

# **CM Model UN Drug Task Force Background**

## **Guide: US Government and Mexican**

### **Government**

Chairs: Seamus Scamby, Andrew MacDonald, Paul Feehily, Gus Bernard, Thomas Grady



### **Letters from the Chairs:**

**Seamus Scamby '26** - Hello delegates, this is my second year being a part of CM Model UN and I am excited to help chair for the first time at this conference. I am involved in some clubs at CM, including Spanish Honor Society, Peer Ministry, Chess Club, and I also throw javelin. I am thrilled to hear everyone's opinions on this topic and have some good debating. Good luck to all of you today. I hope you have fun and come to a good solution.

**Andrew MacDonald '26** - Hello delegates, I am a new member to the CM Model UN, yet I am eager to chair this committee and listen to your country's stance. I am also a member of the Speech and Debate team, Choir, Scholars, Peer Ministry, Wrestling team, Rugby team, Robotics team, School Play, and television station. As an active member of my school's community, I look forward to chairing this discussion of the drug trade in Central and Southern America. I wish you all good luck today and hope to hear some valid points.

**Paul Feehily '26** - My fellow delegates, I am happy to help host this room with both Seamus and Andrew. This is my first year in CM Model UN and I am involved in many clubs throughout CM including speech and debate, peer ministry, and choir. I encourage you all to step out of your comfort zone, and truly immerse yourself in this unforgettable diplomatic experience.

**Thomas Grady '25** - My fellow delegates, I am pleased to be your chair for this council and am looking forward to some insightful and good quality debate. I implore all of you to take full advantage of this opportunity to engage with the topic as well as engage with your peers in debate and discussion and hopefully drafting a resolution.

**Gus Bernard '25** - My fellow delegates, I am eager and delighted to serve as your co-chair for this conference. This is a deeply interesting and engaging topic not often touched upon in Model

UN that is a very real and very current issue. This is an amazing opportunity to become well informed on a vital and lesser-known issue that has become more present in different facets of modern political, social and moral debate and I encourage you to approach it formally, intellectually and responsibly but use it as an opportunity to have fun and learn new things no matter where you are in your model UN career.

If you have any questions email us:

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## **Introduction**

The drug crisis within the United States and South America is a complex issue that has impacted politics on a global scale. Beyond politics, it is an issue of law enforcement, involving economic, social, and political challenges that make finding solutions difficult. The central question is whether international cooperation can tackle the core problems of drug trafficking and its many consequential issues, or if the cycle of political danger will continue.

South America, especially countries like Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia, is a major producer of illegal drugs such as cocaine and Mexico is a key entry point. Drug cartels in these areas benefit from this trade, leading to political corruption and violence. For many communities, growing coca, the plant used to make cocaine, is a crucial source of income. This makes it hard for governments to eliminate drug production without worsening poverty (International Crisis Group).

The United States has a large population of consumers of illegal drugs, causing a demand for drug trafficking through Central America and Mexico. This drug trade has created a dangerous network of violence throughout the region (DEA). The U.S. has spent billions on anti-drug programs like Plan Colombia, working with local police and military forces to stop drug production. However, some believe these efforts focus too much on enforcement and not enough on addressing the economic issues that fuel the drug trade.

The crisis also has a humanitarian side, with addiction affecting many Americans. The opioid epidemic has caused many deaths and strained healthcare services. Meanwhile, Latin American countries suffer from the social and economic damage caused by drug-related violence, which has led to increased migration to the U.S. and strained relations (NIH).

Both the U.S. and South American countries want to reduce drug trafficking, but their priorities vary. The U.S. often emphasizes stopping drug production, while South American leaders are calling for a shift in drug policies, including possible decriminalization and harm reduction (Csete).

In this Model United Nations committee, we will discuss these challenges and look for solutions that address both the immediate and long-term issues through the lens of the United States and Mexican government officials. Through diplomatic discussions, we aim to find a balance between the affected regions and bring an end to the drug crisis

### **Background/Past Actions**

Drug abuse remains a significant issue in our society today, and the United Nations has acknowledged this challenge by stating: “The Convention aimed to combat drug use through coordinated international intervention. It is intended to limit the possession, consumption, trade, distribution, import, export, manufacture and production of drugs only for medical and scientific purposes” (United Nations). Furthermore, the document suggests that they are currently fighting drug abuse, as well as the traffickers that bring the drugs into the country. The United States and United Nations commitment to addressing the issue of narcotics is long. In 1972, the United Nations held a conference in Geneva, where “the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs was modified by the Protocol amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs” (United Nations). During 1971, The Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 was held. This convention was adopted was adopted at a UN conference in 1971 in Vienna.

## Overview

“According to US estimates, some 70% of the cocaine leaves Colombia via the Pacific,” (United Nations) according the UN. It obviously recognizes this gargantuan problem and responded to it by organizing a “Regional Experts Meeting” in Costa Rica during 2009 to discuss possible action in Central America over the course of 2009-2011. The “Programa de UNODC para el reforzamiento del plan de acción de la estrategia de seguridad en Centroamérica y México” was adopted by the UN in Nicaragua on June 23-24 2009. The goal of this program was to aid in the Central America and Mexico Security Strategy Action Plan. The Central America and Mexico Security Strategy Action Plan was held to strengthen “the reasonable balance of forces, the security of persons and of their property, the elimination of poverty and extreme poverty, the promotion of sustainable development, the protection of the environment, and the elimination of violence, corruption, impunity, terrorism, drug trafficking, and arms trafficking.” Furthermore, during the 31st meeting of the Central American Security Commission, it was agreed that Central America and the United Mexican States would continue their dialogues on security (Waly).

## **United States and Partner Governments’ possible solutions to the drug trafficking crisis**

### *United States Government*

1. **Demand:** The large market for illegal drugs would not exist, and the continuation of production would not continue, unless there was a strong demand from users and consumers throughout the United States struggling with drug abuse.
2. **Monitoring drugs:** Deploy law enforcement throughout Mexico and at the U.S/Mexico border to track drug trade and transaction to slow down business.

3. **Treatment:** Develop programs in communities as an attempt to lower drug use by warning people of the effects and aiming to lower drug demand. Offer better opportunities for treatment programs to help citizens of the United States of America. Drugs are a crime issue and a health crisis; there needs to be a fix to improve the epidemic of drug abuse. Programs can help struggling users and reduce harm with clean supervised injection sites for safe drug use. Accessible “Narcan” in drug heavy zones can prevent overdose death and the spread of AIDS and HIV. A potential solution could investigate this issue of self-medication in order to stop it. An effective solution to the drug trade problem will address mental health issues by having social programs for the youth, and drug education and prevention programs in public and at schools.
4. **Increase security:** Collect data to make interventions and to attempt to slow down these criminal organizations. Improve the technology at the border by using surveillance, such as drones, chemical sensors, and artificial intelligence detection software to disrupt illegal drugs from entering the United States. Stop online sales of drugs on digital marketplaces and the dark web to stop the issue of cybercrime. Track money laundering and freeze assets during transactions involving cartels.

## **Mexican Government**

1. **Corruption:** Corrupt cartels control almost all the drugs. Cartel members commit crimes and participate in illegal activity. The Sinaloa cartel is a great but unfortunate example. Sinaloa cartel members murder thousands every year, and their drug and human trafficking raises a concern for citizens and government. Some related issues include corrupt police and bribery of government officials. The Sinaloa cartel instills fear in others by the violence they cause with their mass amounts of weapons.

2. **Lower production:** Deploy military forces in coca environments to protect the environment and slow down production of cocaine, which has increased in recent years. Create new job opportunities and give economic assistance to struggling Mexican farmers so that they don't grow drugs like coca leaves and poppy plants as their crops. Combat Mexican labs producing synthetic opioids like fentanyl and track their supply of drug chemicals from China. Fix the pollution and the environment in rural Mexico.
3. **Deal with large level cartels:** Deploy military and police to stop cartels in order to counter violent crime, protect human rights by cracking down on human trafficking, and to control the supply and slow the flow of illegal drugs being transported. Arrest high-status cartel members.
4. **Help Mexican citizens:** Strengthen and reform Mexican law to stop trafficking, poverty, and to protect human rights. Stop the drug violence and empower civil society to work together to stop this scourge. Fix this issue long term while preventing further violence.

### **Both United States and Mexican governments**

**Change laws and policies:** Decriminalize or legalize low level drugs across the border and allocate more money towards rehabilitation programs and treatment instead of punishment and incarceration. Long term prison does not solve problems so try to heal former gang members with rehab instead of prison and increase addiction treatment access. Work together and strengthen the Merida initiative to combat drug trafficking, crime, and to improve law.

## **US Government Roles:**

### **1. President of the United States – Joe Biden**

- As President, Biden focuses on tackling the opioid crisis through prevention, treatment, and harm reduction. His personal experience with his son's addiction shapes his empathetic approach to the nation's drug problem.

### **2. Vice President of the United States – Kamala Harris**

- Harris, with a background as a prosecutor and Attorney General, supports drug decriminalization and reforms to treat addiction as a public health issue, pushing for alternatives to incarceration.

### **3. Attorney General – Merrick Garland**

- Garland oversees the Department of Justice, focusing on law enforcement efforts to disrupt major drug trafficking while emphasizing rehabilitation for non-violent offenders.

### **4. Director of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) – Anne Milgram**

- Milgram leads the DEA's fight against drug trafficking, with a focus on fentanyl and opioid smuggling. She works to dismantle drug cartels and improve public safety.

### **5. Secretary of Homeland Security – Alejandro Mayorkas**

- Mayorkas secures U.S. borders to prevent drug smuggling, particularly along the southern border. He collaborates with other agencies to stop the flow of illicit drugs.

### **6. Surgeon General – Vivek Murthy**

- Murthy addresses the opioid epidemic by raising public awareness and advocating for better addiction treatment and mental health services.

### **7. Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) – Dr. Rahul Gupta**

- Gupta coordinates federal efforts to reduce drug overdose deaths, expand treatment access, and tackle the root causes of addiction, drawing on his experience in West Virginia.

## **8. Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) – Christopher Wray**

- Wray leads the FBI in investigating drug trafficking organizations and works with international and domestic agencies to curb the illegal drug trade.

## **9. Governor of California – Gavin Newsom**

- Newsom prioritizes progressive drug policies, balancing marijuana legalization with efforts to combat the opioid crisis through treatment and harm reduction programs.

## **10. Governor of West Virginia – Jim Justice**

- Justice governs a state hit hard by opioids and focuses on increasing access to treatment and collaborating with federal agencies to address the drug epidemic.

## **11. Mayor of New York City – Eric Adams**

- Adams tackles drug-related crime and promotes harm reduction strategies such as safe injection sites, while advocating for police reform to handle non-violent drug offenses.

## **12. U.S. Senator – Dick Durbin**

- Durbin chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee and advocates for sentencing reform, alternative drug treatment programs, and expanded addiction services.

## **13. U.S. Senator – Elizabeth Warren**

- Warren supports holding pharmaceutical companies accountable for their role in the opioid crisis and pushes for increased federal funding for addiction treatment and recovery.

## **14. Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – Mandy Cohen**

- Cohen leads efforts to research and prevent drug addiction, focusing on harm reduction and addressing social factors that contribute to addiction.

## **15. U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services – Xavier Becerra**

- Becerra oversees federal healthcare programs and works to expand access to addiction treatment services, particularly through Medicaid.

**16. U.S. Representative – Nancy Mace**

- Mace advocates for marijuana legalization and reforming drug laws to prioritize rehabilitation over incarceration for non-violent drug offenses.

**17. U.S. Representative – Jim Jordan**

- Jordan supports stricter enforcement of drug laws and advocates for increased resources to combat drug trafficking and opioid distribution.

**18. Director of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) – Troy Miller**

- Miller leads efforts to stop the smuggling of illegal drugs at U.S. borders, working closely with other law enforcement agencies to prevent trafficking.

**19. National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Director – Dr. Nora Volkow**

- Volkow conducts research on addiction and advocates for evidence-based treatment methods, emphasizing that addiction is a disease, not a moral failure.

**20. Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) – Dr. Robert Califf**

- Califf oversees the regulation of prescription opioids and works to ensure that non-addictive treatments are available while holding pharmaceutical companies accountable.

**21. Director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) – Tae Johnson**

- Johnson targets international drug smuggling organizations and collaborates with other agencies to combat transnational crime related to drug trafficking.

**22. Sheriff of Maricopa County, Arizona – Paul Penzone**

- Penzone leads efforts to combat drug trafficking in Arizona, focusing on border-related drug crime and supporting treatment for non-violent offenders.

**23. Sheriff of Cook County, Illinois – Tom Dart**

- Dart advocates for treating drug addiction as a public health issue and supports rehabilitation programs in jails, helping to reduce recidivism related to drug use.

## **24. Director of the National Guard Bureau – General Daniel R. Hokanson**

- Hokanson oversees the National Guard's support in combating drug trafficking, particularly along the U.S.-Mexico border, providing additional resources to law enforcement.

## **Mexico Government roles:**

### **1. President of Mexico – Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO)**

- As the President of Mexico, AMLO is responsible for leading the country's fight against the drug cartels. His administration focuses on reducing violence and corruption while balancing social programs to address poverty, which fuels cartel activity.

### **2. Secretary of National Defense – Luis Cresencio Sandoval**

- General Sandoval leads the Mexican armed forces in the battle against powerful drug cartels. He is tasked with coordinating military operations in regions where cartels dominate, ensuring both public safety and national security.

### **3. Attorney General of Mexico – Alejandro Gertz Manero**

- As Attorney General, Gertz Manero oversees the prosecution of drug-related crimes and corruption. His office works to bring cartel leaders to justice and improve the legal framework to combat organized crime.

### **4. Secretary of Public Security and Citizen Protection – Rosa Icela Rodríguez**

- Rodríguez oversees Mexico's public security policies, including police reform and reducing cartel violence. She leads efforts to strengthen law enforcement and protect citizens in cartel-dominated areas.

### **5. Governor of Sinaloa – Rubén Rocha Moya**

- Sinaloa is home to one of Mexico's most notorious cartels, and Governor Rocha Moya faces the difficult task of improving public safety while addressing the economic challenges posed by cartel control.

## **6. Governor of Jalisco – Enrique Alfaro Ramírez**

- As the leader of Jalisco, Alfaro deals with the influence of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG), one of Mexico's most dangerous cartels. His priority is to reduce violence and restore peace in his state.

## **7. Head of the Mexican National Guard – General Luis Rodríguez Bucio**

- General Bucio leads Mexico's National Guard, which plays a key role in combating drug cartels. His forces are deployed in conflict zones to fight organized crime and provide security for communities.

## **8. Secretary of Foreign Affairs – Marcelo Ebrard**

- Ebrard handles Mexico's international relations, especially in working with other countries to address cross-border drug issues. He negotiates cooperation agreements on security and anti-drug initiatives.

## **9. Secretary of Health – Jorge Alcocer Varela**

- As Secretary of Health, Alcocer Varela focuses on public health issues related to drug addiction. He develops policies to treat and rehabilitate individuals affected by drug abuse, addressing the health consequences of the drug crisis.

## **10. Governor of Michoacán – Alfredo Ramírez Bedolla**

- Michoacán is one of the regions most affected by drug production and cartel violence. Governor Ramírez Bedolla must combat the influence of cartels and support local communities impacted by drug-related conflict.

## **11. Governor of Tamaulipas – Francisco García Cabeza de Vaca**

- Tamaulipas, bordering Texas, is a key battleground for cartel smuggling routes. Governor Cabeza de Vaca focuses on improving law enforcement and security at the state's border to prevent cartel activity.

## **12. Governor of Veracruz – Cuitláhuac García Jiménez**

- Veracruz is a vital transit point for drug traffickers, and Governor García Jiménez is tasked with combating corruption and improving safety in the region. He focuses on cutting off cartel smuggling routes.

### **13. Head of the Financial Intelligence Unit – Pablo Gómez Álvarez**

- Gómez Álvarez leads efforts to investigate and disrupt the financial operations of drug cartels. His job is to track money laundering and cut off the financial lifelines that allow cartels to continue their activities.

### **14. Mexican Senator – Ricardo Monreal**

- As a prominent Mexican senator, Monreal is involved in shaping legislation to fight drug trafficking and strengthen law enforcement. He advocates for reforms aimed at reducing cartel power and improving security.

### **15. Chief Justice of the Mexican Supreme Court – Arturo Zaldívar**

- Chief Justice Zaldívar oversees Mexico's judiciary and plays a critical role in ensuring that drug traffickers and corrupt officials are prosecuted. His leadership is crucial for upholding justice in drug-related cases.

### **16. Mayor of Mexico City – Claudia Sheinbaum**

- As the leader of Mexico's largest city, Sheinbaum focuses on urban safety, including efforts to prevent drug trafficking and address drug-related crime in the city. She also works on addiction prevention and treatment programs.

### **17. Head of the Mexican Federal Police – Óscar Aparicio Avendaño**

- Aparicio leads the federal police force, which is heavily involved in counter-cartel operations. His forces are responsible for investigating and arresting drug traffickers and ensuring security in high-risk areas.

### **18. Governor of Chihuahua – María Eugenia Campos Galván**

- Chihuahua, which shares a border with the U.S., is an important region for drug smuggling. Governor Campos focuses on reducing cartel violence and maintaining security in the border region.

### **19. Secretary of the Navy – José Rafael Ojeda Durán**

- Admiral Ojeda commands Mexico's naval forces, which are crucial in stopping drug trafficking by sea. His role involves intercepting drug shipments and protecting Mexico's coastlines from cartel activities.

## **20. Director of Mexican Intelligence Agency – Audomaro Martínez Zapata**

- Martínez Zapata leads intelligence efforts to track down drug cartels and monitor their activities. His agency collects and analyzes information on cartel movements, helping law enforcement plan effective operations.

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