The Winchester School Jebel Ali

General Assembly 1

Strengthening international cooperation to combat transnational organised crime

Letter from the Chairs

Dear Delegates,

We are delighted to extend our warmest welcome to all of you to the General Assembly 1 - DISEC committee at the WINMUN (Model United Nations) conference. It is with great enthusiasm that we anticipate your active participation in this committee, which promises to be both challenging and rewarding.

The DISEC committee plays a vital role in addressing pressing global issues related to drug control, crime prevention, and international cooperation. The topics we have chosen for this conferences are of utmost importance and relevance in today's world. We believe that your contributions to the discussions and debates in this committee will be instrumental in devising effective solutions to these complex issues.

Here at WINMUN, we are committed to providing you with an intellectually stimulating and diplomatically engaging experience. We encourage you to conduct thorough research on the topics at hand and to engage in constructive dialogue with your fellow delegates. Remember that the success of this committee relies on your dedication, teamwork, and innovative thinking.

Throughout the conference, our Dias team will be at your disposal to assist and guide you in your deliberations. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions or concerns you may have. Our goal is to ensure that you have a productive and memorable experience at WINMUN. In addition to the formal sessions, we have also planned various social events and networking opportunities to help you forge connections with fellow delegates and enjoy the conference to the fullest.

We look forward to witnessing the solutions and resolutions that will emerge from the UNODC committee during WINMUN. Your contributions will undoubtedly have a lasting impact on the global issues we discuss.

Once again, welcome to WINMUN, and we wish you the best of luck in your preparations and debates. Let us work together to make this conference a resounding success.

Best Regards,
Dias GA1
Asher Jude, Avanthika Varma, Nicholas Mathews

Vocabulary

1. **Human trafficking**: is a global crime in which men, women and children are used as products for sexual or labour-based exploitation. Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labour or commercial sex act.

2. **Organised crime**: criminal activities that are planned and controlled by powerful groups and carried out on a large scale.

3. **Mutual Legal Assistance**: This term is crucial for effective collaboration between countries in legal matters, including sharing information and evidence. It emphasises the importance of legal cooperation in addressing transnational organised crime and ensures that legal processes are streamlined across borders

4. **Transnational organised crime:** The TOC involves coordinated illegal activities crossing national borders, orchestrated by sophisticated criminal networks, often engaged in trafficking, money laundering, and illicit enterprises for financial gain.

5. **Cybersecurity**: the practice of protecting computer systems, networks, and data from digital attacks, theft, and damage. Enhancing cybersecurity measures is crucial in addressing the growing threat of transnational cybercrime

6. **Money Laundering**: the process of making illegally obtained proceeds (such as from drug trafficking or corruption) appear legal by passing them through a complex sequence of banking transfers or commercial transactions.

Introduction to Agenda

In addressing the urgent global challenge of transnational organized crime, the General Assembly 1 assumes a pivotal role for fostering international collaboration. Recognizing the escalating threats posed by criminal networks operating across borders from drug trafficking to cybercrime; the imperative to strengthen global cooperation has never been more crucial. This agenda emphasises the understanding that a unified, coordinated effort is essential, involving nations deeply impacted by transnational crime, including major players such as the United States, China, and Russia. As the committee convenes, its objectives focus on forging alliances, improving information exchange mechanisms, and crafting collective strategies to dismantle criminal networks. Nations worldwide, including those facing disproportionate challenges such as Mexico and Italy, must unite under the banner of the General Assembly 1 to fortify international solidarity against the issue of transnational organised crime

Background of the Agenda

Starting in the 1970s, but accelerating in the early 1990s, a new form of organised crime took hold. The combination of a new geopolitical climate, a globalised world economy and resulting softer borders, and a revolution in information technology available to crime groups hastened a shift. Crime groups changed from domestic organised crime groups that were regional in scope and hierarchically structured to criminal organisations that are global and transnational in nature, increasingly networked with other criminal groups, and often flatter in structure. The fictionalised images of organised crime are far from the truth. The reality is less Hollywood and far more about fluid organised criminal networks profiting from the sale of illegal goods, etc wherever there is a demand. These international illegal markets are anonymous and more complex than ever and each year generate billions of dollars.

Key Stakeholders

1. **Russia** - Russia has been forced into the unpalatable position of depending on foreign aid and investment given massive capital flight and the wholesale plundering of its natural resources by its oligarchs. An overarching national security concern is the involvement of Russian organized crime in the nuclear black market. Russian organized crime groups pose a unique law enforcement challenge, jeopardizing public safety throughout the world through their transnational criminal enterprises. Worldwide money laundering activity from Cyprus to the Cayman Islands and from Vanuatu in the Pacific to Venezuela; the assassination of American businessman Paul Tatum in Moscow; financial scams in New York; car theft rings in Europe; narcotics trafficking and money laundering alliances with Colombian and Nigerian drug lords and the Italian mafia represent but a few of the tentacles extended by Russian organized crime networks throughout the world. Currently 200 large Eurasian criminal organizations operate worldwide and have formed alliances with their criminal counterparts in 50 countries (including 26 U.S. cities).

2. **United States of America**: The United States is a significant consumer market for illicit drugs. The demand for illicit drugs in the United States fuels the power, impunity, and violence of criminal organisations around the globe. Transnational criminal organisations are involved in drug trafficking to meet this demand significantly Mexican DTOs which cause escalated violence and the expansion of drug trafficking. Criminal networks and illicit arms dealers also play important roles in the black markets from which terrorists and drug traffickers procure some of their weapons illegally into the United States as a report by the UN in 2010 states unrecorded illicit transitions make up more than 100 million dollars which was almost 15% of the market. illicit arms fuel the violence that undermines security and causes increased transnational organised crime in the USA and worldwide. The department of justice states that 29 international drug trafficking organisations were associated with terrorist groups causing a surge in transnational organised crime and has been used as a network for people to illegally smuggle drugs and weapons into the USA making it a major hub for transnational organised crime activities in recent times

3. **China** - China is a crucial stakeholder in the agenda "Strengthening international cooperation to combat transnational organized crime" due to its significant role in addressing various challenges associated with cross-border criminal activities. The country faces issues such as drug trafficking, cybercrime, and transnational criminal networks. Given its global economic influence and extensive diplomatic ties, China's active participation in international collaboration is pivotal. Strengthening cooperation with China is essential for developing comprehensive

strategies to combat transnational crime effectively. As a key player in the international arena, China's engagement and commitment contribute to the overall success of initiatives aimed at disrupting and dismantling organised criminal networks operating across national borders. This collaboration can foster information sharing, coordinated law enforcement efforts, and the development of effective legal frameworks to counter transnational organised crime.

Key Issues

1. **Penetration of State Institutions, Corruption, and Threats to Governance:**

Developing countries with weak rule of law can be particularly susceptible to TOC penetration.. The apparent growing nexus in some states among TOC groups and elements of government—including intelligence services—and high-level business figures represents a significant threat to economic growth and democratic institutions. In countries with weak governance, there are corrupt officials who turn a blind eye to TOC activity. TOC networks insinuate themselves into the political process in a variety of ways. This is often accomplished through direct bribery (but also by having members run for office); setting up shadow economies; infiltrating financial and security sectors through coercion or corruption; and positioning themselves as alternate providers of governance, security, services, and livelihoods. As they expand, TOC networks may threaten stability and undermine free markets as they build alliances with political leaders, financial institutions, law enforcement, foreign intelligence, and security agencies.

2. **Expansion of Drug Trafficking**:

Despite demonstrable counterdrug successes in recent years, particularly against the cocaine trade, illicit drugs remain a serious threat to the health, safety, security, and financial well-being of Americans. The demand for illicit drugs, both in the United States and abroad, fuels the power, impunity, and violence of criminal organizations around the globe. In West Africa, Latin American cartels are exploiting local criminal organizations to move cocaine to Western Europe and the Middle East. There have also been instances of Afghan DTOs operating with those in West Africa to smuggle heroin to Europe and the United States. Many of the well-established organized criminal groups that had not been involved in drug trafficking—including those in Russia, China, Italy, and the Balkans—are now establishing ties to drug producers to develop their own distribution networks and markets. The expansion of drug trafficking is often accompanied by dramatic increases in local crime and corruption, as the United Nations has detected in regions such as West Africa and Central America.

3. Illicit Weapons Trafficking

As of 2017, civilians possessed an estimated 857 million firearms globally, with only 12% reported as registered. Latin America, recognized as one of the world's most violent regions, has experienced a surge in firearm availability. The influx ofweapons, especially assault firearms following the expiration of the US federal assault weapons ban in 2004, has been linked to a rise in homicides. Conflict zones, often repositories for weapons from past civil wars, sustain the circulation of firearms with extended life cycles. Criminal elements gain access to these weapons, employing them for acts of violence domestically and internationally. Firearms empower criminal groups by facilitating struggles for dominance, intimidating state actors, extorting communities, executing robberies, and engaging in various criminal activities.

<u>4. Rise of cyberattacks and cybercrimes</u>

Advancements in technology, particularly globalisation and digitization, are reshaping illicit markets and the landscape of transnational organised crime. The emergence of cryptocurrencies has added a layer of complexity, rendering illicit financial flows more challenging to trace. The intricate nature of cybercrime is further made worse by the active involvement of organised crime groups, making it a borderless threat . Perpetrators and victims of cybercrime are often located in different regions, with the repercussions affecting societies globally, necessitating an urgent, dynamic, and international response. Ransomware, used by criminal groups, has already resulted in over 2 million attacks worldwide, illustrating the scale of the issue. In some African countries like Tunisia and Libya, the struggle to combat data breaches orchestrated by criminal groups has led to a surge in transnational organised crime. The prevalence of this form of organised crime has notably increased since 2020 and continues to rise,due to technological advancements in the world.

<u>5. Corruption & Bribery;</u>
Corruption and bribery are pervasive issues within the context of transnational organized crime, presenting formidable challenges to international cooperation. Transcending borders, corrupt practices undermine the effectiveness of law enforcement and judicial systems, allowing criminal networks to operate with impunity. Corruption may involve officials facilitating the movement of illicit goods, tipping off criminal organizations, or obstructing investigations. Bribery further exacerbates the problem, as criminal enterprises exploit financial incentives to secure protection or leniency. Strengthening international cooperation to combat transnational organized crime requires a concerted effort to address corruption and bribery at both national and international levels. Implementing robust anti-corruption measures, promoting transparency, and fostering a culture of integrity within law enforcement agencies are essential steps toward dismantling the collusion between criminal elements and corrupt practices that hinder the global fight against organized crime.

<u>6. Human Trafficking;</u>

Human trafficking involves the illegal trade and exploitation of individuals across borders, primarily for forced labor, sexual exploitation, and other forms of modern slavery. This complex crime undermines human rights, security, and global stability. To address human trafficking effectively, international collaboration is imperative. Key efforts should include sharing intelligence on trafficking networks, harmonizing legal frameworks, and implementing comprehensive victim protection measures. Strengthening cross-border law enforcement operations, awareness campaigns, and supporting vulnerable communities are essential components of a multifaceted strategy. Through unified action, countries can dismantle

trafficking networks, prosecute perpetrators, and protect the rights and dignity of victims, thereby mitigating this egregious form of transnational organised crime.

Questions to consider

- What role can corruption play in relation to transnational organised crime?

- How can the use of technology be maximised to create platforms that facilitate collaboration among law enforcement agencies globally to combat transnational organised crime?

- How can countries strengthen their border security measures to prevent the illegal movement of people, goods, and funds associated with transnational criminal activities?

Past UN Actions

1. **United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC):**
   UNTOC enables cooperation between member states for tackling international organized crime. All member parties to the convention must take measures including: Creating domestic criminal offences, for example, participating in an organized criminal group, money laundering, obstructing justice, corruption, etc.The Convention provides new possibilities and frameworks for law enforcement agencies to coordinate their efforts, including trans-border intelligence-sharing and joint investigations.It is highly adaptable in providing effective responses since its definition of transnational organized crime is broad enough to encompass new and emerging forms of crime. It has detailed measures to combat money-laundering; go after plundered assets; and to end banking secrecy.

2. **UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC);**
   The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), established in 2003, plays a pivotal role in the agenda of "Strengthening international cooperation to combat transnational organized crime." UNCAC provides a comprehensive framework for addressing corruption, a pervasive element within transnational criminal activities. The convention emphasizes preventive measures, criminalization, and international cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of corruption-related offenses. By promoting transparent financial systems, extradition, and mutual legal assistance, UNCAC contributes directly to the overarching goal of combating organized crime across borders. Its relevance lies in fostering collaboration among member states, aligning legal frameworks, and facilitating the exchange of information and best practices—essential

components in the shared effort to dismantle transnational criminal networks and mitigate the impact of corruption on global security and stability.

Developing effective strategies to combat radicalization and extremism through countering violent extremism (CVE) programs

Vocabulary

1. **Radicalization**: the action or process of causing someone to adopt radical positions on political or social issues. Radicalisation is the process through which a person comes to support or be involved in extremist ideologies. It can result in a person becoming drawn into terrorism and is in itself a form of harm.

2. **Extremism**: the holding of extreme political or religious views; fanaticism. Extremism is essentially a political term which determines the activities that are not in accordance with norms of the state, are fully intolerant toward others, reject democracy as a means of governance and the way of problem solving and also reject the existing social order.

3. **Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)** - programs and strategies aimed at preventing individuals from becoming radicalized and engaging in violent activities.

4. **Intervention Programs:** Initiatives focused on reaching out to individuals who are already radicalized or at risk of radicalization, with the goal of redirecting them away from extremist ideologies.

5. **Disengagement and Rehabilitation:** Supporting individuals who have disengaged from extremist activities through rehabilitation programs aimed at their reintegration into society.

Introduction of the Agenda

In an era marked by the pervasive influence of digital communication and increasing geopolitical complexities, the imperative to confront radicalization and extremism has become paramount. This agenda undertakes the formidable task of developing nuanced and effective strategies to combat these pressing challenges, with a particular emphasis on Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) programs. By delving into the multifaceted dimensions of radicalization, this initiative seeks to identify comprehensive approaches that not only address the immediate threats posed by extremism but also tackle its root causes. Through a synthesis of cutting-edge research, collaborative partnerships, and evidence-based interventions, the agenda aspires to forge a path toward fostering resilience, promoting inclusivity, and ultimately mitigating the allure of extremist ideologies.

Background of the Agenda

The agenda of developing effective strategies to combat radicalization and extremism through Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) programs is rooted in the historical context of increasing global threats posed by extremist ideologies. The post-9/11 era witnessed a surge in terrorist activities, prompting nations to address the root causes of radicalization. This issue has evolved over time, with notable incidents like the rise of ISIS and the spread of extremist propaganda online. Governments and international organisations recognize the urgency to counter radicalization through comprehensive CVE programs. These initiatives aim to prevent the recruitment and radicalization of individuals by addressing socio-economic factors, promoting community engagement, and leveraging technology to counter extremist narratives. The historical progression of this problem underscores the necessity for adaptive and evidence-based strategies to mitigate the evolving nature of extremism, making CVE programs an imperative component in global security efforts.

Key Stakeholders

1. **Nigeria:** Nigeria is a pivotal stakeholder in global efforts to combat radicalization and extremism through Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) programs, primarily due to the persistent threat posed by the Boko Haram insurgency. The country's engagement in CVE initiatives reflects a commitment to addressing the root causes of radicalization, with a focus on socio-economic factors, community resilience, and interfaith dialogue. Given the regional impact of Boko Haram, Nigeria's collaborative approach with neighboring countries and international partners is crucial for effective counterterrorism measures. The government's commitment is evident through policy initiatives and resource allocation, underscoring the nation's dedication to promoting security and stability. Nigeria's experiences contribute valuable insights to the global community, emphasizing the importance of community engagement, regional cooperation, and adaptive strategies in countering the complex challenges posed by extremism.

2. **Afghanistan:** Afghanistan currently hosts a variety of religious groups, ranging from violent extremist groups such as the Taliban and the militant wing of the political party Hezb-e Islami Gulbuddin, Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan, to groups that may espouse similar ideologies and advocate violence against the state but do not have armed cadres and have not been directly linked to violent attacks against the state or its supporters. It is unrealistic to try to develop a single national CVE strategy for Afghanistan. Conditions vary considerably across Afghanistan, and grievances and messages are often context specific. Success requires identifying intermediaries who can reach out to populations vulnerable to extremist recruitment, or to extremist groups amenable to engagement.

3. **Libya**: Since the early 1980s, Libya has been prone to the proliferation of radicalization, extremism, and violent opposition against Gaddafi's authoritarian rule. The country's deepening political conflict, external interference and competition for control over oil

resources, has brought it to the brink of civil war. Despite successful Libyan-led efforts, including those by Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) groups, to combat ISIS in Sirte and other regions, the nation remains highly vulnerable. The CVE's investigation into Libyan society during the turbulent period of 2018-2020 revealed ongoing challenges. While CVE initiatives were initially directed against the Qadhafi regime in 2011, the weakness of governance in Libya has been exploited by jihadists affiliated with al-Qaeda and other extremist groups from the Sahel, leading to heightened conflict in the region due to the surge in extremism and radicalization.

Key Issues

1. **Online Radicalization and Propaganda;**
   In the digital age, online radicalization and propaganda have emerged as pivotal challenges in the fight against extremism. The internet and social media platforms provide a fertile ground for the rapid dissemination of extremist ideologies, enabling recruitment and radicalization on a global scale. Extremist groups adeptly utilize these platforms to spread propaganda, exploit vulnerable individuals, and coordinate activities. Addressing this issue requires a multifaceted approach that combines technological solutions, such as content moderation algorithms and cooperation with social media companies, with regulatory measures to counter the online presence of extremist content. Moreover, fostering digital literacy and resilience among users is essential to empower individuals to critically evaluate information and resist the influence of extremist narratives. Effectively countering online radicalization and propaganda is paramount in disrupting the recruitment pipeline and preventing the further dissemination of dangerous ideologies in the interconnected world of the internet.

2. **Poverty**:
   However effective the CVE programs are, as long as socioeconomic factors like poverty exist it will be difficult to ensure the efficiency of CVE programs. The impact of poverty on radicalization is often described in structural terms. For instance, families with limited resources are forced to enroll their children in madrassas, the cheapest form of education available, even though parents know there is a risk their children will become radicalized. Individual interviews revealed that illiteracy usually meant ignorance, rather than strictly the inability to read and write. For example, respondents tended to mention illiteracy in the context of potential extremist recruits not having enough education to distinguish right from wrong or the ability to determine when extremists are putting forward inaccurate religious messages.

3. **Discrimination and Victimisation**:
   In many diaspora (and particularly Muslim) communities, there are widespread and deeply held concerns that CVE policies are a mechanism for profiling and discrimination, according to John Hick, Medical Director for Emergency Preparedness and Deputy Chief EMS Medical Director, Hennepin County Medical Center, and other participants. Rondon argued that CVE must address the problem of people feeling alienated because they are being targeted and victimised, not in a sense, but in actuality. She called for law enforcement accountability and oversight with hate crime enforcement policies, as well as investment into education and infrastructure. Jensen also suggested that counternarratives and programs should be put in place to address such feelings of community victimisation, but warned that because of common biassing mechanisms, certain audiences may not be responsive to the message.

4. **Growth of Youth Extremism and Radicalization:**
   Youth radicalization and extremism present formidable challenges in the real world, as young individuals become susceptible to extremist ideologies, often fueled by online propaganda and social, economic, or cultural grievances. This global issue has the potential to disrupt social cohesion, contribute to community polarization, and pose a serious threat to global security. For instance, groups like ISIS target vulnerable youth, exploiting their search for identity and purpose. Online platforms serve as powerful tools for radicalization, providing accessible spaces for extremist narratives to flourish. In northern Africa, countries have targeted the youth to foster extremist ideologies, leading to conflicts and civil wars in the region. Young men in Africa have been instrumentalized to foment conflict and overthrow governments through extremism and radicalization. This global challenge is exacerbated as the surge in youth radicalization creates a substantial crowd for CVE efforts to address.

5. **Authotrain Environments Countering Violent Extremism (CVE):**
   encounters substantial challenges in authoritarian settings characterized by restricted political freedoms and suppression. In China, the government's censorship and constraints on freedom of speech create an atmosphere where individuals with grievances struggle to express concerns peacefully. The absence of open dialogue and independent civil society spaces poses difficulties for CVE programs in addressing underlying causes, engaging communities, and presenting alternative narratives to counter extremism. Similarly, in Uzbekistan, an authoritarian regime's historical suppression of political opposition and independent civil society adds complexity to CVE efforts. Transparent operation and addressing socio-political factors contributing to radicalization become challenging. The suppression in authoritarian states causes the CVE to be less efficient as they are unable to tackle the root causes of the issue. In such countries, the effectiveness

of CVE is significantly diminished, making the global fight against radicalization and extremism more challenging.

Questions to Consider

1. How can online radicalization and propaganda be effectively countered, considering the pervasive influence of the internet and social media in spreading extremist ideologies?

2. What factors affect the level of radicalization and extremism in different countries?

3. What community-based initiatives can be implemented to foster dialogue, inclusivity, and resilience, empowering local communities to resist and prevent radicalization?

Past UN Action

1. **The Global Programme on PCVE-** The Global Programme on PCVE delivers globally informed and locally tailored capacity building across five key portfolio areas, with a focus on human rights and gender mainstreaming, and on developing sustainable partnerships in support of PCVE coordination. The Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) builds the capacity of beneficiaries and partners to become more resilient to violent extremism and reduce the threat of terrorism. It has 5 parts.

2. **Un recognition of the WPS agenda in CVE measures** In 2015, the Security Council adopted resolutions that highlighted in particular the importance of including women and youth in CVE strategies. The Council's resolution 2242 (2015) urges Member States and the United Nations system "to ensure the participation and leadership of women and women's organizations in developing strategies to counter terrorism and violent extremism." It also encourages States to consider ways to increase inclusive representation of youth in decision-making at all levels in local, national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflict, including institutions and mechanisms to counter violent extremism.

3. **Global Terrorism Compact;** The Global Counter-Terrorism Compact is a collaborative framework initiated by the United Nations to strengthen international efforts in preventing and countering terrorism. This compact serves as a platform for member states to enhance coordination, share best practices, and collectively address the complex

challenges posed by terrorism. Through the compact, the United Nations facilitates cooperation among nations, regional organizations, and various UN agencies, fostering a comprehensive and integrated approach to counter-terrorism strategies. The initiative encompasses a range of measures, including addressing the root causes of radicalization, promoting international cooperation in law enforcement, and supporting capacity-building initiatives to enhance the ability of member states to respond effectively to the global threat of terrorism.

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