is the most powerful organized crime syndicate in the world and is partially responsible for the transatlantic trafficking of cocaine. An estimated 86% of trafficked cocaine went directly across the Atlantic to Europe and 13% passed through Western Africa.

### **Smuggling methods:**

#### **Maritime:**

Data reported to UNODC by Member States suggest that 59% of the cocaine seized in West and Central Europe in 2009 was seized while still at sea or at ports. Above-average proportions were reported from Greece (83%), Belgium (80%), Spain (77%), Portugal (75%) and Ireland (70%). Based on individual drug seizures, sea-related cocaine seizures comprised 77% of the total amounts of cocaine seized in West and Central Europe over the 2008-2010 period.

**Airborne:**

While the largest amount of the cocaine enter Europe by sea, commercial air couriers remain an important vector for trafficking. Based on information collected from Member States in the Annual Reports Questionnaire, about 21% of Europe's cocaine supply comes by air. This includes shipments that may have originally been maritime, but which entered Europe through the airports. The amounts trafficked by air into Spain, Europe's main cocaine entry point, were equivalent to just 6% of the total, but far higher proportions were reported from Austria (90%), Germany (62%), Italy (55%), Switzerland (50%) and the UK (50%). Most of these countries report other European countries as the proximate source of their cocaine.

**Single convention on Narcotic Drugs on 10<sup>th</sup> March 1961** is a treaty that prohibits the production and the supply of narcotic drugs. The convention entitled the commission on Narcotic drugs (CND) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to select remove and change the drugs prohibited by the treaty. Many of the duties of this convention are now performed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) such as, but not limited to: monitoring the situation in the individual country. Currently 184 member nations are party to this convention (excl. i.e. Afghanistan, Chad and South Sudan.)

**Convention on Psychotropic Substances** was signed in 1971 to control psychotropic drugs such as, but limited to: Amphetamines and psychedelic drugs. The convention limits and restricts the import and export of such drugs.

**United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances** is a convention that functions as and imposes a legal mechanism upon the two other major drug conventions "Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 10 March 1961" and "Convention on Psychotropic Substances". 185 out of 193 member nations are parties of the convention (excl. i.e. Somalia, South Sudan.)

## **Definition of important key terms:**

### **Smuggling:**

Smuggling means an illegal transfer or transport of goods in or out of a country.

### **Recreational drug:**

A recreational drug, is a drug taken, smoked or used solemnly for the purpose of individual enjoyment and pleasure.

### **Psychotropic drug:**

A psychotropic drug is one, that when used, affects or changes the mental state of a person.

### **Medical drug:**

A medical drug is used for the practice of medicine, with the intention of curing a physical or psychological disorder.

## **TIMELINE:**

**1796** First Chinese ban on opium (later removed after the first and second opium war)

**1868** Pharmacy act enabled in the United Kingdom in order to restrict the use of Opium, not ban it.

**1938** Since the enactment of the Harrison Act in 1914, 25,000 physicians have been arraigned on narcotics charges, and 3,000 have served penitentiary sentences. [Kolb, op. cit. p. 146]

**1946** According to some estimates there are 40,000,000 opium smokers in China. [Hesse, op. cit. p. 24]

**1946** The commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) was founded by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

**1951** According to United Nations estimates, there are approximately 200 million marijuana users in the world, the major places being India, Egypt, North Africa, Mexico, and the United States. [Jock Young, \*The Drug Takers\*, p. 11]

**1961** The United Nations' "Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 10 March 1961" is ratified. Among the obligations of the signatory states are the following: "Art. 42. Know users of drugs and persons charges with an offense under this Law may be committed by an examining magistrate to a nursing home. . . . Rules shall be also laid down for the treatment in such nursing homes of unconvicted drug addicts and dangerous alcoholics." [Charles Vaille, A model law for the application of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, \*United Nations Bulletin on Narcotics\*, 21:1-12 (April-June), 1961]

**1971** The United Nations "Convention on Psychotropic Substances" was signed in Vienna with a focus upon drugs such as but not limited to: Cannabis, coca and Opium

**1988** United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances was signed and ratified. The Convention represents an escalation on the war on drugs.

**2012** The Netherland's begins its crackdown on its much loved cannabis 'coffee shop' system'. Three areas begin on May 1st 2012 by excluding foreigners (except Belgians' and Germans') from buying dope in shops and introduce a 'Weed Pass' allowing only 2000 Dutch customers per establishment. The experiment is to roll out across the country on Jan 1<sup>st</sup>

**21<sup>st</sup> century** Marijuana, hashish, meth and cocaine are most used drugs in the Northern American region and Europe.



### **Questions for the delegate:**

1. How has my country voted upon the conventions spoken of?
2. What are my county's decisions and reactions regarding the issues?

3. How does my country wish to solve the issue, if at all?
4. Which tasks should be focused on in the future?
5. What are the long term goals?

Important resolutions:

1. The United Nations “Convention on Psychotropic Substances”
2. United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances
3. Single convention on Narcotic drugs

Sources:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heroin>

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/>

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/drug-trafficking/legal-framework.html>

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[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illegal\\_drug\\_trade#Illegal\\_cocaine\\_trade\\_via\\_West\\_Africa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illegal_drug_trade#Illegal_cocaine_trade_via_West_Africa)

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[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Single\\_Convention\\_on\\_Narcotic\\_Drugs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Single_Convention_on_Narcotic_Drugs)

documents:

[https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/WDR2010/WDR10\\_Posters\\_Main\\_drugs.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/WDR2010/WDR10_Posters_Main_drugs.pdf)

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/WDR-2010.html>

[https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Studies/Transatlantic\\_cocaine\\_market.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Studies/Transatlantic_cocaine_market.pdf)

Helpful links:



[http://www.incb.org/documents/Narcotic-Drugs/Technical-Publications/2011/Part\\_FOUR\\_Comments\\_NAR-Report-2011\\_English.pdf](http://www.incb.org/documents/Narcotic-Drugs/Technical-Publications/2011/Part_FOUR_Comments_NAR-Report-2011_English.pdf)