

- Committee:** General Assembly (GA)
- Issue:** Establishing a framework to suppress transnational organized crime
- Student Officer:** Nour Amr Abdel Hamid (General Assembly President)

I. Introduction

Transnational organized crime (TOC) is organized crime that is coordinated across national borders, and crime that violates the laws of more than one state¹. As an effect of globalization, organized crime groups have been able to flourish through developed technology and communication methods. Although the term “Transnational Organized Crime” has never been defined, the implied definition “encompasses virtually all profit-motivated criminal activities with international implications.”²

Organized crime cannot be defined by one definition, in fact there are almost fifty two activities³ that fall under the scope of transnational organized crime; these can range from trafficking in humans and drugs to environmental and cyber crimes. Transnational crime undermines both national and international security and affects every country whether that country is a country of supply, transit, or demand. Transnational organized crime poses several threats to governments.

Since this issue is one that poses a global threat, it requires a coordinated global response. New advancements in technology and communication equipment have allowed organized crime groups to plan, coordinate, and execute crimes with more obscurity and efficiency. These criminal groups often bribe government officials and make use of weak border security and inadequate law enforcement in order to carry out their operations. Organized crime groups are spreading corruption along their trafficking routes, such as the route between West Africa and Europe. To abolish these threats efforts must be made to identify and disrupt the production, distribution, and transportation of all illicit substances being traded through organized crime.

II. Focused Overview of the Issue

As previously mentioned, there are many activities that fall under the scope of transnational organized crime. The main three activities are drug trafficking, human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants, and environmental crime. There are however other largely practiced activities⁴. The UN actually limited these activities to 18 largely practiced activities such as but not limited to money laundering, sea piracy, environmental crime, and illicit trafficking of arms, body parts, and humans.⁵ It’s therefore clear that it is difficult to limit the

¹ Voronin, Yury A. “The Measures to Control Transnational Organized Crime.” *Nejrs*, 20 Oct. 2000, www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/184773.pdf.

² “The Threat of Transnational Organized Crime.” *Unodc.org*, www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/tocta/1.The-threat-transnational-organized-crime.pdf

³ “The Global Regime for Transnational Crime.” *Council on Foreign Relations*, Council on Foreign Relations, www.cfr.org/report/global-regime-transnational-crime

⁴ “Transnational Organized Crime and the Impact on the Private Sector: The Hidden Battalions.” *Global Initiative*, www.globalinitiative.net/transnational-organized-crime-and-the-impact-on-the-private-sector-the-hidden-battalions/

⁵ Öner, Mehmet Zülfi. *Drug Trafficking as a Transnational Crime*
file:///C:/Users/nadel/AppData/Local/Temp/f03dd-2f866-5669f-74db8.pdf

definition of transnational organized crime to one definition since so many activities fall under the umbrella of organized crime.

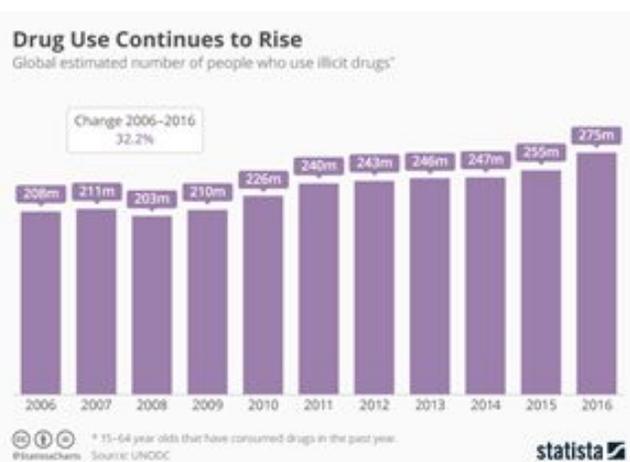
According to the Palermo Convention, there are four criteria that classify crime as transnational: “If it is committed in more than one State, it is committed in one State but a substantial part of its planning, direction or control takes place in another state, it is committed in one State but involves an organized criminal group engaged in criminal activities in more than one State, or it is committed in one State but has substantial effects in another State”⁶

1) Drug trafficking

“Drug trafficking is a global illicit trade involving the cultivation, manufacture, distribution and sale of substances which are subject to drug prohibition laws.”⁷ Drug trafficking is the most profitable form of business for organized criminal groups, it includes not just the purchasing and selling of drugs but also the processing, transporting, and distribution of these drugs. The drug trade on a national scale is already a problem governments face, internationally however the illicit global drug trade poses a threat to the sovereignty of states and to international security. Transnational criminal groups have exploited globalization in order to expand the global drug trade to a scale never before seen.

Drug trafficking is an illicit activity that has been taking place for at least 4 decades and with new technological and communication advancements, the global drug trade has skyrocketed, and the number of drug users in the world has become higher than ever (Refer to Fig 1). According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the yearly global drug trade is worth \$435 billion a year, and the annual cocaine trade alone is worth \$84 billion.⁸ “Globally, organized crime accounts for 1.5 percent of global gross domestic product and is worth around \$870 billion and of that, drugs account for 50 percent of international organized crime income”. Since the global drug trade is an illicit activity, all statistics are estimated. In order to be able to solve this problem, the source of the drugs has to be stopped.

Fig 1: Global estimated number of people who use illicit drugs⁹



⁶ Forster, Bruce A. “Human Trafficking: A Transnational Organized Criminal Activity.” *American International Journal of Contemporary Research*, 1 Jan. 2013, www.ajcernet.com/journals/Vol_3_No_1_January_2013/1.pdf

⁷ antoaneta.seitz. “United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.” *Strengthening Capacity to Counter Terrorism in Nigeria*, www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/intro.html

⁸ Ellyatt, Holly. “Global Drugs Trade ‘as Strong as Ever’ as Fight Fails.” *CNBC*, CNBC, 13 Aug. 2013, www.cnbc.com/id/100957882

⁹ Armstrong, Martin, and Felix Richter. “Infographic: Drug Use Continues to Rise.” *Statista*, 27 June 2018, www.statista.com/chart/14461/global-drug-users/

Efforts to stop and reduce the supply of drugs coming out of Southeast Asia---such as cutting off known trading routes- -ended up causing the source to shift to other countries such as Afghanistan, which has now become the world’s “top cultivator of poppy”¹⁰ which heroin and opium are produced from. The United States remains the largest global drug market in the world, its source being the greatest production, trade center, and exporter of drugs in the world: Latin America. Countries like Colombia, Peru and Bolivia remain some of the most important cocaine producers in the world. Every year, the US state department’s International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR) identifies the major illicit drug-producing and drug-transit countries in the world. In 2016, 16 out of 22 countries were countries in Latin America and the Caribbean Since the region mainly comprises of less economically developed countries (LEDCs), they lack the resources needed to put an end to the growing drug production.

2) Human Trafficking and the Smuggling of Migrants

The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons defines the definition of Trafficking in Persons as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs”¹².



Fig. 2: The Business of Modern Day Slavery¹¹

shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs”¹².

Almost every country in the world is affected by human trafficking whether it is a country of origin, transit, destination, or all three. Trafficking for labor is the main type of trafficking in the world, followed by sex trafficking, which is why women and children make up the largest percentage of victims; 71 percent¹³. According to studies done in 2017 by the International Labor Organization (ILO), around 24.9 million victims were trapped in modern-day slavery, other estimates can range from 20-25 million. 16 million of them were

¹⁰ Loesche, Dyfed, and Felix Richter. “Infographic: Steep Rise in Poppy Cultivation And Production of Opium.” *Statista*, 21 Nov. 2017, www.statista.com/chart/11926/poppy-cultivation-and-opium-production-in-afghanistan/

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² antoaneta.seitz. “United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.” *Strengthening Capacity to Counter Terrorism in Nigeria*, www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/intro/UNTOC.html

¹³ ragnhild.johansen. “UNODC Report on Human Trafficking Exposes Modern Form of Slavery.” *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*, www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/global-report-on-trafficking-in-persons.html

exploited for labor, and 4.8 million were exploited for labor. Almost all victims of trafficking are subject to some form of physical abuse. Human trafficking is also highly profitable (see Fig. 2), as traffickers make up to 150 billion dollars a year.¹⁴ Although laws prohibiting human trafficking have continued to increase throughout the years, very few traffickers are actually arrested. In addition to being very hard to detect due to advancement in technology and them operating through the dark web, there are also problems with prosecuting traffickers since it is very difficult for law enforcement to actually classify a case as human trafficking and it's also difficult to find any credible witnesses. There is no doubt that victims of human trafficking suffer psychologically, mentally, and physically, many even end up dying.

“Smuggling of Migrants is a crime involving the procurement for financial or other material benefit of illegal entry of a person into a State of which that person is not a national or resident”¹⁵. Again, almost every country in the world is affected by this. Migrant smuggling groups are groups that illegally transfer migrants from one place to another. These groups are classified as organized crime groups since the entrance into the other state is, of course, illegal. Migrant smuggling and human trafficking are two terms that cannot be used interchangeably. Victims of human trafficking are involuntarily trafficked, while migrants actually pay their smugglers to smuggle them from one country to another. There is no force, coercion, or fraud involved in migrant smuggling. People who are smuggled however can end up being victims of human trafficking, since they sometimes are largely indebted to their smugglers, they end up becoming victims of sex or labor trafficking. Trafficking is considered a crime against an individual but smuggling is usually considered a crime against the state.

Deaths on the Mediterranean

Even though the number of arrivals has decreased, refugees and migrants attempting to cross the Mediterranean are dying at a quicker rate than previous years.

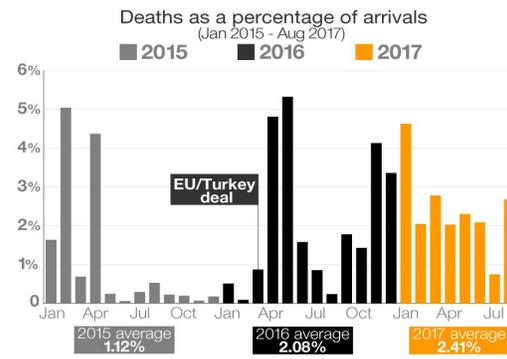


Fig 3: Death of Migrants on the Mediterranean from 2015-2017¹⁶

Often transported in rubber or wooden boats carrying unprecedented amounts of people, neither the migrants' safety nor their arrival at their destination is guaranteed, leading to huge losses of life (see Fig. 3 for deaths on the Mediterranean Sea alone). Migrant smugglers make huge sums of money--an estimated \$35 billion a year¹⁷-- through their business and they rarely care if the migrants drown or die of dehydration. Since it has become increasingly harder for immigrants to legally migrate to other countries, they resort to smugglers instead. The criminal acts of these

¹⁴ “Fight Human Trafficking.” *Fair Trade Winds*, 11 Jan. 2018, www.fairtradewinds.net/human-trafficking/

¹⁵ martin.margesin. “United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.” *Strengthening Capacity to Counter Terrorism in Nigeria*, www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/smuggling-of-migrants.html

¹⁶ Safdar, Anealla. “IOM: Refugees Dying at Quicker Rate in Mediterranean.” *Israeli–Palestinian Conflict | Al Jazeera*, Al Jazeera, 17 Sept. 2017,

www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/09/iom-refugees-dying-quicker-rate-mediterranean-170917035605080.html

¹⁷ Reuters. “IOM Head: People Smugglers Make \$35 Billion a Year on Migrant Crisis.” *VOA*, VOA, 31 May 2017, www.voanews.com/a/people-smugglers-thirty-five-billion-dollars-year-migrant-crisis/3881457.html

smugglers undermine the ability of countries to guard their own sovereignty, making this problem a threat to all governments. “Regardless of the cost to the people concerned, more and more the cost of migrant smuggling has become human life. Migrant smuggling is a deadly business.”¹⁸

3) Piracy and Illicit Trading in Small Arms and Light Weapons

Since over 90% of global trade is carried out by sea, the economic effects of maritime crime can be devastating. “Maritime crime includes not only criminal activity directed at vessels or maritime structures, but also the use of the high seas to perpetrate transnational organized crimes such as smuggling of persons or illicit substances”¹⁹. Since the seas don’t fall under the jurisdiction of a single state, and falls under the responsibility of all states, a coordinated global response is required.

The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is a problem that enables criminal groups to obtain weapons they aren’t legally allowed to obtain. This issue is one that threatens international security and has led to an increase in crime, violence, and illiteracy rates. Amongst the biggest organized crime groups that participate in the illicit trade of arms is Boko Haram, which operates mainly in Nigeria.

4) Repercussions and the Role of Governments

Transnational organized crime has without a doubt had unprecedented economic and social effects on all nations. Causing instability on both a national and international scale and posing a threat to international security. Transnational organized crime has also had effects socially, leading to higher violence and crime rates and an increased number of deaths yearly. Economically, there have also been deficits. “Transnational Organized Crime can cause significant damage to the world financial system through its subversion, exploitation, and distortion of legitimate markets and economic activity”²⁰. The last estimate for the value of organized crime globally was made in 2016 (see Fig 4). An issue with this scale requires a global coordinated response which is why the role of governments is absolutely crucial. These crimes were enabled in the first place because

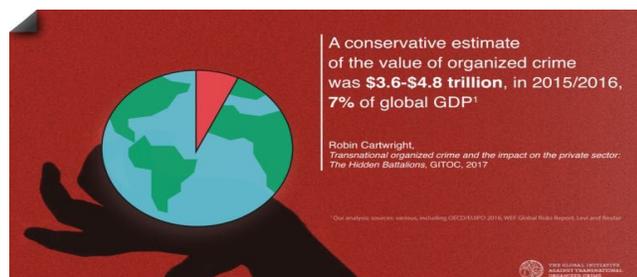


Fig 4: Estimate of the value of organized crime 2015/2016²¹

¹⁸ “A Short Introduction to Migrant Smuggling .” *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*, 2010, www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/Issue_Paper_-_A_short_introduction_to_migrant_smuggling.pdf

¹⁹ diana.teixeira. “UNODC Global Maritime Crime Programme .” *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*, www.unodc.org/unodc/en/piracy/index.html

²⁰ “Transnational Organized Crime: A Growing Threat to National and International Security.” *National Archives and Records Administration*, www.obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/administration/eop/nsc/transnational-crime/threat

²¹ “Transnational Organized Crime and the Impact on the Private Sector: The Hidden Battalions.” *Global Initiative*, www.globalinitiative.net/transnational-organized-crime-and-the-impact-on-the-private-sector-the-hidden-battalions/

of problems with law enforcement and international security, and therefore the role of governments in solving these issues and in strengthening international law is extremely important. There have been many conventions such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Corruption aimed at solving the issue and it is only if more governments cooperate and sign the conventions that they will actually achieve results. Since this issue's scale spans beyond the jurisdiction of one state, it is impossible without international cooperation between governments and without the strengthening of border control, and of international security that this problem will be solved.

III. Involved Countries and Organizations

1. The United States of America

The United States is one of the countries that have been making continuous efforts in attempt to solve the issue of transnational organized crime. Amongst the first efforts made by the United States was the signing and ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Crime as far back as 2005²². Since the last presidency of Barack Obama, the US has vowed to “Continue ongoing efforts to identify and disrupt the leadership, production, intelligence gathering, transportation, and financial infrastructure of major TOC networks. By targeting the human, technology, travel, and communications aspects of these networks. We will continue ongoing efforts to enhance collaboration among domestic law enforcement agencies and our foreign counterparts in order to strengthen our ability to coordinate investigations and share intelligence to combat drug trafficking and TOC.”²³ The US specifically aimed to target drug trafficking, terrorist groups, piracy on the high seas, and arms traffickers. They planned to do this through methods such as drug crop reduction and assured that they would apply tools to ensure that their developments are successful and sustainable. The US put a plan of action consisting of 7 actions such as but not limited to “Working with international partners to reduce the global supply of and demand for illegal drugs and thereby deny funding to TOC networks, severing the links between the international illicit drug and arms trades, and working with international partners to shut down emerging drug transit routes and associated corruption in West Africa.”²⁴

Since the US accounts for the largest illicit drug market in the world, their efforts focus largely on solving the drug trafficking issue. The US takes part in annual conference called the International Drug Enforcement Conference (IDEC). Hosted several times in the US, the conference has proven to be of great importance. In the 35th annual conference hosted in Netherlands in 2017, global law enforcement agencies from over 120 countries came together to come up with strategies against the most threatening drug trafficking and terrorist groups in the world. The current US president Donald J Trump has also expressed his hopes in solving the

²² “UN, United Nations, UN Treaties, Treaties.” *United Nations*, United Nations, www.treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND

²³ “Strategy to Combat Transnational Organized Crime: Disrupt Drug Trafficking and Its Facilitation of Other Transnational Threats.” *National Archives and Records Administration*, National Archives and Records Administration, www.obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/administration/eop/nsc/transnational-crime/drug-trafficking

²⁴ Ibid.

illicit drug trade problem by saying “I have a message for the drug dealers, for the gang members and the criminal cartels, your days are numbered”²⁵. An executive order was released by Trump in 2017 called the “Presidential Executive Order on Enforcing Federal Law with Respect to Transnational Criminal Organizations and Preventing International Trafficking”. The order aimed to target the issue of drug trafficking through cartels and the issue of human trafficking by transnational criminal groups. The second section of the order contained a policy that the US would adopt in order to fight transnational criminal organizations through several detailed policies.

2. Kingdom of Norway

The Norwegian government has constantly made efforts to fight several forms of transnational organized crime. Norway’s effort have mainly gone into the fight against illegal deforestation. Organized criminal groups can make up to 152 billion dollars a year through illegally cutting down tropical forests. These illicit acts have had destructive consequences and have stalled sustainable development in rainforest nations. In response to that, the Norwegian government pledged in 2018, 15 million dollars to INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the RHIPTO-Norwegian Center for Global Analyses to combat illegal deforestation²⁶. Through these funds they were able to create a programme of action called the "Law enforcement assistance programme to reduce tropical deforestation". The Norwegian minister of climate and the environment Ola Elvestuen spoke out about this cause saying "It is paramount to scale up and intensify the battle against forestry crimes to reach national climate goals, the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals. In collaboration with ambitious partner countries, we will no longer permit criminals to perform massive destruction of tropical forests. Therefore, we will intensify the effort to stop them through this extensive support to tackle forestry crimes."²⁷

Illegal logging is now becoming a “safer” option for drug cartels and criminal groups to make money. It has also been proven that environmental crime can also lead to crimes like corruption, cyber crime, and drug trafficking.²⁸ This programme, mainly funded by Norway, boosts the efforts of the UN to combat organized crime. Norway has also made many efforts to fight transnational organized fisheries crime. In 2016, Norway dedicated 39.6 million NOK to an agreement with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in hopes of fighting transnational organized fisheries crime in a project that would run from 2017 to 2020.²⁹ The Norwegian efforts are some of the most noticeable and effective ones in fighting the issue of transnational organized crime in all its aspects.

²⁵ Trump Exemplifies Regional Trend of Blaming Crime on Migrants.” *InSight Crime*, 20 Sept. 2017, www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/trump-regional-trend-blaming-crime-migrants/

²⁶ diana.teixeira. “Norway Steps up the Fight against Illegal Deforestation with UN and INTERPOL.” *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*, www.unodc.org/unodc/en/press/releases/2018/June/norway-steps-up-the-fight-against-illegal-deforestation-with-un-and-interpol.html

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ diana.teixeira. “United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.” *Strengthening Capacity to Counter Terrorism in Nigeria*, www.unodc.org/unodc/en/press/releases/2018/June/norway-steps-up-the-fight-against-illegal-deforestation-with-un-and-interpol.html

3. Japan

Japan used to be a country that was in no way easing the process of solving this problem. To Japan, this issue was a secondary concern and their efforts to solve the issue were minimal. It was one of the countries that had signed the The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime but had not yet ratified it. However, it wasn't until 2017 that they eventually passed the controversial anti-conspiracy legislation and became a party to both the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols on human trafficking and migrant smuggling (UNTOC) and the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). Since then, the country's efforts have been much more noticeable.

In February 2018, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations in Vienna, Ambassador Mitsuru Kitano signed a funding agreement for more than 28 million dollars, this is 25 percent more than what they had contributed the previous year. The ambassador also expressed Japan's new ambitions when he said "Japan is pleased to contribute to UNODC on issues related to drugs and crime, taking into account gender aspects and seeking geographic balance in the allocation of the contribution."³⁰ The agreement supported several causes that aimed to tackle the issues of illicit drugs, terrorism, and to strengthen law enforcement. Japan has continued increasing their efforts, as UNODC Executive Director Yury Fedotov stated "UNODC will be able to further advance its essential work in Asia and Africa as well as in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, thanks to our growing partnership with Japan and the increased funding support provided by the government. Japan is a committed partner to UNODC's global efforts against the interrelated challenges of illicit drugs, transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism."³¹ The country reiterated their commitment to further strengthening their relationship with UNODC. Since it has become such an important partner to the UNODC, Japan will also be hosting the 14th UN Crime Congress in 2020.³²

4. The International Labour Organization (ILO)

The international Labor Organization is a United Nations agency that deals mainly with labour problems, particularly on an international scale. However, the organization has also made many efforts aimed at solving the issue of forced labour, modern slavery, and human trafficking. The ILO have facilitated multiple projects, some of the biggest include project EQUIP. Equipping Sri Lanka to counter trafficking in persons: "The Project aims to reduce human trafficking in Sri Lanka by intervening via a three pronged approach (3P's) : Prevention, Protection and Prosecution through conducting research and awareness to inform regulations and practice, ensuring fair and ethical business recruitment practices are adopted, improving protection services for identified victims and prosecuting and investigating offenders"³³. Similar projects have been done by the ILO in several other countries such as Qatar. The ILO also facilitates a network called The Global Business Network on Forced Labour which is a forum

³⁰ Sergie. "Japan Renews Support for UNODC's Work on Drug Prevention, Law Enforcement and Counter-Terrorism." *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*, www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2018/February/japan-renews-support-for-unodcs-work-on-drug-prevention--law-enforcement-and-counter-terrorism.htm

³¹ Ibid.

³² Ibid.

³³ "Projects: Forced Labour (Forced Labour, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking)." *Danger at Sea - Working in the Fishing Sector*, www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/projects/lang--en/index.htm

where companies, organizations and business networks join with the ultimate goal of collective action to eradicate forced labour and human trafficking. Other projects include the SEA fisheries project, which the aim of is to “Strengthen Coordination to Combat Trafficking in Fisheries in South East Asia”³⁴. These are just some of the dozens of projects the organization does.

IV. Key Vocabulary

Transnational: “Extending or going beyond national boundaries”³⁵ is the dictionary definition of this term. It’s important for the delegates to understand this in order to understand what type of crimes classify as transnational, therefore helping them to better understand how this issue must be tackled.

Globalization: “The worldwide movement toward economic, financial, trade, and communications integration.”³⁶ Globalization is one of the main enablers of transnational organized crime so understanding what it is is also essential to understanding this issue.

V. Important Events & Chronology

Date (Day/Month/Year)	Event
1975	“The term ‘transnational crime’ was first used at the Fifth United Nations (UN) Congress on Crime Prevention and the Treatment of Offenders by the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch.” ³⁷
29th of September, 2003	The United Nations Convention against Transnational Crime entered into force. ³⁸
20th of December, 2004	Resolution 59/157 on International cooperation in the fight against transnational organized crime was passed. ³⁹

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ “Transnational.” *Merriam-Webster*, Merriam-Webster, www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/transnational

³⁶ “Globalization Definition .” *BusinessDictionary.com*, www.businessdictionary.com/definition/globalization.html

³⁷ “United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice 1955–2010.” *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*, www.un.org/en/conf/crimecongress2010/pdf/55years_ebook.pdf

³⁸ “UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime to Enter into Force on 29 September | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases.” *United Nations*, United Nations, www.un.org/press/en/2003/lt4373.doc.htm

³⁹ “59/157. International Cooperation in the Fight against Transnational Organized Crime.” *United Nations*, 3 Feb. 2005, www.iam.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/policy_and_research/un/59/A_RES_59_157_en.pdf

15th of June, 2017

Japan passes anti-terror conspiracy law and becomes a party in the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.⁴⁰

VI. Past Resolutions and Treaties

1. United Nations Convention against Transnational Crime:

This convention was adopted by resolution A/RES/55/25 of 15 November 2000 at the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. The convention entered into force on the 29th of September, 2003. Currently with 147 signatories and 189 parties, this convention is the most successful convention in history aimed at solving the issue of transnational organized crime. The convention has several protocols such as but not limited to the protocol against the smuggling of migrants by land, sea and air, protocol against the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and the protocol to Prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children. “The Convention is the first international instrument against transnational organized crime. By ratifying the Convention, States commit themselves to adopting a series of crime-control measures, including the criminalization of participation in an organized criminal group, money-laundering, corruption, and obstruction of justice; extradition laws; mutual legal assistance; administrative and regulatory controls; law-enforcement; victim protection; and crime-prevention measures”⁴¹. Until today the convention is achieving unprecedented success and has been the most successful instrument in fighting this issue. The resolution that adopted this convention is also considered the most successful resolution since it brought into action the most successful tool for fighting this issue in history.

Link to the convention:

United Nations General Assembly. “United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime .” *UN Documents: Gathering a Body of Global Agreements*,
www.un-documents.net/unecatoc.htm

Link to the resolution:

⁴⁰ Sergie. “Japan Renews Support for UNODC's Work on Drug Prevention, Law Enforcement and Counter-Terrorism.” *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*,
www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2018/February/japan-renews-support-for-unodcs-work-on-drug-prevention--law-enforcement-and-counter-terrorism.htm

⁴¹ “UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime to Enter into Force on 29 September | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases.” *United Nations*, United Nations, www.un.org/press/en/2003/lt4373.doc.htm

“United Nations Convention Against Transnational Crime.” *United Nations Documents*,
www.undocs.org/A/RES/55/25 .

2. A/RES/59/157- Resolution on International cooperation in the fight against transnational organized crime:

This resolution was passed in the 59th session of the General Assembly in 2004. The resolution was passed as a follow up to the previous resolution. Its purpose was to offer “Assistance to States in capacity-building with a view to facilitating the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto”⁴². It is also considered to be one of the very successful instruments in fighting this issue and it brought into force several plans of action.

[Link to the resolution:](#)

“59/157. International Cooperation in the Fight against Transnational Organized Crime:” *United Nations* , 3 Feb. 2005,
www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/policy_and_research/un/59/A_RES_59_157_en.pdf

VII. Failed Solution Attempts

Although there haven’t been many failed attempts at solving this issue, rather a lack of attempts and a need for more solutions, there has been one noticeable failed attempt in terms of drug trafficking. In 2013, several law enforcement authorities attempted to stop and reduce the supply on the drug trade routes of Southeast Asia. However, unfortunately, since drug markets are extremely flexible and fluid, this didn't solve the issue. It simply created the opportunity for organized groups to regroup and trade elsewhere. As Ann Fordham, Executive Director of the International Drug Policy Consortium said "The policy response has been to try to reduce and stop the supply, but all it's done is shift trade or production elsewhere"⁴³ . An example of this shift is the shift from Southeast Asian routes to Afghanistan. Also, cocaine traffickers have now shifted to West African routes to get their drugs to Europe. The Director also expressed her views on the necessity to find a more effective solution: "For instance, a quarter of all prisoners in the U.S are in jail for non-violent drug offences and the drugs trade is as strong as ever – that shows punitive measures are not working. We need a different approach by governments to take the trade out of the hands of organized criminals and the illicit market."⁴⁴ This solution failed because it didn’t target the route of the problem, but rather shifted it from one area to another which is not what’s going to solve it.

⁴² “59/157. International Cooperation in the Fight against Transnational Organized Crime:” *United Nations* , 3 Feb. 2005,
www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/policy_and_research/un/59/A_RES_59_157_en.pdf

⁴³ Ellyatt, Holly. “Global Drugs Trade 'as Strong as Ever' as Fight Fails.” *CNBC*, CNBC, 13 Aug. 2013,
www.cnbc.com/id/100957882

⁴⁴ Ibid.

VIII. Guiding Questions

- Is your country a country of origin, target, or transit? Does your country have laws prohibiting the acts of organized crime groups? Are these laws properly enforced?
- What can be done to improve damage control of areas where these crimes have taken place? What can be done to stop criminal groups from being able to communicate with such fluidity?
- What efforts can be made to improve the problems with international security?
- How can more economically developed countries (MEDCs) better cooperate to help countries that don't have the resources to fight this issue?
- How can we increase global dialogue and awareness about this issue?
- Has your country been making contributions to solving this problem? Or has it been hindering the process?
- How can your country contribute more to solving this issue?
- What improvements can be made to decrease the fluidity of communication within organized crime groups?

IX. Possible Solutions

Since organized crime is considered an evolving phenomenon, the solutions to it must be evolved as well. Firstly, for delegates whose countries have not yet ratified the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Crime, that would be one start for a solution. A possible solution could include creating several international organizations, or a parent organization that could have several organizations under it operating in several countries, each dedicated to a certain type of organized crime since so many branches fall under the word organized crime. Another plausible solution would be to target countries of supply and origin, and work on reducing supply. Delegates should think of how to make organized crime noticed as a bigger problem since it really is. There are many ideas that are universally agreed upon however are very hard to execute which is why solutions need to be realistic. Some suggested solutions have been to increase proliferation of extradition treaties, in order to make it clear to criminal groups that their presence will not be tolerated. Another possible solution would be to redirect more funds to technological advancements that would enable governments to actually be able to track down these criminal groups and know where they operate. Every region in the world faces a different challenge with organized crime which is why any solution must be a flexible enough to solve all aspects of this issue.

X. Useful Links

- **Report on the changing dynamic of transnational crime and the new challenges it poses:**

“Transnational Crime In The Developing World .” *Global Financial Integrity* , Feb. 2011,
www.gfintegrity.org/storage/gfip/documents/reports/transcrime/gfi_transnational_crime_web.pdf

- **Detailed document about organized crime at sea and its complications:**

“ Outcome of the Expert Group Meeting on Transnational Organised Crime at Sea.” *Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice* , 27 May 2016,
www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Sessions/CCPCJ_25/ECN152016_CR_P3_e_V1602942.pdf

- **Document detailing the scope of the challenge, causes of the issue, and global statistics:**

“The Global Regime for Transnational Crime.” *Council on Foreign Relations*, Council on Foreign Relations, www.cfr.org/report/global-regime-transnational-crime

- **Report on failed solution attempts to solving the issue and possible solutions to it:**

“The Global Regime for Transnational Crime.” *The California YMCA Youth and Government* , 2016,
www.calymca.org/images/documents/MUN/16th_MUN/TPGs/GA-Combatting-Organized-Crime.pdf

- **Report assessing the global threat of transnational organized crime:**

The Threat of Transnational Organized Crime .” *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*,
www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/tocta/1.The-threat-transnational-organized-crime.pdf

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