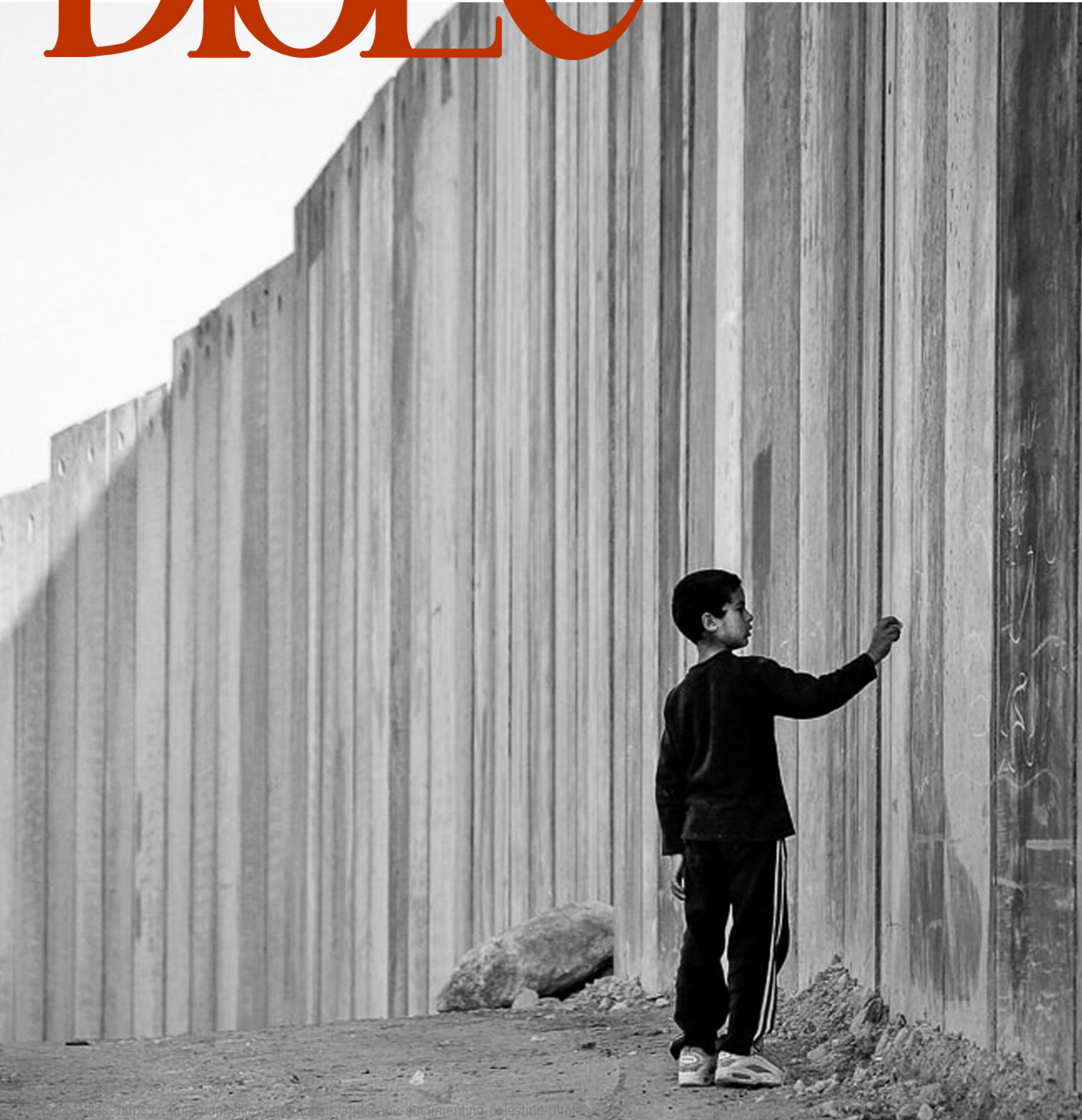


DISEC

Georgia Tech Model of United Nations

Committee

United Nations Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization



General Assemblies

October 14-15, 2024

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technology
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#GTMUN2024



Letter from the Secretary General

Dear esteemed delegates,

Welcome to the twentyfifth edition of the Georgia Model of United Nations. I am incredibly excited to be your Secretary General for GTMUN 2024!

My first Model UN conference was GTMUN, six years ago, and it's given me a joy and passion for diplomacy that has lasted since. This year, the secretariat team has worked extraordinarily hard for months to assemble an incredible array of committees and topics to test your abilities and push you to grow as a delegate and as a future leader. As a person who was in your position six years ago, reading the GTMUN background guides, I know how it feels to prepare for a committee. Though this resource is invaluable, I encourage you to go beyond in terms of studying about your topic(s) and your country's diplomatic position. I firmly believe that the greatest moments in Model UN happen when you have resiliently prepared through different resources to bring your member state's view into the committee. It is a sincere hope of mine that you enjoy the conference, and take the fullest advantage of what GTMUN has to offer, from public speaking skills, to critical thinking and policy creation. It is opportunities like these when you can connect with fellow, like-minded delegates to bring ideas into the table and construct the progress that people across the globe need, and that only the United Nations can deliver.

GTMUN is an amazing chance to brainstorm to solve current issues creatively and practicing being the leader of tomorrow. I wish you the best in preparing for and participating at the upcoming conference!



**GTMUN XXV Secretary General
Jonah Isaza**



IRAN

INDONESIA

INDIA

YUG



Introduction to the Committee

The Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) was established in 1959 in response to growing concerns about arms control and international security. The current mission of DISEC is to address, mitigate, and solve issues that relate to weapon proliferation, arms races, and conflicts around the world that hinder global safety and stability. During the upcoming committee sessions, delegates will be tasked with Mitigating attacks on international commerce during regional conflicts and Addressing gang violence, and its global impact.

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Disclaimer

Delegates should represent the nation that they have been assigned, whilst ensuring that they act in accordance with the GTMUN XXV delegate handbook, the values of the GTMUN program and Georgia Tech as a whole. **We ask that when collaborating with the other delegates in this room that you are respectful of their personal experiences and beliefs and focus on creating productive, meaningful and constructive debate.** If there is any confusion whether a topic is appropriate for discussion in this committee, please reach out and act in correspondence with the Chair and Secretariat's discernment.

Position Papers

A position paper is a document which expresses a member state's policy or position regarding the topic(s) that will be discussed in the committee. It can also help as a forefront to ideas, perspectives, solutions, or approaches that a delegate expects to prioritize in committee. It is recommended that a position paper includes the following: **a) member state's view on the topic(s), b) information on how the nation has addressed (or not) the issue in the past, c) proposed solutions based on research and policy.**

Sample Position Paper

The United Mexican States

Committee: Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Topic Area: Heroin Trafficking

"My sole ambition is to rid Mexico of the class that has oppressed her and giving the people a chance to know what real liberty means. And if I could bring that about today by giving up my life, I would do it gladly"

Although "El Centauro del Norte" spoke these words during the Mexican Revolution more than a century ago, the Mexican people are far from knowing the meaning of "real liberty". Mexico is suffering the consequences of being a key player and a large contributor in a growing illicit drug market, which each year seems to be more diversified and more difficult to trace. Mexico's protagonic and problematic stance provoked former president, Felipe Calderón, to declare open a new theater of the War against Drugs in 2006, as a strategy to counter the violence of the cartels. The low-intensity conflict has left a toll of more than 150.000 deaths and 23.000 disappearances. These painful numbers have placed Mexico as the second most dangerous country in the world.

Currently, drug trafficking and organized crime industry in Mexico is like energy: it is not destroyed, but transformed from one form to another, since each cartel dismantled by the Mexican Government gives way to more small and irrepressible groups. The strategy of the war on drugs, which was based on punctual operations to eliminate the highest branches of the cartels, has not had the desired results.

Mexico recognizes that instead of addressing the problem by the branches, we must change our strategy and attack it from its roots. The first step is understanding that fiercely repressing the violence of the cartels only results in the bloodshed and loss of precious lives of innocent citizens. We invite fellow representatives to consider our modern history, experiences and learnings as a reference.

The United Mexican States notes the necessity to promote the enhancement of international cooperation and exchange of information with the purpose of strengthening the common front in the face of transnational organized crime. For this reason, we must take the responsibility of attending and repairing the social damage of vulnerable communities that are bonded with illicit drug markets. Furthermore, we must develop integral prevention programs against violence, exclusion and weakening of the social tissue, aiming towards the most vulnerable demographics.

TOPIC 1

Mitigating Attacks on International Commerce During Regional Conflicts.



Key Terms and Acronyms

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| International Commerce | <i>The exchange of goods and services between nations, including trade agreements and global supply chains.</i> |
| Regional Conflicts | <i>Disputes or wars occurring within a specific geographical area. This often impacts neighboring regions and has broader international implications.</i> |
| Supply Chain Disruption | <i>Interruption in the flow of resources across the supply chain.</i> |
| Economic Diversification | <i>Strategies nations employ to reduce dependency on a single trade sector or partner, which helps ensure stability during conflicts.</i> |
| Maritime Security | <i>Protection of sea routes and shipping lanes from threats like piracy, and blockades, crucial for maintaining international trade flows</i> |

“Trade is the oldest and most important economic nexus among nations....it has been central to the evolution of international relations”

-Robert Gilpin

Introduction

Humanity, now 8.1 billion strong, depends on a complex system of international exchanges to access resources crucial to life, but this only scratches the surface of the extent to which economies rely on each other. Seventy percent of international trade runs through global value chains – where product components cross borders multiple times. In essence, layers of commerce are deeper than simple country-to-country exchanges. We live in a web of economic linkages, often functioning as a house of cards. With exponentially increasing connections, vulnerabilities grow with far-reaching implications.

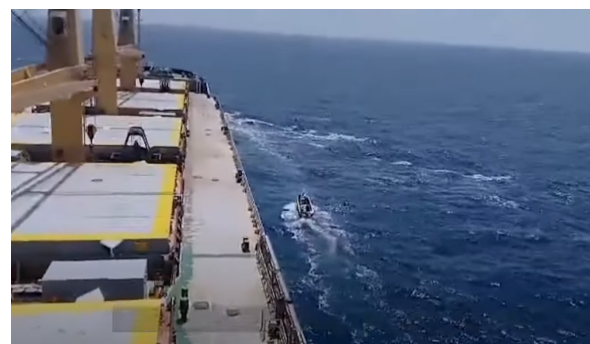
So, what could cause these implications to manifest? These make up the threats of great concern to decision-makers around the world. Political instability, economic recession, environmental problems, and pandemics are among these threats. However, perhaps the most pressurized scenarios arise during violent conflict, something nearly ever-present across human history.

Conflict occupies all facets of an environment. The land, sea, air, and cyberspace are crucial to the system of global value chains we rely on and are the same ones that conflict impacts and

make dangerous. Compounding this, due to the webbed nature of the system, minor breakages of certain links can have cascading effects, serving as chokepoints.

These are the foundations of a critical issue for today's decision-makers. In a world rife with instability, a complicated network of linkages traversing the globe must be maintained, and it cannot afford to fail.

In order to solve these high-stakes problems, we can observe a long history of violent conflict and its risks to international commerce, eventually reaching a litany of notable events occurring within the last year. The key objective remains the generating of adaptable, applicable strategies to limit the interruption of international trade during conflict, because the fact of the matter is, that these flows cannot afford to break down. Whether these linkages are hemispheres away from the conflict, or right in it, they all are crucial to the network, and damage must be mitigated.



A Bangladesh flag carrier ship hijacked by Somalian pirates

History

Foreign policy and trading interests - the foundational elements of this topic - have been intertwined for millennia. As far back as the third century BC, the Han Dynasty used military force to maintain the Silk Road. This being said, trade and conflict have not always appeared as the multilateral webs we see them as today. This system stems from the post-WW2 General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), a legal document aiming to promote trade by eliminating barriers. In 1995, the principles of the GATT informed the creation of the World Trade Organization (WTO), entrenching the linkages we currently depend on. This system has existed in various forms for nearly 80 years, so the list of possible case studies reviewing trade-conflict interaction is extensive. We will analyze one case in this section, later applying its themes to more current situations.



Earliest tea as evidence for one branch of the Silk Road
Across the Tibetan Plateau

Between 1984 and 1988, as a critical component of the Iran-Iraq war, which came to be known as the Tanker War, Iraq began attacking ships serving Iranian ports in the Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, and Sea of Oman. Looking to force Iran into closing these waterways and sparking foreign intervention against themselves. Strikes from both sides took down merchant vessels flying flags of nations across the world - Panama, Liberia, and South Korea to name just a few. The longest-term economic impact of the Tanker War was the increase in shipping insurance rates, eventually impacting the entire oil market. Attacks on international commerce as side-effects of regional conflict have impacts on economies around the world due to widespread reliance on multilateral trade linkages.

This case embodies a critical dynamic to understand-everytypeofstateinthefsystem is impacted by these dynamics. Developed states still rely on imports, let alone their frequent economic ties to conflicts that appear regional on the surface. Developing countries in conflict-ridden regions take the brunt of the economic damage as their industries are physically destroyed. Even developing countries not located in zones of violence are impacted as they are more likely to not be independent of imports - 'poorer countries with rising populations and scarce resources are likely to be increasingly dependent on imports to feed

their people.' Every state in the United Nations has a stake in this issue and directives should take these diverse perspectives into account.

Current Situation

Please keep in mind that the topics discussed within this section are related to ongoing conflicts, and therefore are of sensitive nature. Please keep this in mind when discussing and writing about them, and ensure that you are respectful of those who have been impacted by them. Any behavior that does not follow this request, will result in action from the secretariat.

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The final piece in understanding this issue is being cognisant of the reason we are speaking about it right now. How is the commerce-conflict relationship manifesting in 2024, and where is it causing its trademark outsized impacts?

The event on every decision-maker's mind is occurring in the Red Sea. In a spillover of the Israel-Hamas war, in October 2023 the Iran-backed, Yemen-located Houthi movement began to launch attacks on Israel, demanding they withdraw from the Gaza Strip. Since then, Houthis have conducted attacks on many vessels in

the Red Sea described as Israel-linked. They have faced American and British air strikes as a result of Operation Prosperity Guardian.



Supporters of the Houthis in Sanaa, Yemen

Many Houthi actions have occurred in the Bab-el-Mandeb, the southern door to the Suez Canal. This is one of the many choke points discussed earlier - concentrated zones in which interruptions to commerce cause global implications. From October 2023 to March 2024 an estimated 60 vessels were attacked and hundreds more were forced to sail around South Africa as opposed to through the Red Sea. Looking forward, Iranian President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian has pledged to expand Houthi ties, supporting their effort to widen the impacts of the Gaza conflict and make Western nations feel a tangible impact for their regional actions.

Abdul Mali al-Houthi, leader of the Houthi movement, spoke in March 2024 about the group's ambitions of stopping shipping diversions toward the Cape of Good Hope.

"Our main battle is to prevent ships linked to the Israeli enemy from passing through... we have begun to implement operations related to it."

As recently as January, US President Joe Biden, when asked if Prosperity Guardian's airstrikes were stopping the Houthis, said no. When he was then immediately asked if the airstrikes would continue, he said yes.

If there is anything these quotes go to show, it is that there is no clear end in sight for this tragic conflict and its economic repercussions. Every state in the United Nations has a vested interest in these dynamics, as the combination of direct strikes and commercial choke points has put livelihoods at stake across the world. This is, therefore, an issue of the utmost importance for decision-makers to come to a resolution upon.

Directives/ QARMAS

- ***What sectors in your country are most vulnerable to attacks during conflicts? How would this affect the mitigation tactics?***

- ***How can Member States balance the need for national security while also maintaining open and secure trade routes during conflicts?***

- ***What measures can Member States take to safeguard critical infrastructure from being targeted during regional conflicts?***

- ***What are the socioeconomic impacts of disruptions to international commerce due to regional conflicts, and how can these be mitigated?***

- ***What role do international financial institutions have in mitigating the impact of attacks on international commerce?***

- ***What mitigation policies has your country enacted to protect commerce and other financial infrastructures?***

- ***How can you ensure the security of commerce whilst respecting the sovereignty of nations?***

TOPIC 2 Addressing gang violence, and its global impact.



Key Terms and Acronyms

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Gang | <i>A group or association of three or more persons who may have a common identifying sign, symbol, or name and who individually or collectively engage in, or have engaged in, criminal activity which creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation⁴</i> |
| Organized Criminal Group | <i>The dividing line between a simple gang and an organized criminal group often depends on the different levels of sophistication, politicization, and internationalization</i> |
| Unorganized Criminal Groups | <i>Short-lived, sporadic, and disorganized groups with little to no international influence</i> |
| Neighborhood / Local Gangs | <i>Confined to specific neighborhoods and jurisdictions and often imitate larger, more powerful national gangs with the purpose of drug distribution and sales</i> |
| Prison Gangs | <i>Criminal organizations that originated in the prison system and operate within correctional facilities, with released members operating on the street.</i> |
| Drug Trafficking | <i>Global illicit trade involving the cultivation, manufacture, distribution, and sale of substances that are subject to drug prohibition laws⁵</i> |
| Human Trafficking | <i>Recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of people through force, fraud, or deception, with the aim of exploiting them for profit⁶</i> |
| Sexual Exploitation | <i>Any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes including profiting monetarily, socially, or politically.⁷</i> |
| Forced Labor | <i>All work or service which is exacted from any person under the threat of a penalty and for which the person has not offered himself or herself voluntarily⁸</i> |

Introduction

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Gang violence is the symptom of a deep-rooted, international problem of economic and social marginalization. People around the world join gangs for a multitude of reasons, a few of these including social exclusion, a weak national government and enforcement of laws, and limited economic opportunities. In communities worldwide, gangs pose a dangerous threat to the socio-economic stability, health, and well-being of civilians, as they engage in activities such as drug and human trafficking, which destabilizes cities and undermines the governing structure of nations¹. Moreover, this destabilization forces civilians to be internally displaced or forced into seeking asylum in neighboring countries.

Across the globe, gangs facilitate the perpetuation of human trafficking which creates a cycle of violence and exploitation. By participating in organized crime networks, gangs use their infrastructure and networks to facilitate the trafficking of people for forced labor and sexual exploitation². The complexity and reach of these networks allow gangs to control and exploit victims over longer distances and through multiple nations. The reach of gangs also allows them to recruit vulnerable people, such as younger adults

and people of a lower socioeconomic class, who are easier to coerce through violence, manipulation, or threats.



Members of the Five Points Gang of New York City.

While gang violence has been a persistent problem for nations for centuries, globalization has transformed gang violence into a far-reaching, international crisis. During the late 19th century and the early 20th century, due to urbanization, gangs began forming in Western Europe. For example, the unorganized gang, the “Peaky Blinders” operated for decades in Birmingham, England, by assaulting, robbing, and murdering civilians.³ While they did not have an international reach then, gangs across Europe have learned from their tactics and implemented them. Moreover, with the rise of technology, gangs have been able to change their tactics to have a further international reach and become more effective.



Current Situation

As mentioned previously, due to the rapid increase of interconnectedness of the world, transnational gangs have increased in influence, size, and violence. In the past couple of decades, the international community has suffered due to the rise of international drug, human, and arms trafficking networks.⁹ Each nation, while having similar trends of violence, has different types of gang activity and organization, depending on the sociopolitical environment. Governments around the globe, alongside international organizations, have attempted to mitigate the effects of gang violence by prioritizing gang violence throughout all government levels, investing in technology that interrupts gang communication channels, and encouraging international cooperation

and information sharing.¹⁰ However, gang violence is still an evolving threat that takes form in many different ways throughout the world. Organized criminal activity is not exclusive to one region of the world, rather, gang violence and its effect can be felt in every community in every nation.

Latin America- Mexico

Beginning in the 1980s, gangs throughout Mexico organized themselves, assigning themselves regional areas of control, where they established trafficking routes and territorial boundaries.¹¹ As time went on, each gang began to fight for territorial control and access to certain trafficking routes and markets, which increased the violence within Mexico. By 2016, drug-related homicides had increased by 22%, with more than twenty thousand people murdered in 2016.¹² The Mexican government has responded by using its

military force and the National Guard to combat cartels within the state, however, there are widespread beliefs that these actions have only increased the level of crime-related violence in Mexico. The National Guard has also been accused of using excessive force and heavy militarization in civilian areas, furthering the violence within Mexico

the ability and resources to launch attacks on governmental forces and civilians.¹³ Furthermore, the Sahel region is plagued by further instability due to non-state actors, such as the Wagner Group, who have capitalized and taken advantage of the destabilization caused by these regional and national gangs.¹⁴ In the Sahel region, the motivation for gang violence is causing political instability and disarray.

For example, in the state of Mali, a violent military coup in 2012 led to the collapse of the Mali government in the northern region, leading to an influx of extremists organized under the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA). Aligning itself with violent terrorist groups, such as al-Qaeda and the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa, MNLA captured the northern regional capitals of Gao, Kidal, and Timbuktu, and declared an Islamic caliphate in their newly claimed state of Azawad. As of August 2023, roughly 575,000 people were forced from their homes, with 375,000 being internally displaced and 205,000 refugees seeking asylum in neighboring countries.¹⁵ Governments across the Sahel region have conducted counter-terrorism operations, such as the creation of the Alliance of Sahel States, to provide collective defense and to conduct joint military operations across national borders.¹⁶

In December 2018, the new President, Andres Manuel López Obrador, pledged to fund programs to alleviate poverty, make changes to the sentencing guidelines for drug traffickers, and implement a civilian-led police force. These efforts, while dropping homicide rates marginally, have not decreased the amount of homicide rates, with over thirty thousand people murdered each year.

Africa- Sahel Region

The growing strength and influence of violent gangs, coupled with the weakening of the governments in the Sahel region, has created a vacuum in which violent crime can persist and continue expanding. Through transnational organizations, such as the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS) or the Islamic State in the West African Province (ISWAP), gang violence within this region has been exacerbated, as these organizations have

European Union

Around half of all homicides in the European Union (EU) are linked to drug trafficking, with roughly 821 criminal gangs operating in the EU.¹⁷ The types of violence these gangs exhibit are similar to other regions of the world, with the Netherlands having torture chambers hidden in shipping containers and the severed head of a gang rival left outside of a shopping center in Amsterdam.¹⁷ The EU has launched a “European Ports Alliance” to improve coordination and communication between law enforcement agencies, each nation, and European ports, however, the vast number of shipping containers creates challenges for the Alliance to seize illicit drugs and stop them from coming into the EU.¹⁷ Furthermore, Europol’s chief, Catherine De Bolle, claimed that at one port “everyone was corrupted” and “We are in a very difficult situation.”¹⁸ Bolle tells the story of numerous ports around Europe, as it is common for the port workers, the court, and the police to be paid off by gang members who want to continue the cycle of violence.

UN Action

While the eradication of gangs in every nation and the effects of gang violence need to be addressed by every nation

individually, this violence cannot be tackled in isolation. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime was adopted two decades ago and provided one of the first global tools for nations navigating gang violence.¹⁷ Since then, there have been three more Protocols and Global Programmes that offer insight on a global scale about the mitigation and elimination of gang violence.

A prominent Global Programme is the Programme on Implementing the Organized Crime Convention: from Theory to Practice. [18] This Programme supports States in developing legislation to curtail the effects of organized crime, ensuring human rights are maintained while combating gang violence, and facilitating international cooperation in the prosecution of perpetrators of violence.

When Protocols, Conventions, and Programmes are put into practice, the United Nations can assist Member States in their fight against gang violence, to ensure the safety and prosperity of generations to come. International cooperation and information sharing is essential to eradicate gangs and the violence they provoke and prolong.

Directives

- *What type of gang is most prevalent in your country? How will this affect the solutions you present in debate when addressing gang violence?*
- *How does gang violence contribute to instability within your country and other affected Member States?*
- *What role do socioeconomic factors, such as lack of education, unemployment, or a low national literacy rate play in the persistence of gangs?*
- *How can law enforcement agencies be better equipped and trained to address gang violence while adhering to human rights?*
- *How do cultural and regional differences affect gang violence and the mitigation strategies implemented?*
- *How can governments and international organizations work alongside one another to prevent the spread of gang influence?*

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