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Treat the symptom or the problem?

Introduction/ topic of debate

The UNODC committee convened to address rise of drug overdoses across the globe, how it affects their countries, and what solutions they have in mind to solve the epidemic. Delegates debated the morality of a full drug ban, how they would intervene illegal trade, and how they're going to solve the issue with the addicts themselves. Some countries advocated for a stronger military presence on the border to track illegal drug trading, while others wanted to focus on the consequences that the addicts have on the communities overall well being and the mental health portion of the overdoses.

Multiple different delegates had several opposing solutions for the issue at hand. The delegations found themselves in a dilemma whether to treat the effects of the drugs on the addicts or limiting the overall distribution of the drugs.

Some delegates, such as Argentina and Russia, wanted to focus on the security of the matter at hand. The two delegates agreed that they had to increase security on the border to stop illegal drug trade and to increase security in illegal drug hotspots to fully stop the drugs before it gets distributed to addicts and abusers.

Other delegates, like South Africa, Costa Rica, Somalia, and Thailand agree that they would prefer if they focused on the addicts themselves, such as finding out why people are turning to drugs and ways they can protect those already affected.

The delegation of the Republic of Korea expressed that a solution to drug overdose and crime would be putting a full ban internationally for all citizens. They would do this by setting clear sets of rules and regulations, although this would only be finding a solution to the problem, not the symptom. The delegation of Somalia shared a similar idea to put a ban but only recreational drugs.

Delegations such as Turkey, Costa Rica, and Russia wanted to make a rehab organization to further protect and help the members of their country from synthetic opioids.

The delegation of Turkey had the idea to create the International Overdose Protection system, which was a system to track legal drug trades and see who they were distributed to as well as find trading hotspots.

Interview

An interview with the delegate from Somalia revealed an emphasis on the importance of providing education regarding drug awareness and overdose, entangling border security, and helping those affected. The delegation of Somalia, when questioned on re-enforcing border patrol and security, said that they agreed with the issue of tighter border security, but also wanted to help the addicts get to the root of why they turned to drugs. The delegate further stated that there needs to be two steps to it which is educational reform and looking at the after effects. When questioned again about getting to the root, which was why people turned to drugs, the delegation of Somalia stated "A lot of times those who are in economic hardships turn to drugs, especially things like Fentanyl. When you're dealing with poverty, the drugs serve a purpose and it's numbing. They're looking for a vise to process their hardships". Solutions the delegation offered were educational programs to further help people be educated on the dangers of drugs and overdose, tighter security around the nation's borders, and a closer look into the smuggling of synthetic drugs.

UNODC must evolve not only to defend against drug and crime but also to address the root cause of the drug overdose and smuggling. We will need to stop it at the root cause.



Effects on the members

How do drugs and crime rate affect the United Nations? In Australia, 300 million people are involved in drug use. In the Bahamas, cocaine trade is the main issue. In Bangladesh, overdose is a devastating impact of drugs in their community. Brazil has had over 70,000 drug related deaths since 2000. In the Republic of China, heroin and methamphetamine are weakening their communities. Myanmar recorded 60,000 overdoses. In Romania, the drug use has gone up 40% since 2010. Each country has been negatively affected by this crisis and there end in sight without change.