



Background Paper

Committee: United Nations Office On Drugs And Crime

Topic A: Addressing The Effects Of The Use Of Xylazine And The Demand Crisis

Chairs: Fátima Yethem Ramirez Garcia and Anuar Saith Torres Gurrola

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime aims to address the worldwide concern about the use of Xylazine, its effects, and its demand crisis. It aims to solve the multiple issues that it concerns surrounding public health, veterinary medicine, as well as global security. Xylazine has become a global problem due to its misuse in humans, particularly for those who face illicit substance abuse.

“Xylazine is a central nervous system depressant that can cause drowsiness and amnesia, slow breathing, heart rate, and blood pressure to dangerously low levels.”(NIDA). Xylazine is a drug used by veterinarians to sedate, anesthetize, relax, and as an analgesic in animals such as horses, cattle, and other non-human mammals. This drug hasn’t been deeply investigated even though numbers have shown it still has dangerous side effects, varying from dry mouth, and drowsiness to tachycardia, hypotension, and hypertension and even leading to hypothermia, reduced heart rate, and coma. This new drug has been linked to an increase in the number of deaths caused by drug overdose worldwide, and it is primarily found alongside and combined with illicit fentanyl and heroin. Xylazine is also known as the “zombie” drug, “When xylazine is injected it can cause open wounds such as skin ulcers and abscesses to form. With long-term use, these lesions can become widespread across the arms and legs causing tissue death, hence its nickname: the zombie drug.”(Policing Insight).

The demand for Xylazine as a recreational substance and the side effects it has on humans has created a complex set of obstacles for law enforcement as well as for national and international security agencies. Illegal trade, production, and consumption have contributed to organized crime and instability. To solve this issue it is imperative a worldwide collaboration that aims to regulate the production, distribution, and use of the drug. It should also focus on how the countries will address and solve its use for illicit purposes. This committee's mission is to address the urgency of this issue promoting international cooperation to mitigate the adverse effects that Xylazine misuse has on human health and global safety.

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Background Paper

Committee: United Nations Office On Drugs And Crime

Topic B: Addressing Money Laundering, Financing Of Terrorism And Asset Forfeiture

Chairs: Fátima Yethem Ramirez Garcia and Anuar Saith Torres Gurrola

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime aims to address money laundering, financing of terrorism, and asset forfeiture and recognizes the challenges posed by illicit financial activities worldwide since they undermine the stability of an economy, threaten global security, and strengthen and finance organized crime. This background paper will serve as a guide through the various complex parts of unlawful financial activities, highlighting the emergency for joint action. Delegates of UNODC will strive to help with international cooperation, aiming to promote transparency and hold high ethical financial standards. They will also embark on a mission to make stronger the integrity of our economic systems, recognizing the lasting impact our efforts will have on securing financial sanctity for future generations. Delegates aim and strive to solve these problems where much attention to detail is needed and collaboration is imminent.

Money laundering has become a serious issue worldwide and to combat money laundering, asset forfeiture, and the financing of terrorism, countries need to investigate, analyze, deter, and prevent their sources of funding that aim toward violence, which mainly come through laundered money. “Money laundering involves disguising financial assets so they can be used without detection of the illegal activity that produced them. Through money laundering, the criminal transforms the monetary proceeds derived from criminal activity into funds with a legal source.”(FinCEN). If successful, law enforcement may be able to prevent those violent incidents from happening. “Disrupting and preventing terrorism-related financial flows and transactions is,

therefore, one of the most effective ways to fight terrorism.”(EU AML/CFT Global Facility). Asset forfeiture is another critical tool that can be used to combat these illicit activities. “Asset forfeiture is designed to deprive criminals of the proceeds of their crimes, to break the financial backbone of organized criminal syndicates and drug cartels, and to recover property that may be used to compensate victims and deter crime.”(DOJ). Issues of this kind are presented worldwide, nevertheless, they are only treated as symptoms of a bigger disease, which makes them easy to overlook, instead, these issues are the roots of this issue as well as the key to stopping the bigger fish out there, since without funding, criminals do not have the ability to have the budget to commit crimes.

In conclusion, addressing the issue of money laundering is not just a necessity, but a responsibility held within the governments of the world that demands our immediate attention. By searching through the fine details of these financial malpractices in this background paper, we hope to inspire delegates to unite in a commitment towards implementing strict measures, fostering international cooperation, and ultimately, eliminating issues of the kind such as money laundering, financing of terrorism and asset forfeiture. Only through collaborative efforts can we protect our global financial systems, promote transparency, and ensure a future where the integrity of financial transactions is maintained at the highest of standards. Let us, delegates, grab this opportunity to make a powerful and long-lasting impact and paint the way for a more secure and just financial world where transparency and legality are key.

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