

DISEC



¡MUELTA D' HANDE
EN APOYO ALA
MINERIA DE JOYCHITO
Y QUE LAS COMPAÑIAS
LEEN LA OPOSICION
TRABAJA A TOCORNAL
SAN JUAN

ELN

FUERA
TREN DE
ARAGUA

ELN

Fuera
Tren





Index

Letter from the Secretary-General.....	2
Letter from the Chair.....	3
Background of the topic.....	6
History of the topic.....	7
Past Actions.....	9
Current Situation.....	11
Bloc Positions.....	17
QARMA's.....	18
Suggestions for Further Research.....	19
Position Paper Requirements.....	20
Bibliography.....	22



Letter from the Secretary-General

Dearest Delegates, Faculty Advisors, and others,

It is my pleasure and honour to be able to welcome you all into the 21st edition of San Silvestre MUN. To think that after months of work, after observing other conferences over the better part of two years, I can finally say that our own is coming to fruition. For over seven months the Secretariat and I have poured our hearts and efforts into this conference, and hopefully, you may all enjoy the months of work we have put into the two days that are to come, and live SSMUN 2024 to its absolute fullest.

My own ‘first impression’ of MUN was, quite honestly, less than graceful to say the least. Having attended training sessions in 2022 (but having paid attention to nearly none of them), I haphazardly found myself attending SSMUN 2022, this very month two years ago. I did not speak more than once. I was terrified, watching those around me debate with a fervent skill unlike anything I had ever seen before. I had sat in the very back of the room during every session, terrified to raise my placard. After that conference, I honestly did not see the appeal of MUN. My fear of failure and embarrassment overruled my ability to try something new at that moment, and didn’t allow me to enjoy the activity that now, two years later, I have come to cherish so deeply.

Over the next year, I finally got it. I understood why people did MUN. The adrenaline, the energy, the shared passion over what would have elsewhere been a mundane topic. During that year, I found my two ‘specialisations’. Crisis taught me how to love MUN, how to put passion and energy into a speech, how to not fear speaking out. Press taught me what victory felt like, yet it also demonstrated to me firsthand how failure was simply a part of growth. In January HMUN taught me that an award is never the most rewarding part of a conference. I left Boston with a Best Delegate award, yet it was by far not the best part of the experience. The people of that moment are worth more than anything else I could possibly imagine; and the best victories in MUN are those you can cherish with friends, those which you can celebrate with all those who you were in committee with, those which are backed by hours of unforgettable memories and irreplaceable experiences.

For this conference, I hope each and every one of you may find those memories. SSMUN, in my mind, is about the people. It is about diplomacy, argumentation, negotiation and teamwork, yes, but through it all none of this would be able to be accomplished without the willpower and collaboration of people. So I hope you all put in your best effort, both into productive debate and into enjoying every moment you have.

I cannot wait to see you all in September! To get to see how every one of you develops as a delegate through every session, and see the passion and care we’ve placed into the conference pay off in the experience of all those who will get to see our work.

Take advantage of the moment, and most of all, have fun :)

Liyi Xu
lxu86@sansilvestre.edu.pe



Letter from the Chair

Hello everyone! My name is Emilia Monsante, and I am incredibly thrilled to hold the position of Chair for the DISEC committee for this edition of San Sil MUN. I will be conducting this complex yet incredibly fascinating committee this weekend alongside my dear friend Pau. Both of us are so excited to meet each and every one of you. I will now share a little about myself; I am a student at San Silvestre and I am in my final year of school. I will be attending la Universidad de Lima next year and will be pursuing a career in law. I am super talkative and approachable so if at any time you want to approach and ask me anything, I will always be more than happy to answer any questions or doubts.

I've always had a strong interest in Model UN; in fact, I began taking part in MUN training as soon as I started secondary school in 2019. However, I didn't attend my first conference until 2022. Soon after, in 2023, I was given the opportunity to be a part of the San Silvestre Secretariat, and I was given the charge of being the Head of Training. I have also had the opportunity to participate in MUN internationally (Harvard MUN) twice, meet new people and new places. Soon enough my last year of school came by, I was given the honour to represent San Silvestre as the Under Secretary General. MUN has given me experiences that have shaped me into the person I am today, what I try to convey here, is that MUN is more than just an extracurricular activity, it is a whole new world, which opens not only doors, but windows, and new passages which take you to discover yourself, others, and the unknown.

For this conference I chose the topic; “Transnational Organized Crime in Latin America” since it really is a recurrent issue which affects all of us, especially as residents of Latin America. With this topic I aim to create discussions on the urgent problems relating to international crime and how it affects regional security, since comprehending the workings of criminal groups are essential to achieve the development of all-encompassing plans intended to prevent illegal activity and promote global stability. I hope to bring light to the intricate web of problems faced by organised criminal networks, such as drug trafficking, violence, and corruption, by exploring gangs and criminal groups spreading throughout the territory of Latin America. This subject not only emphasises how crucial international collaboration is, but it also offers a chance to investigate diplomatic and legal strategies that might successfully lessen the power of these organisations in the area and prevent potential expansions to the rest of the world.

What we expect and look for in delegates is an open mind, and consistency. We don't look for eagerness but we seek enjoyment and passion while debating. We want thoughtful discussions, in-depth analysis, and solid solution development, but above all diplomacy. We expect a great level of argumentation and negotiation, to be seen in the committee results. As seen, this committee will be a doubles committee, for so, we will take partner dynamics and collaboration with your peers very seriously. My advice for all of you is to use this conference as an opportunity to really try new things, take risks, and gain experience. Try to expand your knowledge as much as you can, in an attempt to take advantage of all of the new worldviews you are about to discover. Open your eyes, your mind, and enjoy the experience, but most importantly have fun and enjoy a weekend full of fruitful debates. And as we like to say in San Silvestre, remember you are all global leaders in the making.

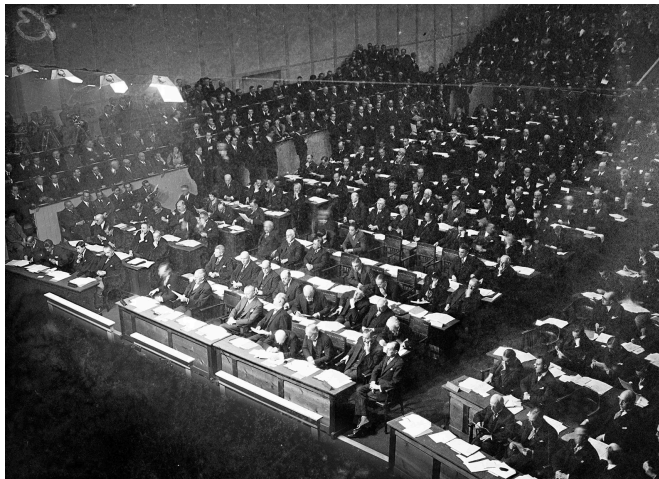
Best of luck,

Emilia Monsante
Under Secretary General
emonsante86@sansilvestre.edu.pe



History of the Committee (DISEC)

The Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC), formally known as the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, was established in 1945, along with the adoption of the United Nations charter. The committee arose to provide a global platform wherein members of the international community could meet to deliberate upon important matters to peace and security. Thus, DISEC contemplates all matters of disarmament, global security, and imperilment to peace that have reverberations throughout the international community. The committee aims to discern effective resolutions within the framework of the international security regime. It meticulously considers all issues pertaining to disarmament and international security delineated within the UN Charter or connected with the powers of other organs within the scope of the United Nations.



Moreover, the First Committee examines the overarching principles of collaborative endeavours in upholding global peace and security, alongside the principles guiding disarmament and armament regulation and it actively fosters cooperative initiatives and strategies in order to fortify stability by advocating for reductions in armaments at all degrees.

The primary entities reporting to DISEC are the Disarmament Commission (UNDC) and the Conference on Disarmament (CD). Additionally, the committee receives reports from expert groups it convenes. Each year, the Disarmament Commission gathers in New York for 3 weeks, conducting plenary sessions and organising working groups to tackle various disarmament concerns. Typically, these sessions allocate their focus across two working groups, including nuclear disarmament as a requisite topic. The commission presents its conclusions annually to the General Assembly via the

First Committee. Conversely, the Conference on Disarmament, although operating independently from the United Nations structure, upholds an annual reporting obligation to the General Assembly, with the flexibility for more frequent updates if deemed necessary. Its financial allocations seamlessly integrate into the broader United Nations budget framework. Held triannually in Geneva, the conference addresses pivotal objectives, including halting the nuclear arms race, preventing nuclear conflicts, and averting an arms race in space. It also endeavours to establish international protocols to safeguard non-nuclear-weapon states from nuclear threats.



Furthermore, DISEC has had several landmark resolutions, including the very first resolution passed by the General Assembly, “Establishment of a Commission to Deal with the Problems Raised by the Discovery of Atomic Energy,” in 1946. Afterwards, in 2001, DISEC passed the first-ever General Assembly resolution unanimously co-sponsored by all existing Member States at that time. This resolution, addressing the situation in Afghanistan, reaffirmed previous resolutions on the matter and



underscored the pivotal role of the United Nations in facilitating a solution to the Afghan crisis. It also called for the employment of a transnational administration leading to the formation of Afghanistan's new governance structure.

It is imperative to acknowledge the differences between DISEC and the UN Security Council. While both are tasked with safeguarding international peace and security, they are significantly different in terms of composition, objectives and modalities for achieving their aims. The Security Council, composed by 15 nations, notably includes 5 permanent members with the ability to veto over any resolution. In contrast, DISEC is open to all 193 Member States of the United Nations, devoid of any nation possessing a veto power. The Security Council wields formidable authority, including the capacity for collective military intervention, thus empowered to promote binding solutions. Conversely, DISEC's purview is limited to formulating non-binding recommendations, lacking the capacity to compel a nation to act contrary to its sovereign will. Given the expansive and egalitarian character of DISEC, fostering collaboration, international consensus-building, and comprehensive deliberation assumes paramount importance. The efficacy of committee resolutions are only as strong as the international support behind them.



Today, the annual session of the First Committee happens every October, lasting 4 to 5 weeks, subsequent to the conclusion of the General Assembly General Debate. Attendance is open to all 193 member states of the United Nations. Distinguished by its unique status, the First Committee stands as the solitary main committee within the General Assembly empowered to maintain verbatim records of its proceedings.



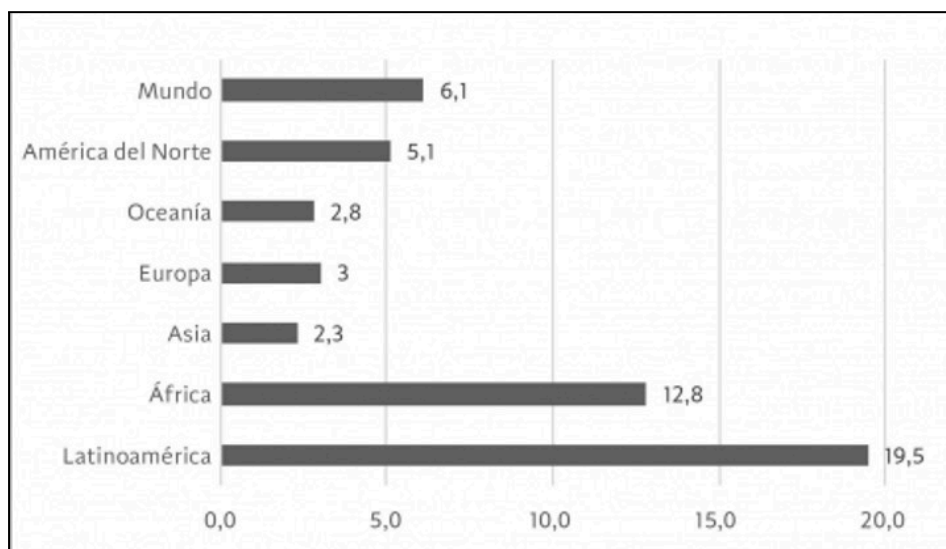
Background of the topic

Organised crime refers to an organisation's involvement in illicit operations which likely occurs when a need of them is restricted or prohibited. The word **Transnational** refers to extending or operating across national boundaries. And **Latin America** is constructed by the nations of : Colombia, Argentina, Venezuela, Peru, Chile, Brazil, Ecuador, Panama, Honduras, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, and Nicaragua.

The illegal actions of groups of individuals or organisations, usually with the intention of gaining power and money, are referred to as organised crime. The illicit movement of people, goods, and money can all be considered forms of illegal activity and can result in violent and corrupt acts. Beyond national lines, transnational organised crime can take place between individuals and groups. This means that it impacts all of the United Nations' members, either directly or indirectly.

Organized Crime has always been around since the very beginnings of our civilization, however transnational organised crime has grown significantly over the last decades. When transnational organised crime takes over from national organised crime it becomes unable to be put on hold and a vicious cycle of criminal activity is created. In order to stop organised crime, the international community needs to work together, because until the costs of organised crime outweigh the benefits, the issue will continue to plague the international community. In contrast to organised crime, transnational crime ceases to be a national issue and instead becomes a global network of issues. The potential for economic progress will be restricted, communities where organised crime thrives will be destroyed, fundamental human rights will be violated, and violence will continue throughout the world community, to name a few of the effects.

Latin America is a continent rich in many goods often exported to other continents due to our immense diversity. However it remains one of the poorest continents overall, it is a continent known for its lacking governmental skills and by the informality that governs it. Crime rate is the normality of many of the countries located here as it is a common practice to engage in criminal activities in order to survive or get ahead in life. This is why we see increased crime and violence all around Latin America. The reason for the focus on Latin America is to address the urgent matters seen in the continent in comparison to the rest of the world, because we believe that we must start somewhere in order to address transnational organised crime so we must start from where the problem reaches its peak.



Graph showing the homicide rates worldwide, studied by the UNODC in the year 2019



History of the topic

19th Century

The Italian Mafia

Organised crime was born in the coast of Italy, more specifically in Sicily, a desirable location for trade and colonisation. As it was and continues to be a gateway to the Mediterranean, North Africa and the Adriatic. These criminal organisations came into being over several centuries as a result of a complex interaction between political, social, economic, and historical forces. It is precisely Sicily's varied history and multiple governments that led to the creation and necessity of the Mafia. Sicily's long string of judicially inept governments fostered an environment where those who were wily enough could manipulate the system to their advantage, creating wealth, power and prestige.



The Mafia soon enough ended up expanding transationally through Italy and the rest of Europe. By 1922 as President Mussolini reached power, he grasped a firm grip on Italy and began to destroy the Mafia, either by arresting them or even assassinating them. For so, many people involved in the Mafia left Italy and migrated into America. The Mafia began as a way of life: a way to protect one's family and loved ones from the injustice of the government. Only later, with the onset of the media, television and Hollywood did the Mafia take on a glamorous air it now has.

20th Century

The USA and the Prohibition era

In America during the 20th Century, criminal groups began to flourish during the prohibition era which lasted during the years 1920-1933. President Hoover issued the Eighteenth Amendment to the



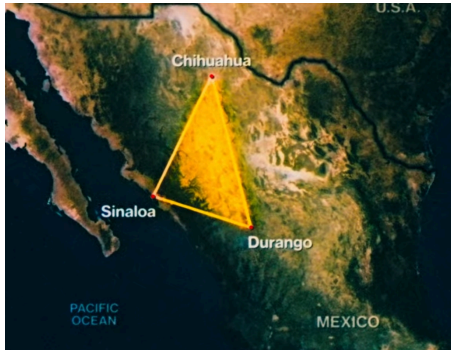
U.S. Constitution which established "Prohibition", which made it illegal to manufacture, distribute, and sell alcohol. This provided newly established gangs in America, with the opportunities of their lives, it was time to feed Americans with their greatest whim, alcohol. In this era we were able to meet famous criminals such as Al Capone, leader of the Chicago Outfit which managed to make over 60 million dollars a year supplying illegal liquor to secret bars known as "speakeasies".

When prohibition came to an end, organised crime, with its top unlawful money making business gone, was forced to regroup and focus on other things like drug trade, arms trade, prostitution and gambling. Many of the working members of these new industries consisted of Latin American immigrants living in the USA with the need of a job in the informal sector.



Mexico and USA's frontier

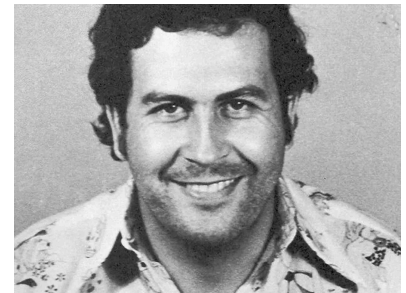
Following the Mexican Revolution in the 20th century, the marihuana industry flourished in Mexico as a means of providing for the needs of farmers and soldiers who had participated in the uprising. Subsequently, they began producing opioids for them as well, in the states of Sinaloa, Durango, and



Chihuahua, which are together known as the "Golden Triangle." In order to treat injured soldiers, the United States started producing opioids and analgesics like heroin and morphine after World War II concluded in 1945. As their need grew, they began to conduct cross-border transactions to bring drugs into the United States from Mexico. Because of this, the United States president at the time, Richard Nixon, made the decision to seal the borders with Mexico.

1980's cocaine production

In the 1980s, drug trafficking became more widespread throughout Latin America as cocaine production began in not just Mexico but also Colombia and Honduras. establishing pathways from Mexico to the Caribbean via Colombia. As we can see, the cocaine business worked exactly to increase regional collaboration. In this way, international drug supply chains and linkages between criminal gangs arose and characterised drug trafficking over the entire region of Latin America.



Later, as other commodities and services, such as the arms trade and people trafficking, started to cross international borders, criminal groups as a whole began to migrate and spread their power, giving rise to our topic, "Transnational Organized Crime in Latin America."



Past Actions

Before the General Assembly enacted the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) later that year, it was first agreed upon by Member States in 2000. The Convention has adopted three protocols which makes up its base structure, addressing particular areas and forms of organised crime: the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition. The Convention is a significant step forward in the fight against transnational organised crime and shows that Member States acknowledge the severity of the issues it raises and the necessity of enhancing close international cooperation to address them. Nations part of this Convention are responsible for implementing a range of measures aimed at combating transnational organised crime. These measures include the establishment of new domestic criminal offences applicable to money laundering, corruption, obstruction of justice, and membership in organised crime groups through the adoption of comprehensive frameworks for extradition, mutual legal assistance, and law enforcement cooperation as well as the encouragement of training and technical support aimed at improving the capabilities of authorities.

Moreover, the UN has committees and programs in place to address and combat organised crime in addition to the UNTOC. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) frequently addresses organised crime, drug trafficking, and money laundering. Nevertheless, it seemed vastly unlikely that organised crime will be eliminated by the end of 2015, despite these efforts, for various reasons. The Sustainable Development Goals were established by the UN in response to this and were ratified in late September 2015. Specifically, Goal 16 aims to eradicate organised crime by raising an inclusive and peaceful society. It points out that "sexual violence, crime, exploitation, and torture are prevalent where there is conflict or no rule of law, and countries must take measures to protect those most at risk."

One of the most influential NGOs dedicated to combating organised crime is The Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime. This organisation consists of experts who continuously seek innovative methods to address organised crime globally. Since its establishment in 2014, its goals have included conducting research, identifying key areas of concern, and enhancing international cooperation to prevent cybercrime and environmental crime. As well as fostering increased dialogue among nations to strengthen the global strategy against organised crime. The GI-TOC has established a regional network of civil society entities collaborating against organised crime. These observatories reveal the extensive scope and detrimental effects of organised crime, illicit trade, and corruption, aiming to support both state and non-state actors in formulating effective responses. Instead of traditional regional offices, these observatories function as interconnected hubs: centres where crime analysts and activists with shared objectives converge to gather and scrutinise data, while engaging in discussions about the 'hidden economy' and the consequences of organised crime. They offer an unparalleled platform for interaction with state authorities and foster dialogue and coordinated action.

Furthermore, on 14 October 2019, approximately 40 representatives from NGOs, academia, and the private sector, spanning 18 countries, convened in Vienna for a two-day Needs Assessment Workshop focused on stakeholder engagement in the review process of the UNTOC. This workshop, orchestrated by the UNODC Civil Society Team in collaboration with the GI-TOC scrutinised the current roles and challenges faced by non-state actors in addressing organised crime in the context of the Convention. Discussions also centred on strategies to enhance their involvement in the ongoing



UNTOC review process, in accordance with Resolution 9/1 of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention. The agenda was comprehensive, featuring thematic presentations on UNTOC and its protocols by various sections (including Implementation Support, Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling, and Education for Justice), alongside interactive discussions and breakout group exercises. Concurrently, UNODC conducted a briefing for Member States' representatives, outlining the efforts to prepare relevant stakeholders for their involvement in the UNTOC review process. Member States highlighted the importance of close collaboration with civil society, including engaging them in constructive dialogues and pinpointed the vital role of NGOs in providing grassroots solutions to organised crime, while academics have the responsibility to educate and empower society to combat organised crime.

The workshop concluded with several forward-looking recommendations, including: establishing a network of focal points around thematic issues across regions, identifying non-governmental alliances and creating a knowledge hub for the exchange of experiences and practices, context-specific capacity-building training for non-governmental actors and law enforcement on UNTOC.

Specifically in Latin America in order to combat transnational organised crime, the UN is appealing for regional collaboration, continuous communication among member nations, and international legal frameworks. In 2023, the UN Security Council advanced a presidential resolution in the form of a statement highlighting the immediate need for increased international and regional joint action to tackle transnational organised crime. The statement recognized the grave risks that these crimes represent, especially in areas like Latin America where they have the potential to intensify conflicts and weaken the authority of governments. To address these concerns more successfully, the Council advised member states to reinforce their border control, judicial capabilities, and law enforcement activities.

In a regional scope organisations such as the Union of South American Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) have launched programs. Over that, to aid law enforcement activities, international police agencies such as Interpol and Ameripol are also present throughout Latin America. Moreover, some nations have employed national policies aligned to their specific stance towards transnational organised crime. El Salvador's Territorial Plan is an example of this which has allegedly aided in dismantling criminal gangs as well as Chile's launch of a national policy in December 2022.

Nevertheless, it's crucial to remember that difficulties still exist in spite of these initiatives. Lack of political will, conflicting interests among member nations, and disparities in legal systems frequently prevent the adoption of coordinated security plans and efficient cross-border law enforcement collaboration. The search results also suggest that in order to fight organised crime more successfully, Latin American nations need to integrate and coordinate more efficiently, which includes better information sharing, cooperative training, and operational collaboration.



Current Situation

Today, Latin America is a global concern as it phases the most extreme situation it ever has regarding crime and violence. Transnational crime happens all over the world, but recently, Latin America specifically seems to be more and more involved in these deals. Most of the criminal transactional operations nowadays involves latin America, and there is also an unreal amount of these operations occurring inside latin america between latin american countries with such freedom, almost as if transnational organised crime has become normalised in the continent as most criminals find connections and new business opportunities just trespassing nearby borders.

Latin America's current reality is seriously on a slope. Organised crime costs Latin American countries about 3% of overall GDP and it is undermining democratic institutions, disrupting stability, and affecting the economic activity in the region. They have the highest regional homicide rate in the world, with an average of 19.5 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants, which is triple the global average. Venezuela is currently going through terrible political problems with Dictator Nicolas Maduro and their current elections, not to mention the human trafficking scandals they've been recently involved in. Panama is going through dismemberments and school hitman attacks. Costa Rica has their homicide rates growing around 11% per year non stop. In 2020, Brazil registered over 40,000 murders, while Mexico recorded 35,484 violent deaths. In the past years countries like El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras have had some of the highest homicide rates in the world, and these are just some examples. In many of these countries, states of exception are increasingly being implemented, taking exceptional measures in the constitution, nullifying guarantees and in many cases rights, due to the extreme situations of danger that are faced.

The biggest issue at the moment is the negligence with which this problem is being dealt with in Latin America and the lack of international communication and collaboration, because this problem goes beyond a nation's concern it has become a global issue. However, many countries and organisations in Europe, North American and other MEDCs, although having effective practices against organised crime, believe their methods can work in the situation that Latin America finds itself in today. Crime in Latin America cannot be tackled by the similar and much less by the same methods used by Europe and the US, as their situations cannot compare. These continents were not built in the same way, and it is not viable to compare them as all factors are different, society is different and the claims and objectives from each society are different as well. Although MEDCs have successful practices in many cases, it would be a waste of time to expect them to face the challenges of a society with increased inequalities, limited resources, and a significant history of crime domination.

Organised crime is gaining ground due to the inaction of governments and the lack of transnational communication, as well as the lack of public policies focused on solving the problem and protecting citizens. Many Latin American nations have a misconception about organised crime, with law enforcement frequently concentrating on street-level manifestations rather than the larger, systemic character of criminal syndicates. Moreover, authorities continue to say that crime in these countries is decreasing, while citizens protest against it. This leaves us with the question of whether governments wash their hands and accept bribes from these groups, or maybe they just are not realising the reality of their countries. What is it that is really happening that it does not allow the amount of violence that citizens experience to be included in their indices and statistics.



Could the governments' and public authorities' strategies of mitigation be contributing to transnational organised crime more than eradicating it?





Case Studies

Case Study 1: El tren de Aragua and its expansion in Latin America

El Tren de Aragua is the strongest criminal body the eyes of Venezuela ever saw. From being a small gang or “pandilla” group, consolidated to the state of Aragua, to becoming one of the broadest and biggest transnational threats and multipurpose criminal organisation.

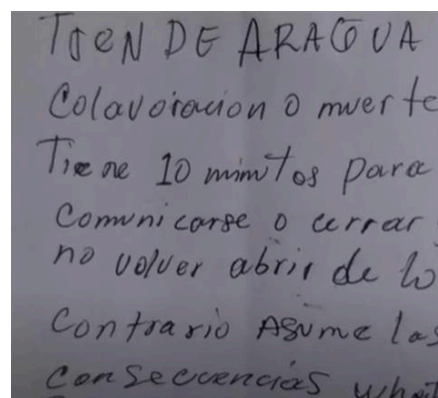
The gang was born inside the walls of the “Tocorón ” prison in the state of Aragua Venezuela. However the group was created 15 years earlier, from a syndicate which resulted in extorting a group of contractors for a train project that would cross the state of Aragua in 2005 ended up in prison and in the Tocorón prison they ended up being recruited by Hector Guerrero Flores



commonly known as “El Niño Guerrero” the known leader and organiser prisoner inside Tocorón. It was not until 2013, with the entry of President Nicolas Maduro into the Venezuelan government, that this group managed to be consolidated. In the year 2013, the government built almost an urbanisation for these prisoners supposedly in aims to deconstruct the group, when in reality the construction was a result of bribes and trades made by the group now known as ‘El



Tren de Aragua" to Nicolás Maduro’s government. This new prison consisted of modern installations, football and baseball stadiums, restaurants, banks, a water park, pools, a children's playing park, a zoo, even a discotheque. This shows an absurd contrast with the economic situation that Venezuela finds itself in especially during the last decade, showing a side of convenience and inefficiency by the regime of president Nicolas Maduro. Moreover, El Tren de Aragua has made of this prison their empire, inside the wall of Tocoron there is drug production, marijuana plantations, micro trafficking, liquor sell, torture and murder with no control by officials whatsoever, the control stood in the hands of our famous “Niño Guerrero”, and it was all broadcasted via livestreams in social media, as a way to threaten opposite pandilla groups, and to terrorize and gain respect from civilians.



As this group thrived inside of the “cells”, El Niño Guerrero continued growing relationships with the power authorities, as he enforced deals and bribes with the government. Using corruption as their primary method while in exchange the government guaranteed their protection and services inside of the prison. Inside, they started gaining large amounts of money due to their illicit markets, furthermore they started charging interns with 5500 dollars a week just to stay inside Tocoron. And that's exactly how they started being able to finance their expansion to the rest of Venezuela.



By the year 2018, Venezuela was going through a severe mitigation crisis due to the instability of the government and its policies causing their civilians to flee Venezuela. More than 7.7 million had



escaped Venezuela and 6.5 of those are now fostered by neighbouring Latin American and Caribbean countries. With the great majority found in Colombia, Peru, Brazil, and the US. In the beginning the criminal group took advantage of this situation by establishing criminal cells in other countries. By 2019 the Aragua train began to direct the trails or illegal roads between Venezuela and Colombia, not only did they stay in Colombia but they continued until they finally managed to reach Peru, Chile, Bolivia, Ecuador and more. They took these informal methods to expand on an international level, discovering different types of economies and businesses in which they could get involved in addition to those in their own country, Venezuela. It is said that today, El Tren de Aragua has at least 4000 men in almost the whole Venezuela, and in more than 8 countries in Latin America with some being: Peru, Chile, Colombia, Brazil, Ecuador,

Bolivia, Paraguay, and Panamá.

In September 2023, the Venezuelan government intervened and took control of the Tocoron prison. They were expecting to find the group's leaders, however they were surprised to see they all had left. The authorities discovered the secret bunkers and tunnels the groups had created to allow them a free flow in and out of the prison, finally realising the enormous damage they had caused by leaving the unsupervised.

Today El Niño Guerrero and the rest of the group remain free, and although losing their operation centre in Tocoron, their international operations have persisted untouched. Their diverse commerce in different sectors has allowed them to be almost untouchable. The group which started as a bribe collecting group, now is considered the most powerful multinational crime group involved in over 20 criminal activities from arms trade, to assassinations. And this only leaves us wondering, is the only enemy, the criminal groups or can we also blame the corrupt and self involved governments like in this case Venezuela, a government that washed their hands with the money they received and left the group act for over 12 years.



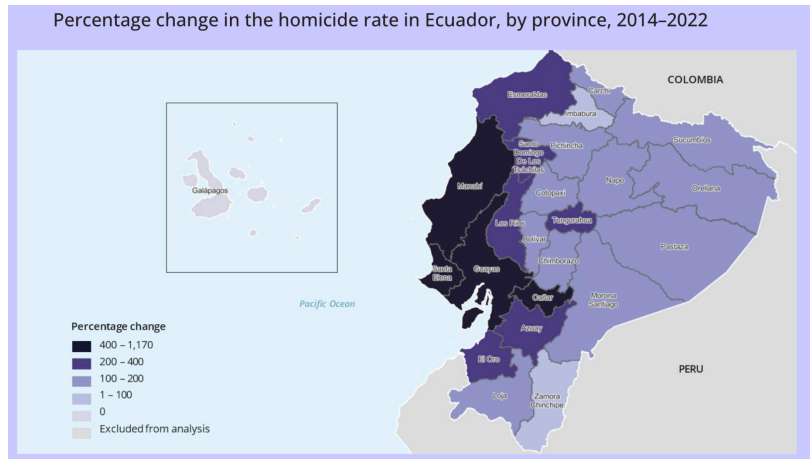


Case study 2 : The Fall of Ecuador into Transnational Organized Crime



A background:

Ecuador is a small country in Latin America located between the borders of Colombia and Peru. In the recent decade we've seen Ecuador's security deteriorating as the local violence and crime groups overstep the authorities. Since the early 2000s Ecuador began experiencing a severe increase in street gangs and criminal groups with almost 400 gangs actively operating in Guayaquil. In the year 2007, the government made the huge mistake of legalising gangs as "Urban youth groups", that same year the homicide rate had a drastic turnout. Year by year, the situation in Ecuador has worsened significantly; This year the authorities declared war on armed gangs after also declaring the country in a state of emergency and in many regions a state of exception due to a wave of recent jail riots and prisoners escaping. Furthermore this declaration happened after a terrorist ecuadorian group attacked a news television station, taking the security and the reporters as hostages in attempts to broadcast terrorist messages on live TV. As we can see the internal conflicts in Ecuador are very complicated at the moment, however, they get worse of course, when their problems expand, gain territory, and become transnational.



Numerous prison and drug trafficking gangs have significantly expanded in sophistication in Ecuador in recent years, forging ever-closer ties with significant cartels and gangs across the continent. The Choneros, the leading "mega-gang" in Ecuador, are the biggest and most advanced organisation in existence right now. The group was once the armed wing of an unidentified drug cartel in Colombia. But over time, the Choneros developed into the most potent prison gang in Ecuador, and they are now



a constant presence in a number of prisons and cities, participating in illicit activities like extortion, contract killings, micro trafficking, and the smuggling of contraband with strong ties to the formidable Sinaloa cartel in Mexico. Another significant prison gang, the Lagartos, is one of the Choneros' major rivals. Hellish episodes of violence have broken out in Ecuador's prisons due to conflicts with the Choneros. The Lobos are another local criminal organisation with about 8,000 members dispersed among Ecuador's jails and different cities. The "Cartel Nueva Generación Ecuador" is the Lobos' alliance with the Tiguerones and Chone Killers; this gang has close ties to the Jalisco Nueva Generación cartel in Mexico

therefore the name 'Nueva Generacion'.



Since 2017, Ecuador has grown to be a major hub for drug trafficking throughout the Pacific, and it has integrated itself into the global network of transnational organised crime. Ecuador's advantageous position sandwiched between two of the world's largest producers of cocaine has played a big role in encouraging the country to become a strategic point for drug transshipment. The journey of Ecuadorian criminals becoming international has been strengthened because of the gangs which control the prisons in Ecuador, they have made strong connections with major international criminal organisations as they serve as a middle point to move cocaine from Latin America to Europe, the US



and even Australia. Nowadays, almost 800 tons of cocaine leave Ecuador yearly, it is seen by the mexican, colombian, brazilian, italian, and albanian mafias as the “Narco Paradise”.

These operations take place in Ecuador, however they are financed by important criminal bodies from all over the world like the Mexican cartels of ‘Sinaloa’ and ‘Jalisco’, Colombia's ‘Clan del Golfo’, Brazil’s ‘Comando Vermelho’, and a groups of the Albanese balkans mafia. These

groups also work with 22 local criminal groups from Ecuador in order to work out and coordinate the storage and transport of drugs.

Ecuador has a national police force that is overseen by the Interior Ministry, which is the primary institution dedicated to fighting organised crime in the country, but corruption scandals have grown in recent years. Over the past few years, criminal organisations have been effective in taking advantage of corrupt military personnel in Ecuador. Traffickers and gangs have been able to obtain firearms from the police and armed forces. The claims of corruption against security forces have been reinforced by this. Nearly 1,000 police officers, including high-ranking ones, were let go between 2013 and 2017. Slightly less than 50% of the terminations were linked to purportedly illegal conduct. Police participation in illegal activity has taken many forms, including extortion, drug trafficking facilitation, graft, and even the transportation of drugs in police cars.



Currently the government of Ecuador is being accused of turning a blind eye on these narco operations as over 50,000 people in Ecuador have been employed in the industry which is generating



jobs for many. The government has not done enough to be able to even start controlling the magnitude of the case. Local authorities cannot keep up with the cocaine flow in and out of the country, as the pots where large packages of drugs are exported lack Ecuadorian security. It has been calculated that from the 300,000 containers that leave guayaquil a month, authorities have only been able to inspect 20% of them.



Bloc Positions

We expect relevant and strategic bloc divisions which primarily focus on respecting their own country's policies, meaning not going against any policy, belief, ideology or conflict your country may have against another country.

Regarding divisions; they are mandatory as we will only be accepting more than 1 or 2 blocs. There are no specific splits or mergers expected, however the chair advises dividing based on perspectives on how to handle the issue rather than just opinions or points of view regarding the topic. The chair will be able to tell how much attention and effort each delegate is putting into hearing the other delegates as speeches are made, country positions are stated, as delegates will be able to identify which countries they should merge with if close attention is given. This is because the first speeches frequently reveal extremely relevant information that will be extremely helpful to them over the next two days.

An example of a merger can be “Nations who believe countries should resolve the issue independently or else risk lack of sovereignty” and “ Nations who believe Western Nations or MEDCs should interfere in the way Latin America deals with the issue”.

Nevertheless, let me restate that for this conference, no specific mergers are anticipated; instead, delegates are free to suggest their own mergers based on in-session topics that are brought up, with policy being given due consideration.



QARMA's

1. To what extent should the pillars of justice and security of a sovereign nation have to be adjusted to effectively battle transnational organised crime?
2. How could nations align their sovereign policies to enforce penalization equity towards transnational organised crime?
3. How could illicit drug and arms trafficking be eradicated without affecting law abiding stakeholders?
4. How can economic aid to less developed countries and its most vulnerable citizens be better allocated to reduce support to transnational crime organisations?
5. What are the key challenges and considerations in formulating and implementing effective extradition policies specifically targeting organised crime, and how do these policies balance international cooperation, legal frameworks, and human rights concerns?



Suggestions for Further Research

We hope that this background guide has laid out the foundations for you to begin your research. A thorough investigation and comprehension of the topic will be a crucial tool to reach success and thrive in the committee. Below you will find a list of guiding questions and resources that you can utilise to guide you through your investigation.

Guiding Questions

1. Does el Tren de Aragua, Barrio 18 or any other gang group affect your country directly or indirectly in any way? And how?
2. What are the extradition policies like in your county?
3. How can your country find viable ways to mitigate organised crime in Latin America without using European or American models?
4. Should criminals be sent to be trialled in their country or should they adjust to the trial of the country where they are caught?
5. How does your country protect their borders? Is it in any danger or exposed to criminal invasion or expansion?
6. Is there any conflict between the local organised criminal groups in your country with immigrant criminal groups?
7. Does your country currently have any areas in a state of exception or emergency? Has it ever?
8. Does your country think a state of exception is the right way to go about the issue? Or should we stick by the constitution at all times?
9. What is the relationship between local organised crime groups in your country (if any) and the local authorities?



Position Paper Requirements

A position paper is a one-page document that will need to be presented before the conference, the requirements of it are as follows.

Font: Times New Romans (size 11)

Margins (centimetres): 2.54 from all sides

Line Spacing: 1.15

Heading: Committee's name, topic, delegate's name, delegation, and allocation.

First paragraph: Introduction to your nation's perspective on the topic and should not be confused with an introduction to the topic. How does your nation see the issue discussed at hand?

Second paragraph: Past actions which relate to the topic and have been taken either by your country nationally, or with the UN. What effects did these have on the conflict in general?

Third paragraph: Solutions to the problem, more than one of these are encouraged to fully encompass the issue presented. Remember to remain within policy and within the scope of what your country can do.

Bibliography: The sources used to produce this position paper should be presented in MLA9 citation format. If a delegate fails to present sources for their position paper, it will be assumed to be plagiarised work and they will become ineligible for awards.

Deadline: All position papers must be sent in pdf form to disec@sansilvestre.edu.pe before 11:59 pm the 30th of August, 2024.

Eligibility for awards: Position papers will be used as a way for the chair to ensure your participation previous to the conference. For such, position papers must be submitted before the deadline for the delegate to be eligible for an award. However, they will not be a factor which contributes when choosing awards for your participation during the conference.

A note on artificial intelligence usage: We know in recent times many tools have been devised to automate tasks such as the development of literary texts. It would be ignorant to completely prohibit the use of such devices as they are tools created for the enhancement of human intelligence. For such, we believe that many times these devices can be used to improve your work, and we encourage the **healthy, moderated, and smart** usage of these aids. Let it be known, that although AI can be of big help for redaction purposes, **it should not be the sole source of your research** due to the obvious constraints that it possesses, which included but are not limited to; bias, lack of data from recent years, and false information. Furthermore, it is important to note that we **completely prohibit** the use of, for example, Chat GPT **during the conference** to create speeches at real-time speed. Our chairs will make sure to value your improvisation and public speaking skills over a perfectly redacted speech made by an AI tool. With this in mind, make sure to research thoroughly, find different perspectives and sources to devise a proper position paper.

If you have any doubts about the policies in more detail please email your chair or the Secretary-General lxu86@sansilvestre.edu.pe



Recommendations and Closing Remarks

To ensure a successful participation in SSMUN 2024's DISEC committee it is crucial that you not only read the background guide but also complement this understanding with further research from various other sources. This study guide itself and the resources it provides can be a good starting point, but to be able to truly grasp the issue at hand you are advised to diversify your knowledge by seeking additional information from other reliable sources.

Regarding resolutions, to be able to propose a successful resolution, it is beneficial to be aware of which policies are truly functional and which aren't. Being knowledgeable on the topic of past actions will also help you to avoid proposing already existing solutions. Avoiding this repetition will allow you to move the committee forward and foster development and innovation. Also, your solutions must primarily reflect the beliefs and interests of your country which may not necessarily be your own. We also recommend taking your time and using the resources found in the internet to learn how to properly draft as the correct format will be very appreciated during this conference.

Without further delay, we would like to wish you the best of luck and remind you that with adequate research, diplomacy, determination, and a strong desire to participate and learn, SSMUN 2024 will be a very enriching experience for you all. We hope this study guide has been useful to you.

We can't wait to meet you all and to see what you've prepared.

Best wishes,

Emilia and Paula <3



Bibliography:

1. United Nations. “UN General Assembly - First Committee - Disarmament and International Security.” *Un.org*, 2020, www.un.org/en/ga/first/.
2. “Research Guides.” *Research.un.org*, research.un.org/en.
3. Iglesias, Fernando. “Transnational Organized Crime in Latin America: A Regional Approach.” *WFM/IGP*, 2022, www.wfm-igp.org/blog/transnational-organized-crime-in-latin-america-a-regional-approach/.
4. “UNODC | Transnational Organized Crime in Central America and the Caribbean: A Threat Assessment.” *Unodc.org*, 2010, www.unodc.org/toc/en/reports/TOCTACentralAmerica-Caribbean.html.
5. “Tren de Aragua: Quién Es El “Niño Guerrero”, El Líder de La Banda Criminal Que Se Expandió Por América Latina Y Que Controlaba La Cárcel de Tocarón En Venezuela.” *BBC News Mundo*, 22 Sept. 2023, www.bbc.com/mundo/articles/cldgdke2k1go
6. “Untitled Document.” *Websites.umich.edu*, websites.umich.edu/~thefafia/RevisedHistory.htm#:~:text=It%20is%20precisely%20Sicily.
7. “Los 5 Mafiosos Más Famosos de La Historia.” *History Latinoamérica*, www.historylatam.com/civilizaciones/los-5-mafiosos-mas-famosos-de-la-historia.
8. “Prohibition Profits Transformed the Mob – Prohibition: An Interactive History.” *Prohibition.themobmuseum.org*, prohibition.themobmuseum.org/the-history/the-rise-of-organized-crime/the-mob-during-prohibition/#:~:text=Prohibition%20practically%20created%20organized%20crime.
9. Crime, InSight. “Héctor Rusthenford Guerrero Flores, Alias “Niño Guerrero.”” *InSight Crime*, 12 July 2024, insightcrime.org/es/noticias-crimen-organizado-venezuela/hector-rusthenford-guerrero-flores-alias-nino-guerrero/
10. United Nations. “United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.” *Unodc.org*, United Nations, 2000, www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/intro/UNTOC.html.
11. Crime, InSight. “Perfil de México.” *InSight Crime*, 19 Jan. 2024, insightcrime.org/es/noticias-crimen-organizado-mexico/mexico/.
12. “La Exportación de Una Megabanda: Radiografía Del Tren de Aragua En América Latina.” *Observatorio Venezolano de Violencia*, 26 July 2022,



observatoriodeviolencia.org.ve/news/la-exportacion-de-una-megabanda-radiografia-del-tren-de-aragua-en-america-latina/

13. Crime, InSight. “Ecuador Profile.” *InSight Crime*, 26 July 2017, insightcrime.org/ecuador-organized-crime-news/ecuador-profile/.
14. “Fighting Transnational Organized Crime Together: UNODC Launches Project on Multi-Stakeholder Engagement in the UNTOC Review Process.” *United Nations : Office on Drugs and Crime*, www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2019/October/fighting-transnational-organized-crime-together_unodc-launches-project-on-multi-stakeholder-engagement-in-the-untoc-review-process.html
15. “Catalyzing the Building Blocks of a Global Strategy.” *Global Initiative*, globalinitiative.net/about-us/our-story/
16. United Nations. “United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.” *Unodc.org*, United Nations, 2000, www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/intro/UNTOC.html
17. “Ecuador Wages War to Transnational Organized Crime.” *Diálogo Américas*, 5 Feb. 2024, dialogo-americas.com/articles/ecuador-wages-war-to-transnational-organized-crime/