

Position Paper for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes

The topics before the UNODC are: (1) Drugs in Prisons and (2) Wildlife and Forest Crime. The Federative Republic of Brazil is deeply committed to emphasize the importance and relevance of combatting the dangers of substance abuse in prisons and the threat to the global community which the illicit trade of illegal products through wildlife and forest crime poses:

Topic 1: Drugs in Prisons

Incarceration on drug-related crimes has stood as a significant challenge for global prisons. Brazil's 204 million population consists of approximately 610,000 domestic prisoners, with nearly 20% convicted for drug-related crimes. Mainly consisting of small-scale drug dealers on first-time offenses, most of the prisoners come from Brazil's poorest sectors of society. The prisons continue to be packed with people accused of trafficking, an offset of the Brazilian policy which rejects imprisonment solely on personal consumption of drugs. The issue of drug usage in prisons requires UN involvement to ensure that subjects of the criminal justice system and members of their communities are kept safe from the dangers of prison drug usage and that people are able to recuperate from the drug-related offenses as members of society.

Internationally, the United Nations has established many resolutions and measures to try and control the drug crisis. The UN Conventions on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1956 and 1971 established legislation to prohibit production and supply of drugs without legal licenses, extended to include psychotropic substances. The UNGA Special Session (UNGASS) of Drugs established a 10-year strategy against drugs in 1998, crafting a political declaration to further international cooperation in addressing and targeting the problems with illicit drug usage. GA Resolutions A/S-20/4 and 51/64 strengthened the need for International action to combat drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking. Additionally, the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) created the Commission on Narcotics Drugs (CND) in 1946 to supervise control on the international drug treaties. Resolution 57/5 of the CND has called the UNGASS for a follow up on the international drug crisis for April of 2016, in which Brazil wishes to involve in crafting a resolution targeting decriminalization and humanitarian focus on the users.

According to the 2015 UNODC World Drug Report, Brazil is the larger exporter of drugs in South America, and approximately 3% of the population engages in illicit drug usage. Geography and large urban population are major factors accounting for the prevalence. Although the Penal Code outlines discretionary conviction of drug users from one to five years in prison and fines, Brazil believes in a drug control model focused on progressive and humanitarian focus on the user that maintains heavy sentences for drug traffickers. Article 28 of the Brazilian Penal Code and law 11343/06 outlines the decriminalization of drug usage and the rejection of mandatory prison sentences for users of illicit drugs, in the favor of alternative measures such as education and court-mandated public service. While Brazil has been charged with human rights violations within the penitentiary system, we do not wish to delegate large funds of money towards improving healthcare and living conditions of the incarcerated. Brazil looks towards financially sound methods of monitoring usage and precise classification of drugs within the republic.

The delegate from Brazil recognizes the need for action against the spread of drug usage in prisons and wishes to draft a resolution minimizing the voluntary imprisonment of addicts and creates harsher regulations for drug trafficking. Brazil also looks towards implementing screening policies for visitors and convicts, as well as international educative programs on the dangers of drug usage.

Topic 2: Wildlife and Forest Crime

Home to 60% of the Amazon Rainforest, accounting for one-tenth of all species in the world, Brazil is considered to have the greatest biodiversity of any country on the planet. On a yearly basis, around 38 million animals are illegally removed from their natural habitats and 4 million are sold, accounting for 15% of the international trade. Poaching and illegal trading of flora and fauna has existed since man has found ways to capture products and gain money out of the trades. This issue requires UN involvement to protect the lives and habitats of countless animals and protect the world in which we live in for the future generations to come.

Internationally, the United Nations has begun to combat the issues in illicit wildlife trade, but the specification and implementation of the resolutions are sometimes lacking. The 1972 UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) helped unite the world with the goal of bringing international cooperation to stop exploitation of wildlife. Representatives from CITES, INTERPOL, UNODC, the World Bank, and WCO have united to design strategy towards combating illegal trade – hence forming the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCCWC). Countless other organizations and NGOs have been created to further the fight against wildlife and forest crime, but there is a grave need for stronger legislation and enforcement of these policies.

Brazil has crafted legislation justifying capturing and selling of wild animals an illegal practice, but the practice is nevertheless prevalent with an illegal transport network similar to that of drug and arms traffickers. But, legislation often seriously lacks in specifications and methods for enforcement and high level corruption makes executing environmental policies extremely difficult. It is essential that the international community unites to isolate and eliminate these illegal activities for the preservation of the invaluable natural resources and biodiversity of our planet. Brazil demands a global solution to the global problem.

The delegate of Brazil suggests a three pronged plan of Explication, Education, and Enforcement in order to fight wildlife and forest crimes as a global community. One, there is a need for explication in the policies of environmental legislation, specifically being on punishments for traffickers and detailing limits for involvement in protected areas and animal poaching. Two, public education on the crimes taken in order to secure the products and the illegal activities involved must be known. Education will hopefully help reduce demand, diminishing the market for the goods and deterring criminals. Three, enforcement of legislation created to target the crisis and detailed strategies on how to enforce policies are necessary to create policy that can effectively target the problems. Brazil looks forward to a future free of wildlife and forest crimes, and hopes to create a multifaceted resolution to target the crisis in wildlife and forest crimes through a method fit for nations with different economical resources through joint efforts by the international community.

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