

OAFLMUN 2026

STUDY GUIDE

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE

ON DRUGS AND CRIME

(UNODC)

Agenda Items:

- Treatment and social reintegration of drug addicts
- Combating the illegal production and trafficking of drugs

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I. Letters

a. Letter from the Secretary General

Dear Participants of OAFLMUN'26,

It is my pleasure to announce OAFLMUN'26. First and foremost, I would like to express my

sincere gratitude to everyone who has given their utmost effort in organising this conference. As the Secretary-General of this conference, I am truly delighted and honoured to welcome you all.

Our conference will be held at Özkent Akbilek Science High School from April 24th to April 26th. Allow me to briefly introduce myself. My name is Ecrin İrem Gültop, and I am currently an

11th-grade student at Özkent Akbilek Science High School. I have been participating in Model United Nations conferences since December 2022. Throughout these experiences, I have witnessed genuine friendships, effective crisis management, proper approaches to diplomacy, and, undoubtedly, true leadership. Now, it is my turn to help a new generation of participants experience these remarkable opportunities.

The 2026 edition of OAFLMUN will host the following committees: NATO, HCC, UNWOMEN,

JCC, UNSC, UNICEF, UNODC, and DISEC. I look forward to welcoming you all to an

unforgettable conference experience where diplomacy, leadership, and collaboration will truly come to life.

Yours sincerely, Ecrin İrem Gültop

Secretary-General of OAFLMUN'26

b. Letter from the Head of Academy

Honorable Delegates of OAFLMUN'26,

Welcome to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Committee.

It is our pleasure to have the opportunity to host you in this committee, where various global issues related to illegal drugs, such as drug trafficking, organized crime, and the rehabilitation of addicts, will be discussed. Although these topics may seem challenging at first, there is seriously nothing you folks are not capable of, and I am sure you will be able to manage them with a bit of effort and preparation.

You do not have to be an expert in all matters before coming to the conference. You have an excellent guide to prepare you, which has been written by the talented Under Secretary General and Academic Assistant of your committee. If you study carefully, you will be all set for the event.

Don't get carried away while debating and forget to enjoy the conference; balance is an important aspect. Keep in mind that everyone you will encounter during the committee are students your age. You know we are not boring old United Nations officials who put little to no effort into preserving peace compared to threats of inanimate nuclear weapons and do nothing in order to make the world a better place. So don't be afraid to show off. What's the worst that could happen?

As I previously stated, please make sure to read the study guide carefully. Attend sessions on time, come prepared to contribute and everything will be alright.

In addition, I would like to sincerely thank my friend, the Under Secretary General Hale Serra Karabulut for giving me the opportunity to write this letter and more importantly, for contributing to this event with her remarkable dedication and talent.

*I am glad to be of service and look forward to seeing you active in the sessions. **Best regards, Your Head of Academy, Cumhur Kaan Özdemir***

c. Letter from the Under Secretary General

To the delegates of OAFLMUN'26,

It is my utmost pleasure to be the Under-Secretary General of the United Nations Office on

Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Committee. I plan to spend a good majority of this 3-day journey within the committee amongst you. I will be observing each one of you individually as I want to see what you are all capable of, but this does not mean I am emphasizing you work alone, it's actually quite the opposite; I want to see you work together, express your own opinions while supporting the ideas you approve, debate against the ideas you disapprove and overall present new ideas, engage in each other's proposals and try to look at things from different perspectives. Our second agenda item, the production and the distribution of drugs, is a common present day issue that anyone can suddenly get sucked into with a moment of clouded judgment upraised by the popularity and high demands of supplies amongst the addicts, which is why we expect you to combat against those who rely on substance abuse to live and find a solution for the buyers and crash the drug industry while also aiding those who have suffered enough from those poisons; avoiding hurting the pharmacy market that is substantial for the health department.

I would like to thank the organization team and the executive team for all of their hard work, especially the Head of Academy, Cumhur Kaan ÖZDEMİR, for trusting his gut and recruiting me. A special thank you to my Academic Assistant, Hamit GÜLSEREN, for being super busy yet still making time to help with this committee.

Sincerely,

Hale Serra KARABULUT.

d. Letter from the Academic Assistant

Esteemed Delegates,

As the Academic Assistant of UNODC, I am truly pleased to welcome you all to this tremendous conference. My name is Hamit, and it is a great honor for me to be part of this academic team. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the entire OAFLMUN'26 team for their dedication and effort to make this conference possible. Being a part of a conference like this is not only a responsibility, but also a meaningful and enriching experience. Model United Nations is more than a simulation, it is a place where every ideas are discussed, perspectives are broadened, and individuals grow both academically and personally. I highly encourage all of you to actively participate, share your ideas and engage in debates. I sincerely hope that this committee will provide you with new sights, valuable experiences, and lasting memories. Our committee, the UNODC, addresses some of the most pressing challenges of all time globally. Our agenda items require both deep thinking and different perspectives, and I'm really curious to see what ideas you will bring, which approaches you will take, and most importantly, your verdicts. I am looking forward to meeting you all. See you soon at the conference

I wish you all the best

Hamit Gülseren

II. Introduction to the Committee: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

UNODC was established in 1997 when the United Nations Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention were merged.

UNODC's work across the peace and security, human rights and development pillars of the UN is articulated around three broad interconnected and mutually supportive workstreams. These are:

- Normative work to assist states in the ratification and implementation of international treaties, the development of domestic legislation on drugs, crime and terrorism, and the provision of services to treaty-based and governing bodies
- Field-based technical co-operation projects to enhance the capacity of member states to counter illicit drugs, crime and terrorism.
- Research and analytical work to increase knowledge and understanding of drugs and crime issues and expand the evidence base for policy and operational decisions.

This is the support UNODC provides; stopping deadly opioids and other illicit drugs, giving organized criminal groups no place to hide, protecting people from online scams and cyber fraud, keeping trafficked weapons and criminal proceeds from fuelling more crime, terrorism and conflict. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) advances justice and security around the globe to enable people, families and communities to live peaceful, healthy and prosperous lives.

a. Mandate and Purpose

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is essentially the UN's lead player when it comes to tackling the messy, interconnected world of illicit drugs, international crime, and terrorism. It operates on a pretty clear-headed premise: you can't really separate drug abuse from organized crime or corruption. These aren't just legal headaches, they're fundamental threats to public health, human rights, and the kind of sustainable development we're all striving for.

At its core, UNODC is there to help Member States build societies that are both safer and more just. It does the heavy lifting by helping countries implement international legal frameworks. Whether we're talking about drug control or anti-corruption measures, the goal is to move toward a rule-based international order where justice and accountability actually mean something on the ground.

What's particularly interesting about their mandate is the focus on **international cooperation**. Because crime networks and drug traffickers don't really care about borders, no country can tackle this as a solo project. UNODC acts as a vital hub where governments can swap info, sync up their strategies, and come up with joint responses to modern threats like cybercrime, money laundering, and human trafficking.

It's also worth noting that they don't just focus on the "policing" side of things. UNODC advocates for a balanced approach that pairs security with humanitarianism. They recognize that while law enforcement is necessary, we also need to prioritize prevention and treatment. They treat drug dependence as a public health issue that deserves an evidence-based, compassionate response, rather than just a criminal one.

Ultimately, everything they do ties back into the broader **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. By pushing for peace and stronger institutions (SDG 16) and better health outcomes (SDG 3), they aren't just fighting crime in the short term, they're trying to lay the groundwork for long-term global stability. It's about building a world that is not just more secure, but also more equitable for everyone.

b. Areas of Work

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) basically operates through three main pillars: **normative support**, **technical assistance**, and **research**. By balancing these three areas, they manage to tackle the pretty messy world of transnational threats in a way that actually feels coordinated.

The Legal Framework (Normative Support)

One of their biggest jobs is helping Member States navigate international law. They assist countries in ratifying and implementing major treaties like the conventions against organized crime and corruption. It's not just about signing papers; it's about making sure national laws actually align with global standards so there aren't any "weak links" in the international legal chain.

Boots on the Ground (Technical Assistance)

Beyond the legal side, they provide a ton of practical, hands-on support. This looks like:

- **Training programs** for law enforcement and border control.
- **Strengthening judicial systems** and prison management.
- **Developing strategies** to combat modern issues like cybercrime and money laundering.
- **Public health support**, specifically for drug treatment and rehabilitation.

Data and Insights (Research and Analysis)

They also act as a major research hub. If you've ever heard of the *World Drug Report*, that's them. They track everything from trafficking routes to emerging crime trends. This is honestly one of their most vital functions because it ensures that when policymakers make decisions, they're working with real evidence rather than just guesswork.

The Big Picture

Because crime doesn't really respect borders, UNODC's role as a "connector" is huge. They facilitate the kind of cross-border cooperation that's necessary to dismantle criminal networks operating in multiple countries at once. It's a comprehensive approach—mixing law, practical capacity-building, and hard science to keep things moving toward a more secure global environment.

c. Role of UNODC in International Drug Control and Global Security

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) essentially acts as the "connective tissue" for global security. Because crime and drug networks are so interconnected across borders, no single country can really tackle them in a vacuum. UNODC steps in to make sure everyone is playing by the same rulebook and talking to one another.

Here is how they generally handle this massive responsibility:

1. Leveling the Legal Playing Field

One of their most important contributions is **legal harmonization**. By pushing for the implementation of international drug control conventions, they ensure that countries don't have massive loopholes in their laws that traffickers can exploit. It's all about creating a consistent, global front so there's nowhere for these networks to hide.

2. Bridging the Gap Between Nations

Since organized crime like human trafficking and arms smuggling—doesn't stop at a border, the

response shouldn't either. UNODC acts as a bridge, facilitating:

- **Intelligence sharing** between governments.
- **Joint operations** to take down international networks.
- **Coordinated policy development** so states aren't working at cross-purposes.

3. Supporting Vulnerable Regions

Not every country has the resources to fight high-level organized crime on its own. UNODC provides targeted "capacity building" for states that might be struggling. This means helping them beef up their border security, modernize their justice systems, and train law enforcement. It's a proactive way to stop trafficking at the source or along major transit routes.

4. Focusing on the Human Element

What I find particularly effective about their approach is that it isn't just about "locking people up." They push for a **holistic strategy** that includes:

- **Prevention programs** to stop drug abuse before it starts.
- **Treatment and rehabilitation** to help people reintegrate into society.
- **Addressing root causes** like poverty and lack of opportunity that lead people toward criminal networks in the first place.

The Bottom Line

In our hyper-connected world, UNODC is basically the coordinator for a team that includes almost every country on Earth. By mixing tough legal frameworks with a humanitarian focus on health and development, they keep the global response balanced and, hopefully, a lot more effective.

III. Past actions and precautions taken by the UNODC

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has played a central role in shaping global responses to illicit drugs, organized crime, corruption, and related security threats. Over the years, the organization has developed a comprehensive approach that combines legal frameworks, international cooperation, prevention strategies, and capacity-building efforts to address these interconnected challenges.

UNODC's past actions are based on the understanding that drug trafficking and transnational

crime are not isolated issues but complex global problems that require coordinated international solutions. As a result, the organization has worked closely with Member States to implement international conventions, strengthen national institutions, and promote evidence-based policies. In addition to its legal and institutional support, UNODC has taken preventive measures aimed at reducing both the supply and demand for illicit drugs. These efforts include supporting drug prevention campaigns, improving access to treatment and rehabilitation services, and strengthening law enforcement cooperation across borders.

Overall, UNODC's past actions and precautions reflect a multi-dimensional strategy that addresses not only the symptoms of drug-related problems but also their root causes. This foundation has been essential in guiding current international drug control policies and continues to influence global efforts today.

a. International Drug Control Conventions

The international drug control system doesn't exist in a vacuum; it is built upon a series of landmark UN conventions that dictate how the world regulates narcotics and psychotropic substances. Acting as the connective tissue for this system is the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Their job is more than just oversight; they ensure that Member States don't just sign these treaties, but actually have the tools to enforce them.

A Three-Tiered Foundation

The system evolved in stages, with each treaty addressing a new gap in global security:

The 1961 Single Convention: This was the first real attempt to unify the world's fragmented drug laws. Its primary goal was simple: ensure substances like opium, coca, and cannabis are reserved

strictly for medical and scientific use. It created the first global "watchdog" mechanism to stop these plants from leaking into the black market.

The 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances: As the pharmaceutical world changed, so did the risks. This treaty was a direct response to the surge in synthetic and hallucinogenic drugs. It created a delicate balance tightly regulating these new psychoactive substances without choking off legitimate medical research.

The 1988 Convention Against Illicit Traffic This was a major pivot toward law enforcement. For the first time, the focus shifted from the drugs themselves to the criminal networks behind them. It gave the international community the legal teeth to go after money laundering, extradite traffickers, and track the "precursor" chemicals used to cook synthetic drugs.

The Role of the UNODC

The UNODC is essentially the operational arm of these treaties. It isn't enough to have laws on paper; countries need the technical expertise to integrate these international obligations into their own domestic legal systems.

The organization works on the ground to bridge these gaps, offering guidance on everything from legislative drafting to cross-border police cooperation. By acting as a central coordinator, the UNODC prevents the global response from becoming a patchwork of ineffective, localized efforts. Without this legal backbone and the UNODC's coordinating influence, our global strategy against trafficking would be far more fragmented and far less effective

a. Counter-Narcotics Operations and Trafficking Prevention

Illegal drug trafficking is, by its very nature, a borderless enterprise. Because these criminal

syndicates are often better connected than the governments chasing them, the UNODC acts as a vital bridge. It's not just about providing tools; it's about creating a unified front that individual states simply can't maintain on their own.

Hardening the Borders

Traffickers are experts at finding the path of least resistance usually where border controls are thin or communication is slow. The UNODC targets these weak links. Rather than just handing over tech, they focus on building inter-agency synergy. This means setting up real-time information-sharing loops and training customs officers to see the patterns behind the shipments, turning a static border into a proactive barrier.

Intelligence and the "Corridor" Logic

You can't stop a network by just sitting at a checkpoint. You have to understand the routes. The UNODC helps map out the high-traffic corridors stretching from Southeast Asia to Latin America. By identifying the specific transit hubs and the organizations running them, they allow Member States to move toward intelligence-led interdiction. It's a shift from random inspections to surgical strikes on the supply chain.

Closing the Legal Loopholes

Criminals love jurisdictional friction. They rely on the fact that one country's police often can't talk to another's. The UNODC works to erase that advantage by:

Facilitating Joint Operations: Putting investigators from different nations in the same room.

Navigating Extradition: Cutting through the red tape that usually protects high-level traffickers hiding abroad.

Looking at the Roots (Supplywise)

Perhaps most importantly the UNODC acknowledges that you can't detain your way out of a drug crisis. There is a massive economic component. Their Alternative Development programs focus on the farmers in opium and coca regions. If a farmer can't feed their family with legal crops, they'll grow illegal ones. By creating sustainable, legal livelihoods, the UNODC slowly chokes

off the supply at its source.

The Bottom Line

The UNODC's strategy works because it's multi-dimensional. It hits the traffickers' wallets through asset seizure, disrupts their logistics through border security, and undermines their production through economic development. It's this combined pressure, not any single law that makes the global response effective.

b. Drug Prevention, Treatment and Public Health Measures

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has long understood a fundamental truth: you cannot arrest your way out of a drug crisis. While law enforcement matters, a massive part of their mission focuses on the human side of the equation: prevention, treatment, and a public health first approach designed to curb demand and heal communities.

Reaching the Next Generation

Prevention isn't just about "saying no" The UNODC focuses on evidence-based programs that target young people before they ever encounter substance abuse. These aren't just generic school assemblies; they are data-driven initiatives implemented in workplaces and local communities to build resilience. The goal is simple: reduce the risk of initial use by fostering healthier environments and providing early intervention where it counts.

Treating Addiction as a Health Issue

One of the most significant shifts the UNODC promotes is the idea that drug dependence is a medical and social condition, not a moral failure or a simple crime. This perspective changes everything about how treatment is delivered. They advocate for:

Scientific Treatment: Moving away from punitive measures toward detoxification, professional counseling, and psychological support.

Accessibility: Working to make sure these services aren't just for the wealthy, but are affordable and integrated into national healthcare systems.

Long-term Recovery: Recognizing that "detox" is just the first step in a much longer journey back to health.

The Public Health Lens

In partnership with the WHO, the UNODC also tackles the broader health fallout of drug use.

This includes "harm reduction" practical strategies to stop the spread of HIV and hepatitis among users. By merging health services with social support, they've created a more humane framework that prioritizes saving lives over making arrests.

The Final Step: Social Reintegration

Recovery doesn't happen in a vacuum. A person can get clean, but if they are met with stigma, unemployment, and zero support, they are likely to slip back. The UNODC pushes for "social reintegration" which is essentially about building a bridge back to society. This means **Vocational Training:** Giving people the skills to find a job.

Fighting Stigma: Educating communities to reduce the discrimination that often traps former users in the past.

Community Support: Ensuring there is a stable network waiting for individuals once they leave formal treatment.

Ultimately, the UNODC's strategy is about balance. By treating the medical, psychological, and social roots of addiction simultaneously, they aren't just trying to lower drug stats—they're trying to restore lives and stabilize families. It's a holistic approach that recognizes that reducing demand is the only way to truly win the long game.

c. Anti-Corruption and Organized Crime Measures

The UNODC operates on a grim but necessary realization: organized crime cannot thrive without corruption. These are not separate issues, they are symbiotic. Criminal networks use bribery and systemic corruption as a shield to move drugs, exploit borders, and evade justice. To break this cycle, the UNODC focuses on reinforcing the "immune system" of national governments transparency, accountability, and the rule of law.

The Global Standard: UNCAC

The cornerstone of this effort is the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). It remains the only legally binding global framework of its kind. The UNODC's role here is deeply practical; they don't just advocate for the treaty; they help Member States build the actual machinery to support it. This includes:

Policy Crafting: Developing rigorous anti-corruption laws.

Asset Recovery: Creating legal pathways to claw back stolen wealth from foreign jurisdictions.

Institutional Overhauls: Moving beyond paper laws to create functional, transparent governance.

Targeting the Syndicate Structure

Beyond bribery, the UNODC is the primary custodian of the Convention against Transnational

Organized Crime (UNTOC). This is the global toolkit for prosecuting the "business" of crime, human trafficking, arms smuggling, and cybercrime. By helping countries harmonize their legal codes, the UNODC ensures that a criminal act in one country doesn't go unpunished simply because the perpetrator crossed a border.

Choking the Financial Engine

Criminal organizations don't operate for power alone; they operate for profit. However, those profits are useless if they can't be "cleaned." The UNODC's strategy against money laundering involves:

Financial Intelligence: Building systems that can flag suspicious transactions in real-time.

Banking Transparency: Working with international financial institutions to eliminate the "dark corners" of the global economy where illicit money hides.

Economic Disruption: Targeting the financial foundation of a network is often more effective than traditional arrests.

The Human Element: Judicial Integrity

A law is only as strong as the judge who upholds it. The UNODC recognizes that weak or underfunded judicial systems are the primary targets for criminal infiltration. To combat this, they provide high-level training for judges and prosecutors, aiming to foster an independent, professional judiciary. When the justice system is resilient and independent, the entire state becomes a much harder target for organized crime.

The UNODC's approach is fundamentally about disruption. By attacking the financial incentives, legal loopholes, and corrupt officials that criminal networks rely on, they do more than just manage crime—they actively shrink the space in which these organizations can operate. It is a long-term strategy designed to turn the rule of law into a global reality.

IV. Introduction to the Agendas

The following agenda items highlight the key focus areas of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in addressing the global drug problem. These issues reflect both the social and criminal dimensions of drug-related challenges and require a balanced approach that combines prevention, treatment, enforcement, and international cooperation. While drug addiction primarily affects individuals and communities through health and social consequences, illicit drug production and trafficking pose serious threats to global security and stability. Therefore, a comprehensive and coordinated international response is necessary to effectively address both the demand and supply sides of the drug problem.

a. Treatment and Social Reintegration of Drug Addicts

This agenda focuses on drug addiction as an issue that affects not only individuals, but also their families and larger society. In recent years, there has been a growing understanding that addiction should not be seen as a criminal matter, but rather as a health condition that requires medical care and long-term social support.

Treatment is usually the first step in addressing this problem. Many individuals struggling with substance use need medical detoxification, psychological counseling, and structured rehabilitation programs. These services are important because recovery is rarely immediate; it is a gradual process that requires continuous professional support. Without access to proper treatment, individuals are at a much higher risk of returning to substance use.

However, recovery does not end with treatment alone. One of the most difficult stages is returning to everyday life. People who have recovered from addiction often face challenges such as unemployment, lack of education opportunities, and social stigma. In many cases, these barriers can be just as harmful as the addiction itself. For this reason, reintegration policies such as vocational training, education support, and employment programs are essential.

The role of society is also important in this process. Family support and community acceptance can significantly influence recovery outcomes. At the same time, public awareness is needed to reduce the negative stereotypes surrounding drug addiction and to encourage a more supportive environment for recovery.

b. Combating the Illegal Production and Trafficking of Drugs

The illegal production and trafficking of drugs is one of the most serious problems in today's world. It does not only affect one country or region, but works through international networks that connect producers, traffickers, and criminal groups across different borders.

One important way to deal with this issue is cooperation between countries. Drug trafficking routes usually pass through many countries, so one country alone cannot stop it. Sharing information, working together in investigations, and doing joint operations are necessary to break these networks. This kind of cooperation helps authorities react faster to threats.

Border control is also very important. Traffickers often use weak or poorly controlled borders to move illegal drugs. Improving customs checks, using better detection tools, and training border officers can reduce these risks. Better communication between border agencies also helps prevent traffickers from finding gaps in the system.

On the production side, drug production is often linked to economic problems. In some areas, growing illegal crops or making synthetic drugs becomes a way for people to earn money. To solve this, it is not enough to only use law enforcement. Governments also need to provide legal job opportunities and support development programs. When people have stable income, they are less likely to join illegal activities.

Drug trafficking is also closely connected to other crimes. Criminal groups often use corruption and illegal money systems to support their activities. Because of this, drug trafficking is not only a drug issue, but also a wider security problem that needs strong international cooperation.

V. Questions to be Addressed

- 1.** How can international cooperation be strengthened to combat transnational drug trafficking networks more effectively?
- 2.** What ways can be implemented to improve the accessibility and effectiveness of drug treatment and rehabilitation programs especially in developing countries?
- 3.** How can governments reduce the social stigma surrounding drug addiction to support successful reintegration into society?
- 4.** What role should education and prevention programs play in reducing drug demands particularly among young people?
- 5.** How to promote healthier habits, relationships and good decision making to young-adults for a better and more trustworthy society?
- 6.** How to spot signs of corrupt activities and drug trafficking in low profile areas with minimal crime rates and secure neighbourhoods?
- 7.** How to rebuild the trust of those affiliated with rehabilitated individuals who later relapsed and showed misdemeanor into believing safe social reintegration is still possible?

VI. Further readings

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