



Cambridge Model United Nations Conference

Background Guide

Economic and Social Council

Combating the Production and Trafficking of Drugs in Afghanistan

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Distinguished Delegates,

I welcome you to the Economic and social Council at CAMUN'13.

Ambassadors, our responsibilities of being able to successfully perform our duties are immense. It is with great heartache that I am compelled to report, that as we proceed in this newborn decade, as we attest the development of world economies, we may also be approached by an imminent threat, the threat of an economic downturn; the prevention of which is amongst the principal duties of the ECOSOC.

It won't be disputed by many if one were to consider the ECOSOC amongst the most important agencies in the present day world. This for the simple reason that the ECOSOC will play an influential stakeholder in determining the face of our world tomorrow, the world our future generations will not only live in but also work with.

There lies no room for error; the world lays its blind faith in us.

The background guide is provided to you as a starting point for you to research and realize the magnitude of the situation of the world with respect to drug trafficking in Afghanistan. The agenda may sound regional but the kind of international relations that we're looking at in today's globalised world, you probably would be surprised to see how this affects the entire world at large.

The following kinds of documents (in the order of decreasing precedence) can be admitted as proof in council:

- UN Documents- reports by any UN body.
- State Reports- Any State's Report from their govt portals or State owned media
- Reuters reports on incidents- there are two probable problems with Reuters:
 - > Reports claiming to quote an individual from any govt will not necessarily reflect the govt's point of view in totality (should there be a disagreement in the two view points).
 - > Reuters reports in committee will be admitted as persuasive proof only, and a State is entitled to denying the basis of Reuters' investigative reports.
- For any definitions of terms in international law- definitions clearly defined only in Treaties and Conventions or ICRC rules of International Humanitarian Law shall be considered

Finally I'd like to point out that rules of procedure and diplomacy will be given priority in the conference and you are expected to uphold the same to represent your nation with utmost dignity.

Looking forward to a fruitful conference,

Kopal Dixit: Director

Introduction

“In recent years, drug trafficking has emerged as a leading threat to international peace and security. This sobering reality underscores three fundamental points:

First, drug trafficking is evolving into a graver threat that is affecting all regions of the world. It will require sustained political will and significant resources to counter this challenge.

Second, the transnational nature of the threat means that no country can face it alone. This fight requires a comprehensive international approach based on a strong sense of shared responsibility. States must share intelligence, carry out joint operations, build capacity, and provide mutual legal assistance. So far, cooperation between Governments is lagging behind cooperation between organized crime networks.

Third, we need a more balanced approach to drug control. Such an approach should focus on reducing demand for drugs and the harm done by them; on promoting alternative development and the rule of law at the source of the supply; and on disrupting trafficking routes.”

-UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon

This statement of the Secretary General highlights the grave nature of the narcotic drug related issue the world is facing.

Afghanistan's drug industry is a central issue for the country's state-building, security, governance, and development agenda. The major elements of Afghanistan's drug industry in addition to the rural household level are: opium trading, prices and market interactions, the nexus between drug trafficking and the informal financial transfer system (hawala), the organized crime dimension, and the macroeconomic implications of the opium economy and counter-narcotics measures. The UN has largely focussed on addressing the underlying problems feeding the violence in Afghanistan - problems like the country's burgeoning drugs industry. In 2007, Afghanistan's drug trade reportedly made up more than half of the country's economy, providing an astounding 90% of the world's opium, the raw ingredient of heroin.

The most important segment of the drug business is the manufacturing, trafficking and the abuse of narcotic drugs, such as Cannabis, Cocaine, Heroin and synthetic drugs.

Drugs can be naturally occurring, semi-synthetic (the production process involves the extraction of naturally occurring substances) or fully synthetic. Fully synthetic drugs can be produced anywhere, which makes production sites (small or large scale) very difficult to spot.

After the production process, the drugs are distributed all around the world and sold to users. The most common types of drugs are cannabis, cocaine, heroin, and amphetamine type stimulants such as methamphetamine (meth) or ecstasy.

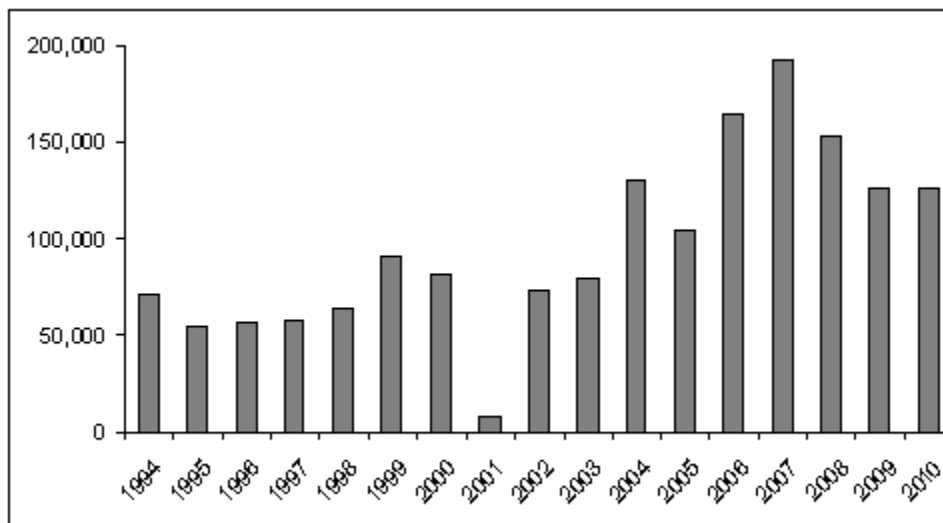
The opium economy in Afghanistan is not only threat to the social and political stability of the country, but also promotes growth of organized criminal and drug trafficking networks with strong links to international criminal networks. The drug trade in Afghanistan is managed based on the production of opiates in Afghanistan and demand for morphine/heroin in international markets.

Opium production in Afghanistan

1. Introduction:

The magnitude and importance of Afghanistan's opium economy and virtually unprecedented and unique in global experiences- it has been roughly estimated as equivalent to 36% of licit (i.e. non-drug) GDP in 2004/05, or if drugs are also included in the denominator, 275 of total drug inclusive GDP. The sheer size and illicit nature of the opium economy mean that not surprisingly, it infiltrates and seriously affects Afghanistan's economy, state, society and politics. It generates large amounts of effective demand in the economy, provides incomes and employment including in rural areas (even though most of the final "value" from Afghan opium accrues outside the country), and supports the balance of payments and indirectly (through Customs duties on drug-financed imports) government revenues. The opium economy by all accounts is a massive source of corruption and undermines public institutions especially in (but not limited to) the security and justice sectors. There are worrying signs of infiltration by the drug industry into higher levels of government and into the emergent politics of the country, Thus it is widely considered to be one of the greatest threats to state building, reconstruction, and development in Afghanistan.

OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION (1994-2007):



UNODC's (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) regular surveys, extensive data, and its 2003 comprehensive report (UNODC 2003) provide invaluable insights into the overall size and characteristics of the opium economy, and much good fieldwork has been done at the rural household level. There have also been general overviews like Ward and Byrd (2004). But the opium economy beyond the rural farm and household level remains very under-explored and under-researched, despite its obvious importance for Afghanistan's security, governance, and development agenda. As a result, counternarcotics policies and actions have had to cope with limited evidence base, further increasing the risk of mistakes in addressing what is enormously complex and difficult problem in the first place.

2. Opium markets and processing labs:

There is enough evidence to indicate that at least 139 opium markets and 90 heroin/morphine processing labs are operating within the country.

Processing Lab	Opium Market	Zone Name
25	13	Central and Eastern
1	37	Northern
19	19	North-eastern
27	26	Southern
18	44	Western
90	139	Total

The opium markets and laboratories operate in all times in year. The markets consist of 40 main, 80 local and 19 cross-border markets; the laboratories comprise 19 main, 70 local, and 1 cross border heroin/morphine processing labs. The main markets are located in central town of regions while the local markets are located in villages. Cross border opium markets are near to the main border crossing points.

Main players in the running opium market are the influential armed people, local commanders with indirect assistance from corrupt government officials. Processing laboratories and trafficking is controlled by the non-resident drug dealers. Opium industry is often protected through the cooperation from high rank government officials. The workers of these laboratories include trained Afghan nationals and as well as foreigners.

It is noted that morphine/heroin labs have moved inside Afghanistan in remote areas close to main markets. Previously these labs were operating along the borders. Crystal heroin labs are

mostly located near to the border points and lawless zones of South, South-West, East and Northeast parts of Afghanistan.

The morphine/ heroin production labs need simple equipments such as stove, iron barrel and locally made pressing machines with Jack. Such labs can be established in a small space of 1-2 rooms. Processing labs are hidden with restricted access to the people managing the lab and main market dealers. Mobile processing labs were also observed in east, south and western regions. Such labs are fixed on the back of trucks with large cylindrical containers and gas fire-stoves.

Drug Trafficking

Drug trafficking is a global illicit trade involving the cultivation, manufacture, distribution and sale of substances which are subject to drug prohibition laws. UNODC is continuously monitoring and researching global illicit drug markets in order to gain a more comprehensive understanding of their dynamics. Drug trafficking is a key part of this research. Further information can be found in the yearly World Drug Report.

At current levels, world heroin consumption (340 tons) and seizures represent an annual flow of 430-450 tons of heroin into the global heroin market. Of that total, opium from Myanmar and the Lao People's Democratic Republic yields some 50 tons, while the rest, some 380 tons of heroin and morphine, is produced exclusively from Afghan opium. While approximately 5 tons are consumed and seized in Afghanistan, the remaining bulk of 375 tons is trafficked worldwide via routes flowing into and through the countries neighbouring Afghanistan.

The Balkan and northern routes are the main heroin trafficking corridors linking Afghanistan to the huge markets of the Russian Federation and Western Europe. The Balkan route traverses the Islamic Republic of Iran (often via Pakistan), Turkey, Greece and Bulgaria across South-East Europe to the Western European market, with an annual market value of some \$20 billion. The northern route runs mainly through Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan (or Uzbekistan or Turkmenistan) to Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation. The size of that market is estimated to total \$13 billion per year.

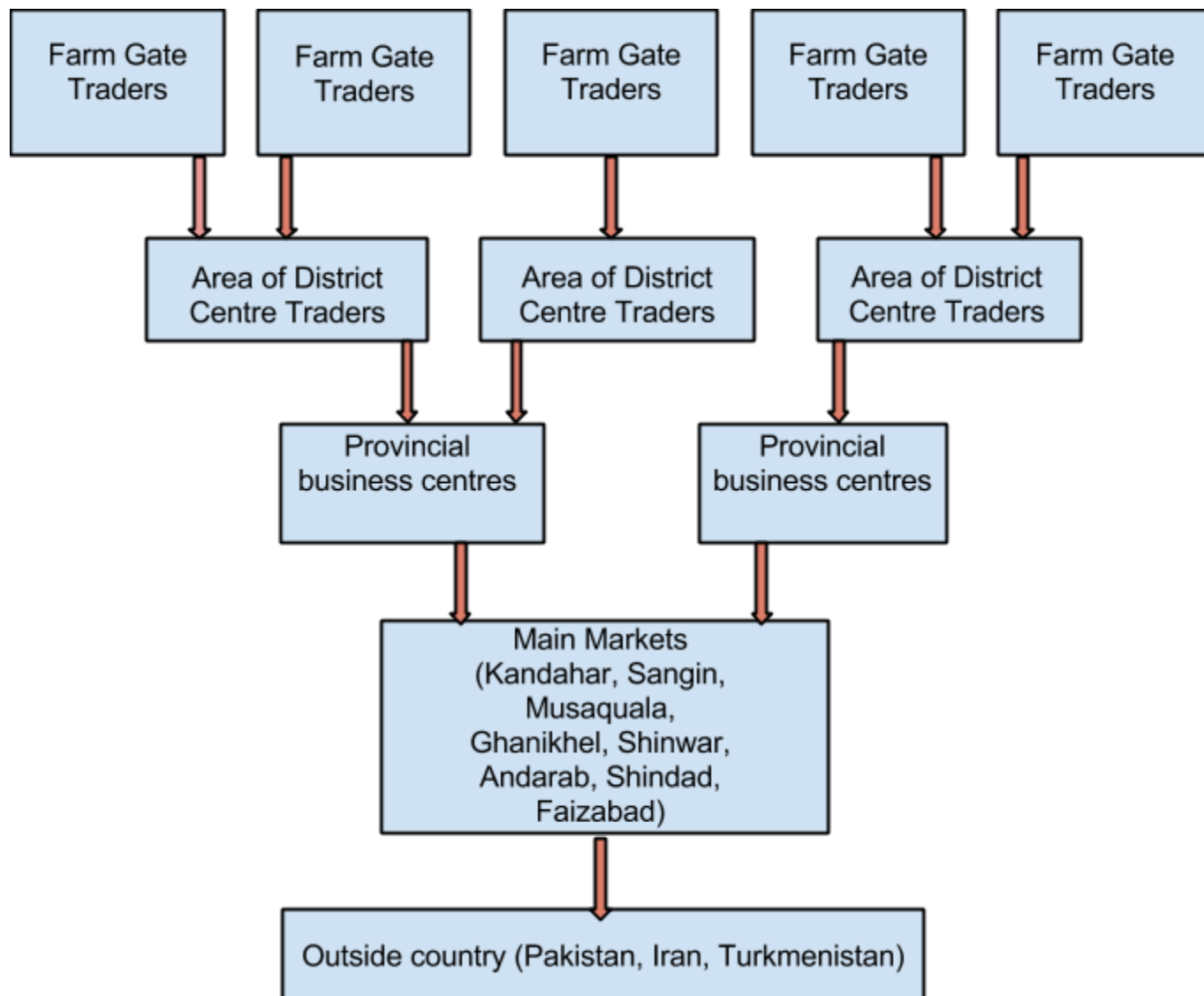
The drug trafficking in Afghanistan is managed based on the production of opiates in Afghanistan and demand for morphine/heroin in international markets. The smuggling routes from local storage centers to the main storage centers and to outside of the country often change due to counternarcotics operations along some of the main trafficking routes and at border crossings. About 98% opiate production of Afghanistan is exported to Central Asia, Iran and Pakistan and finally reaches the markets in Europe.

There are strong linkages between the international main business groups and the main dealers inside the country. There is active opium trading network operating systematically throughout the year, but more active during the cultivation and harvesting. Drug trafficking from the local and provincial markets to main markets, and finally to border crossing points takes place along remote trafficking routes and main roads. It is indicated that approximately 70% of drug trafficking has been taken place along the main roads, sustained by the strong support and involvement of the governmental authorities.

The trafficking routes, location of the opium markets and processing labs in Afghanistan (2007) is presented in the map. Table 4 provides summary of the findings about trafficking routes, cross border point locations for opium, heroin, morphine and cannabis.

Drug trade in Afghanistan

There is a strong linkage between the international main business groups and the main dealers inside the country (zonal dealers and farm gate dealers). The drug traders in Afghanistan can be categorized at four levels based on the area of operation. It is presumed that approximately 105,000 professional drug traders are actively functioning in the country.



Farm-gate traders: These traders operate between villages and district centers. These traders have close connections with poppy cultivators in villages. They are mainly from the community and they are approachable by the farmers. In most of the areas especially in north Afghanistan, some traders are working as Kamishankars. The Kamishankars are the people who collect opium from farmers supply to the district center dealers against the fixed amount of commission.

Area or district centre traders:

These traders provides liaison between provincial drug center traders and farm-gate traders. They control the frame-gate trading networks in the villages. They are commonly accessible to farm-gate traders and unknown to community members. Most of them are powerful people of area, specially the local commanders.

Provincial or zonal business center traders:

These traders operate from outside of the provinces/zones. They are called zonal market traders and operate as the central person managing the overall drug business in the related province or zone.

Main Market Traders:

These traders govern the overall drug business in the country. Main markets are located in Kandahar, Sangin, Musaqala, Ghanikhel, Shinwar, Andarab, Shindand and Faizabad. These traders have strong linkages with international trading networks and they are the focal point to facilitate drug trade outside the country.

Questions to address:

- 1) How can we strengthen border security to prevent trade of drugs?
- 2) What policies need to be formulated to ensure dismantling of drug trade and trafficking while keeping the economy and polity of the country stable?

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