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General Assembly Background Guide

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Staff-Team

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She studies International Relations and Economy in her fifth B.A. semester at the University of Erfurt. She has volunteered in the Jewish Community in Frankfurt and interned at the German Parliament. Lydia has participated in several MUN Conferences, the biggest one being the 2017 National MUN in New York City, USA.

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She studies Political Science and China Studies in her fifth semester. She started with MUN last year and is currently working as a Tutor for the Delegation of TriMUN.

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She is in her final year of Law and Political Science at the University of Göttingen and has been involved in MUN since 2013. This will be her first time Chairing and she is looking forward to this experience as well as to meeting the delegates at the upcoming conference.

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2018 Erfurt Model United Nations (EfMUN 2018). We are very pleased to introduce you to our committee, the General Assembly (GA). Our Staff this year is: President Lydia Wachtel, Vice President Yasmin Belkasmi Zamarra and Rapporteurs Lisa Ramershoven, Alexandra Bogdasarow, Elena Jayalath.

The topics under discussion are:

- I. Facing the Effects of Climate Change: Environmental Migration
- II. International Cooperation to Address the World Drug Problem

The General Assembly is one of the main organs within the United Nations system and is a key element towards equality, stable diplomatic relations and the maintenance of peace and security. Additionally, the GA is also most important in reaching international consensus in economic and social questions and other central issues the international community faces. The GA inter alia discusses any questions within the scope of the Charter and evaluates reports, which are issued by the other principal organs established under the Charter or created by the GA's own subsidiary bodies. Moreover, the GA makes recommendations on international issues within its competence and on general principles of cooperation for maintaining international peace and security. However, she also advises Member States on the improvement of human development, decent livelihoods, health and safety. Consequently, the GA has the power to draw attention to certain issues that may have not been discussed extensively by the UN or to address new pressing aspects of topics the international community has already worked on. Therefore, it is from utmost importance that delegates understand the GA's role, capabilities and mandate in the given discussion.

We hope that you will use this Background Guide as an introduction to the topics of the committee and support to your own research. However, we highly encourage you to do a very detailed research about your Member State's policies towards the given topics. In preparation for the conference, each delegation will submit a position paper. Please note that the NMUN policies regarding plagiarism, codes of conduct, and dress code, as well as the NMUN Rules of Procedure that are applicable for EfMUN. If you have any questions concerning the preparation for your committee, please feel free to contact us at mun@uni-erfurt.de.

We wish you all the best in your preparations and are looking forward to our joint conference!

Sincerely,

Lydia Wachtel, Yasmin Belkasmi Zamarra, Lisa Ramershoven, Alexandra Bogdasarow and Elena Jayalath.

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ABBREVIATIONS

<i>CND</i>	Commission on Narcotic Drugs
<i>DALY</i>	Disability-Adjusted Life Years
<i>ECOSOC</i>	Economic and Social Council
<i>EU</i>	European Union
<i>EUROPOL</i>	European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation
<i>GLOK32</i>	UNODC-WHO Programme on Drug Dependence treatment and Care
<i>GLOK67</i>	UNODC Programme on the Access to Controlled Drugs for Medical Purposes, While Preventing Diversion and Abuse
<i>INCB</i>	International Narcotics Control Board
<i>INTERPOL</i>	International Criminal Police Organization
<i>PWID</i>	People Who Inject Drugs
<i>UICC</i>	Union for International Cancer Control
<i>UN</i>	United Nations
<i>UNCCD</i>	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
<i>UNFCCC</i>	United Nations Frame Work Convention on Climate Change
<i>UN GA</i>	United Nations General Assembly
<i>UNGASS</i>	United Nations General Assembly Special Session
<i>UNHCR</i>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<i>UNODC</i>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<i>UN SC</i>	United Nations Security Council
<i>PPI</i>	Paris Pact Initiative
<i>SDG</i>	Sustainable Development Goals
<i>SMART Programme</i>	The Global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends Programme
<i>TI</i>	Triangular Initiative
<i>WHO</i>	World Health Organization
<i>2030 Agenda</i>	2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

History

The United Nations (UN) was officially founded on October 24, 1945 after the collapse of the League of Nations and two devastating world wars.¹ 150 states met at the United Nations Conference on International Organization in 1945 in San Francisco, USA, to create and establish the United Nations Charter. The Charter states the main purposes of the UN:

- “To maintain international peace and security (...)
- To develop friendly relations among nations based on the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples (...)
- To achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion
- To be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends”.²

With the creation of the UN, six main organs had been founded: The Security Council (SC), the General Assembly (GA), the Secretariat, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Trusteeship Council and the International Court of Justice.³

Governance, Structure and Membership History

The General Assembly is the “main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN”.⁴ The GA is the only organ which represents all 193 Member States⁵ as stated in the UN Charter. The Committee is based on the principle: “one country, one vote” to guarantee the equality of all Member States. Not addressed in the Charter but developed by practice, non-state nations, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can acquire observer status which means that they can participate in the plenary sessions but are not allowed to vote.⁶ This status is now given to the Holy See, Palestine, the European Union, and more than 70 NGOs.

The GA consists of six subcommittees, which deal with different topics. The First Committee deals with questions concerning disarmament and international security, the Second Committee deals with economic and financial questions, the Third Committee addresses social, humanitarian and cultural affairs, the Fourth Committee handles questions of special politics and decolonization, the Fifth Committee is looking at administrative and budgetary concerns and the Sixth Committee is concentrating on legal matters.⁷ The GA convenes in ‘regular annual sessions’ which start the third week of September and last for one year.⁸ Officially, the GA is in session during the entire year. Its main work period, however, is between mid-September and mid-December and is called the General Debate.⁹

¹ UN, *History of the United Nations*, 2016.

² UN, *Charter of the United Nations, 1945, Ch. I, Article 1.*

³ UN, *Main Organs*, 2016.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations, *The PGA Handbook: A Practical Guide to the United Nations General Assembly*, 2011, p. 30.

⁷ UN, *The General Assembly. Main Committees*, 2016.

⁸ UN, *Charter of the United Nations, 1945, Ch. IV, Article 20.*

⁹ Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations, *The PGA Handbook: A Practical Guide to the United Nations General Assembly*, 2011, p. 14.

Decisions are normally made by simple majority except for “important questions” as the maintenance of international peace and security, the election of the non-permanent members of the Security Council, the election of the members of the Economic and Social Council and budgetary questions. These questions require a two-third majority. Usually, decisions are made unanimously to illustrate the consensus within the GA and between the Member States.¹⁰

Mandate, Function and Powers

The Articles 10 to 17 of the UN Charter determine the mandate, the function and the power of the General Assembly. Especially the Articles 10 and 11 enable the GA to “discuss any questions or any matters within the scope of the present Charter or relating to the powers and functions of the organs provided for in the present Charter”.¹¹ One of the most prominent topics discussed in recent years has been the establishment and implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Moreover, the GA adopts a plethora of resolutions each year on each of the topics on the floor. However, resolutions adopted by the GA are not legally binding upon the Member States.

Furthermore, the GA follows and promotes “the general principles of co-operation in the maintenance of international peace and security” and may draw the attention of the Security Council to situations that could be threatening international peace and security.¹² However, the GA is not allowed to deal with questions that are currently under discussion in the Security Council. Only if the Security Council finds itself in a deadlock due to the veto or the threat of a veto of one of the permanent Member States the GA may take action to promote peace.¹³

Recent sessions and current priorities

The current 72nd session of the General Assembly was opened on September 19, 2017 and is held under the theme “Focusing on people - striving for peace and a decent life for all on a sustainable planet”.¹⁴ The general debate was held from September 19 until September 25, 2017, at which global leaders expressed their support for the present theme and addressed the needs of people concerning vital issues such as sustainable development and climate change.¹⁵

Conclusion

The topic “Focusing on people - striving for peace and a decent life for all on a sustainable planet” provides a comprehensive framework for the General Assembly to address both topics at hand. Creating sustainable development as well as developing decent livelihoods for all are interconnected and crucial not only to tackle the production, trade and consumption of drugs worldwide but also to manage and prevent increasing climate-change related migration. Consequently, especially with regards to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) the international community has committed herself to, the Member States need to address both topics with the spirit of unity, consensus and equality to enhance international cooperation in both fields of discussion and action.

¹⁰ UN, *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Ch. IV, Art. 18.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, Ch. IV, Art. 10.

¹² *Ibid.*, Ch. IV, Art. 11.

¹³ *Ibid.*, Ch. IV, Art. 12.

¹⁴ UN News Centre, *Striving for peace, decent life for all, ‘very pertinent’ UN Assembly theme, says Ugandan President.*

¹⁵ UN, *UN General Assembly’s annual debate to ‘focus on people,’ ensuring decent life for all.*

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United Nations. (2017). *UN General Assembly's annual debate to 'focus on people,' ensuring decent life for all*. Retrieved September 19, 2017, from <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2017/09/un-general-assemblys-annual-debate-to-focus-on-people-ensuring-decent-life-for-all/>.

I. FACING THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE: ENVIRONMENTAL MIGRATION

Introduction

Climate change accelerates environmental degradation and the occurrence of natural disasters which adversely affect livelihoods, public health, food security, and water availability.¹⁶ These impacts can lead to population movements within and across borders.¹⁷ Indeed, the number of internationally recorded natural disasters has doubled from 200 to 400 per year between 1998 and 2008, whereby 90% of them are climate related.¹⁸ Therefore, natural disasters such as floods or storms displaced an average of 21.5 million people per year since 2008,¹⁹ whereby also droughts or coastal erosion force more and more people to flee.²⁰ By 2050, forecasts show that anything from 25 million to 1 billion people will be on the move because of environmental conditions, making this sort of displacement and migration one of the key challenges of the 21st century.²¹ Therefore, the international community needs to find immediate answers to the complex challenge and growing dimension of environmental migration.²²

Climate change has three main impacts: sea level rise, in- and decreasing water availability, and extreme weather events such as droughts, storms and floods.²³ While environmental conditions always had impacts on human mobility, climate change is expected to increase the extent of human movement.²⁴ Slow onset natural disasters (droughts or coastal erosion linked to sea level rise) and sudden-onset natural disasters (floods or storms),²⁵ affect human “livelihood patterns”²⁶ differently and lead to different types of migration.²⁷ Migration often is an adaptation strategy of affected populations to cope with the effects of climate change, when environmental degradation, a process where climate change impacts and natural disasters affect human livelihood negatively, begins.²⁸ In this early stage of environmental degradation, migration due to environmental and climate conditions is likely to be temporary or seasonal.²⁹ Yet, when environmental degradation becomes drastic or irrevocable, migration can become permanent and lead to internal or international relocation.³⁰

In recent years, the international community became increasingly aware that mass migration movements caused by climate-related events significantly affect the environment in places of destination, transit and origin.³¹ Especially unplanned urbanization and camp settings can lead to exploitation of natural resources and to further destruction of people’s livelihoods, which may provoke subsequent migration.³² Due to its multidimensionality,³³ environmental migration is connected to many devel-

¹⁶ IOM, *Migration and Climate Change: Migration and Climate Change*, 2017.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ UNHCR, *Climate change, natural disasters and human displacement: a UNHCR perspective*, p. 3.

¹⁹ UNHCR, *Frequently asked questions on climate change and disaster displacement*, 2016.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ IOM, *Migration and Climate Change: What are IOM's role and objectives?*, 2017.

²² Ibid.

²³ Adamo, Susana: *Migration, Displacement and Climate Change*, 2016, p. 3.

²⁴ IOM, *Migration and Climate Change: IOM's Perspective*, 2017.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ IOM, *Compendium of IOM's Activities in Migration: Climate Change and the Environment*, 2009, p. 18.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ IOM, *Compendium of IOM's Activities in Migration: Climate Change and the Environment*, 2009, p. 19.

³² Ibid.

³³ IOM, *Migration and Climate Change: Policy*, 2017.

opment policies, to issues of emergency preparedness and humanitarian response, to human security, as well as to urban and land use planning.³⁴ To mitigate forced climate change-related displacement, the international community needs to address its root causes, such as low resilience and social and economic vulnerabilities of people.³⁵ At the same time, international humanitarian support for people migrating due to environmental conditions needs to be strengthened.³⁶ Most importantly, comprehensive international environmental migration management- and settlement-strategies need to be endorsed to globally and nationally manage and govern cross-border and internal environmental migration.³⁷ Especially with regard to the upcoming negotiations among Member States on the Global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration,³⁸ the United Nations General Assembly may serve as a platform to address the diverse forms of environmental migration and its impacts and causes.

International Legal Framework

The term “environmental migrant” and its legal status

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change already determined in 1990 that “one of the gravest effects of climate change may be those on human migration”.³⁹ Even though the international community has known that environmental conditions will affect human migration extensively, there is no internationally accepted definition for persons moving for environmental or climate reasons.⁴⁰ Yet, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has put forward a working definition for environmental migrants:⁴¹

“Environmental migrants are persons or groups of persons who, predominantly for reasons of sudden or progressive change in the environment that adversely affects their lives or living conditions, are obliged to leave their habitual homes, or choose to do so, either temporarily or permanently, and who move either within their country or abroad.”⁴²

Migration caused by environmental circumstances does not fall within one specific legal classification of the existing international legal framework.⁴³ The *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (A/RES/71/1)*, adopted in October 2016 by the UN General Assembly at the UN Refugee Summit,⁴⁴ reinforces the definition of a refugee “as a person who is outside his or her country of origin due to well-founded fear of persecution (...)”⁴⁵ and who needs “protection against the harm feared”⁴⁶, in accordance with the *1951 Refugee Convention* and its *1967 Protocol*.⁴⁷ Even though the *New York Declaration* recognizes that “there may be persons who are forced to flee (...) in the context of sudden- or slow-onset disasters, or in the context of effects of climate change”,⁴⁸ they are

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ IOM, *Migration Management*, 2017.

³⁸ UN General Assembly, *Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 6 April 2017: 71/280. Modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration (A/RES/ 71/280)*, 2017.

³⁹ IPCC, *First Assessment Report, Policy Maker Summary of Working Group 2*, 1990, p. 103, para. 5.0.10.

⁴⁰ IOM, *Climate Change and Environment: Definitional Issues*, 2017.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ UN General Assembly, *Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 September 2016: 71/1. New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants 2016 (A/RES/71/1)*, p.3.

⁴⁵ UNHCR, *The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants Answers to Frequently Asked Questions*, p. 3.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

not recognized as refugees in international law.⁴⁹ Consequently, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other international organizations do not talk of “environmental refugees” and rather, use the terms climate-related displacement or disaster displacement.⁵⁰

Essentially, the legal status of environmental migrants is dependent on whether they move within their home country (internal migration) or migrate across borders (international migration).⁵¹ Internal displaced environmental migrants are protected by international humanitarian and human rights law, as reflected in the *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2)*.⁵² In this case, governments are responsible for the people displaced within their borders.⁵³ Yet, when they lack the capabilities to respond adequately, governments can request international humanitarian support and assistance.⁵⁴ However, there are legal gaps concerning cross-border displaced persons due to disasters,⁵⁵ as there are no widely accepted rules that govern the environmental migrant’s entry and stay in another country.⁵⁶

Early legal efforts to contain climate change and its effects on human life and migration

The *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)* was adopted in 1992 during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.⁵⁷ The Convention aims to stabilize “greenhouse gas concentrations”⁵⁸ and therefore plays a central role in mitigating climate change which can lead to increasing environmental migration.⁵⁹ The *UNFCCC* has two sister conventions, namely the *United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)* and the *United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)*.⁶⁰ Only in the *UNCCD* the parties to the convention consider “the relationship between poverty and migration caused by environmental factors, and desertification”.⁶¹ Furthermore, *The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018)*⁶² was established within the *UNCCD*. It addresses the “cause-and-effect relationship between desertification and migration”.⁶³ Within this strategy, *UNCCD* focusses on various elements such as the promotion of partnerships and investment from developed countries, improved risk management and awareness raising about the impacts of desertification to mitigate migration due to environmental disadvantages and lacks of economic opportunities.⁶⁴

Latest international efforts to address environmental migration

To mainstream migration strategies into national law, the *United Nations Development Programme-IOM Joint Global Programme on Mainstreaming Migration in National Strategies* was established in

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ UNHCR, *UNHCR, the Environment & Climate Change*, 2015, p. 9.

⁵¹ UNHCR, *UNHCR, the Environment and Climate Change*, 2015, p. 8-9.

⁵² IOM, *Migration and Climate Change: Definitional Issues*, p. 8.

⁵³ UNHCR, *UNHCR, the Environment and Climate Change*, 2015, p. 8.

⁵⁴ UNHCR, *UNHCR, the Environment and Climate Change*, 2015, p. 9.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ UNFCCC, *First steps to a safer future: Introducing The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, 2014.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ IOM, *Migration and Climate Change*, 2017.

⁶⁰ UNFCCC, *First steps to a safer future: Introducing The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, 2014.

⁶¹ UN Convention to Combat Desertification, Art. 17 (e), 1992.

⁶² UN Convention to Combat Desertification, *The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018)*.

⁶³ UN Convention to Combat Desertification, *UNCCD thematic fact sheet series No. 3: Migration and desertification*, p. 2.

⁶⁴ Ibid.

2012.⁶⁵ The Programme is aimed to support governments in governing migration to increase the human development outcomes and to mitigate the risks for migrants, their families and communities at origin and destination.⁶⁶

In its 2015 report *UNHCR, the Environment and Climate Change*, UNHCR argues that planned relocation can protect vulnerable populations from climate risks and impacts through settling them in safer locations.⁶⁷ To support States in protecting their populations against the impacts of disasters and environmental change, including the influences of climate change, through planned relocation, UNHCR launched the *Guidance on Protecting People from Disasters and Environmental Change through Planned Relocation* in 2015.⁶⁸

By agreeing on the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030*, which was endorsed by the General Assembly after the 2015 Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR),⁶⁹ the international community builds up resilience of communities against natural disasters with the goal to mitigate climate change's negative effects on human lives.⁷⁰

Furthermore, the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) plays a crucial role to prevent and manage forced environmental migration. Particularly relevant to the topic are SDGs 10, 13 and 15, as well as SDG target 11.5, that address the adverse effects and “complex nexus”⁷¹ of climate change and environmental migration.

SDG 10 aims to “Reduce inequalities in and among countries” and thereby also addresses States’ inequalities concerning unevenly distributed effects of migration.⁷² Target 10.7 aims “to facilitate orderly, safe, and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies”.⁷³ This target is therefore essential for the international community’s efforts to create strategies that strive to facilitate managed migration. SDG target 11.5 has the purpose to significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected by disasters with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations and thus reinforces Member States’ measures to improve countries’, communities’ and peoples’ resilience towards natural disasters.⁷⁴

SDG 13 aims to “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”.⁷⁵ As climate change is the “biggest threat to development”⁷⁶, SDG 13 builds the basis for enhanced international cooperation to contain climate change as a cause of migration due to destruction of human livelihoods, development and economic prospects.⁷⁷ Corresponding with SDG 13, SDG 15 aims to “Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat

⁶⁵ UNDP, *Issue Brief: UNDP-IOM Joint Programme on Mainstreaming Migration into National Strategies*, 2016.

⁶⁶ UNDP, *Issue Brief: UNDP-IOM Joint Programme on Mainstreaming Migration into National Strategies*, 2016.

⁶⁷ UNHCR, *UNHCR, the Environment and Climate Change*, 2015, p. 10.

⁶⁸ UNHCR, *Guidance on Protecting People from Disasters and Environmental Change through Planned Relocation*, 2015, p. 9.

⁶⁹ UNISDR, *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Making the Difference for Poverty, Health and Resilience*.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ IOM, *Migration and Climate Change: A Complex Nexus*, 2017.

⁷² UN DESA, *Knowledge Platform, Sustainable Development Goal 10: progress & info*, 2017.

⁷³ SDSN, *Indicators and a Monitoring Framework: Launching a data revolution for the Sustainable Development Goals, TARGET 10.7*.

⁷⁴ UN DESA, *Knowledge Platform, Sustainable Development Goal 11.5: targets & indicators*.

⁷⁵ UN DESA, *Knowledge Platform, Sustainable Development Goal 13*.

⁷⁶ UN DESA, *Knowledge Platform, Sustainable Development Goal 13: progress & info (2016)*.

⁷⁷ IOM, *Migration and Climate Change*, 2017.

desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”.⁷⁸ As migration is extensively caused by desertification and land degradation, it is essential to strengthen livelihoods in drylands and areas that are affected by desertification.⁷⁹

The Paris Agreement, ratified by 169 of 197 Parties to the Convention, was established within the UNFCCC.⁸⁰ It aims to mitigate global warming, its impacts on livelihoods, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerabilities to climate change.⁸¹ ⁸² The parties of the Agreement request the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage to establish a task force on displacement.⁸³ This task force shall “develop recommendations for integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change”⁸⁴ and plans to launch them in fall 2018.⁸⁵

The *New York Declaration* connects the impacts of climate change and migration, referencing the *2030 Agenda*, the *Paris Agreement* and the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*.⁸⁶ Member States recognize the need to protect migrants and refugees and the “important contribution made by migrants and migration to development in countries of origin, transit and destination”.⁸⁷ Moreover, at the Refugee Summit, the international community announced a closer legal and working relationship between the UN and IOM, the leading agency on migration globally, making it part of the UN system.⁸⁸ IOM has a crucial role in developing comprehensive migration management approaches, tackling the complex linkages between climate change and migration with the aim to decrease vulnerability of populations which are exposed to environmental risk factors.⁸⁹ Thus, IOM's central objectives in managing environmental migration are to prevent forced migration resulting from environmental factors, to provide assistance to affected populations in case of forced migration, and to facilitate migration as an adaptation strategy to climate change.⁹⁰ Therefore, IOM created the *IOM Migration Crisis Operational Framework* in 2012, combining IOM humanitarian actions and migration management efforts.⁹¹ In 2015, IOM established the Environmental Migration Portal to close the knowledge gap concerning environmental migration and centralize crucial information on this topic.⁹²

The most essential commitment of the *New York Declaration* is the creation of a *Comprehensive refugee response framework* and a *Global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration*.⁹³ The *Global compact* is going to be the first inter-governmentally negotiated,⁹⁴ although non-binding,⁹⁵ agreement that covers all scopes of international migration.⁹⁶ It is aimed to improve the regulation

⁷⁸ UN DESA, *Knowledge Platform, Sustainable Development Goal 15*.

⁷⁹ UN Convention to Combat Desertification, *UNCCD thematic fact sheet series No. 3: Migration and desertification*, p. 2.

⁸⁰ UNFCCC, *Paris Agreement: essential elements*, 2014.

⁸¹ UNFCCC, *Paris Agreement*, Art.7 2., 2015.

⁸² UNFCCC, *Paris Agreement*, Art. 7 1., 2015.

⁸³ UNHCR, *Frequently asked questions on climate change and disaster: How is displacement addressed in the Paris Agreement?*, 2016.

⁸⁴ UNFCCC, *Paris Agreement*, Art. 8 3., 2015.

⁸⁵ UNFCCC, *Task Force on Displacement: Milestones of the Task Force*, 2014.

⁸⁶ UN General Assembly, *Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 September 2016 (A/RES/71/1)*, 2016.

⁸⁷ UN General Assembly, *Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 September 2016 (A/RES/71/1)*, Annex II, 2016.

⁸⁸ UN General Assembly, *Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 September 2016 (A/RES/71/1)*, III. 49., 2016.

⁸⁹ IOM, *Migration and Climate Change*, 2017.

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ IOM, *Migration Crisis Operational Framework: Migration Crisis Operational Framework*, 2017.

⁹² Environmental Migration Portal, *About the Portal*.

⁹³ UN General Assembly, *Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 September 2016 (A/RES/71/1)*, 2016.

⁹⁴ UNHCR, *Compact for migration*.

⁹⁵ IOM, *Global Compact for Migration: The New York Declaration*, 2017.

⁹⁶ Refugees and Migrants, *Compact for migration*.

on migration, to address the challenges associated with today's migration.⁹⁷ The compact is consistent with SDG target 10.7 of the 2030 Agenda, in which Member States committed to cooperate internationally to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration.⁹⁸ It is aimed to enhance global governance and coordination on international migration and to present a framework for comprehensive international cooperation on migrants and human mobility, as well as to set out a series of actionable commitments, follow-ups, and reviews among Member States.⁹⁹

Case Study:

Monsoon floods in India, Bangladesh and Nepal

Most recently in August 2017, more than 40 million people were affected by floods caused by monsoon rain in India, Bangladesh and Nepal.¹⁰⁰ These floods led to the death of more than 1,200 people and prevented some 1.8 million children from going to school.¹⁰¹ Moreover, the floods caused landslides, destroyed farmland and homes, damaged roads, electric infrastructure and hospitals, and raised the risk of disease outbreak.¹⁰² In India, the floods affected over 18 million people, their livelihoods, education, and infrastructure.¹⁰³ India is highly vulnerable to climate change, with 65% of the country being drought prone and 12% being flood prone.¹⁰⁴

Many people who are displaced by climate change impacts decide to move to urban areas, searching for greater security, better access to basic services, and greater economic opportunities.¹⁰⁵ Indeed, research of the International Institute for Environment and Development shows that environmental disasters, such as the flood in India, increase internal migration.¹⁰⁶ Bad economic prospects and high vulnerability to further hazards lead to rising working migration from rural areas into the cities.¹⁰⁷ Internal migration into the city can lead to uncontrolled urbanization and informal settlement, increasing vulnerability of environmental migrants due to improper housing, "livelihood insecurity, inadequate sanitation, ineffective social protection schemes",¹⁰⁸ and lack of health care and other basic services.¹⁰⁹ Additionally, low education levels, discrimination and exploitation worsen the situation for migrants, especially for women and girls.¹¹⁰

Besides internal climate change-related migration movements, India also faces environmental immigration from other countries, inter alia from its neighboring country Bangladesh which is also

⁹⁷ Ibid.

⁹⁸ IOM, *Global Compact for Migration*, 2017.

⁹⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰⁰ UNICEF, *Floods affect millions in Bangladesh, India and Nepal*, 2017.

¹⁰¹ The Guardian, *South Asia floods kill 1,200 and shut 1.8 million children out of school*, 2017.

¹⁰² Ibid.

¹⁰³ UNICEF, *Floods affect millions in Bangladesh, India and Nepal*, 2017.

¹⁰⁴ UNDP, *Communities adapt to extreme weather conditions in India*.

¹⁰⁵ ODI, *Sanctuary in the city? Urban displacement and vulnerability*.

¹⁰⁶ International Institute for Environment and Development, *Asian Cities Climate Resilience Policy Brief 2015: Climate change and migrant workers in India*, 2015.

¹⁰⁷ Ibid.

¹⁰⁸ Ibid.

¹⁰⁹ Ibid.

¹¹⁰ Ibid.

hazard-prone.¹¹¹ However, India often explains migration from Bangladesh as caused by socio-economic and political problems.¹¹² These cross-border movements have led to tensions in India-Bangladesh relations, as India is worried about illegal migration from Bangladesh and its social and political consequences.¹¹³

Conclusion

The efforts to address environmental migration need to consider a variety of complex and interconnected environment- and climate change-related variables. Diverse causes lead to a devastating number of negative impacts such as the destruction of livelihoods, water and food scarcity, or lacking supply of medical care. Yet, also other related factors such as the status of development, decreasing work opportunities and low resilience in the home country due to climate change can drive environmental migration.¹¹⁴ Consequently, the variety of causes needs to be answered by a variety of diverse international, regional, bilateral and national cooperation strategies, especially as environmental migration may occur internally or across international borders. However, international cooperation on cross-border migration management and settlement strategies still lacks. Countries of origin, transit, and destination should consider working closely together to develop such strategies. International consensus on the treatment and rights of environmental migrants is crucial to eliminate tensions between countries that may occur due to the unclear status of environmental migrants. Giving adequate and comprehensive recommendations on these topics for the negotiations on the *Global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration* is vital for further progress in the field of environmental migration.

Further Research

- How can the GA address the complex interdependency between climate change, environment and migration? How can the GA tackle the causes of climate change-related migration? How can the GA strengthen disaster risk reduction and the resilience of vulnerable populations?
- What can the GA do to support concerned agencies in the field of environmental migration? How can the GA support Member States that are or will be extensively affected by environmental migration? Can the GA effectively support the national creation and implementation of migration management strategies?
- What challenges remain in addressing cross-border migration? How can the GA support international agreements to ensure safe cross-border migration in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters?

¹¹¹ Climate Diplomacy, *India at the Central Debate Surrounding “Environmental” Migration in South Asia*, 2016.

¹¹² Ibid.

¹¹³ Migration Policy Institute, *Working Hard for the Money: Bangladesh Faces Challenges of Large-Scale Labor Migration*, 2011.

¹¹⁴ IOM, *Migration and Climate Change*, 2017.

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II. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ADDRESS THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM

Introduction

The international illicit drug market was never as diversified and flexible as today. The complexity of the world drug problem calls for strengthened international cooperation and joint countermeasures.¹¹⁵ As already emphasized by the UN General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS) in 1998, with *Resolution 53/115* as its outcome, it is a common and shared responsibility of the whole international community to combat the world drug problem.¹¹⁶

As estimated by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), the governing body of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), currently about 27 million people suffer from drug abuse disorders worldwide and about 200,000 deaths are caused every year by drug overdoses.¹¹⁷ However, access to and availability of affordable treatment services and drug prevention strategies remain poor in many countries while demand for and supply of drugs continue to increase.¹¹⁸ Among the approximately 12 million people who inject drugs (PWID) worldwide, drug abuse leads to severe health impacts.¹¹⁹ About 1.6 million PWID are infected with HIV and 6.1 million with Hepatitis C. Among all diseases that affect drug users, Hepatitis C causes the highest number of deaths and loss of healthy life years due to drug abuse, also called Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs). Nevertheless, the access to affordable treatment for Hepatitis C remains poor.¹²⁰ Besides Hepatitis C, drug overdose is the main reason for death within PWID, especially among those who inject heroin, making overdose the “leading cause of avoidable death”.¹²¹ There are also an increasing number of Tuberculosis infections measured among drug users.¹²²

Besides the global health issues that are related to the drug problem, the global trade of illicit drugs leads to many challenges regarding the rule of law and international peace and security. High levels of corruption within a country facilitate illicit drug trafficking which in turn increases corruption.¹²³ Moreover, the international community not only draws attention to the “circle of mutual influence of corruption and drug trade”,¹²⁴ but also to transnational organized crime groups, who are often involved in trafficking drugs and drug trade-related money laundering.¹²⁵ With the increasing number of organized crime and terrorist groups involved in the global drug trade, drug-related illicit

¹¹⁵ UNODC, *World Drug Report 2017: Executive Summary – Conclusions and Policy Implications*, 2017, p.13.

¹¹⁶ UN General Assembly, *International cooperation against the world drug problem (A/RES/53/115)*, 1998; UN General Assembly, *Assembly Special Session on Countering World Drug Problem Together concludes at headquarters*, 1998.

¹¹⁷ UNODC, *Statement at the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly*, 2016.

¹¹⁸ Ibid.

¹¹⁸ UNODC, *World Drug Report 2017: Global Overview of Drug Demand and Supply: Latest trends, cross-cutting issues*, 2017, p.3.

¹¹⁹ UNODC, *World Drug Report 2017: Executive Summary – Conclusions and Policy Implications*, 2017, p.10.

¹²⁰ Ibid.

¹²¹ UNODC, World Health Organization, *The S-O-S initiative – Stop Overdose Safely: Emergency community management of heroin and opioid overdose including interim naloxone*.

¹²² UNODC, *World Drug Report 2017: Executive Summary – Conclusions and Policy Implications*, 2017, p.12.

UNODC, *World Drug Report 2017: The drug problem and organized crime, illicit financial flows, corruption and terrorism*, 2017, p.3.

¹²⁴ UNODC, *World Drug Report 2017: Executive Summary – Conclusions and Policy Implications*, 2017, p.22.

¹²⁵ UNODC, *Organized Crime*.

financial flows have risen worldwide.¹²⁶ The European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (EUROPOL) reports on these activities but data that assesses the revenues of those groups are still limited.¹²⁷

International Frameworks and Programs

The international community has adopted three major treaties regarding international drug control.¹²⁸ The *Single Convention in Narcotic Drug of 1961* as well as the *Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971* enshrine international applicable control measures to limit access to narcotic drugs to medical and scientific purposes only.¹²⁹ They also offer recommendations on regulation strategies to combat illicit drug trafficking and drug abuse.¹³⁰ The *United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1998* calls for effective countermeasures to control the precursors of illicit drugs, illicit drug trafficking and drug-related money-laundering.¹³¹ Those three international frameworks form the basis for the work of the CND.¹³² The CND informs the international community on the current status concerning rehabilitation of drug users, the demand for and supply of illicit drugs and the prevention of drug abuse.¹³³ On account of the *1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs*, the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) was established, which supervises the implementation of those three major treaties, recommending actions to Member States for their better realization.¹³⁴

The *1998 Political Declaration* on countering the world drug problem, adopted by the international community, provided guiding principles to reduce drug demand, recommended Member States to develop and implement national money-laundering and drug reduction strategies, including national legislation and programs on illicit drug manufacturing, trafficking and use, and requested annual revisions of such measures.¹³⁵

Considering the connection between corruption and drug crime, the GA adopted the *United Nations Convention Against Corruption* in 2003, which emphasizes the establishment of effective international legal instruments countering corruption to ensure sustainable measures to combat the illicit drug trade, trafficking and drug abuse.¹³⁶ Within this resolution the establishment of long-term, balanced and development-oriented control policies and programs are promoted, as well as the necessity to provide alternative livelihoods, to retrieve security and to implement rule of law, also in countries who's populations produce and cultivate illicit substances.¹³⁷

The Global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends Programme (SMART Programme) was launched in 2008 by the UNODC to support governments in accumulating data on the global drug problem with a special focus ATS and NPS available on the global drug market.¹³⁸ Hence, this program provides technical support for national laboratory personnel, law enforcement and research officers to enhance capacity and generate more information about the use of synthetic

¹²⁶ UNODC, *World Drug Report 2017: The drug problem and organized crime, illicit financial flows, corruption and terrorism*, 2017, p.27.

¹²⁷ UNODC, *World Drug Report 2017: Executive Summary – Conclusions and Policy Implications*, 2017, p.23-26.

¹²⁸ UNODC, *Drugs: legal framework*, 2017.

¹²⁹ Ibid.

¹³⁰ Ibid.

¹³¹ Ibid.

¹³² UNODC, *Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND): Mandate and function*.

¹³³ Ibid.

¹³⁴ UNODC, *International Narcotics Control Board (INCB): Mandate and Functions*, 2013.

¹³⁵ UNODC, *Political Declarations on the world drug problem*, 2016.

¹³⁶ UN General Assembly, *United Nations Convention against Corruption (A/RES/58/4)*, 2003; UNODC, *United Nations Convention against Corruption*, 2017.

¹³⁷ UNODC, *World Drug Report 2016*, 2016, preface.

¹³⁸ UNODC, *The Global SMART Programme: Overview*, 2017.

drugs.¹³⁹ Within priority regions, elected by the *SMART Programme*, seizures, drug trafficking and drug use is observed. Consequently, generated information is provided worldwide strengthening data sharing among United Nations Member States.¹⁴⁰

Following the *1998 Political Declaration* and progress made over the span of a decade, the international community adopted the *2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation toward an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem*.¹⁴¹ This international agreement aims to enhance the international cooperation to combat the illicit drug trade as it is a common and shared responsibility of the whole international community.¹⁴² Within the action plan, Member States outline 30 remedies and emphasize the development of evidence-based intervention strategies to combat money-laundering and illicit drug trade.¹⁴³ Additionally, it is promoted to mainstream drug treatment and enable unrestricted access to and availability of affordable drug demand prevention services.¹⁴⁴ Moreover, attention is called to new trafficking trends and the need for effective intelligence exchange and monitoring.¹⁴⁵ Additionally, an open-ended intergovernmental expert working group was established to evaluate actions taken by the Member States to achieve the goals and targets set in the *2009 Political Declaration*.¹⁴⁶

In the *2014 Joint Ministerial Statement* Member States, in cooperation with the CND, published a high-level-review about the progress of the implementation of the *2009 Political Declaration*.¹⁴⁷ Consequently, Member States emphasize further national, regional and international judicial cooperation within the international community to increase the prevention, detection and prosecution of organized crime groups involved in drug trafficking.¹⁴⁸ Within this high-level-review, the GA requested the CND to join the preparatory process UNGASS that led to the CND's *Resolution 57/5A*, in which the commission committed to an "adequate, inclusive and effective preparatory process for the 2016 Special Session".¹⁴⁹

In 2005, the international community adopted the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) to "end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all".¹⁵⁰ Ensuring human rights, development and equality for all are closely linked to reducing conflict, crime, bad governance and the world drug problem. The UNODC has a key role concerning the implementation of the *2030 Agenda* goals related to drugs and crime; for instance, SDG 3 and its targets 3.5, 3.3 and 3.8, which aim to increase universal health coverage, the availability of prevention and treatment services for substance abuse, as well as to end the epidemic of various diseases like AIDS or Hepatitis.¹⁵¹ SDG 16 is also emphasized, with a special focus on target 16.5 combatting corruption and bribery.¹⁵² Lastly, the UNODC's operations are related to SDG 5, 6, 8 (target 8.6 and 8.8), 10 (target 10.7 and 10.b), 11, 14, 15 and 17.

¹³⁹ Ibid.

¹⁴⁰ Ibid.

¹⁴¹ UNODC, *Political Declarations on the world drug problem*, 2016.

¹⁴² Ibid.

¹⁴³ UNODC, *Political Declaration and Action Plan map out future of drug control*, 2009.

¹⁴⁴ Ibid.

¹⁴⁵ Ibid.

¹⁴⁶ Ibid.

¹⁴⁷ UNODC, *Press Release: Joint Ministerial Statement stresses health, prevention and treatment in countering world drug problem*, 2014.

¹⁴⁸ UN ECOSOC, *Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the Implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (E/CN.7/2014/L.15)*, 2014, p.14.

¹⁴⁹ UNGASS 2016, *Achieving the 2019 goals- a better tomorrow for the world's youth*, 2016.

¹⁵⁰ UNODC, *UNODC and the Sustainable Development Goals*, p.2.

¹⁵¹ Ibid.

¹⁵² Ibid.

In 2016, UNGASS evaluated the progress made to meet the targets and goals as defined in the 2009 *Political Declaration*.¹⁵³ It was highlighted that “global drug policies must put people first” and therefore, balanced strategies and global drug control systems in line with health and human rights are vital.¹⁵⁴ Apart from that, until now just *Resolution 53/115*¹⁵⁵ has been adopted by the GA, which exclusively focuses on individual and collective problems arising from drug abuse.¹⁵⁶ Additionally, Member States recalled within the 2016 special session their commitment to the existing challenges of the world drug problem in accordance with the three international drug control conventions.¹⁵⁷ As a conclusion of UNGASS 2016, the General Assembly adopted *Resolution S-30/1* recommending measures to enhance further international cooperation to counter the international trade of illicit substances.¹⁵⁸

In March 2017, the *UNODC-WHO Programme on Drug Dependence treatment and Care* (GLOK32) was launched, which focusses on treatment services, strategies and interventions for the reduction of health and social burden caused by drug use and addiction in low- and middle-income countries.¹⁵⁹ Within this framework, the *Stop Overdose Safely (S-O-S) Initiative*, in accordance with the WHO guidelines on *Community Management of Opioid Overdose 2014*, was established.¹⁶⁰ It encourages Member States to implement stronger community management for opioid overdose and training of overdose management for potential first-aiders.¹⁶¹ Moreover, the initiative promotes cooperation between national governments, regional organizations, research institutes, and civil society, to globally improve the availability of and access to resources to reduce preventable deaths due to opioid overdose.¹⁶² The Initiative supports people format risk of drug abuse and their family members.¹⁶³ In line with GLOK32, the *UNODC Programme on the Access to Controlled Drugs for Medical Purposes, While Preventing Diversion and Abuse* (GLOK67) facilitates controlled access to drugs for medical purposes.¹⁶⁴ Furthermore, the program, established through the cooperation between UNODC, WHO and the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC), supports Member States in improving the capability of healthcare professionals, reform national legal frameworks, and facilitate wider cooperation among the international community.¹⁶⁵

In its World Drug Report the UNODC provides an overview about current trends concerning the global drug market, trafficking routes and the health impact of drug abuse.¹⁶⁶ The World Drug Report 2016 examines the negative impacts of drugs on individuals and their families, such as domestic violence, and promotes the development of comprehensive and integrated right-based and scientifically proven strategies for drug abuse treatment and prevention, which are still limited in various countries.¹⁶⁷ The Word Drug Report of 2017 focusses on different forms of organized crime linked

¹⁵³ UNODC, *UNODC Statement at the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly*, 2016.

¹⁵⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵⁵ UN General Assembly, *International cooperation against the world drug problem (A/RES/53/115)*, 2000, p.16.

¹⁵⁶ UN, *Press Release GA/9423: Assembly Sepecial Session on Countering World Drug Problem Together Concludes At Headquarters*, 1998.

¹⁵⁷ UNODC, *World Drug Report 2016*, 2016, preface.

¹⁵⁸ UN General Assembly, *Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem: Annex (A/RES/S-30/1)*, 2016.

¹⁵⁹ UNODC, World Health Organization, *The S-O-S initiative – Stop Overdose Safely*.

¹⁶⁰ UNODC, *Drug use prevention, treatment and care*, 2017.

¹⁶¹ UNODC, World Health Organization, *The S-O-S initiative – Stop Overdose Safely*.

¹⁶² UNODC, *The S-O-S initiative – Stop Overdose Safely: Emergency community management of heroin and opioid overdose including interim naloxone*, p.1.

¹⁶³ UNODC, World Health Organization (WHO), *The S-O-S initiative – Stop Overdose Safely*.

¹⁶⁴ UNODC, *Access to Controlled Drugs for Medical Purposes, While Preventing Diversion and Abuse (GLOK67)*, 2017.

¹⁶⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶⁶ UNODC, *World Drug Report 2016*, 2016, preface.

¹⁶⁷ Ibid.

to the illicit drug trade, such as illicit financial flows, terrorism, and corruption.¹⁶⁸ The report further calls for compliance with and policies in regard to the international drug control conventions.¹⁶⁹

Case Study:

Afghanistan's central role within the international opium market

Afghanistan dominates the global opium market and currently accounts for almost two third of the illicit opium poppy cultivation worldwide.¹⁷⁰ Reportedly, about 380 tons of heroin and morphine are exclusively produced from afghan opium, though, only 5 tons are estimated to be consumed in Afghanistan.¹⁷¹ Nevertheless, about 2 million people in Afghanistan suffer from drug abuse and 5 % of the country's population is involved in the cultivation of drugs.¹⁷² Therefore, Afghanistan plays an essential role when addressing the world drug problem.¹⁷³

To combat the immense drug trafficking generated through the production of illicit substances in Afghanistan, the UNODC established the integrated solution *UNODC One Concerted Approach for Europe, West and Central Asia* based on three distinct but closely inter-connected levels.¹⁷⁴ Consequently, this strategy aims to address security, economic, governance and development challenges in Afghanistan. Thus, achievements of national, regional and global programs are combined, wherefore this approach is also called the "three-tier" approach.¹⁷⁵ Moreover, it interconnects each UNODC office in West and Central Asia as well as the Regional Office for Central Asia, enabling knowledge exchange within regional and global programs and focusing on priority areas as elected by the CND.¹⁷⁶ Building on existing expertise, this approach focuses on the improvement of law enforcement, criminal justice and judicial cooperation, and social development to prosecute criminals behind illicit drug trafficking and identify transnational organized crime.¹⁷⁷ Another aspect of the "three-tier" approach is the development of alternative livelihoods for local populations to prevent poor farmers to cultivate illicit drugs.¹⁷⁸

Several other well-established initiatives are working closely with this integrated solution like the *Triangular Initiative* (TI), a cooperation between Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran established in 2007. The TI focusses on containing and controlling the amount of illicit drugs trafficked via the Southern and Balkan route as one of the main trafficking routes for illicit drugs.¹⁷⁹ Through several trust building measures and joint operations, information and intelligence is exchanged. Furthermore, close cooperation within the anti-narcotics forces of the three countries is enabled in order to counter the trade of narcotic substances, especially considering that 70% of the afghan opiates are trafficking via Iran and Pakistan.¹⁸⁰ To supervise the joint operations targeting and prosecuting drug trafficking networks in the region, a Joint Planning Cell was established. UNODC serves as the Secretariat of this initiative providing technical assistance, mobilizing financial support, and organizing meetings of experts and policy-makers of the three countries to further

¹⁶⁸ UNODC, *World Drug Report 2017: Executive Summary – Conclusions and Policy Implications*, 2017, preface.

¹⁶⁹ Ibid.

¹⁷⁰ UNODC, *West and Central Asia*, 2016.

¹⁷¹ UNODC, *Drug trafficking*, 2010.

¹⁷² UNODC, *Health and Livelihoods*.

¹⁷³ UNODC, *West and Central Asia*, 2016.

¹⁷⁴ Ibid.

¹⁷⁵ Ibid.

¹⁷⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷⁷ UNODC, *One UNODC concerted approach interconnecting Europe with West and Central Asia*, 2015, p.3; UNODC, *West and Central Asia*, 2016.

¹⁷⁸ UNODC, *West and Central Asia*, 2016.

¹⁷⁹ Ibid.

¹⁸⁰ UNODC, *Triangular Initiative*.

trust among the partners.¹⁸¹ Until 2015, the *TI* realized 24 joint field operations and seizing about 3.709 kilograms of illicit drugs.¹⁸² Nevertheless, opioid substances produced in Afghanistan are still leading on the world drug market.¹⁸³

Furthermore, in 2003 the international coalition *Paris Pact Initiative* (PPI) was established to focus on combating trafficking of opiates from Afghanistan. Until now, 58 countries and 23 organization, including UNODC, the EU, INTERPOL and WHO, have become partners of this coalition and arrange political and technical assistance.¹⁸⁴ As stated within the *Vienna Declaration*, adopted 2012 by the *PPI* partners, it is crucial to establish and implement measures in a balanced and comprehensive manner. Consequently, every developed intervention should base on scientific evidence and be in full compliance with the three major international drug control conventions, the fundamental human rights and freedoms.¹⁸⁵ Therefore, it is seen as one of the most important frameworks to fight the illicit trafficking of opiates in Afghanistan.¹⁸⁶ Within the *PPI* the UNODC aims to increase the synergies and cooperation among partners.¹⁸⁷

Also, several other programs and strategies are operating within Afghanistan in order to assist drug affected communities, like the *Sub-program 3*.¹⁸⁸ This program proposes alternative income opportunities for farmers cultivating opium poppy or cannabis.¹⁸⁹ Moreover, HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care strategies are offered, including required technical support for the government and civil society.¹⁹⁰

Conclusion

Despite the commitment of the international community towards combating the world drug problem, old challenges remain and new challenges emerge due to new technologies and instability in many regions. The effective implementation of the established international frameworks countering the world drug problem requires continuous national, regional, and international engagement and awareness. Furthermore, wider international cooperation, capacity building, data collection, and knowledge sharing are crucial. Cooperation between different regions, in particular between areas of consumption and cultivation, remains poor. Therefore, the work of the General Assembly as the main deliberative and policymaking body of the UN, remains fundamental for the establishment of joint countermeasures to combat the illicit trade of drugs and mitigate its negative impacts.

Further Research

- How can drug related deaths worldwide be reduced, considering that deaths caused by overdose are preventable? How can the access to and availability of affordable and evidence-based drug prevention and drug abuse treatment services be increased?
- Which actions can be taken to fulfill the spirit of the SDGs “to leave no one behind”? How can affordable treatment services for diseases like HIV and Tuberculosis be provided for everyone?

¹⁸¹ Ibid.

¹⁸² UNODC, *Ministerial meeting on Triangular Initiative discusses action against illicit drugs*, 2015.

¹⁸³ UNODC, *World Drug Report 2017: Executive Summary – Conclusions and Policy Implications*, 2017, p.16.

¹⁸⁴ UNODC, *The Paris Pact Initiative - What is it?*.

¹⁸⁵ UNODC, *Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Partners on Combating Illicit Traffic in Opiates Originating in Afghanistan: Vienna Declaration*, 2012, p.5.

¹⁸⁶ UNODC, *The Paris Pact Initiative - What is it?*, Retrieved 5 October 2017.

¹⁸⁷ UNODC, *West and Central Asia*, 2016.

¹⁸⁸ UNODC, *Health and Livelihoods*.

¹⁸⁹ Ibid.

¹⁹⁰ Ibid.

- What kind of measures should be developed to reduce the supply of and demand for illicit substances, while simultaneously facilitating the access to and availability of drugs for medical purposes? How can alternative income opportunities be provided to those, who are cultivating illicit substances in order to achieve decent livelihoods for their families?
- How can wider regional, interregional and international cooperation be achieved and data collection and sharing be strengthened? How can corruption and bribery be reduced and the lack of data on drug trade in connection with corruption be closed?

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