Illegal Trafficking

Introduction:

**Illegal Trafficking TOPICS:**

**Illegal Drug trafficking:**
The illegal drug trade is a global black market, dedicated to cultivation, manufacture, distribution, and sale of those substances that are subject to drug prohibition laws. Most jurisdictions prohibit trade, except under license, of many types of drugs by drug prohibition laws.

**Illegal Weapon Trade:**
Arms trafficking, also known as *gunrunning*, is the illegal trafficking or smuggling of contraband weapons or ammunition.

**Illegal Diamond Trade:**
In relation to diamond trading, a conflict diamond refers to a diamond mined in a war zone and sold to finance an insurgency, invading army's war efforts, or a warlord's activity. This usually takes place in Africa where around two-thirds of the world's diamonds are extracted.

**Illegal Human Trade:**
Human trafficking is the illegal trade of human beings for the purposes of reproductive slavery, commercial sexual exploitation, forced labor, or a modern-day form of slavery.

These are four that the chair would like to focus on during the committee. At the beginning of the conference the agenda for topics will be set and then a topic of discussion will be opened on the voted order of discussion. During the committee meetings the chair would like to focus on illegal trafficking and how it affects the economy, violence, problematic areas, and prevention of the illegal trafficking of weapons, drugs etc.
Illegal Drug trafficking:

Drug trafficking has been taking place since the early 19th century in China and surrounding countries resulting in the first opiate war. Since then, nations in the Middle East, South America, Central America, Africa and Southeast Asia have expanded the illegal drug trafficking of opiates, cannabis, and cocaine.

As Countries around the globe begin to realize the problems that come with opiates, cocaine and some cannabis, efforts have been made to crack down on the illicit drugs.

Problems (Brief):

- Health (higher death rates)
- Addictive habits (frequent use, also health related)
- Violence (drug wars, gang violence)

“In many countries, drug smuggling carries a severe penalty, including the death penalty (for example, China and Singapore). In 2010, two people were sentenced to death in Malaysia for trafficking 1 kilogram/2.2 pounds of cannabis into the country. [5] On March 30, 2011, three Filipinos were executed by the Chinese government for drug trafficking [1].”

While these countries try to stop the flow of drugs in and out of countries it is hard to control an estimated multi-billion dollar underground industry. “Due to its illicit nature, statistics about profits from the drug trade are largely unknown. In its 1997 World Drugs Report the UNODC estimated the value of the market at USD$400 billion, ranking drugs alongside arms and oil amongst the world's largest traded goods. [11] an online report published by the UK Home Office in 2007 estimated the illicit drug market in the UK at £4–6.6 billion a year [12].”
Many countries have joined China and Mexico in the halt of drug trading. It is hard for countries such as Mexico to control the trade due to a corrupt government. The UN and the power of the Big 5 have provided much support to countries that are making efforts to control these problems. Countries all over the world have dealt with the importing of these illicit drugs and the distribution of them. The US, France, UK are just few that have felt the importation and distribution problems.


2010 UN Drug Consumption Report:  

2010 UN Drug Production Report:  

With the production and distribution of illicit drugs comes violence. The violence may come from rival militias, rival gangs, territory, prevention of the import/export, or rival cartels. The illegal drug trade is all about territory and making money from the drugs produced. War is the result of many of these rival cartels, gangs, and militias. Wars such as the Mexican drug war between cartels occur to prevent drugs from entering a country and those within the country. Mexico is highly recognized for its drug war currently taking place between the government and cartels. The most recognized cartel is La Familia. “Moreover, according to federal and state sources, La Familia Michoacana has been increasingly involved in Michoacan's politics, impelling their favorite candidates, financing their campaigns, and forcing other parties to renounce their candidacies”[14][15].” This leads to government corruption which is affecting nations such as those in the Golden Triangle in Southeast Asia.
Golden Triangle:

- 2nd largest opiate contributor since the 1920’s.
- Countries: Vietnam, Myanmar, Laos, Burma and Thailand.

After Afghanistan, Burma is the world's second largest producer of illicit opium, and has been a significant country since World War II in illicit drug trade. “According to the UNODC it is estimated that in 2005 there were 167 square miles (430 km2) of opium cultivation in Burma [3].” The surrender of drug warlord Khun Mong Tai Army in January 1996 was hailed by Yangon as a major counter-narcotics success; although, the lack of government ability to take on major narcotrafficking groups and the lack of serious commitment against money laundering continues to hinder the overall anti-drug effort [3]. Most of the natives to Burma, who are growing the opium poppy, are living under the poverty line.

Golden Crescent:

- World’s Largest opiate contributor
- Countries: Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran

The Golden Crescent is the name given to one of Asia’s two high production areas of illicit opium, and it is located in the Central, South, and Western Asia. This region consists of three nations, Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan, whose mountainous geography defines the crescent, even though only Afghanistan and Pakistan produce opium. Iran is a consumer and trans-shipment route for the smuggled opiates.
Solutions for thought:

Decriminalizing and legalizing?

Cannabis Decriminalized: 16 States in US, Belgium, Netherlands, Czech Republic, Portugal, Majority of South America, Australia, Majority of Mediterranean region.

Laws?

Would it be worth making more international law? Is it working as is?

UN/Individual country funding of governments

Illegal Drug Trade Sources:


4. http://books.google.com/books?id=LcMaQQ0wfL0C&pg=PA35&lpg=PA35&dq=Drug+related+gang,+militias,+cartels&source=bl&ots=fSc8zohiGF&sig=LhfHVbrk8I5MplpG3ZNtC EeaOY&hl=en&ei=RSvETpqPJ8bq0QHR_aDdDg&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1&ved=0CBqQ6AEwAA


Illegal Weapons Trade:

Illegal weapons have been a problem since the late 1990’s. The weapons being traded are typically small arms such as light machine guns, hand guns and assault rifles \([1]\). There are also much bigger weapons traded that require several persons to use at a time such as portable anti-aircraft guns, anti-tank guns, and rocket propelled grenades (RPGs)\([1]\). Ammunition and hand explosives (hang grenades) are typically exchanged as well \([1]\). This is a brief overview of what is being exchanged between the consumers and distributors of these weapons.

The consumers of these weapons are usually small militant groups. These militant groups could be: rebel groups (African Rebels), pirates (Somalia), organized criminal groups. There are also larger establishments such as those in western Sudan known as the \textit{Janjaweed resurgence}. This has been a problem in western Sudan since 2003\([6]\). They use illegal weapons acquired from nations with minimal gun laws. The Janjaweed militia is only one example of the many other militant rebels all over Africa i.e. Zimbabwe and Libya. Not only is there a problem with rebel militias but piracy. Especially off the coast of east Africa in Somalia. The Somali pirates have been plaguing the Indian Ocean for a number of years. The United Nations stepped in during 2009 with the counter-piracy program (CPP) to help prevent the piracy \([4]\). Somali Pirates are armed and have been known steal weapons. It is a problem that pirate groups are getting their hands on these weapons.

Distribution:
The UN hasn’t been able to find which country is the major contributor to these illegal weapons.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2001-10 Rank</th>
<th>Supplier</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
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<td>5609</td>
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<td>5705</td>
<td>5236</td>
<td>6178</td>
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<td>855</td>
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</table>
China and Russia have been brought up multiple times due to their geographic location and production rates of guns. There has also been focus on the countries that are importing guns as well. The highest importing countries being India, Australia and South Korea. These countries are the ones believed to be funding the militias and the militant groups for money compensation and other goods. Some of these militias and militant groups trade diamonds and drugs for these guns. This has been a problem in Sudan and Libya. But in situations such as Mexico, guns are traded for survival and power.

**Nuclear Trade:**

History 101 (start of Nuclear war):

Nuclear warfare has been a problem since the early 1940’s when the U.S and German scientists produced the first nuclear bomb. A few years later, Russia then received that power and there was fear that Russia was going to fire the nuclear war head on the U.S.

Present:

Since the start of the Cold War multiple countries have received nuclear technologies. These countries are the United Kingdom, France, India, China, Iran, Japan and Libya[2]. There have been treaties proposed to the United Nations by the United States and Russia to destroy nuclear warheads.

“A new U.S.-Russia nuclear arms control treaty went into effect Saturday, securing a key foreign policy goal of President Barack Obama and raising hopes among officials on both sides that it will provide the impetus for Moscow and Washington to negotiate further reductions. (Fox News)”[11]
Some countries, such as Iran, are feared because of their unstable governments.

“The significance of an Iran with nuclear weapons capability is that it could create nuclear chaos in the Middle East, and lead to the use of the nuclear umbrella to encourage terrorism and irredentism, and the transfer of a dirty bomb to Manhattan and Europe” – Strategic Affairs Minister Moshe Ya’alon (Jerusalem Post)[12]

There is also fear of countries gaining nuclear power, including Pakistan (conflict with India) and North Korea (conflict with United States). With help from Russia and the United States the nuclear war is for the most part being controlled. China has also signed on with Russia and the US but not in full force.

**Prevention:**

Countries such as the United States and Russia have been real promoters of weapon awareness. The main focus of the U.S and Russia’s weapon prevention is nuclear weapons, which has been a major problem. The U.S and Russia have made many treaties to destroy their extra nuclear warheads. But the world has begun to realize there is a problem with weapon violence, illegal weapon trade and consumers of the weapons i.e militias, organized crime groups. As the world has realized this problem, it seems that these nations want to do something and have taken a step towards a solution. “NEW YORK – A spontaneous celebration erupted in the U.N. General Assembly after representatives of 192 member states unanimously ratified the Comprehensive Arms Ban Treaty. The treaty outlaws possession, production and trade of military equipment ranging from small arms to nuclear warheads” (New York Times)[5].

More must be done though!

**Solutions for thought:**

*Should the UN investigate countries for illegal distribution?*

*Is there anything more the UN can do as a whole?*

*Is it possible to help nations with illegal weapons?*

*Who is responsible?*

*More national law?*

Illegal Weapons sources:
1- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arms Trafficking
   a. http://www.thedailystar.net/2006/05/30/d6053001107.htm
   a. http://www.webcitation.org/5xO5sUkaL
7- https://www.google.com/search?q=zimbabwe
8- http://www.prio.no/NISAT/Publications/-Gathering-the-Facts-on-the-Small-Arms-Trade/
9- http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/6294242.stm
**Human Trafficking:**

Human Trafficking is a modern day form of slavery. The people being imported and exported are for forced slavery, sexual exploitation and reproductive slavery. Over 127 different countries participate in the illegal trafficking of humans. In some countries human trafficking is legal and practiced. The main persons targeted in the trafficking are women and children. Children usually for child labor and women for many different cases such as sex and forced labor. Human trafficking is becoming one of the largest criminal industries in the world. It is only second to illicit drug trafficking which is a billion dollar criminal industry. The United Nations has been helping in the fight to stop the illegal trafficking, but still has a long way to go. There are an estimated 30 million slaves in the world currently, more than there has ever been in any point of human history.

**The World:**

With over 120 different nations involved in the trade of human beings, the global community is responsible for its actions. Nations where human trafficking is illegal still have problems with trafficking. But in countries such as Somalia, which is the most recent country to have a problem with this, illegal human trafficking is not illegal. Therefore, this criminal industry can thrive off of those countries where is legal. But there are also countries like China where the human trade is only partially illegal. The UN has been cracking down. They have made human trafficking a crime against humanity. “It involves an act of recruiting, transporting, transferring, harboring or receiving a person through a use of force, coercion or other means, for the purpose of exploiting them. Every year, thousands of men, women and children fall into the hands of traffickers, in their own countries and abroad. Every
country in the world is affected by trafficking, whether as a country of origin, transit or destination for victims” [4]. The UN still needs to improve on international law. There are still over 30 million misplaced human beings that need help.

Human Trafficking Sources:
2-  http://www.humantrafficking.org/updates/872
3-  http://www.notforsalecampaign.org/about/slavery/

Discussion:
In the committee, international law and actions should be discussed. Research should be done on the countries where there is a high import and/or export of the human beings. Also represent countries correctly and on their views of every situation.