

Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

Congratulations on getting the opportunity to participate in Oakridge Model United Nations 2025. **To the veterans** of MUN, I promise you a very enriching debate that you've never experienced before and to the newcomers, I am really excited to be a part of your maiden voyage. As the world looks to come out of a rather 'depression ridden' economic environment and the world talks about a long standing 'power shift' to the east happening soon, the importance of our generation being 'ready enough' to accept various challenges that lie ahead of us can hardly be overstated.

What we desire from the delegates is not how experienced or articulate they are. **Rather, we want to see how you can respect disparities and differences of opinion, work around these, while extending their own foreign policy so that it encompasses more of the others without compromising their own stand, thereby reaching a unanimously acceptable practical solution.**

The following pages intend to guide you with the **nuances of the agenda** as well as the Committee. The Guide chronologically touches upon all the different aspects that are relevant and will lead to fruitful debate in the conference. It will provide you with a bird's eye view of the gist of the issue. However, **it has to be noted that the background guide only contains certain basic information which may form the basis for the debate and your research.** You are the representative of your allotted country and **it is our hope** that you put in wholehearted efforts to research and comprehensively grasp all important facets of the diverse agenda. All the delegates should be prepared well in order to make the council's direction and debate productive.

After all, only then will you truly be able to represent your country in the best possible way. We encourage you to go beyond this background guide and delve into the extremities of the agenda to further enhance your knowledge of a burning global issue.

The very best of luck delegates,
Tia Sanker, Chairperson
Shrey Vajpayee, Vice - Chairperson

USAGE OF THE BACKGROUND GUIDE

Study Guides are contradictory to popular belief, and not supposed to contain all the information on a certain topic. All the information given in this guide is from an unbiased perspective and we have refrained from making judgments as much as possible if none has been made by the United Nations. Please note that the background guide should only serve a base for your research, and the information regarding the agenda is not limited to the background guide.

IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

A few aspects that delegates should keep in mind while preparing:

1. **Procedure:** The purpose of putting in procedural rules in any committee is to ensure a more organized and efficient debate. The committee will follow the UNA-USA Rules of Procedure. Although the Executive Board shall be fairly strict with the Rules of Procedure, the discussion of the agenda will be the main priority. So, delegates are advised not to restrict their statements due to hesitation regarding the procedure.
2. **Foreign Policy:** Following the foreign policy of one's country is the most important aspect of a Model UN conference. This is what essentially differentiates a Model UN from other debating formats. To violate one's foreign policy without adequate reason is one of the worst mistakes a delegate can make.
3. **Role of the Executive Board:** The Executive Board is appointed to facilitate debate. The committee shall decide the direction and flow of debate. The delegates are the ones who constitute the committee and hence must be uninhibited while presenting their opinions/stance on any issue. However, the Executive Board may put forward questions and/or ask for clarifications at all points of time to further debate and test participants.
4. **Nature of Source/Evidence:** This Background Guide is meant solely for research purposes and must not be cited as evidence to substantiate statements made during the conference. Evidence for substantiating statements made during formal debate is acceptable from the following sources: United Nations (Websites, Documents, Resolutions, Treaties etc.)

Government Reports (Can only be cited by the State that is ruled by the government in question. However, such reports can be considered invalid by other States) Reuters & Al Jazeera. State operated News Agencies Multilateral Organizations (EU, ASEAN, NATO etc.) NGOs recognized and collaborated with by the UN

News Sources:

1. Reuters: Any Reuters article that clearly makes mention of the fact or is in contradiction of the fact being stated by a delegate in the council.
2. State-operated News Agencies: These reports can be used in support of or against the State that owns the News Agency, These reports, if credible or substantial enough, can be used in support of or against any country as such but in that situation, may be denied by any other country in the council, Some examples are– RIA Novosti (Russian Federation), Xinhua News Agency (People's Republic of China), etc.

***Please Note: Reports from NGOs working with UNESCO, UNICEF, and other UN bodies will be accepted, Under no circumstances will sources like Wikipedia, or newspapers like the Guardian, Times of India, etc, be accepted, However, notwithstanding the criteria for acceptance of sources and evidence, delegates are still free to quote/cite from any source as they deem fit as a part of their statements.

GUIDELINES

1. Read the entirety of the background guide in the order it was written. Make sure to highlight the names of specific treaties, documents, resolutions, conventions, international bodies, events, and any other specific incidents so that you can get back to them later and do a lot more thorough research.
2. Understand some of the basic details regarding the country that you've been allotted whether this be the capital, current affairs regarding the geopolitical situation, political hierarchy, etc, While not strictly necessary, you never know when this can turn out to be handy, Geography Now's A- Z Country List has been a particularly helpful resource for this.

3. Use a search engine of your choice to create as many tabs as possible for the highlighted terms from your background guide, Wikipedia or a YouTube video act as a great way to get a brief summary of the incidents at hand but such sources (especially Wikipedia articles) cannot be used in committee as sources.

4. Delve into deeper research regarding the particular position of your allocation with the agenda at hand, Try searching for the voting stances of your allocation in related conventions and understanding the reasons for voting as so, UN Press Releases are also a helpful source for this matter.

5. Find the website for the foreign ministry of the country you have been assigned alongside the "Permanent Mission of COUNTRY to the United Nations" website and search for a key term relating to the agenda, this should often give you statements from recent press conferences or UN committee sessions that can act as valuable sources of information in forming a position.

6. Keep a handy copy of the Charter of the United Nations, whether as a PDF file extension or a physical copy works, This contains the founding principles of the United Nations and contains articles that lay out the mandate of the six bodies that the United Nations is primarily divided into, Spend some additional time researching the specific mandate and functions of the committee that you have been assigned.

7. The Executive Board may ask for the source of a statement that a delegate makes in committee either during a Point of Order circumstance or if said statement stands to be of interest to the Executive Board, Therefore, it is recommended that delegates keep track of their sources when making/disputing a claim and also ensure their validity, Please do remember that you as a delegate are allowed to cite any source you wish during committee.

Hierarchy of evidence. Evidence can be presented from a wide variety of sources but not all sources are treated as equal. Here's the hierarchy in which evidence is categorized:

Tier 1: Includes any publication, statement, resolution, or document released by any of the Nation's official organs or committees. Any publication, statement, or document released by a UN member state in its own capacity, The evidence falling in this tier is considered the most reliable during the simulation.

Tier 2: Includes: any news article published by any official media source that is owned and controlled by a UN member state, E.g.: Xinhua News (China), Prasar Bharti (India), BBC (United Kingdom) etcetera, The evidence falling in this tier is considered sufficiently reliable in

case no other evidence from any Tier 1 source is available on that particular fact, event, or situation.

Tier 3: Includes: any publication from news sources of international repute such as Reuters, The New York Times, Agence-France Presse, etcetera, The evidence falling under this tier is considered the least reliable for the purposes of this simulation, Yet, if no better source is available in a certain scenario, it may be considered.

Foreign Policy and Foreign Relations Foreign policy:-

In simple terms, it is what your country aims to achieve regarding the issue at hand or in general with its relations with other countries.

Q1, What role must foreign policy play in your research? Understanding the foreign policy of your country must be a checkbox that you tick off at the very beginning of your research, Your foreign policy should dictate everything from the arguments you make, the reasoning you give for making those arguments, and the actions you take in the Council.

Q2, Where do I look to find a foreign policy? Most of the time, foreign policy is not explicitly stated, It must be inferred from the actions and statements issued by the country, Reading the meeting records from previous meetings of the UNSC (or any other UN body where your country might have spoken on the issue) is a great place to start, If such records are unavailable, look for statements from your country's Foreign Ministry (or equivalent like Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, etc,) and top leadership (PM, Pres, Secretary of State, Defense Minister).

Foreign Relations on the other hand refers to the diplomatic ties that one country has with another and considers elements such as the mutual presence of embassies, consulates, and ambassadors & diplomatic dialogue, More often than not, foreign policy is what will be of your primary concern during your MUN but it is important to also consider any extremities in your allotted country's foreign relations

INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) stands as a pivotal institution within the United Nations system, dedicated to combating the multifaceted threats posed by drugs, crime, corruption, and terrorism. Established in 1997 through a merger between the United Nations Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention, UNODC has since become a cornerstone in the global fight against some of

the most pressing challenges of our time. This essay explores the mandate, structure, key functions, major initiatives, and future challenges of UNODC, underscoring its critical role in promoting justice and security worldwide.

UNODC's mandate is comprehensive, encompassing a wide range of issues that threaten global peace and security. The organization's primary objective is to assist member states in their efforts to reduce illicit drug trafficking and abuse, combat transnational organized crime, and address the complexities of corruption and terrorism. By doing so, UNODC aims to foster safer societies and promote the rule of law. This broad mandate allows UNODC to address the interlinked nature of these issues, recognizing that effective solutions often require a multifaceted and coordinated approach. The governance structure of UNODC is designed to facilitate its complex and wide-reaching Mandate.

UNODC's key functions revolve around three main pillars: research and analysis, technical assistance, and normative work.

Through its research and analysis efforts, UNODC provides critical data and insights that inform policy-making and operational strategies. The organization's flagship publications, such as the World Drug Report and the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, offer authoritative assessments of global trends and emerging threats. These reports not only enhance understanding but also help mobilize international action. Technical assistance is another core function of UNODC, encompassing a wide range of activities aimed at building the capacity of member states to address drug control, crime prevention, and criminal justice issues. This includes providing training, developing legal frameworks, and supporting institutional development. UNODC's technical assistance initiatives are often tailored to the specific needs of countries, ensuring that they are relevant and effective. This localized approach enhances the impact of UNODC's work and fosters sustainable change.

In conclusion, **the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime plays a vital role in promoting justice, security, and the rule of law worldwide.** Through its comprehensive mandate, decentralized structure, and multifaceted approach, UNODC addresses some of the most pressing challenges facing the international community. As it continues to adapt and innovate, UNODC's work will be essential in creating a safer and more just world for all.

The UNGA:

The UNODC functions directly under the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The UN General Assembly (UNGA) is the main policy-making organ of the Organization. Comprising all Member States, it provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of

international issues covered by the Charter of the United Nations. Each of the 193 Member States of the United Nations has an equal vote.

AGENDA: Deliberating on the Creation of an International Treaty to Combat Narco-Terrorism

NARCO - TERRORISM

Narco-terrorism - the use of drug trafficking to fund terrorist activities - poses a serious threat to global security, stability, and development. Yet, there is currently no internationally agreed definition of narco-terrorism, no dedicated treaty to address it, and no unified global strategy to tackle the intersection between organized crime and terrorism.

Agenda Aims :

- Formulating a globally accepted definition of narco-terrorism
- Designing a new international treaty or legal framework to address it
- Establishing clear mechanisms for cross-border cooperation, intelligence sharing, prosecution, and enforcement
- Balancing national sovereignty with international security cooperation
- Addressing human rights, development, and civilian protection in narco-terrorism-affected areas

In essence, Narco Terrorism refers to the connection between drug trafficking organizations (DTO's) and terrorist groups, where drug trade is used to finance terrorist activities, and in return violence is used to protect and expand drug operations. The UNODC finds narco terrorism to be a significant threat as the drug trafficking has provided funding for insurgency and those who use terrorist violence in various regions throughout the world, including in transit regions. In some cases, drugs have even been the currency used in the commission of terrorist attacks.

Illicit drug traders and terrorists are not some mysterious entity. Rather they are usually groups and networks that operate in ways that can be understood, identified, tracked and ultimately disrupted. There is a dire need to enhance international co-operation and work to build more effective and efficient networks to defeat these illegitimate networks that perpetuate destruction throughout the world.

Narco terrorism is also considered a security threat within a country, as it undermines government authority, fuels instability in the region and perpetuates transnational crime. As per UNODC reports, drug cartels and terrorist networks use drug profits to fund arms purchases,

bribes government officials and fuel conflict. This is particularly prominent in conflict zones and vulnerable states. Specifically, in nations such as Afghanistan, Colombia, and Mexico, where drug-funded non-state actors erode the rule of law and fuel violence in the region. Narco-terrorism goes against the founding principles of the UNODC, fostering corruption as criminal networks destroy law enforcement. Such consequences also impact the economic state of a country, discourage foreign investments and increase poverty. Additionally, the violence associated with narco-terrorism leads to mass displacement and human rights abuses. For which a prominent example is West Africa, the MENA region and the Sahel region.

CURRENT MEASURES OF COMBATTING NARCO-TERRORISM

In deriving ways to proactively combat narco terrorism it is important to understand the importance of intelligence sharing, financial sanctions and upholding territorial integrity. This complex mechanism helps tackle the roots of narco terrorism.

Relevant Bodies and Mechanisms helpful for combatting Narco Terrorism:

Global police communication and co-operation is necessary in enhancing law enforcement and supporting vulnerable areas. INTERPOL's I-24/7 global police communications system connects law enforcement officers in all INTERPOL member countries. It enables data exchange. However, it is not that simple in terms of implementation as it leads to privacy concerns and limits the potential of the communication system. Hence, it requires consensus and protocols to enhance such mechanisms, and find ways to implement them.

Additionally, it's important to focus on anti-money laundering (AML) mechanisms that target the roots of narco-terrorism. A great example is the FATF (Financial Action Task Force), which has developed over 40 recommendations supporting countries in AML. Targeting narco-terrorism with sanctions and freezing assets. Such measures significantly make it harder for drug trafficking organizations to run, and cut their supply of money.

Similarly, border security is also essential, through the use of innovative technology border monitoring can be strengthened and help regain stability in the region.

The measures must be emphasized since DTO's often tend to manipulate law enforcement and increase corruption in governmental organizations, which are then used to weaken the borders in conflict prone areas and in vulnerable regions.

The above discussed strategies such as intelligence sharing, financial sanctions, and border security are critical to countering narco-terrorism. International co-operation must be emphasized to tackle this threat which affects the society in diverse ways.

KEY TREATIES AND CONVENTIONS

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) was created in 1946 by the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to oversee international drug control treaties. Later, in 1991, the UN General Assembly expanded its role, making it the governing body of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Today, the CND has two main tasks:

1. Normative work – Setting drug policy standards and monitoring treaty compliance.
2. Operational work – Guiding UNODC's programs and activities.

In short, the CND helps shape global drug policies while ensuring UNODC's work aligns with international laws.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is the UN agency responsible for implementing the Palermo Convention and other anti-crime and anti-drug treaties. While the Palermo Convention is a binding legal instrument, the UNODC is an executive body that assists countries in applying these laws through technical assistance, research, and capacity-building programs.

UNTOC (United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime):

The UNTOC was adopted in 2000, and particularly serves the purpose of combatting transnational organized crime. It defines organized crime as one of the very serious crimes. It is a legal stronghold for international collaboration.

The convention consists of 3 primary protocols:

1. The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children
2. Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea, and Air
3. Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms

These protocols are fundamental for international law enforcement co-operation, obliging states to co-operate.

Moreover, the UNOTC explores the socio-economic aspects of organized crime, and addresses the causality of narco terrorism. Such as:

The Palermo Convention:

The Palermo convention is essential as it sets legal obligations for the states to follow and highlights the legal framework for preventing and prosecuting transnational crimes, such as human trafficking, drug smuggling, arms trafficking and money laundering. By setting a set of offenses, the Palermo convention strengthens the fight against organized crime networks.

While the UNODC supports its enforcement through operational programs. Together, they form a vital framework in the global fight against organized crime, terrorism financing, and human trafficking. Without such mechanisms, criminal syndicates would exploit legal gaps between nations, making international cooperation essential for security and justice.

Vienna Convention:

The Vienna Conventions: Formally known as the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (1988), provides legal frameworks for specifically addressing drug trafficking. Urging states to put restraints on the trade and distribution of precursor chemicals, often used to manufacture narcotics. The Vienna Convention is unique in its way of explicit focus on the financial areas or aspects of drug trafficking, urging countries to criminalize money laundering and trace illegal financial flows. An approach that has proven critical in depriving drug cartels of their financial resources.

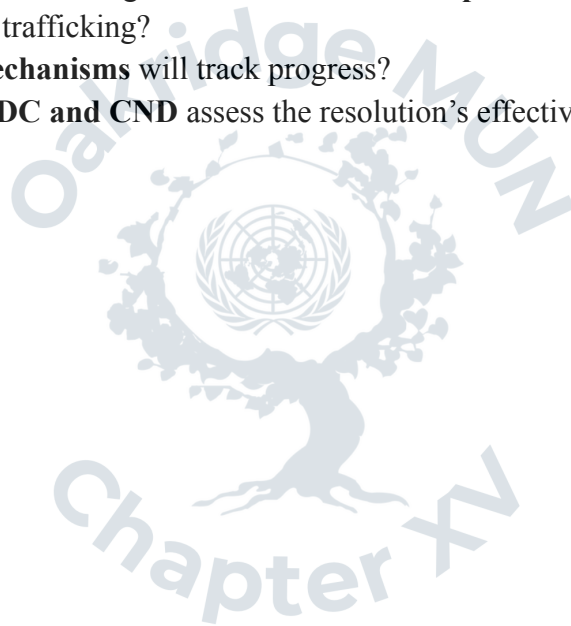
Despite their significance, the **Vienna Convention (1988)**, the **UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC, 2000)**, and its **Palermo Protocols** have limitations in fully addressing narco-terrorism. The **Vienna Convention** focuses primarily on drug trafficking but lacks explicit provisions on terrorism links. The **UNTOC** provides a broader framework against organized crime but does not specifically define narco-terrorism, leaving gaps in legal enforcement.

Meanwhile, the **Palermo Protocols** address human trafficking, migrant smuggling, and firearms critical to narco-terrorist networks, but do not directly tackle the convergence of drugs and terrorism. Additionally, weak state compliance, corruption, and jurisdictional challenges hinder their effectiveness, allowing criminal-terrorist alliances to persist.

Thus, the existence of a treaty on combatting narco terrorism is critical in order to achieve the goals set by these conventions, and fulfill the need for asset seizures, intelligence sharing, and cross-border cooperation. Together, these treaties provide legal tools to prosecute narco-terrorism, though stronger enforcement and updated mechanisms are needed to counter evolving threats.

QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER (QARMA)

- How can international legal frameworks be strengthened to ensure uniform definitions and prosecution standards with regards to Narco-Terrorism.
- What specific measures can be implemented to improve international cooperation on information-sharing for organized crime?
- What steps can be taken to address sovereignty concerns that hinder effective implementation of international treaties?
- What initiatives can international bodies and regional organizations take in order to protect witnesses, whistleblowers, and law enforcement officials working on Narco-Terrorism cases?
- How will states align domestic laws with **international treaties** (e.g., UNTOC, Palermo Protocols, Vienna Convention)?
- What measures will strengthen **cross-border cooperation** against narco-terrorist financing and arms trafficking?
- What **reporting mechanisms** will track progress?
- How will the **UNODC and CND** assess the resolution's effectiveness?



FURTHER READINGS

- UNODC: <https://www.unodc.org/>
- UNODC resources on transnational organized crime:
<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/index.html> •
- UNODC Alternative Development Program:
<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/alternative-development/index.html>
- UNTOC: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/intro/UNTOC.html>
- INTERPOL- I-24/7: <https://www.interpol.int/en/How-we-work/Databases>
- Vienna Convention:
https://legal.un.org/ilc/texts/instruments/english/conventions/1_1_1969.pdf
- IMF- Anti-Money Laundering and Combating of Financial Terrorism:
<https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/Financial-Integrity/amlcft>
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