CASMUNC 2026

UNODC

United Nations
Office on Drug
and Crime

Hello Delegates!

My name is Natalia Rodriguez, and it's a pleasure to serve as your Chair for the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (UNCND). I'm currently a Junior at Canterbury, and Model UN has been a significant part of my academic journey, shaping my passion for diplomacy, policy-making, and global health initiatives.

Outside of MUN, I am involved in several projects centered around advocacy and community impact. I am the founder of HerCare, an initiative focused on expanding education and awareness surrounding women's health. I also help lead MDs-to-Be, contribute actively to our UNICEF Club, and participate in Mock Trial and Congresso. Additionally, I serve as a Varsity Swim Team Captain, a role that has strengthened my teamwork, discipline, and leadership both in and out of the pool.

As your Chair, my goal is to create a committee space that is engaging, inclusive, and intellectually stimulating. The issues before the UNCND are complex and deeply interconnected with public health, human rights, and international cooperation. I'm excited to see the creativity, nuance, and diplomacy each of you brings to this room. Whether you're new to MUN or a returning delegate, I hope this committee offers you the chance to challenge yourself, think critically, and collaborate meaningfully.

I genuinely look forward to the discussions, solutions, and perspectives you'll bring. Let's make this an incredible committee experience together.

Rules of Procedure- CASMUNC

Quorum

A majority of voting members answering to the roll at each session shall constitute a quorum for that session. This means that half plus one of all voting members is present. Quorum will be assumed consistent unless questioned through a Point of Order. Delegates may request to be noted as “Present” or “Present and Voting.”

Motion to Suspend the Rules for the Purpose of a Moderated Caucus

This motion must include three specifications:
- Length of Cacus
- Speaking Time
-Reason For the Cacus

During a moderated caucus, delegates will be called on to speak by the Committee Director. Delegates will raise their placards to be recognized. Delegates must maintain the same degree of decorum throughout a Moderated Caucus as in formal debate. This motion requires a simple majority to pass.

Motion to Suspend the Rules for the Purpose of an Unmoderated Caucus

-This motion must include the length of the Caucus.

During an unmoderated caucus, delegates may get up from their seats and talk amongst themselves. This motion requires a simple majority to pass. The length of an unmoderated caucus in this GA committee should not exceed twenty minutes.

Motion to Suspend the Meeting

This motion is in order if there is a scheduled break in debate to be observed. (ie. Lunch!) This motion requires a simple majority vote. The Committee Director may refuse to entertain this motion at their discretion.

Point of Order

-To recognize errors in voting, tabulation, or procedure,
-To question the relevance of the debate to the current Topic or
-To question a quorum.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

This motion is in order at the end of the last committee session. It signifies the closing of the committee until next year’s conference.

Points of Inquiry

When there is no discussion on the floor, a delegate may direct a question to the Committee Director. Any question directed to another delegate may only be asked immediately after the delegate has finished speaking on a substantive matter. A delegate who declines to respond to a question after a formal speech forfeits any further questioning time.

Points of Personal Privilege

Points of personal privilege are used to request information or clarification and conduct all other business of the body except Motions or Points specifically mentioned in the Rules of Procedure. Please note: The Director may refuse to recognize Points of Order, Points of Inquiry, or Points of Personal Privilege if the Committee Director believes the decorum and restraint inherent in the exercise has been violated, or if the point is deemed dilatory in nature.

Plagiarism

This In-house maintains a zero-tolerance policy in regards to plagiarism. Delegates found to have used the ideas of others without properly citing those individuals, organizations, or documents will have their credentials revoked for the duration of the conference. This is a very serious offense.

Resolutions and Amendments

Resolutions seek to create innovative solutions to the topics discussed in debate. Each delegation can sponsor or sign as many resolutions as it wishes. Sponsors are countries that agree with and contribute to the content of the resolution or draft and intend to support it. Signatories are countries that would like to see the draft debated but do not necessarily support all the elements of the resolution. A signatory of a resolution does not have to vote in favor of the resolution. Require 20% +1 of the committee to sign on to a resolution either as a sponsor or as a signatory. Each resolution requires at least 2 sponsors. Both resolutions and amendments alike require a simple majority to pass.

Friendly Amendments Approved by all sponsors of the resolution. Most commonly non-contentious, non-substantive matters. Substantive matters that alter the content of the resolution. Automatically added without a vote as soon as they are submitted to the Dais.

Unfriendly amendments 12.5% +1 of the committee must sponsor or sign before being presented

to the Chair. Require two speakers for and two speakers against, and a majority vote before being added to the draft resolution.

Submitting a Resolution

Considered a “working paper” until submitted to the Dais. Considered a “draft resolution” until presented to the committee. Draft resolutions are presented to the committee in the order they were submitted. Draft resolutions are named based on the topics being discussed (eg, Resolution 1.1 would be the first resolution submitted for Topic 1). Presenting a Resolution Suspension of the rules at the Chair’s discretion. At the Chair’s discretion, all the sponsors read the resolution to the committee, one sponsor will read the resolution to the committee, the Chair may read the resolution to the committee, or a quiet reading period may be entertained, after which a Question & Answer Panel is held.

Q&A: A delegate motions for Q&A with a specified length of time. Only the Sponsor answers questions from other delegates fielded by the Chair, which detracts from this overall time. A select number of sponsors, at the Chair’s discretion, will participate in Q&A. Non-substantive questions are used to question and correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, or to clarify (without changing) any part of a draft resolution. Substantive questions wish to question the meaning and intentions of the draft resolution. 7. Voting Straw Poll: A non-binding poll vote on a draft resolution or resolution that allows delegates to get a feel for the popularity of an issue.

Topic A — The Proliferation of Synthetic Opioids in Global Illicit Drug Markets

Overview

Synthetic opioids have emerged as one of the most destabilizing forces in contemporary drug markets, reshaping global patterns of production, trafficking, addiction, and overdose. Substances such as fentanyl, nitazenes, and their analogues are significantly more potent than traditional opioids like heroin or morphine, often requiring only microgram-level quantities to produce psychoactive effects. This extreme potency has resulted in widespread overdose crises, particularly in North America and increasingly across Europe, Latin America, and parts of Asia. Because synthetic opioids are relatively easy to manufacture, transport, and mask within legitimate chemical supply chains, they represent a unique challenge that intersects international law enforcement, public health systems, and transnational criminal operations.

Unlike plant-based drugs, synthetic opioids do not rely on agricultural cultivation, allowing producers to operate within small, concealed labs and rapidly shift production to evade detection. The chemical precursors used—such as NPP, ANPP, and various dual-use reagents—are often legitimate industrial products, complicating regulatory efforts. Criminal networks capitalize on this gap by sourcing precursors from countries with limited export controls, then synthesizing final products in decentralized labs before distributing them through both physical trafficking routes and online marketplaces, including the dark web. This has led to a highly adaptable supply chain capable of outpacing regulatory and enforcement mechanisms.

Global Context and Emerging Patterns

Initially concentrated in the United States and Canada, the synthetic opioid crisis has reached global dimensions. Western and Central Europe report increasing fentanyl analogues in cocaine, counterfeit medicines, and polydrug mixtures. In parts of the Middle East and South Asia, synthetic opioids such as tramadol and non-medical painkillers fuel dependence, particularly among conflict-affected populations who lack access to regulated healthcare. Africa, once a primarily transit region in global drug trafficking, now faces rising domestic consumption due to expanding pharmaceutical black markets and the influx of low-cost synthetic painkillers.

In Latin America, cartel diversification has accelerated the spread of synthetic opioids. Criminal groups traditionally associated with cocaine and methamphetamine now exploit the profitability of fentanyl production, which requires little land, minimal personnel, and high consumer dependence. At the same time, state capacity to regulate pharmaceutical supply chains varies widely, giving traffickers opportunities to circumvent weak inspection systems or corrupt

customs channels. These interconnected dynamics have transformed synthetic opioids from a localized crisis into a global threat.

Health Consequences

The health implications of synthetic opioid proliferation are severe and multifaceted. Because fentanyl and its analogues can be up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine, even minor dosing inaccuracies can result in fatal respiratory depression. Overdose deaths often occur within minutes, limiting the effectiveness of emergency response systems, especially in regions with limited medical infrastructure.

Polydrug contamination further exacerbates risks. Users may unknowingly consume fentanyl-laced heroin, cocaine, MDMA, or counterfeit medications, driving overdose rates among populations with no tolerance for opioids. Naloxone, an opioid antagonist used to reverse overdoses, is effective but increasingly strained by the potency of newer analogues such as carfentanil or protonitazene, which sometimes require multiple administrations. Psychosocial consequences—dependency, stigma, homelessness, economic instability—compound the public health burden and strain social support systems.

Legal and Regulatory Challenges

Existing international drug control treaties classify many synthetic opioids, but the rapid pace of analog development makes traditional scheduling frameworks insufficient. Producers often modify chemical structures slightly to create new compounds not yet illegal, allowing them to bypass drug control mechanisms. This phenomenon, known as “substance substitution,” has prompted calls for class-based scheduling or anticipatory regulation, though such measures carry risks of over-criminalization and barriers to legitimate scientific research.

Regulating precursor chemicals is equally complex. Many precursors serve dual roles in legitimate industrial, pharmaceutical, or laboratory settings, meaning strict controls can disrupt vital sectors. Furthermore, disparities in national regulatory systems create loopholes: traffickers may source precursors from countries with weaker export monitoring, then reroute them through intermediaries to obscure origins. Effective regulation requires harmonized international chemical control systems, enhanced data-sharing, and modernized customs technology—resources many developing nations currently lack.

Technological and Criminal Innovations

The digital ecosystem has become a significant facilitator of synthetic opioid proliferation. Encrypted messaging platforms, darknet markets, and anonymous cryptocurrency transactions

allow traffickers to reach consumers directly while avoiding traditional interdiction routes. Small parcels shipped through commercial mail and courier services are difficult to detect, especially given the tiny quantities needed to produce thousands of doses.

Criminal organizations increasingly adopt decentralized production models, utilizing small, temporary "micro-labs" to minimize detection risks. These labs rely on widely available chemistry expertise and basic equipment, rendering traditional eradication strategies less effective. In some cases, criminal groups exploit legal pharmaceutical manufacturers or chemical suppliers through shell companies, identity fraud, or bribery, further blurring the line between licit and illicit supply chains.

International Responses and Multilateral Cooperation

The UNCND has emphasized the need for coordinated global action through evidence-based strategies balancing enforcement and public health. Initiatives include strengthening precursor control frameworks, supporting harm-reduction interventions such as naloxone distribution and supervised consumption sites, and building forensic capacity for identifying emerging analogues. UNODC, WHO, and INTERPOL collaborate to provide member states with early-warning systems to detect new psychoactive substances and monitor trafficking trends.

However, challenges persist. Some states prioritize punitive drug control approaches, while others emphasize health-centered strategies, creating fragmented international responses. Disparities in surveillance capabilities result in underreported outbreaks of synthetic opioid use. Additionally, humanitarian crises, political instability, and underfunded healthcare systems leave many regions unprepared for rapid surges in opioid-related morbidity and mortality.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. How can states regulate precursor chemicals without interfering with legitimate pharmaceutical and chemical industries?

2. Should international bodies adopt "class-wide scheduling" for fentanyl analogues, or does this risk hinder scientific and medical research?

3. What enforcement mechanisms are needed to curb darknet distribution of synthetic opioids?

4. How can states balance punitive measures with public health approaches such as harm reduction, naloxone distribution, and safe-consumption facilities?

5. How should the UNCND address disparities between states that prioritize criminalization versus those emphasizing treatment-based strategies?

6. What role should international organizations (UNODC, WHO, INTERPOL) play in establishing early-warning systems for new opioid analogues?

7. How can developing countries strengthen forensic capabilities to detect emerging synthetic substances?

8. Should the international community pressure chemical manufacturing hubs to implement stricter export controls, or does this violate national sovereignty?

9. How should states address the economic motivations behind cartel and criminal group involvement in fentanyl production?

10. To what extent should the UNCND develop frameworks for international cooperation between health sectors and law enforcement?

Topic B – Narco-Exploitation of Women and Children in Global Drug Economies

Overview

The global narcotics industry—spanning the cultivation, production, trafficking, and retailing of illicit drugs—relies heavily on the systemic exploitation of women and children. While the drug trade is commonly associated with cartels, militant groups, and transnational criminal networks, the most invisible victims are those who sustain the lowest and most dangerous roles in drug economies. Millions of women and children are coerced, deceived, or economically compelled into roles that place them at significant physical, psychological, and legal risk, without access to protection or justice.

For women, participation in drug networks frequently emerges from vulnerability: poverty, displacement, unemployment, domestic violence, and gender-based discrimination. These factors increase susceptibility to coercion by traffickers who promise economic opportunity or leverage threats against their families. Women are disproportionately represented among drug couriers ("mules"), where they must swallow drug-filled packets or conceal narcotics within their bodies—methods that carry a high risk of death, imprisonment, and long-term health damage.

Children are similarly integral to drug supply chains. In coca- and opium-producing regions, children may work from as young as six or seven years old, performing hazardous labor such as carrying chemical inputs, harvesting leaves, or assisting in early-stage drug processing. In urban drug markets, children are recruited as lookouts, runners, and small-scale dealers—roles that expose them to violence while offering little protection or autonomy.

This exploitation is often intertwined with sexual violence, human trafficking, forced marriage, and child soldiering in regions where armed groups use narcotics revenues to maintain control. The drug trade thus becomes not only an economic system but also a tool for social domination, gendered violence, and intergenerational harm.

Despite widespread recognition of these abuses, international protection systems remain fragmented, inconsistent, and hampered by conflicting legal approaches to drugs, trafficking, and organized crime. In many states, women and children coerced into drug economies are criminalized instead of recognized as victims, leaving them vulnerable to lifelong cycles of incarceration, stigma, and exploitation.

The UNCND is uniquely positioned to address this issue by integrating narcotics control with human rights frameworks, gender-based violence prevention, and child protection systems—areas traditionally viewed as outside the mandate of drug policy. Addressing narco-exploitation requires not only law enforcement coordination, but also profound transformation in how the international community conceptualizes victims within the global drug trade.

Mechanisms of Exploitation

1. Child Labor in Coca and Opium Cultivation

Child labor remains heavily embedded in the cultivation of coca in South America and opium poppies in South and Southeast Asia. Children participate in:

-Chemical handling, including lime, kerosene, and other toxic substances used in early-stage drug processing.
-Harvesting dangerous crops, including slashing coca bushes or scoring poppy pods.
-Transporting heavy materials, sometimes across long distances or cartel-controlled territories.
-Providing lookout functions during raids or government eradication campaigns.

Children engaged in these tasks face extreme health risks, including chronic respiratory issues, chemical burns, physical injury, and exposure to armed conflict. Many are denied access to formal education due to their labor, perpetuating cycles of poverty and dependency on narcotics economies.

In some regions, participation is not merely economic but enforced by armed groups, cartels, or forced familial involvement, particularly where entire rural economies are dependent on illicit crops.

2. Women as Coerced Couriers (“Drug Mules”)

Women constitute an alarmingly high percentage of individuals imprisoned for drug trafficking in many countries, often exceeding 70% of the female prison population. The vast majority:

-Act out of economic necessity or coercion
-Are unaware of the scale of the trafficking network
-Are first-time offenders

-Receive far harsher sentences than the organizers who exploit them

Coercion may take many forms: threats to family members, manipulation by intimate partners, debt bondage, deception, or violence. “Body packing” is particularly dangerous, as a single ruptured packet can result in immediate death. Couriers who carry drugs vaginally or rectally face severe infections, long-term reproductive harm, and stigma.

In many jurisdictions, women arrested in these circumstances are treated as perpetrators, not as victims of trafficking—despite international standards that call for non-punitive approaches.

3. Sexual Exploitation and Gender-Based Violence in Cartel-Controlled Regions

In areas where cartels or armed groups dominate, narcotics economies fuel environments where women and children are subjected to:

-Sex trafficking
-Forced prostitution
-Child marriage as a form of cartel alliance
-Forced “relationships” with gang members
-Rape used as a mechanism of recruitment or intimidation
-Exchange of sexual acts for drugs or survival resources

Women in these regions face near-total impunity for perpetrators, as cartels often hold more authority than the state. These forms of exploitation are directly tied to narcotics profits, territorial control, and punishment systems administered by criminal networks.

4. Exploitation of Children in Urban Drug Distribution

Outside rural settings, children are aggressively recruited into urban drug markets as:

-Couriers
-Lookouts
-Low-level dealers
-Informal employees in drug-processing labs

-Participants in gang initiation rituals

Children are targeted due to their legal status (lighter sentencing), economic vulnerability, and susceptibility to manipulation. Many become victims of extreme violence, addiction, and incarceration.

5. Criminalization of Victims

Across much of the world, legal systems do not distinguish between coercion and voluntary criminal activity. Women and children arrested in drug roles often face:

-Mandatory minimum sentencing
-Lack of victim identification procedures
-Absence of trauma-informed legal representation
-Deportation or separation from family
-Permanent criminal records

This criminalization further entrenches vulnerability, leading to cycles of exploitation, imprisonment, and re-recruitment.

Geographic, Cultural, and Socioeconomic Contexts

Narco-exploitation varies globally:

-Latin America faces widespread recruitment of women and minors due to cartel dominance and rural poverty.
-Southeast Asia sees opium economies intertwined with ethnic conflict and displacement.
-West Africa has become a major transshipment hub where women and underage boys are trafficked across borders.

-South Asia faces increasing exploitation linked to heroin trafficking and urban drug networks.
-Europe confronts organized crime networks that use coerced women and children as domestic distributors, often overlapping with human trafficking.
-North America sees parallel structures in “county lines” exploitation in the UK and gang-based recruitment in the U.S.

These patterns demonstrate that narco-exploitation is not regionally isolated—it is a transnational system sustained by global demand.

Health Consequences

Women and children engaged in narcotics economies face severe health risks:

-Toxic chemical exposure leading to neurological and respiratory disorders
-Reproductive damage from body-packing
-High HIV/STI rates from sexual exploitation
-Addiction used to control and manipulate minors
-Trauma, PTSD, depression, anxiety, and complex grief
-Malnutrition and lack of access to medical care due to remote or cartel-controlled environments
-The effects are often lifelong and intergenerational.

International Legal and Human Rights Frameworks

Although narco-exploitation falls at the intersection of drug policy and human rights, several frameworks are relevant:

-UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC)
-Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons (Palermo Protocol)
-Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
-Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
-UNODC Model Strategies and Practical Measures on Violence Against Women
-UN Guiding Principles on Alternative Development
-Bangkok Rules (Women in the Criminal Justice System)

Questions to Consider:

1. Victim vs. Criminal Distinction:
   How should international law differentiate between individuals coerced into drug trafficking and those who willingly participate? Should coerced women and minors be legally recognized as victims of human trafficking rather than offenders?

2. Protection Mechanisms:
   What mechanisms can be implemented to protect children working in coca and opium

cultivation from both criminal networks and punitive state policies? Should the UNCND advocate for global child-labor monitoring in illicit crop regions?

3. Gender-Responsive Drug Policy:
   How can states design drug policies that incorporate gender-specific vulnerabilities, including domestic violence, poverty, and dependency, which drive women into coerced roles within the drug trade?

4. Screening and Identification:
   Should border authorities, police forces, and courts be mandated to conduct trafficking-risk assessments before prosecuting women or minors for drug offenses? What standards should define coercion?

5. Alternatives to Incarceration:
   What alternatives to imprisonment—such as rehabilitation, education, or trauma-informed services—should be offered to women and minors coerced into drug economies? Should these alternatives be internationally standardized?

6. Role of Armed Groups and Cartels:
   How can the international community address exploitation in cartel- or militia-controlled regions where state authority is weak? Should UN peacekeeping, humanitarian agencies, or special rapporteurs be involved?

7. Urban Recruitment of Minors:
   How can governments prevent the recruitment of children by gangs and trafficking networks in urban drug markets? Should prevention be treated as a security issue, a social issue, or both?

8. Cross-Border Trafficking of Women and Girls:
   How should states respond to the increasing number of women trafficked across borders, specifically for drug courier roles? Should regional bodies (e.g., AU, ASEAN, OAS, EU) adopt unified identification and protection protocols?

9. Root Causes and Development:
   How can long-term development strategies—such as crop substitution, rural education, women's employment, and poverty reduction—reduce reliance on narcotic economies?

10. Data Collection and Monitoring:
    What systems should be established to gather reliable data on women and children

exploited in drug economies, given that most cases remain unreported, misclassified, or hidden within criminal justice data?

Sources:

I. United Nations & Intergovernmental Organizations

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

-World Drug Report (Annual)
Provides global data on drug markets, trafficking routes, health impacts, synthetic opioids, and exploitation within drug economies.
-Early Warning Advisory on New Psychoactive Substances Tracks emerging synthetic opioids such as fentanyl analogues and nitazenes.
-UNODC Global SMART Programme Reports
Monitors synthetic drug trends in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.
-UNODC Issue Papers on Women, Drugs, and Conflict
Covers the exploitation of women in drug trafficking roles.
-UNODC Model Strategies and Practical Measures on Violence Against Women
Relevant for understanding gender-based exploitation linked to the drug trade.

World Health Organization (WHO)

-WHO Guidelines on Community Management of Overdose
-WHO Technical Report Series on Opioid Analgesics
-WHO Fact Sheets on Opioid Overdose, Substance Use, and Naloxone

International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)

-Annual Report & Precursors Report
Essential for precursor chemical regulations (NPP, ANPP, dual-use chemicals).

INTERPOL

-Reports on Dark Web and Synthetic Drug Trafficking
Use for law-enforcement cooperation mechanisms and darknet marketplaces.

ILO (International Labour Organization)

-Reports on Child Labour
Especially in hazardous agriculture (relevant to coca/opium production).

UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

-Special Rapporteur Reports
Research on trafficking, exploitation of women and children, and violence in cartel-controlled regions.

II. International Conventions & Legal Frameworks

Drug Control Treaties

-Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961)
-Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971)
-UN Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988)

Human Rights Treaties Relevant to Narco-Exploitation

-Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
-Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
-UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC)
-Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons
-Bangkok Rules (Women in the Criminal Justice System)

III. Regional Bodies and Reports

-EUROPOL – Reports on synthetic opioids & darknet trafficking.
-European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) – Fentanyl analogues, overdose surveillance.

-Organization of American States (OAS) – CICAD Reports – Coca cultivation and opioid trends.
-African Union Drug Epidemiology Reports
-ASEAN Narcotics Cooperation Centre Reports

IV. Academic Journals & Research Institutions

Peer-Reviewed Academic Sources

-*The Lancet – Public Health: Opioid Overdose & Harm Reduction*
-*Addiction Journal* – Synthetic opioids, analogues, and drug policy.
-*Journal of Illicit Economies and Development*
-*International Journal of Drug Policy*
-*Global Crime Journal* – Darknet trafficking analyses.

Think Tanks & Research Groups

-RAND Corporation – Synthetic opioids, fentanyl trafficking economics.
-Brookings Institution – Dark web markets, fentanyl supply chain.
-Chatham House – Opioid regulation and global policy.
-Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC) – Exploitation in drug economies.

Positions:

1. United States
2. China
3. Russia
4. India
5. Brazil
6. United Kingdom
7. France
8. Germany

9. Japan
10. Mexico
11. Canada
12. Australia
13. South Africa
14. Nigeria
15. Saudi Arabia
16. Iran
17. Turkey
18. Indonesia
19. Argentina
20. Colombia
21. Italy
22. Spain
23. Netherlands
24. Egypt
25. Kenya
26. Pakistan
27. Ethiopia
28. Thailand
29. South Korea
30. Ukraine