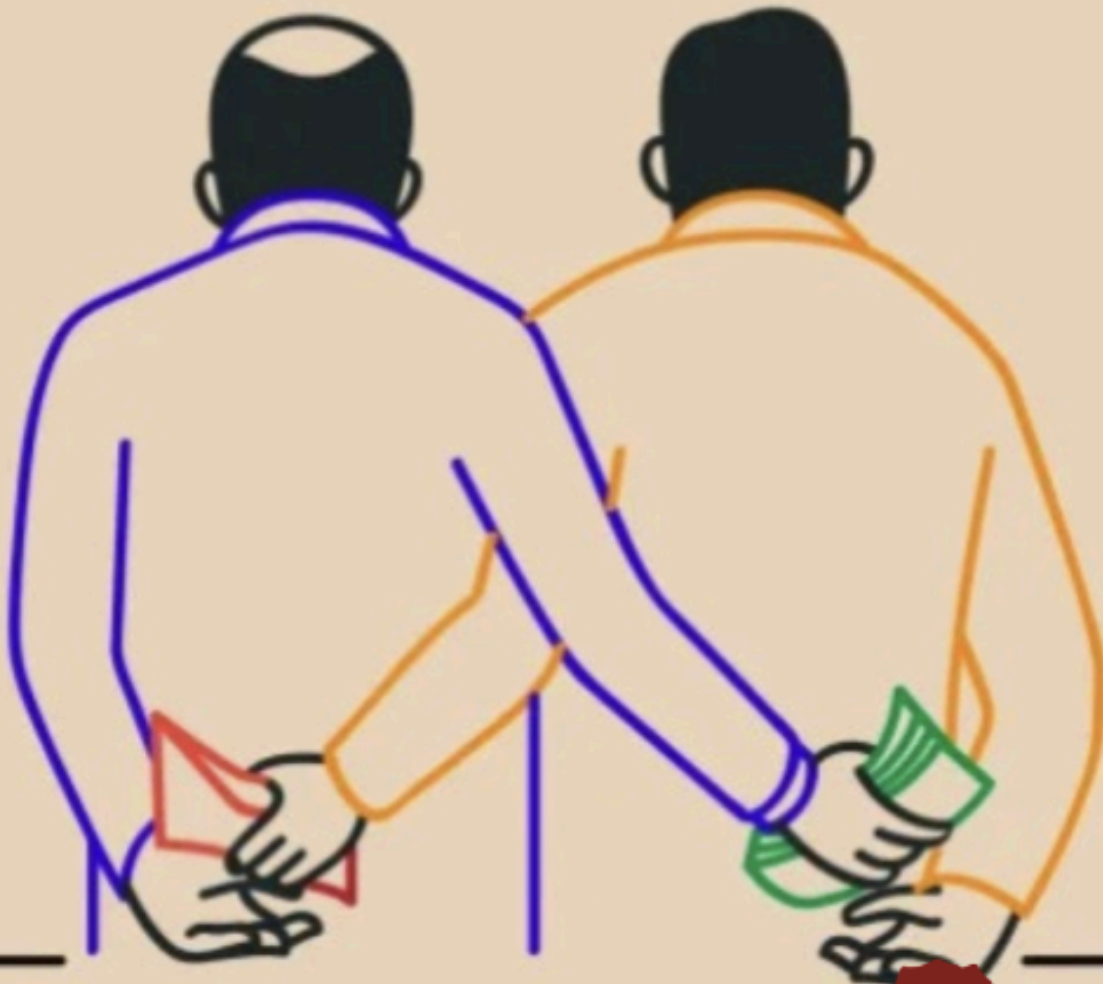


OSUMUN 2025
UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
OF DRUG & CRIME



GENERAL ASSEMBLY



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UNODC

Letter from the Chair

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Office on Drugs and Crime Committee at OSUMUN 2025. My name is Jack Mediate, and I am honored to be your head chair for the weekend!

I am currently a third-year here at Ohio State with a double major in Political Science through the Arts and Sciences College and Public Affairs through the John Glenn College. I have a focus in political reform and a deep interest in the politics and policy surrounding food and beverages.

MUN has been a big hobby of mine since high school, where I learned how to compete as a delegate in General Assemblies' much like this. I served as the head chair of the WHO at CLEIMUN 22 before college, and since then have been an active member of Ohio State's traveling MUN team where I've made many awesome friends and memories. At OSUMUN 2023 I was a co-chair for the World Food Programme, and am happy to be back as a Head Chair, this time in the UNODC! Located in Vienna, The UNODC has had an eventful history, and has always been my personal favorite in terms of topic complexity, the eagerness for debate, and unique positions.

That being said, while in committee I expect delegates to treat one another with respect and integrity, handle our sensitive topics with care, and utilize your great writing and speaking skills for debate and collaboration. I hope you leave the UNODC with an excellent solution, pride in your abilities, and many new friends! If you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out! I am excited to meet you all and see what is brought to the table this year!

Jack Mediate, UNODC Head Chair

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Introduction to the Committee and Procedures

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was established in 1997 as a merger between the the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention, created by then Secretary-General Kofi Annan to strengthen the UN's commitment and capacity to address interconnected issues facing every member state. These five main areas of focus are countering terrorism, approaching the world drug problem, building effective and fair criminal justice systems, challenging transnational organized crime, and confronting political corruption.

The latter two issues will be the topics this committee will focus on during the conference, but it is important to recognize the interdependent and synergistic nature of the areas of focus and how all play a role threatening sustainable global development and security. As an Agency of the UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG), the UNODC is concerned with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 goals, which includes the promotion of "Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions" and should be seen as the primary objective for any potential resolution brought forth by delegates.

This committee will follow traditional General Assembly parliamentary procedure as laid out by the United Nations. Debate will be moderated by the Chair, and necessary changes may be made to procedure at the Chair's discretion. This committee will operate on single-delegate representation. Traditional voting majorities will apply (2/3 to move to voting procedure, simple majority for resolutions, etc.). This committee will aim to follow the usual flow of papers (working paper, draft resolution, resolution), but may be subject to change at the Chair's discretion. Please note that technology will be permitted to create working papers and resolutions only on unmoderated caucuses.

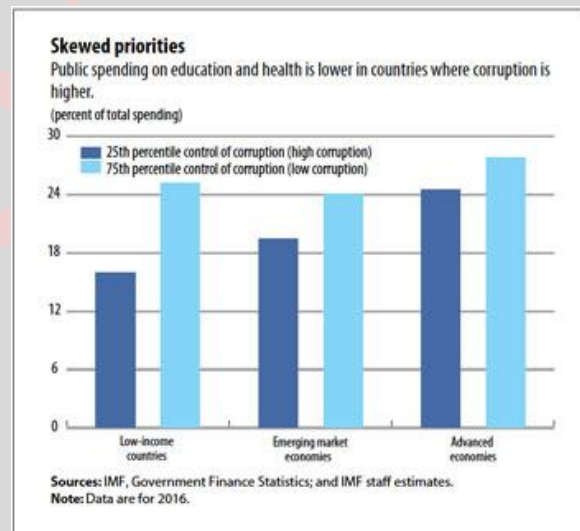
Topic A: Confronting Political Corruption Worldwide

Background and Issues

Political corruption is an epidemic found in every nation to an extent, regardless of how transparent one might consider itself. Although corruption in some shape or form has been present for thousands of years, the emergence of the nation-state and centralization of large amounts of power allowed for deliberate, deep-rooted exploitation of government influence and capacities to take place. These are common in the form of bribery (both active and passive), patronage, nepotism, cronyism, influence peddling, electoral fraud, embezzlement, and outright collusion with organized crime syndicates; all are methods utilized by public servants and workers for private, illegitimate gain.

There are many factors that create an environment favorable to political corruption, with the three overarching elements being information deficits, weak institutions, and social conditions. Information deficits can range from a government lacking legislation protecting the freedom of information that allows the general public to access data to crackdowns on independent and investigative reporting, along with a lack of public corruption measurements. Some examples of weak institutions include inadequate or absent watchdog NGOs, weak civil services and courts, lack of whistleblower protections, low government worker pay, centralized public funds, costly political campaigns for elected offices. Social conditions are more dependent on historical and cultural issues, such as nepotism, cliques, “old-boy-networks” that seek to benefit a small, politically dominant minority, discrimination, illiteracy, wars, and others. Due to the all-encompassing nature of these factors, corruption easily spreads like wildfire when progress and accountability in government begins to falter.

According to a 2018 UN press release, the global cost of corruption is approximately 5% of the world’s gross domestic product (GDP), or at least \$2.6 trillion dollars. Around half of this is in



the form of bribes to businesses, banks, and individuals; political graft when apparent greatly decreases public trust in government, further diminishing tax revenues of some nations. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the most transparent governments collect 4% more of GDP in taxes than those at the same economic development level with high levels of corruption. This correlates with stark differences in amenities the government is able to provide and reduces efficiency, with cuts to education, healthcare, sustainable development, and more harming citizens to the benefit of a corrupt minority. Natural resource extraction companies, both private and state owned, are particularly vulnerable to corrupt practices; nations rich in natural resources with weak institutions, including many in the global south, tend to be most susceptible to the “resource curse”, limiting growth and creating an overreliance on unsustainable environmental and economic practices at the cost of the general public. The relationship between high levels of corruption and cycles of conflict remains both complex and prevalent, with war and political exploitation of the defense and energy industries especially widespread.

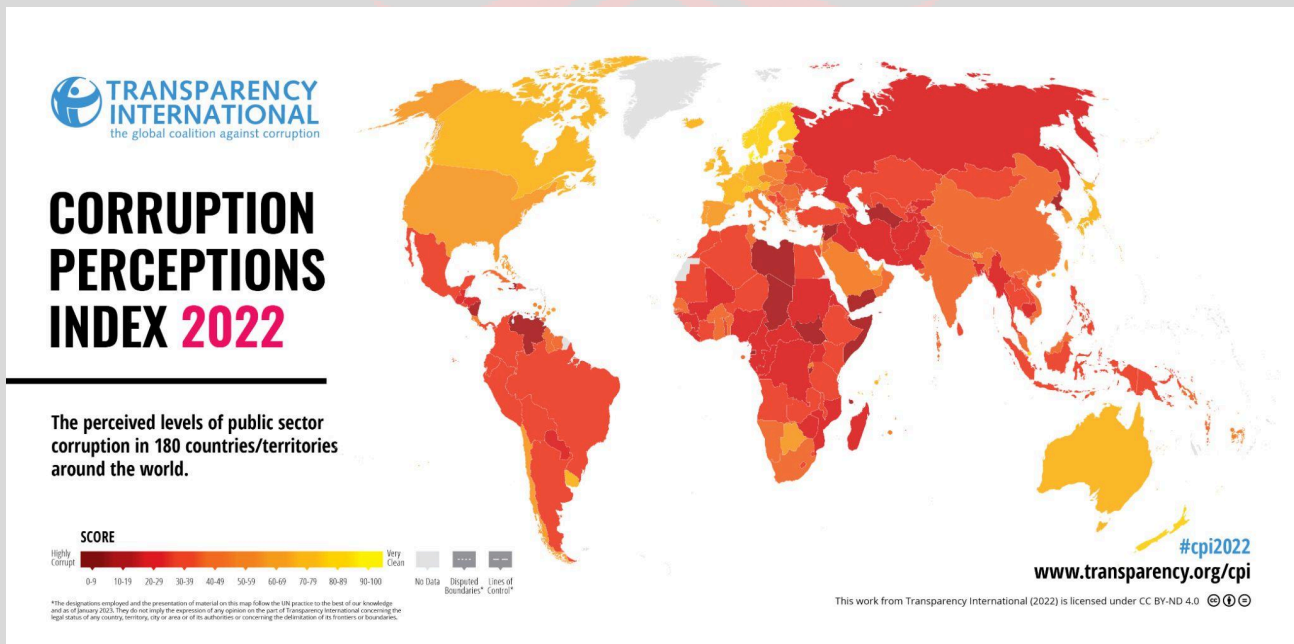
Past International Actions

The United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), adopted by the General Assembly in October of 2003, is the only legally binding multilateral treaty of its kind in the UN; 189 state parties as of December 2021 have signed, representing a coordinated global response against corruption. Emphasizing preventive and punitive measures, the UNCAC contains both mandatory and non-mandatory provisions that seek to guide nations at every level of development. It accomplishes this through sustained technical assistance to governments that require it; Chapter IV of the Convention mentions providing training, human resources, material, research, and more to promote equal and equitable transitions into transparency. A vital concept and major tool of the UNCAC is the agreement on international asset recovery. This defines and outlines the process of cross-border government repatriation of proceeds of corruption hidden in foreign jurisdictions. The primary ways funds gained through ill means are preserved, such as in bank accounts, real estate, and valuable assets, are legally able to be traced, freezeed, and confiscated through international investigations, allowing for the retrieval of tax dollars and natural resources to occur. Asset recovery greatly benefits nations experiencing financial difficulties that struggle with corruption, and provides a framework for justice to the people who were robbed of government services and economic development. Despite this, many roadblocks exist from asset recovery reaching its full capability, with a lack of political will, funding, and

technical infrastructure in place being chief reasons for frustration.

Domestic plans to reduce corruption in the past two decades have varied in both scope and outcome, with the largest successes usually coinciding with other political conditions favorable to far-reaching reform in government, such as pro-democratic movements and wide increases in press freedom. Georgia was considered one of the most systematically corrupt nations in the world before the 2003 Rose Revolution, where a non-violent change of power led to the resignation of the autocratic former president and the fair election of Mikhail Saakashvili, who ran on a platform emphasizing broad and transparent anti-corruption reform. After a policy of zero-tolerance was implemented and upheld through the usage of independent media, NGOs, and civil society organizations, Georgia quickly improved its corruption perception score to rival that of most highly developed European countries. Through the last two decades petty and low-level corruption have been nearly eliminated from the Georgian political bureaucracy, partially as a result of the continued international support and funding of NGOs to keep the public informed and the government transparent. Although the conditions for change that were present in Georgia in 2003 are incredibly difficult to replicate, the reform of government should be seen as a positive example of broad, sustained anti-corruption policies succeeded where smaller efforts have failed elsewhere.

Possible Solutions



Delegates are encouraged to remember that the international resources already working to reduce corruption, specifically the UNCAC, provide excellent base frameworks but are very difficult to implement fully and fail to address many root causes of corruption. Resolutions should highlight the usage of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) that specifically target the factors creating environments favorable to corruption, as well as multilateral treaties between nations that improve the efficiency of concepts such as asset retrieval which rely on good diplomacy and international cooperation. Recognizing the ties between the “resource curse” that disproportionately affects the Global South and political corruption is vital in creating an equitable solution for all. Lastly, delegates should keep in mind that the UNODC’s areas of focus are intrinsically tied together and present a complex challenge in balancing urgent priorities.

Topic B: Tackling Transnational Organized Crime

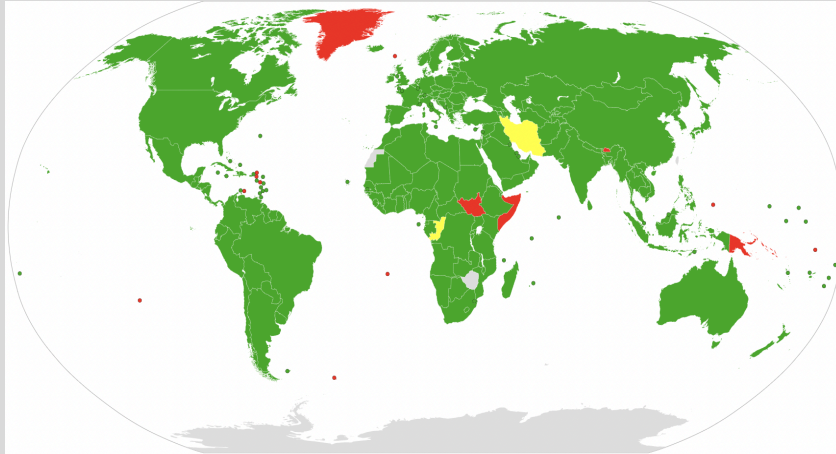
Background and Issues

Transnational organized crime (TOC) is a constantly shifting focus of the UNODC; for the purpose of this committee, it can be defined as coordinated groups of criminals working across borders to carry out illegal acts. This provides an incredibly wide range of activities, from the production and trafficking of illegal drugs, firearms, and materials to white-collar cartels controlling financial markets and everything in between. Although estimates vary due to under-reporting, according to the UN the sum of these crimes amounts to over \$1.6 trillion laundered dollars, or roughly 2.7% of the global GDP, and continues to rise. Outside of its financial impact, TOC spurs violence in communities and states of every scale, undermines democracy, and hinders sustainable development significantly. Organized crime itself is responsible for over 19% of the world’s total homicides, and since the start of the 21st century it has resulted in the death of more people than all armed conflicts in the same timespan. This has resulted in expensive, uncoordinated, and ultimately fruitless “wars on crime” that have led to militarized police forces (increasing the risk of social unrest and corruption), mass incarceration, and further centralization of criminal organizations. Cybercrime and borderless digital security concerns are rapidly evolving fields; states with underdeveloped information technology infrastructures are particularly at risk and require international technical assistance to improve, a long-term and expensive endeavor.

While TOC is an international issue that impacts every nation, certain regions have historically been hotspots of illegal activity and require dedicated attention. Weak institutional control and state failure create power vacuums conducive to the growth of organized crime groups, and when coupled with an inability to secure borders, transnational crime flourishes. Fragile states in Central America and the Eastern Mediterranean provide examples of how difficult socioeconomic conditions, endemic corruption, and widespread violence (“push” factors) result in a large number of displaced people seeking opportunity elsewhere (ex. 2014 N. American immigration Crisis, 2015 European migrant Crisis). This creates opportunities for organized crime groups to take advantage of migrants in large-scale human trafficking and smuggling operations; the profits and power secured act as a financial incentive for cartels to further destabilize regions to promote “business”. The same concepts can be applied to illegal drug and weapon trade operations, where TOC is an attractive source of steady profit in economically under-developed areas. Legal patchworks, loose enforcement, endemic corruption, a lack of education and more all stimulate the increase of TOC as well, while white-collar tax havens allow for international money laundering and reinvestment into crime to occur at new scales.

Past International Actions

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNCTOC) was adopted by the General Assembly in November of 2000; with 147 signatories and 190 State Parties (as of 26 of July 2018), it is a comprehensive instrument dedicated to fight TOC. Within the UNCTOC includes three supplementary protocols, known as the Palermo protocols, aimed at preventing, suppressing, and punishing human trafficking (especially women and children), migrant smuggling, and the manufacturing/trafficking of firearms, parts, and ammo. States that ratify the convention commit themselves to taking a series of measures against TOC, including the creation of domestic criminal offenses; the adoption of frameworks for extradition, bilateral legal assistance, and law enforcement cooperation; and promoting the development of fair national police and justice institutions. Other global organizations such as Interpol and the International Criminal Court have supported both the UN and individual national governments in helping implement anti-TOC strategies and infrastructure with moderate success.



*UN Convention against
Transnational Organized Crime*

Green - Signed & Ratified

Yellow - Only Signed

Red - Non-party

Possible Solutions

A satisfactory solution on this topic should understand and correct the failures of most efforts to curb Transnational Organized Crime; the vagueness and general irrelevancy of many past resolutions which were designed to discourage governments who benefit from TOC do little to change the current situation and stall future endeavors. Delegates are suggested to be clear and precise in their clauses to prevent wide interpretations in any treaties or agreements, but please consider that the sovereignty of all nations must not be infringed upon by the General Assembly. The usage of international organizations such as Interpol and the International Criminal Court may create complicated relationships that damage a resolution, as no global law enforcement agency or justice system has universal jurisdiction; delegates are recommended to use caution including them in any papers that are created. Once again delegates should keep in mind that the UNODC's areas of focus are intrinsically tied together and present a complex challenge in balancing urgent priorities.

Questions to Consider

1. What role should international organizations and partnerships play in curbing the rise in organized crime and political corruption?
2. What challenges can delegates anticipate in balancing international oversight with state sovereignty, especially for transnational issues such as trafficking, smuggling, etc?
3. How can delegates address the gaps that exist in the current international frameworks?

Countries List

Australia
Brazil
China (PRC)
Colombia
Dominican Republic
Finland
France
Georgia
Ghana
Guatemala
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Italy
Japan
Kenya
Mexico
Morocco
Nigeria
Poland
Russian Federation
Saudi Arabia
Singapore
South Africa
Tunisia
United Kingdom
United States
Uruguay

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