



CSPCMUN2017

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**United  
Nations  
Children's  
Fund**

**Committee:** United Nations International Children's Emergency Funds (UNICEF)

**Topic:** Kids Involvement in Drug Trafficking in Colombia

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"Men make history and not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better." – Harry S. Truman

Dear Delegates,

First of all, welcome to CSPCMUN 2017. It is an honor to have you in this year's edition. We hope that this simulation is a memorable experience. We are confident that during these three days you will develop skills such as leadership, negotiating, and critical thinking while representing a specific country. We expect that in this model you meet new people who will encourage you to make an impact in our world. I am sure that you will prepare yourself enough so you can get to agreements and help in the resolution of the committee's problematic. We hope that you enjoy this simulation as much as we will. Any doubts you may have, do not hesitate on asking us.

Sincerely,

Mariana Lazo

Chief of Moderators

## **I. Committee Overview**

UNICEF stands for United Nations International Children's Emergency Funds and it is an agency that helps and cares about children in need all around the world.

UNICEF was established in December 11th, 1946. It was founded because of World War II and since then they have helped children in all countries by giving funds and lifesaving supplies. UNICEF works almost all around the world. Overall management and administration of the organization takes place at headquarters. The priorities of UNICEF is the education, child survival and development, protection and social inclusion, and emergency aid and humanitarian action. UNICEF has work in 190 countries all around the world since its foundation. UNICEF has been supported entirely by volunteers and organizations (i.e: UNICEF has an agreement with the FC Barcelona that consists that the club donates 1.5 million euros to UNICEF).

UNICEF makes sure every kid in the world receives what they need and deserve such as education, health, safety, respect, social life, freedom, chances for a better life, etc.

Every day children die by one of many reasons; mistreatment or abuse and illness and disease, which are the main causes. UNICEF's purpose is to prevent the deaths of innocent kids that otherwise would have lived a longer life. Not every life can be saved, but the majority can, and by every life that is saved, a million of smiles are created.

Every life has a thousand reasons to be saved and that is what motivates UNICEF.

## **II. Topic Information**

In this case, kids don't have freedom of expression, nor do they have the chance to talk for themselves since their voices are silenced by the same people that threaten and force them to join the business known as drug trafficking. Children are usually given threats involving their loved ones and family, which is also the reason they don't consider fighting back.

This issue has now become a problem that must be solved as soon as possible, seeing the amount of children that are forced into these jobs and what they lose when they start trafficking drugs. The topic is focused on Colombia, a country that's part of Latin America and that involves countries like U.S and Europe.

Kids shouldn't be compromised with this topic, and in some age not even notified that this even exists, but unfortunately they are.

Children must have a correct education, social life, health, and so many things... Unfortunately, drugs take all of that away from them.

Gangs are kidnapping, blackmailing and also convincing kids to get them into this mess called drug trafficking. Taking away their lives and families. Kids don't deserve that, no one does, but children do not know what they are going through and when they realize it is already too late; and that is why we are here trying to avoid and find a solution to this big problem.

And give children the life they deserve and need. And once and for all end this horrible and ridiculous mess.

### **A) History of the Topic**

According to UNICEF "the violence that was caused in Colombia by illegal armed groups gave rise to a serious humanitarian crisis which has affected children and youth who are in turn having trouble in building a stable future". The previous comment confirms Colombia's struggles, which started several years ago. The most affected are the children living in poverty and lack access to any kind of education. Throughout the entire region, in both drug production and trafficking there's a great amount of violence, corruption, and human rights violations caused by the powerful organized groups and drug cartels. It is also vital to note how one of the main culprits in child recruitment are the revolutionary armed forces of Colombia, which exploit social disenfranchisement in rural Colombia and causes the feeling of abandonment from the state.

### **B) Current Issues**

**Brazil:** Has also become and grown into a major consumption market. Youth homicide has shocked in Brazil over the past 30 years, growing and growing by over 300 percent. A result of the expanded drug trade that has increased the possibility of gangs looking for teens to recruit them. From 1980-2010, Brazil's homicide rate for people aged 19 and below increased 346 percent to 13.8 per 100,000.

**Argentina:** The illegal drug trafficking in Latin America has gotten out of control. Argentina is used as a pathway for trafficking to the United States. It is increasing the use of its roads as a trade route for cocaine and other drugs. They are bound to markets in the United States and Europe, as an example. Bolivia and Peru are some of the countries that use Argentina's roads for trafficking drugs, since it is proving to be an active and effective way. Argentina "is used to send drugs to Europe," said Soren Pedersen, spokesman for Europol, an umbrella organization for European Union police forces.

**Colombia:** Approximately half of the drugs involved in this issue are exported from or taken into Colombia. In Colombia drugs are legal as long as the country's legal requirements are followed and while it does increase the amount of drugs consumed, the current issue focuses on illegal selling of drugs. Colombia is one of the top producers of drugs in all Latin America, besides Bolivia and Peru.

**Mexico:** Up to 35 thousand children work for drug cartels in Mexico since 2006. Kids under the age of 18 had been kidnapped, abused and involved because of the need people have to travel or traffick drugs, being threat about their families and even their own safety. The UNCRC states, that the increasing recruitment of children by drug cartels is part of the increasing use of children in armed conflicts globally. It is a fact that there are around 1,100 teens locked up in Mexican prisoners for murder. In Mexico kidnapping is not the only problem, Kids and teenagers are now growing learning and thinking drug trafficking is normal and perfectly okay. There are some business being started by teens under the age of 18.

**Nigeria:** The recent revelation by NDLEA states that youth in Kano State were still leading in the drug abuse index of the agency for the whole country, this is a brutal truth that should serve as a wake-up call to the people of the state. Nigerian criminal groups are heavily involved in drug trafficking, shipping heroin from Asian countries to Europe and America as well as cocaine from South America to Europe and South Africa. The large numbers of ethnic Nigerians in countries like India and Thailand give their gangs ready access to around 90% of the world's heroin.

**South Africa:** The drug problem in South Africa is extremely serious, with drug usage reported as being at twice the world norm. Over 15% of our population has a drug problem.

In light of SANCA's drug awareness week from 24 to 28 June and Youth Month, now is the perfect time to place drug abuse in the spotlight. According to Patrizia Scalone from Metapsychic, substance abuse can simply be defined as a pattern of harmful use of any substance for mood-altering purposes that gives rise to both physical and psychological dependence. "Dependence results in mental, emotional, biological or physical, social and economic instability. The effects of substance abuse on an individual form the basis of its increasing effects on society. This is a major danger of substance abuse," she explains.

**United States:** United States is a really big allie of Latin America and a strong partner in the development of almost everything, and unexpectedly they do work long in drug trafficking by exporting and importing drugs from the United States to countries such as peru, Mexico, and Colombia. "Colombia soon was providing as much as seven-tenths of the marijuana being imported into the United States. Using the profits from marijuana, drug leaders—especially from Medellín—diversified to cocaine trafficking, and shipments grew from individuals carrying small amounts to large quantities on boats and low-flying airplanes." (Gilmore, 2014)

### **C) UN Action**

The UN action has been working with UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs), ILO (International Labour Organization) and a programme of ILO: IPEC (International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour) helping and saving kids all over Latin America.

The UN tries to keep children away from drug trafficking and drugs at all by teaching in schools that taking that path is really wrong, and preventing the possibility of getting them closer to drugs.

For the cases children are already involved, the UN identifies the illegal substances and the guilty person of all the trafficking and use of drugs.

### **III. Conclusion**

Drug trafficking has been affecting citizens for a long time now, and unfortunately it's now gotten to the point where even children, who are the present and the future to this world, are being forced to work in this illegal, dangerous, and life threatening activity.

No one, especially not children, should be under this kind of fear and pressure. It is the committee's duty to find a solution in order to give children back their normal life and to make sure all their rights are being granted and not violated.

### **VI. Essential Questions**

1. Has your delegation had problems with drugs and/or gangs recruiting children into traffic them? If so, has your country done anything about this?
2. What percentage of drugs are in your delegation? If the percentage is high, what has happened to be so?
3. Are there any campaigns in your country helping and preventing this issue? If so, which ones?
4. What kind of help are kids involved in drugs trafficking receiving from your country?
5. After rescuing children, in case your delegation has done this, is there any program or organization that ensures the children with a haven while they're in recovery?

## VI. References

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