



United Nations Commission  
on Narcotic Drugs (CND)  
Chair Letter

## **DEAR DELEGATES,**

Welcome to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) at CNYMUN 2024! This year's focus will be on navigating the complex global issues of narcotic control, emphasizing balancing law enforcement, public health, and international cooperation. As the main policymaking body on drug-related matters, CND plays a critical role in shaping the legal frameworks and humanitarian approaches necessary to address the global drug problem. We're excited to see your innovative ideas and diplomatic efforts during the conference. Your chairs for CND will be Sam Abougor and Remy Sinclair.

### **ABOUT THE CHAIRS:**

Sam Abougor is a senior at Fayetteville-Manlius High School. He has been involved in MUN since 10th grade, and this will be his first year chairing. Outside of MUN, Sam enjoys playing basketball, participating in student council, hanging out with friends, skiing, and being a loyal Tennessee Titans fan. He is extremely excited to be your CND chair, meet all the new delegates, and make CNYMUN 2024 a great conference.

Remy Sinclair is a junior at Fayetteville-Manlius High School. He has been a part of MUN since 8th grade, and this will be his first year chairing. Outside of MUN, Remy plays varsity football, participates in Latin League, and likes to hang out with friends, snowboard, and play video games. Remy is also a dedicated Manchester United Fan. He is extremely excited to be your CND chair, meet all the new delegates, and make CNYMUN 2024 a great conference.

### **ABOUT THE COMMITTEE:**

Your topics for the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) at CNYMUN 2024 will be:

1. Leveraging Technology for Enhanced Border Security and Drug Trafficking Prevention
2. Examining the Effectiveness of Criminalization Versus Rehabilitation of Illicit Drug Use

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) is a specialized UN body focused on international drug control policy. It oversees the implementation of drug-related treaties and manages the classification of

substances, working closely with the UNODC. CND focuses specifically on narcotics, drug trafficking, and harm reduction policies. CND decisions, especially on drug scheduling, are binding for countries under the international drug conventions.

### **ABOUT THE CONFERENCE:**

Following CNYMUN tradition, the debate will be conducted in Harvard style, meaning delegates will not be allowed to use pre-written clauses and/or resolutions during committee. Doing so will make a delegate ineligible for awards.

To be eligible for awards, delegates must submit a 1-2 page position paper via email that addresses both topics before the start of the conference. Position papers should outline the stance of your delegation, and display an understanding of the topics, demonstrating research and knowledge of your organization's goals. When deciding on awards, the chairs will look favorably upon delegates who have put significant effort towards research/preparation, collaborate with other delegates during committee sessions, stay within their nation's policies, and get their voice heard without being overbearing.

Furthermore, for the first time, CNYMUN is implementing a tiered structure of committees to ensure similar experience levels for all committee members. The Committee on Narcotic Drugs (CND) is designated as an open committee. In turn, the Best New Delegate Award will be offered to a first-time delegate in this committee.

Please share position papers before the conference begins. Our emails are listed below for you to contact your chairs about any research, position papers, committee inquiries, or other questions. We also encourage you to scan our lengthy delegate preparation resources and award structure on [www.cnymun.org](http://www.cnymun.org). We wish you luck and look forward to what CNYMUN 2025 will bring!

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## TOPIC 1: LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY FOR ENHANCED BORDER SECURITY AND DRUG TRAFFICKING PREVENTION

The global drug trafficking challenge is immense, with an estimated annual value of over \$400 billion.<sup>1</sup> Criminal enterprises are employing increasingly sophisticated technologies that can resist border security methods. Classic tools—physical barriers, random inspections, and manual searches—commonly fail to detect contraband drugs and smuggling routes, let alone stand up to modern trafficking methods. After introducing the scale of the drug trade, technological tools such as AI, biometrics, and drones, become essential in enhancing border security and effectively combating drug trafficking. These tools improve detection capabilities, provide real-time insights, and offer governments innovative methods to manage transborder criminality. Accordingly, technology serves a key role in enhancing border security because it enhances detection capabilities and offers governments more effective methods to deal with transborder criminality.<sup>2</sup>

The illicit drug trade continues to be one of the major variables contributing to public health crises, violence, and corruption in many parts of the world. In the United States, the opioid crisis resulted in over 80,000 deaths in 2022 alone, 70% due to opioid overdoses.<sup>3</sup> Some Latin American countries, like Mexico, Colombia, and Venezuela, have also plunged into unprecedented violence orchestrated by powerful narco-terrorist organizations. Drug-related violence in these nations costs an estimated \$110 billion annually, leaving deep and enduring socioeconomic and political scars.<sup>4</sup> Disrupting these illicit networks will require aggressive law enforcement and the use

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<sup>1</sup> "A Spatio-Temporal Analysis of Forest Loss Related to Cocaine Trafficking in Central America." *Environmental Research Letters*, <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/aa6fff>.

<sup>2</sup> "Climate Change, Drug Traffickers and La Sierra Tarahumara." *Journal of Strategic Security*, vol. 13, no. 4, 2020, pp. 81-95. <https://doi.org/10.5038/1944-0472.13.4.1813>.

<sup>3</sup> "Containerized Cargo Security at the U.S. – Mexico Border: How Supply Chain Vulnerabilities Impact Processing Times at Land Ports of Entry." *Journal of Transportation Security*, <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12198-019-0200>

<sup>4</sup> "Development of the Brazilian Drug Market Toward Africa: Myths, Evidence and Theoretical Questions." *Journal of Illicit Economies and Development*, <https://jied.lse.ac.uk/articles/10.31389/jied.27>

of sophisticated technologies capable of identifying and preventing drug-smuggling activities in real time.<sup>5</sup>

Artificial intelligence and machine learning have begun to alter how countries control their borders. AI-powered surveillance systems, through large-scale data analysis and detection of suspicious activity patterns at borders, are now able to provide unprecedented accuracy.<sup>6</sup> The U.S. The Department of Homeland Security has employed AI systems in its approaches to border management, improving the interdiction rates of drugs across high-risk regions by over 15%.<sup>7</sup> The capacity of artificial intelligence to evaluate behavioral patterns and recognize irregularities renders it an effective instrument for identifying prospective smugglers before they attempt to traverse borders.

In return, these technologies show further value in synthesizing information from facial recognition systems, biometric scanners, and geolocation data. In a number of countries such as the U.S. and the UK, AI-integrated border management systems have greatly reduced human error in recognizing traffickers or those smuggling drugs by disguising their identities.<sup>8</sup> However, data privacy and algorithmic biases raise questions about the ethics of fair application in using AI for surveillance, especially regarding racial profiling and disproportionate targeting of certain groups.

Biometric technology has been instrumental in modern systems of border control. Biometric identifiers, including fingerprints, iris scans, and facial recognition, have increased security while facilitating faster processing at borders. In 2021 alone, the use of biometric exit systems employed by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection detected

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<sup>5</sup> "Coyotaje and Drugs: Two Different Businesses." *Bulletin of Latin American Research*,

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/blar.12296>

<sup>6</sup> "Decrypting the Cryptomarkets: Trends Over a Decade of the Dark Web Drug Trade." *Drug Science Policy and Law*, <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/20503245231215668>

<sup>7</sup> "Drug Importation Into Italy by Body Packing: An Analysis of the UNODC Individual Drug Seizures Database." *Medico-Legal Journal*,

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0025817218769012>

<sup>8</sup> "Drug Policy as Conservation Policy: Narco-Deforestation." *Science*, <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.1244082>

over 1,200 attempts by imposters to enter the country through forged passports.<sup>9</sup> Thus, biometric technologies afford very strong protection against identity theft—a common tactic of narcotics smugglers in evading detention at border crossings. Countries experiencing severe drug trafficking, like Mexico and Colombia, have incorporated biometric systems into their border security operations to streamline processes for checking cartel members and other smugglers.<sup>10</sup> These technologies enable them to verify identities with high accuracy in real-time, hence minimizing processing times, and flagging well-known criminals. Biometrics and drones provide a critical technological edge, enabling wide-area surveillance that enhances monitoring capabilities in real time.

Drones have transformed border surveillance by providing a large-scale aerial view that reaches the most unreachable areas. Outfitted with infrared sensors, cameras, and Global Positioning System mechanisms, drones provide current monitoring, which enables security personnel to trace suspicious activities in remote areas.<sup>11</sup> For instance, the U.S. Border Patrol has been using unmanned drones along the U.S.-Mexico borders to locate drug-smuggling routes and intercept the consignment before it enters metropolitan areas.<sup>12</sup>

The drones have been very effective in the monitoring of maritime trafficking of drugs, especially the usage of small craft known as "go-fast" boats capable of transporting large quantities of drugs. Besides surveillance, drones can also be fitted with various imaging sensors that enable them to detect drugs that have been hidden in vehicles and shipping containers. The ability of unmanned aircraft to fly into areas too hazardous for human lives makes

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<sup>9</sup> "Drug Trafficking as a Phenomenon in Globalized World and Modern International Economic Relations." Herald of Khmelnytskyi National University, <https://doi.org/10.31891/2307-5740-2021-300-6-15>.

<sup>10</sup> "Drug Trafficking on Dark Markets: How Cryptomarkets Are Changing Drug Global Trade and the Role of Organized Crime." American Journal of Qualitative Research, <https://www.ajqr.org/article/drug-trafficking-on-darkmarkets-how-cryptomarkets-are-changing-drug-global-trade-and-the-role-of-823>

<sup>11</sup> "Drug Trafficking in Relation to Global Shipping Network." Advances in Applied Sociology, [https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-21131-7\\_52](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-21131-7_52)

<sup>12</sup> "Drugs and Biodiversity Loss: Narcotrafic-Linked Landscape Change in Guatemala." IntechOpen, <https://www.intechopen.com/chapters/83894>

them increasingly indispensable in efforts against narcotics smuggling.<sup>13</sup>

Blockchain networks, decentralized digital ledgers that securely record transactions across many computers so that the recorded transactions cannot be altered retroactively; have the potential to become a serious tool in safeguarding international supply chains while verifying that legitimate trade is not used as a cover for smuggling illegal goods.<sup>14</sup> The nature of blockchain networks, being decentralized, renders them tamper-proof, hence affording greater transparency and accountability about transboundary goods traffic.<sup>15</sup> In Honduras, this is applied in tracking the export and import transactions of authorized products, which prevents the trafficking of narcotics through shipments of legal goods.<sup>16</sup> Additionally, the technology has been adopted to prevent the diversion of legally prescribed pharmaceuticals into the supply chains of illicit drugs, especially in countries where prescription drug abuse is a problem.<sup>17</sup> The possibility for blockchain to monitor every step of a merchandise's movement from the manufacturer to the end-consumer imposes exceptional security measures against the infiltration of counterfeit drugs into the supply chain.<sup>18</sup>

Among the effective technologies used in drug detection are X-ray scanners, ion mobility spectrometers, and chemical detection devices.<sup>19</sup> X-ray machines that have been installed at border checkpoints have so far allowed customs officials to detect stashed compartments in cars and cargo where

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<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> "Does Drug Trafficking Impact Terrorism? Afghan Opioids and Terrorist Violence in Central Asia." Studies in Conflict and Terrorism, <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1057610X.2018.1434039>

<sup>15</sup> "Global Methamphetamine Trends." International Criminal Justice Review, <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1057567717730104>

<sup>16</sup> "Interdicting Restructuring Networks With Applications in Illicit Trafficking." arXiv, <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2011.07093>

<sup>17</sup> "Lost on the Silk Road: Online Drug Distribution and the 'Cryptomarket'." Criminology & Criminal Justice, <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1748895813505234>

<sup>18</sup> "A Global Overview of Drug Trafficking and Border Security." Journal of International Relations and Development,

<sup>19</sup> "World Drug Report 2023." United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2023, [https://www.unodc.org/res/WDR-2023/Special\\_Points\\_WDR2023\\_web\\_DP.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/res/WDR-2023/Special_Points_WDR2023_web_DP.pdf)

the drug is normally hidden.<sup>20</sup> Recently, at the Port of Antwerp, Europe's biggest cocaine-smuggling hub, customs managed to seize record quantities with the help of X-ray scanners. In 2022, more than 110 tons of cocaine were confiscated using these machines.<sup>21</sup> Ion mobility spectrometers are also used at airports and shipping terminals to detect minute concentrations of narcotics present in the air. These devices can measure minute particles, even those inside hermetically sealed containers.<sup>22</sup> Terahertz imaging methods simultaneously offer non-contact methods to scan individuals and detect narcotics without the need to physically handle an individual or open suitcases.<sup>23</sup>

While sophisticated technologies offer effective tools for catching and prosecuting drug traffickers, they also raise serious ethical concerns. In using artificial intelligence and biometric systems, law enforcement agencies are forced to weigh misuse risks, including violation of privacy rights and discrimination against certain ethnic groups. A lack of regulation in surveillance technologies may give way to comprehensive data collection that violates individual rights; therefore, a striking balance between security and individual freedoms is imperative.

Moreover, the introduction of advanced technological systems in richer countries can widen the gap between developed and developing countries, as they may be too adversely affected by budgetary and infrastructural constraints to follow suit. Therefore, there needs to be some form of international cooperation in terms of resource allocation to ensure that all countries are provided with the necessary technological equipment to combat drug trafficking effectively.

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<sup>20</sup> "Networks of Collaborating Criminals: Assessing the Structural Vulnerability of Drug Markets." *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022427810391535>.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>22</sup> "Relative Pleasures: Drugs, Development and Modern Dependencies in Asia's Golden Triangle." *Development and Change*, <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1467-7660.2004.003x>

<sup>23</sup> Qin, J., Ying, Y., & Xie, L. (2013). The detection of agricultural products and food using terahertz spectroscopy: a review. *Applied Spectroscopy Reviews*, 48(6), 439-457. <https://doi.org/10.1080/05704928.2012.745418>

Addressing drug trafficking requires a unified goal among government agencies, international organizations, and the private sector. For success, these interventions rely on shared intelligence, timely information, and mutual recognition of the legislative frameworks within which they will exist. International collaborations, such as through the UNODC, ease joint research into emerging technologies and standardization in the area of border management. Through cooperation, nations can unleash the true potential of modern technology in disrupting drug trafficking networks and protecting their borders.

Technology has become an indispensable tool in combating international drug trafficking. AI, biometrics, drones, blockchain, and advanced systems of detection are among the crucial functions that enhance government monitoring and the interdiction of smugglers' activities, albeit with a tough road ahead of data privacy, regulation, and international cooperation. In the future, governments should establish ethical policies regarding the use of technology and develop international partnerships to ensure that all countries, regardless of their economic position, can successfully utilize such advancements in their efforts to combat drug trafficking.

#### **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:**

1. How can AI and biometric technologies be utilized without infringing on individual privacy rights?
2. What role can international organizations play in fostering global cooperation on border security?
3. In what ways can technology help prevent the trafficking of synthetic drugs like fentanyl?
4. What are the potential risks of over-reliance on technology for border security?

#### **HELPFUL RESOURCES:**

"Decrypting the Cryptomarkets: Trends Over a Decade of the Dark Web Drug Trade."

<https://doi.org/10.1177/20503245231215668>

“Cryptomarkets and Digital Criminal Markets: Understanding the Role of Online Platforms in the Global Drug Trade.”

<https://doi.org/10.1093/jcmc/zmaa007>

"Examining the Relationship Between Substance Use and Mental Health: Insights from Recent Research"

<https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/psychiatry/articles/10.3389/fpsy.2023.935755/full>

“International migration and national security in Nigeria, 2011-2020. journal of political science and leadership research”

<https://doi.org/10.56201/jpslr.v9.no2.2023.pg29.52>

## **TOPIC 2: EXAMINING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CRIMINALIZATION VERSUS REHABILITATION OF ILLICIT DRUG USE**

Criminalization refers to the act of making something previously legal into a criminal offense, leading to penalties such as imprisonment.<sup>24</sup> In this case, drug use is treated as a crime. Criminalization has been a part of society for as long as 4,000 years and is the traditional punishment. However, in recent history, it has played an important role in shaping the world we know today. This method stems from the plan that criminalization will steer people away from using drugs, and reduce drug-related crimes. Regardless, many argue that this approach leads to over-imprisonment and does not fully address the underlying issues of mental health and addiction. The implementation of treatments in the criminal justice system is more successful than imprisonment in decreasing repeated criminal offenses and drug use while also dealing with the disadvantages of incarceration.<sup>25</sup> Like criminalization, rehabilitation has been a part of human society for thousands of years." Rehabilitation focuses on treating drug addicts through medical support instead of punishing them. Unlike criminalization, rehabilitation focuses on addressing the underlying issues of mental health struggles and the consequences of addiction.

Different countries have created strategies such as drug treatments, conditional early release through parole, and community-based treatments to steer individuals away from incarceration, with an emphasis on rehabilitation and decreasing repeat offenses.<sup>26</sup> The EU recommends that Member States adopt evidence-based, affordable alternative interventions such as treatment, education, and social reintegration for people who use substances, showing the limited effect of imprisonment in decreasing repeat offenses.<sup>27</sup> Even though there is clear proof

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<sup>24</sup> “Criminalization Definition · LSDData.” *Www.lsd.law*, [www.lsd.law/define/criminalization](http://www.lsd.law/define/criminalization).

<sup>25</sup> Tomaz, Vera, et al. “Criminal Reactions to Drug-Using Offenders: A Systematic Review of the Effect of Treatment And/or Punishment on Reduction of Drug Use And/or Criminal Recidivism.” *Frontiersin.org*, Clinical and Forensic Interventions for Offenders Rehabilitation, 15 Feb. 2023, [www.frontiersin.org/journals/psychiatry/articles/10.3389/fpsy.2023.935755/full](http://www.frontiersin.org/journals/psychiatry/articles/10.3389/fpsy.2023.935755/full). Accessed 6 Sept. 2024.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*

that addiction is a manageable brain disorder, most individuals with drug dependence in the justice system do not get the required treatment. This gap signifies a missed opportunity to improve public health and reduce recidivism rates by implementing effective interventions.

Around 7.1 million adults in the United States are currently under criminal justice supervision, with a large number being imprisoned for drug-related crimes. According to the Prison Policy Initiative, 1 out of 5 people incarcerated is doing time for a drug-related offense. Furthermore, 50% of inmates in the United States qualify for drug abuse or dependence, though only a small portion receive sufficient treatment in prison, leading to continued patterns of addiction and criminal activity.<sup>28</sup> This is why the correct treatments and programs can be beneficial in truly reducing drug use and drug-related crimes. Drug-abusing offenders are 25% more likely to be returning to prison within three years, frequently for drug-related infractions. Effective addiction treatment can drastically reduce these rates and support lasting recovery, highlighting the inconsistencies in relying on incarceration to address substance use disorders.<sup>29</sup>

Incorporating addiction treatment into the criminal justice system is both budget-friendly and an advantage to improve public health. Proof indicates that drug courts, community-centered treatments, and therapeutic measures decrease drug use and criminal activity, resulting in significant reductions in incarceration and healthcare expenses.

Criminalization of drug use inflicts social and economic costs on people, communities, and governments. Socially, criminalization stigmatizes individuals who use drugs, often pushing them to the margins of society. This stigma can cause more harm, as it prevents those people from seeking help, and their access to employment. This further increases their addiction and health issues. Economically, criminalization requires substantial

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<sup>28</sup> Chandler, Redonna K., et al. "Treating Drug Abuse and Addiction in the Criminal Justice System." *JAMA*, vol. 301, no. 2, Jan. 2019, p. 183, <https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2008.976>.

<sup>29</sup> Chandler, Redonna K., et al. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2008.976>.

resources such as funding, law enforcement, and many more. This method results in higher imprisonment rates leading to increased costs regarding housing, and healthcare of prisoners. For the most part, these costs exceed those of treatment and prevention programs. Additionally, criminalization doesn't address the root causes of drug use such as poverty, mental health problems, and lack of education maintaining a repeating cycle of crime and addiction. People who struggle with substance abuse and addiction are more likely to end up with drug charges. Once someone is charged with a drug-related crime, they quickly find themselves wrapped up in the legal system. For some individuals, the perpetuating pattern of addiction also involves an extensive cycle in the court system.

The people who carry a criminal record have a harder time meeting their basic needs than those without one. For instance, the process of looking for housing or finding a job normally requires a background check. However, an employer or landlord seeing drug-related criminal charges will likely cause hesitation.<sup>30</sup>

Scholars who study mass incarceration point to the 1970s as a pivotal time in U.S. penal history, which is marked by a shift toward more disciplinary policies and a belief that 'nothing works' in rehabilitating inmates. However, while there has been vast research on changes in policy makers ideas, sentencing policy, and incarceration rates, we know very little about changes in the actual practices of punishment and prisoner rehabilitation.<sup>31</sup> The scale of imprisonment in the United States has grown in such a dramatic and sustained fashion over the past thirty years. By 2006, the incarceration rate rose to 0.9% for men and 0.1% for women, resulting in the total number of individuals incarcerated in state and federal prisons reaching more than 1.6 million.<sup>32</sup> Spending time

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<sup>30</sup> Recovery, Peace Valley. "Rehab vs. Jail Time: How Drug Rehab Provides a Path to Recovery." *Peace Valley Recovery*, 19 Dec. 2020, [www.peacevalleyrecovery.com/blog/rehab-vs-jail-time/](http://www.peacevalleyrecovery.com/blog/rehab-vs-jail-time/).

<sup>31</sup> Phelps, Michelle S. "Rehabilitation in the Punitive Era: The Gap between Rhetoric and Reality in U.S. Prison Programs." *Law & Society Review*, vol. 45, no. 1, Mar. 2011, pp. 33–68, [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3762476/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3762476/), <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1540-5893.2011.00427.x>.

<sup>32</sup> Phelps, Michelle S. "Rehabilitation in the Punitive Era: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3762476/, <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1540-5893.2011.00427.x>.

behind bars has little effect on those with substance use disorders. It only provides a break before releasing them back to the world without any tools to help them stay away from substances or get better. People often return to their old way of life with a new method to avoid getting caught again. Drug rehab programs exist for the sole purpose of helping people disconnect from drugs and alcohol. Facilities created for treatment are equipped with the necessary resources to aid those who seek to leave substances behind and thus develop an improved way of life. The entire basis of a treatment facility centers around preparing individuals with the tools they need to live life without relying on drugs or alcohol. Jail and prison systems cannot offer the same level of support offered in these types of programs.<sup>33</sup>

There have been many countries around the world that have started to decriminalize drugs, some of which are Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Germany, and some states in the U.S. The most recent being Germany with the legislation legalizing cannabis in February 2024 which was taken into effect in April 2024. Additionally, the use of drug courts and treatment programs are widespread to help combat drug addiction. Portugal, in the year 2000, decriminalized all drug possession and put its focus on treating addiction. The Netherlands is famous for its tolerance of cannabis in coffee shops often selling cannabis-filled foods and drinks.<sup>34</sup> Previously, Germany fought drugs with a strict prohibition policy, incarcerating those found in possession of drugs. In more recent years, Germany has shifted its actions from treating drug use as a criminal issue to a public health issue, and more focus has been put on sending offenders to court-approved treatment programs.<sup>35</sup> To treat illicit drug use and combat the deep-rooted issues that are associated with it, the world must come together and share resources so that one day this dream can turn into a reality. The cooperation of international organizations like the UN and the EU, as well as international governments,

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<sup>33</sup> Recovery, Peace Valley.

[www.peacevalleyrecovery.com/blog/rehab-vs-jail-time/](http://www.peacevalleyrecovery.com/blog/rehab-vs-jail-time/).

<sup>34</sup> Anderson, Steve. "European Drug Policy: The Cases of Portugal, Germany, and the Netherlands." *The Eastern Illinois University Political Science Review*, vol. 1, no. 1, 2012, [thekeep.eiu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1001&context=eiuupsr](http://thekeep.eiu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1001&context=eiuupsr).

<sup>35</sup> Anderson, Steve. [thekeep.eiu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1001&context=eiuupsr](http://thekeep.eiu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1001&context=eiuupsr).

is necessary in shaping global drug policy and forming better practices for rehabilitation and harm reduction treatments. Hopefully one day this can come to fruition and we as a society can manage this heavy obstacle together.

#### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. How do recidivism rates compare between countries that focus on criminalization versus those that prioritize rehabilitation?
2. What are the long-term societal impacts of criminalizing drug use compared to rehabilitating offenders?
3. How do security concerns factor into the debate between criminalization and rehabilitation?
4. What role should public health considerations play in shaping national drug policies?
5. How can international cooperation enhance the effectiveness of rehabilitation-focused drug policies?

#### HELPFUL RESOURCES:

Chairmen Higgins, Bishop Open Joint Hearing: Border Security Technologies "Play a Critical Role" In Countering Threats, Mass Illegal Immigration <https://homeland.house.gov/2024/07/09/chairmen-higgins-bishop-open-joint-hearing-border-security-technologies-play-a-critical-role-in-countering-threats-mass-illegal-immigration/>

Pioneering Technologies to Combat Global Illicit Drugs and Other Crimes: Insights from CND 2024 Side Event [https://www.unodc.org/roca/en/NEWS/news\\_2024/april/pioneering-technologies-to-combat-global-illicit-drugs-and-other-crimes-insights-from-cnd-2024-side-event.html](https://www.unodc.org/roca/en/NEWS/news_2024/april/pioneering-technologies-to-combat-global-illicit-drugs-and-other-crimes-insights-from-cnd-2024-side-event.html)

High-Tech Border Security: Current and Emerging Trends <https://publicsafety.ieee.org/topics/high-tech-border-security-current-and-emerging-trends>