COMMITTEE: CND

Topic: Transnational Cartels

Chairs: Pad Rasasack, Justin Betts, & Ryan Simms

**II. Rationale**

Crime syndicates such as cartels are increased greatly in the past two decades. Citizens who reside in these cartel infested societies live in fear for their lives every day. These cartels kidnap, extort, and murder in their own towns with their power only increasing. The power of cartels has run rampant and is concerning. This unchecked balance of power is of international concern and needs to be addressed.

**III. Background of the Topic**

The first major cartel to popularize was the Medellin Cartel in the 1970s, headed by Pablo Escobar. The Medellin Cartel was based in Medellin, Colombia, and it became one of the first crime syndicates to usurp power and have a major impact on the world. Since then, crime syndicates like the Medellin Cartel have surfaced. Cartels now transverse across multiple borders, spanning from South America to the Middle East. So far, efforts from international governments to halt the advancement of cartels have not worked.

**IV. Contemporary Evidence of the Topic**

The increasing influence of transnational cartels have claimed the lives of thousands since the 1970s. South and Central America face large amounts of crimes due to these syndicates. Drug trafficking in the decades were commonly transported by sea, but due to new policy implementation that led to higher rates of drug seizures, cartels have transported their drugs through their local borders. With cartels traveling by land, traffickers now come into more contact with local territorial groups. Violence in these areas have skyrocketed over the past years. The UNODC classifies transnational organized crime into three different groups: territorial groups, traffickers (transportistas), and street gangs (maras). Territorial groups set boundaries to work within and use violence to some degree to maintain order. Transportistas mainly traffic contraband while keeping a lower profile than territorial groups. Territorial groups are the main source of violence in an area when traffickers are present. Maras, while not relevant to the cartel and trafficking business, struggle for power and extort organizations on a smaller scale while still being responsible for some violence. While every region has varying amounts of cartel activity, it is still a prominent issue that has plagued the Central and South American regions for over a decade.

**V. References**

<https://www.history.com/topics/crime/history-of-drug-trafficking>

<https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Studies/TOC_Central_America_and_the_Caribbean_english.pdf>

**VI. Notes to the Delegates**

Esteemed delegates, we are honored to have the opportunity to moderate a conference on such a pertinent issue as transnational cartels.

**VII. Available Countries (Delegate(s) please choose a country during registration)**

United States

Mexico

Colombia

Venezuela

Brazil

Argentina

Chile

Bolivia

Canada

United Kingdom

France

Spain

Germany

Trindad and Tobago

Barbados

Jamaica

Dominican Republic

South Africa

Cuba

China

Ecuador

El Salvador

Honduras

Guatemala

Iran

Iraq

Panama

Italy

Japan

Belgium

Peru

Uruguay

Paraguay

Saudi Arabia

Afghanistan