# Study guide of CMR MUN

# **UNODC**



### **Letter from the Executive Board**

The Executive Board would like to welcome all delegates participating in UNODC at CMRCET-MUN. We are excited to guide and lead the committee through the simulations and discussions. Before diving into the topic of debate, it is essential to conduct research and gather information to understand the issues better. This Study Guide will serve as a starting point, providing an abstract and objective approach to the topic to help inform your personal research and national perspectives.

We have given possible research topics that we expect you to research and come to committee sessions.

We look forward to working with you and creating thoughtful, impactful resolutions.

Regards

Bharadwaj Y.S.N- (chairperson) Syed Wasif Hussain- (Vice Chair) Shreya Sairi-(Rapporteur)



## **Introduction of Committee**

The UNODC, established in 1997 through the merger of the UN Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention, is now considered a global leader in combating illicit drugs and international crime. With offices worldwide, the organization relies heavily on voluntary contributions, primarily from governments, for 90% of its budget.

The UNODC's mandate, as outlined in the Millennium Declaration, is to assist member states in their efforts against illicit drugs, crime, terrorism, and transnational crime in all its forms. The organization's work is divided into three main areas of support: field-based technical cooperation projects to address critical situations, research and analytical work to enhance understanding of relevant issues, and normative work to assist governments in implementing international treaties and declarations, as well as developing local legislation.

#### **UNODC's programs address various issues such as:**

- Organized crime and trafficking of all types to assist member states in addressing the
  destabilization caused by these types of crimes, including cybercrime and
  environmental crime.
- Corruption by working with the public and private sectors, as well as civil society, to dismantle corrupt systems and recover assets stolen by corrupt officials.
- Crime prevention and criminal justice reform to promote the adoption of measures that ensure a fair criminal justice system that respects human rights.
- Drug abuse prevention and health to change the perception of drug use through educational campaigns and scientific research.
- Terrorism prevention to effectively support entities dealing with cases of terrorism.



## **Introduction to Agenda**

Organized crime is considered to be a changing and flexible phenomenon. Many of the benefits of globalization such as easier and faster communication, movement of finances and international travel, have also created opportunities for transnational organized criminal groups to flourish, diversify and expand their activities. Traditional, territorial-based criminal groups have evolved or have been partially replaced by smaller and more flexible networks with branches across several jurisdictions. In the course of an investigation, victims, suspects, organized criminal groups and proceeds of crime may be located in many States. Moreover, organized crime affects all States, whether as countries of supply, transit or demand. As such, modern organized crime constitutes a global challenge that must be met with a concerted, global response.

Drugs are related to crime in multiple ways. Most directly, it is a crime to use, possess, manufacture, or distribute drugs classified as having a potential for abuse. Cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and amphetamines are examples of drugs classified to have abuse potential. Drugs are also related to crime through the effects they have on the user's behavior and by generating violence and other illegal activity in connection with drug trafficking.

Drugs are controlled because they are harmful, not because they are harmless. This was stated by Antonio Maria Costa, United Nations Under-Secretary General and Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in his statement to the opening of the Commission of Narcotic Drugs at its 52nd session in 2009. Despite many efforts to combat the problem, drugs continue to be a major issue in modern society, negatively impacting individuals in many ways and threatening the sovereignty, security and economic, social and cultural structure of society. As Guillermo Plazas Alcid, a senator of Colombia, said in 1988, drugs threaten the health and well-being of individuals, spread corruption, and undermine sustainable human development and generate crime. It affects all sectors of society in all countries, particularly young people.

While laws that are standardized may not necessarily be the best solution for addressing the specific needs of each country, uniformity is crucial in order to safeguard the multilateral system from actions taken by a single state that could compromise the integrity of the entire system. A balanced and multilateral approach is essential when addressing the issue of drugs, as well as its numerous subtopics such as alternative development for regions where drugs are produced. This approach aims to provide farmers with safe and legal options and the open market.

The village of Keo Pratu in Vietnam serves as an example of the challenges faced by farmers in the opium crop cultivation. Xai Kur, a 67-year-old farmer from the village, shared his frustration with the opium crop his family has grown for the past century. He testified in a UN General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem in 1998 saying, "It's getting harder and harder to sell, and recently district officials have made it clear that anyone caught selling opium will go to jail. The risks are just too high."

Through the years, the international community has come to understand that in order to curb drug cultivation, government control over the territory must be re-established to bring security and promote development. This approach aims to eradicate drugs and poverty, but it can be difficult to implement as narcotic plants are often grown on marginal land in remote areas. Additionally, the income earned from these crops is generally higher than any alternative food or cash crops which could be grown on the same land.

## **Drug trafficking**

The illicit drug trade is one of the most well-known and widely addressed issues by organized crime in recent decades. To regulate the various activities related to drugs, including production, distribution, and possession for medical and scientific purposes, there are three international drug control conventions in place.

The 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, which was later amended in 1972, combined previous multilateral treaties and established the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) to oversee more than 120 narcotic drugs. The main objective of the convention was to ensure a sufficient supply of drugs for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion into the illicit market and abuse.

The Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 expanded the international drug control system to include certain psychotropic substances such as hallucinogens, central nervous stimulants, and sedative-hypnotics.

Lastly, the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 further expanded the control regime to include substances frequently used in the illegal production of controlled drugs (precursors) and focused on the increasing problem of transnational trafficking, as well as strengthening the framework for international cooperation in criminal matters, including extradition and mutual legal assistance. These three conventions enjoy broad global support, and therefore reflect and promote international consensus and cooperation against illicit drug trafficking. Since international drug control has long been a priority, in 1946 the Economic and Social Council established Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), the central policy-making body of the United Nations in drug related matters. The Commission continues to meet annually to address international drug control issues and common strategies (UNGA, 2016). For instance, the Commission decides whether new substances should be included in one of the schedules or tables of the three drug control conventions and if there are moving across or deletions in the schedules and tables.



### Market trends

In recent decades, there has been a concerted global effort to monitor the illicit drug market, including tracking the production and trafficking of drugs, as well as government interventions. As a result, data on the cultivation and seizures of controlled drugs and on trends in drug use is available, providing a useful overview of the extent of drug trafficking in recent years (UNODC, 2017; UNODC, 2019).

Although drugs continue to be a major source of revenue for organized criminal groups, their business models are evolving. Criminals are utilizing new technologies and networks, such as the Darknet, which are changing the nature of the illicit drug trade and the types of players involved (UNODC, 2017). For example, organized criminal groups operating in virtual networks tend to have looser ties and are organized in horizontal structures as opposed to traditional vertical or hierarchical structures. Additionally, smaller groups are becoming more significant, and fewer groups are exclusively dedicated to drug trafficking, as many also operate in other illicit sectors. Law enforcement agencies have been successful in infiltrating and shutting down several Darknet drug markets (such as Alpha Bay, Hansa, Wall Street Market, etc.) in recent years, which has led to a potential decline in the proportion of users purchasing drugs on the Darknet in 2018, particularly in North America, Oceania, and Latin America (UNODC, 2019).

- The 2019 World Drug Report estimates that in 2017 over a quarter of a billion people had used drugs at least once in the previous year. Overall, drug consumption has increased by 30% between 2009 and 2017 from 210 million to 271 million -, in part as a result of global population growth, with higher prevalence over time of the use of opioids in Africa, Asia, Europe and North America, and in the use of cannabis in North America, South America and Asia. Over the last decade, there has been a diversification of the substances available on the drug markets. In addition to traditional plant-based substances, such as cannabis, cocaine and heroin, the dynamic market for synthetic drugs substantially grew together with the non-medical use of prescription medicines.
- Regarding drug supply, the same UNODC Report highlights that cannabis continues to be the most widely produced drug worldwide and this market is undergoing transition and diversification in countries that allow non-medical use of cannabis. Global coca bush cultivation showed a clear upward trend over the period 2013-2017l, increasing by more than 100 per cent. Estimated global illicit manufacture of cocaine reached an all-time high of 1,976 tons in 2017; in the same year, about 70 per cent of the area under coca bush cultivation was located in Colombia, 20 per cent in Peru and 10 per cent in the Plurinational State of Bolivia. At the same time, the global quantity of cocaine seized in 2017 increased by 13 per cent from the previous year, helping to keep cocaine supply in check even though cocaine use is on the rise in North America and Western and Central Europe. 2018 saw a decline in the cultivation of opium poppy, primarily as a result of a drought in Afghanistan which nonetheless was again the country responsible for the vast majority of the world's illicit opium poppy cultivation and opium production in that year.

- As for the global synthetic drugs market, it is generally more complex to study for a number of reasons. First and foremost, the information on synthetic drug manufacturing is more limited than that available on plant-based drugs (cocaine, opiates and cannabis) and this is largely due to the fact that synthetic drugs can be manufactured anywhere, as the process does not involve the extraction of active constituents from plants that have to be cultivated in certain conditions for them to grow. The challenges in tracking synthetic drug production prevents an accurate estimation of the volume of the corresponding market worldwide. Nevertheless, data on synthetic drug seizures and drug use suggest that the supply of synthetic drugs is expanding. In 2017, South-East Asia emerged as the world's fastest-growing methamphetamine market, while North America's synthetic opioid overdose crisis reached new heights, with over 47,000 opioid overdose deaths recorded in the United States which were largely attributed to substances such as fentanyl and its analogues. Meanwhile, West, Central and North Africa are currently experiencing a crisis of tramadol, another synthetic opioid which has been used as a painkiller for decades (UNODC, 2019).
- Recent data shows that the number of new psychoactive substances that are synthetic opioids, mostly fentanyl analogues, reported on the market has been rising at an unprecedented rate: from just 1 substance in 2009 to 15 in 2015 and 46 in 2017, while the overall number of these substances present on the market stabilized at around 500 per year over the period 2015-2017 (UNODC, 2019). New psychoactive substances, or NPS, are those "substances of abuse, either in a pure form or a preparation," that are not controlled by the 1961 or 1971 Conventions, "but which may pose a public health threat" (UNODC, 2018). The term "new" does not necessarily refer to the fact that they are new inventions several NPS were in fact first synthesized over 40 years ago but to substances that have recently become available on the market. Since NPS are not controlled under the international drug control conventions, their legal status can differ widely from country to country. Many countries have implemented domestic legal responses to control certain NPS, and some have adopted controls on entire groups of NPS not explicitly and individually listed in the legislation, by using a generic approach of "chemical similarity" to a substance already under control by national law.

## **Challenges and Opportunities**.

Research on international drug trafficking has shown that weak law enforcement and corruption are significant factors that keep the illicit market resilient. Corruption is present throughout the drug supply chain, from production and trafficking to distribution, and it affects a wide range of institutions including eradication teams, law enforcement agencies, the criminal justice system, and the health sector (for example, when users can access drugs through corrupt doctors and pharmacists) (UNODC, 2017).

The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have highlighted how corruption perpetuates poverty by discouraging foreign investment and increasing income inequality, which is known to fuel drug consumption and create a cycle of crime and instability (World Bank Group, 2017). Additionally, there have been reports linking certain terrorist groups, such as the Taliban and non-state armed groups, to the drug trade (UNODC, 2017).

Tracking the financial flows of the drug market has proven to be a practical approach to combating drug trafficking. Profits drive the illicit drug market and identifying the flows related to those profits as well as the investment and money laundering channels, can serve as effective countermeasures (GLOU40 Global, 2017; Soudijin, 2016; UNODC, 2015). Furthermore, strengthening international cooperation in preventing and countering money laundering can reduce or eliminate illicit activities' negative economic and social consequences.



### **CND**

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) was established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 1946 to assist in the supervision of the application of international drug control treaties. In 1991, the General Assembly expanded the CND's mandate to also serve as the governing body of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The CND's agenda includes two segments: a normative segment for fulfilling treaty-based and normative duties and an operational segment for serving as the governing body of UNODC.

The CND meets annually and adopts various decisions and resolutions. Intersessional meetings are regularly held to provide policy guidance to UNODC. The Commission also meets at a reconvened session towards the end of each year to consider budgetary and administrative matters as the governing body of the United Nations drug program.

In 2019, the Commission adopted the Ministerial Declaration on strengthening actions at the national, regional, and international levels to accelerate the implementation of joint commitments made to jointly address and counter the world drug problem. In the Declaration, Member States resolved to review the progress made in implementing the policy commitments in the CND in 2029, with a mid-term review in 2024. The Commission is currently working on the follow-up to the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, with the aim of accelerating the implementation of all international drug policy commitments.

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## **Questions:**

- o How could alternative development programmes include environmental preservation?
- o What could be used as means to identify and map illegal drug plantations in developing countries, which, sometimes, do not have the necessary technologies?
- o Which kind of informative programmes could be implemented in countries at risk in order to prevent the local people from falling into illegal cultivations?

What are the current hurdles in combatting organised crime?

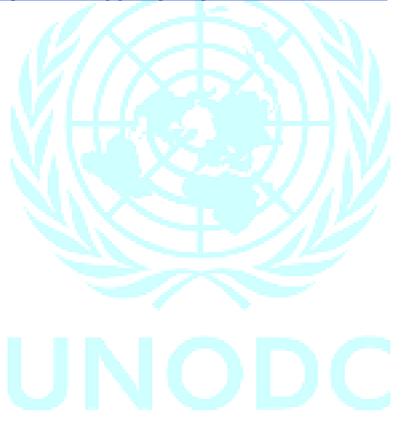
Theory of the relationship between drugs and crime?

How should UNODC aid in curbing the possession of drugs? Is legalization of certain drugs a potential solution?



## **Reference Links:**

- <a href="https://www.unodc.org/e4j/mun/resources/organized-crime.html">https://www.unodc.org/e4j/mun/resources/organized-crime.html</a>
- <a href="https://www.unodc.org/e4j/zh/organized-crime/module-3/key-issues/drug-trafficking.html">https://www.unodc.org/e4j/zh/organized-crime/module-3/key-issues/drug-trafficking.html</a>
- <a href="https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/index.html">https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/index.html</a>
- https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/Digitization/123362NCJRS.pdf
- http://www.un.org/ga/20special/presskit/themes/altdev-6.htm



### Introduction

## Agenda 2:

## Discussing money laundering and financing of the non-state actors.

Defining the financing of terrorism is complex as it can come from a variety of sources, both legal and illegal. Terrorist organizations may raise funds through legitimate means such as donations and business or charitable organizations, as well as through illicit activities like drug trafficking, smuggling, kidnapping, extortion, counterfeiting, and fraud. Additionally, terrorist groups may invent new ways of obtaining capital, like luxury goods and services or use legitimate businesses to fund their activities. It is important to note that the intentions behind the financing also play a role, as it is crucial to determine if the subject is deliberately supporting terrorist acts or organizations. Therefore, a comprehensive approach to addressing the financing of terrorism should take into account not only the provision but also the solicitation and collection of funds, making it illegal.

Terrorist organizations primarily acquire financial resources through criminal means. The specific methods used may vary depending on the region, but common illegal activities include drug trafficking, smuggling of weapons and goods, kidnapping, extortion, counterfeiting, and fraud. A clear definition is necessary to effectively address the issue of financing terrorism.

Nonetheless, terrorists invent new ways of obtaining capital, which can be legitimate or semilegal. They provide luxury goods and services, such as diamond trading or real-estate investments. Else-ways in Northern Ireland paramilitary groups use hotels, pubs and taxi operators to fund their political activity. Secondly great emphasis should be put on the intentions. Although in some cases it might be the hardest aspect of the problem to judge, it is crucial to make sure that the subject deliberately supports those who encourage, plan and engage in terrorist acts or organizations.

To summarise,, the most recent definition of financing of terrorism according to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism states that a person commits the crime of financing of terrorism if they, by any means, directly or indirectly, unlawfully and wilfully, provide or collect funds with the intention or knowledge that they will be used to carry out an offense covered by the Convention.

## **Financing**

While financing of terrorism and money laundering are interconnected, they are distinct concepts. Money laundering is primarily focused on concealing the origin of proceeds from criminal activities, while financing of terrorism is focused on the usage of the funds and not necessarily the source. Both activities involve the illegal use of the financial sector, and similar frameworks can be used to combat them. However, it is important to note that the main focus of UNODC is to combat terrorism and cutting the channels of finance for terrorism and all solutions should be aimed at reducing financial support to terrorist organizations. And should also look for potential solutions to aid curbing terrorism.

In 2000, the Fund responded to calls from the international community to expand its work in the area of anti-money laundering (AML) in general and concerning the abuse of Offshore Financial Centers (OFC) in particular by initiating an OFC assessment program and exploring how it could incorporate AML work into its activities, especially Article IV surveillance and the newly-established Financial Sector Assessment Program (FSAP).1 Work on developing an AML Report on Standards and Codes (ROSC) module was ongoing when the tragic events of September 11, 2001 intensified the efforts and broadened their scope to include combating the financing of terrorism (CFT). Within about a year, the Fund was already actively at work assessing member countries compliance with the international standard developed (and subsequently fundamentally revised) by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), as well as providing technical assistance on how to improve AML/CFT regimes. This preliminary experience was favorably evaluated by the Board, which in March, 2004, decided to incorporate AML/CFT assessments and AML/CFT technical assistance into the Fund's regular work and continue to make AML/CFT assessments a mandatory ROSC in every FSAP and OFC assessment.



## History

The threat of terrorism has grown significantly with the development of the modern financial sector in the 1990s. To combat this threat, the international community began to take steps to combat money laundering in order to deprive criminal organizations of the means to operate. Initially, this framework targeted drug cartels, but it soon became apparent that terrorism was also a significant problem. As terrorist organizations became more powerful and wealthy, they became a threat to public safety, and the number of terrorist attacks increased. The issue of financing of terrorism came to the forefront after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. In today's increasingly globalized world, it is essential to have modern and effective approaches to combat this issue, considering the current technology and systems used in the financial sector.

Terrorist organizations have gained significant power and wealth, making them a threat to public safety. The number of terrorist attacks has risen over time. The issue of financing of terrorism gained prominence after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 in the United States. With the increasing globalization and interconnectedness of the world, it is important to have modern approaches to address this issue that take into account current technology and systems used in the financial sector.



## **Impacts**

Terrorism not only causes physical harm but also psychological harm to society. Economists around the world have attempted to estimate the impact of terrorist organizations. Many studies have been conducted to calculate the costs of terrorism. Even though the probability of a terrorist attack is low compared to other types of accidents such as car crashes or plane crashes, the potential residual risk is enormous. For example, the cost of organizing the 9/11 attacks for terrorists was around \$500,000, while the total losses for New York City (excluding loss of human life and trauma) was \$36 billion, which is 72,000 times more. The cost of damage as a consequence of the London underground bombings in 2005 is estimated to be around \$4 billion, while the cost for the terrorists was only \$12,000, which makes the damages 330,000 times more expensive. This highlights the fact that with small resources, it is possible to cause significant damage that can impact the economic growth of a country.

#### The process of Money laundering:

Money laundering is a crucial aspect in the development of counter financing of terrorism (CFT) policies, as terrorist organizations utilize the financial system to funnel illegally obtained funds. It's important to note that while money laundering is a subset of financing of terrorism, it warrants special attention. Below, we will present a mechanism for addressing money laundering (ML).

The International Monetary Fund defines money laundering as "any transaction or series of transactions that is designed to conceal the origin of proceeds derived from illegal activities, such as drug trafficking, terrorism, organized crime, murder, fraud, etc." The process of money laundering typically involves three stages:

**STAGE 1**: The initial step in money laundering is the placement of illicit funds into the financial system, often through cash deposits or checks. This is done to remove the money from the location of the crime.

#### STAGE 2:

The next stage involves a series of complex transactions to conceal the origin of the funds by adding multiple "layers" of manipulation. These actions are often conducted internationally to make it more difficult to trace the money. This is the stage where offshore mechanisms are most commonly used, such as false invoices, false loans, and other methods to mislead investigators about the origin of the money.

#### STAGE 3:

The final stage is integrating the illegal funds into the legitimate financial system so that the origin of the money cannot be distinguished. This is often done through the consumption of luxury items, investments in assets such as shares and real estate, and investments in businesses such as hotels, casinos, and restaurants, where cash payments are common and the origin of the money can be easily concealed.

Recognising suspicious activity is critical in CFT. Although each country considers different patterns of activity as indicators of the collection and movement of funds, there are certain universal criteria used worldwide.

These are 1 Transaction inconsistent with past deposits;

- 2 High volume transactions with no logical justification;
- 3 Corporate layering, which are transfers conducted through various accounts;
- 4 Lack of apparent fundraising activity, such as small donations to charities;
- 5 Usage of multiple accounts.

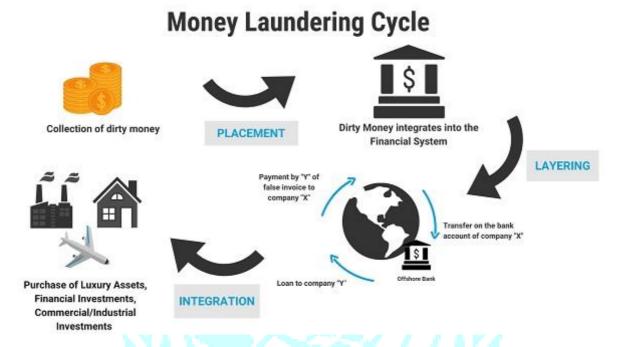
Yet, these examples of suspicious activity have to be analysed in the context of other factors, especially when considering the financing of terrorism. To sum up, when spotting FT often the main indicators of this process are international wire transfers, including foreign exchange operations. The delegates should also become acquainted with: PEP (Politically Exposed Persons) and Private Investment Companies or Shell Companies in the context of financing of terrorism.

#### How are Efforts to Combat Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism linked?

Money laundering is the process of concealing the illicit origin of proceeds of crimes. Terrorist financing is the collection or the provision of funds for terrorist purposes. In the case of money laundering, the funds are always of illicit origin, whereas in the case of terrorist financing, funds can stem from both legal and illicit sources. The primary goal of individuals or entities involved in the financing of terrorism is therefore not necessarily to conceal the sources of the money but to conceal both the funding activity and the nature of the funded activity.

Similar methods are used for both money laundering and the financing of terrorism. In both cases, the actor makes an illegitimate use of the financial sector. The techniques used to launder money and to finance terrorist activities/terrorism are very similar and in many instances identical. An effective anti-money laundering/counter financing of terrorism framework must therefore address both risk issues: it must prevent, detect and punish illegal funds entering the financial system and the funding of terrorist individuals, organizations and/or activities. Also,

AML and CFT strategies converge; they aim at attacking the criminal or terrorist organization through its financial activities, and use the financial trail to identify the various components of the criminal or terrorist network. This implies to put in place mechanisms to read all financial transactions, and to detect suspicious financial transfers.



### What are financial intelligence units?

Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) are specialized agencies established by governments to process financial information that may be related to criminal or terrorist activity. They play a crucial role in Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Counter Financing of Terrorism (CFT) regimes by receiving and analysing reports of suspicious transactions from financial institutions and other designated non-financial businesses (DNFBPs) and disseminating the resulting intelligence to local law enforcement agencies and other FIUs to combat money laundering. These units are typically government agencies that must maintain sufficient independence to achieve their objectives without undue interference or influence.

#### The Egmont

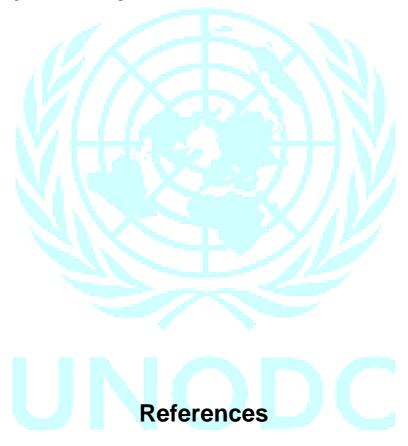
Group, an informal international association of FIUs, recognizes 101 countries as operational FIUs, with others still in development. The FATF 40+9 Recommendations also call for countries to have FIUs that meet the Egmont Group's definition.



#### The research points and Possible MOD topics:

- The above content gives you background of how these operations or transactions are carried out, how to counter needs to be discussed in the committee.
- Case studies of the rise of terrorist organisations and their history can help you understand the operational pattern of each terrorist organisation.
- How much funding does a Non state actor organisation need, to carry out an operation?
- What is the annual total earnings of terrorist organisations?
- What are the other bodies who combat with terror financing?
- What are the Global programmes partnered with UNODC for counter terror financing?
- What is the role of FTAF and how does it help UNODC?
- How do these organisations earn?
- What are the possible solutions to stop terror funding?
- How can countries contribute in limiting the funds that go into terror groups?

- Should special task forces need to be created to keep a track of all of these illicit transactions?
- Current status of Terrorism globally?
- Case studies on different terror groups like Boko haram, ISIS, Al-Nusra etc?
- Current efforts by international community in battling money laundering?
- Build strategies to counter money laundering and Financing?
- Discussing the current loop holes of the counter measures?



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fB8C7bj5bF0

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3nArL1nP1FI

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z4EMiESWOW4

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RunKSX00wtg&t=1s

https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/money-laundering/overview.html

https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/terrorism-and-illicit-finance

https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/funding-and-donors



A few aspects that delegates should keep in mind while preparing:

- 1. **Procedure:** The purpose of putting in procedural rules in any committee is to ensure a more organized and efficient debate. The committee will follow the UNA-USA Rules of Procedure. Although the Executive Board shall be fairly strict with the Rules of Procedure, the discussion of the agenda will be the main priority. So, delegates are advised not to restrict their statements due to hesitation regarding procedure.
- 2. **Foreign Policy:** Following the foreign policy of one's country is the most important aspect of a Model UN Conference. This is what essentially differentiates a Model UN from other debating formats. To violate one's foreign policy without adequate reason is one of the worst mistakes a delegate can make.
- 3. **Role of the Executive Board:** The Executive Board is appointed to facilitate debate. The committee shall decide the direction and flow of debate. The delegates are the ones who constitute the committee and hence must be uninhibited while presenting their opinions/stance on any issue. However, the Executive Board may put forward questions and/or ask for clarifications at all points of time to further debate and test participants.
- 4. **Nature of Source/Evidence:** This Background Guide is meant solely for research purposes and must not be cited as evidence to substantiate statements made during the

conference. Evidence or proof for substantiating statements made during formal debate is acceptable from the following sources:

- a. **United Nations:** Documents and findings by the United Nations or any related UN body is held as a credible proof to support a claim or argument. Multilateral Organizations: Documents from international organizations like OIC, NAFTA, SAARC, BRICS, EU, ASEAN, the International Criminal Court, etc. may also be presented as credible sources of information.
- b. **Government Reports:** These reports can be used in a similar way as the State Operated News Agencies reports and can, in all circumstances, be denied by another country.

#### c. News Sources:

- 1. **Reuters:** Any Reuters article that clearly makes mention of the fact or is in contradiction of the fact being stated by a delegate in council.
- 2. **State operated News Agencies:** These reports can be used in the support of or against the State that owns the News Agency. These reports, if credible or substantial enough, can be used in support of or against any country as such but in that situation, may be denied by any other country in the council. Some examples are RIA Novosti (Russian Federation), Xinhua News Agency (People's Republic of China), etc.

