

VIRGINIA MODEL UNITED NATIONS



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Dossier of Member States for ECLAC

United States

The United States is the highest drug-consuming country in the Western Hemisphere. It has been highly involved in aiding Latin American countries in efforts to end the Drug Wars. A lot of its efforts have failed and backfired; although, they are economically highly supportive of certain countries in Latin America.

Colombia

Colombia is the world's largest cocaine producer and has been on the front line in global war on drugs for the past 30 years, living through the terror of the powerful Medellín cartel beginning in the 1980s. Colombia hasn't been able to progress socioeconomically due to this issue and constant violence.

Venezuela

Venezuela is a key transit country for drug shipments leaving Colombia for the United States and a lot of countries in Europe. Colombian groups have traditionally controlled Venezuela's drug trade, being attracted to the corruption and poor law of this country. Venezuela's socioeconomic status remains stagnant due to the amount of violence from protests and drug violence.

Mexico

Mexico has become the highest drug distributor of drugs in Latin America and the United States. A big problem that the Mexican government is facing is the creation of chemical drugs such as methamphetamine and the highly addictive effects. This country is unable to move forward due to the corrupt government and plethora of cartels and the inability to fully combat this drug war.

Argentina

Argentina has been in regional and international debates before 2015, standing by the countries that advocated further discussion of the effectiveness of the 'War on Drugs' paradigm. The new government has begun to abandon that position, through regulatory decisions and an ever more explicit rapprochement with the United States. There is a domestic fear that has silenced incipient debates on the decriminalization of consumption and has regressed any type of socioeconomic progress.

Bolivia

Coca is an abundant crop in Bolivia, used by many natives as an energy stimulant and treatment ailments, tea, and food. Coca has been legal in Bolivia since 2004 and many countries, especially the United States have reproached this decision. Coca cultivation is a main component of the country's GDP and jobs for the natives.

Peru

Peru's recent political stability and economic boom have left the country as one of the leading Latin American countries with high socioeconomic progress. However, the country's role in the international narcotics trades remains one of the main concerns.

Brazil

Over the recent years, Brazil has experienced tremendous violence, emerging mainly from overcrowded prisons and militarization. Brazil has been notably absent in the international drug debate and failed to engage in progressive approaches to managing drugs, which deems it a reputation as an emerging global leader.

Chile

Chile serves as a transshipment point for cocaine leaving especially Bolivia and Peru destined for Europe and Africa. The law in Chile allows for personal consumption of any recreational drug, while penalizing consumption that occur in groups. However, it is unclear the permitted quantities, which creates a confusion between consumption and trafficking.

Guatemala

Guatemala's criminal organizations are amongst one of the most dangerous and sophisticated in Latin America, including former military members, intelligence agencies, and active members of the police. A grand part of this organized crime involves marijuana and poppy cultivation as well as human trafficking.

Ecuador

Ecuador is a major trafficking hub due to its geographical location in Latin America. Congress is pushing for a new bill that would regulate consumption of outlawed drugs. Ecuador's views on drug laws are rather passive and from "perspective of prevention." This calm approach has allowed Ecuador to continue striving for stable socioeconomic development.

Belize

The War on Drugs has caused the illegal drug activities to migrate to Belize. The United States recently added Belize in the "black list" for countries believed to be major producers or transit routes for illegal drugs in Central America. The United States also believes that Belize is not strong enough to guard itself from the drug war, impeding any type of socioeconomic progress for the country.

Canada

Canada has a presence in Colombia, Belize, and Brazil, where Ottawa is giving aid and training troops. In 2012, Canada started a 25-million-dollar initiative called the Canada Initiative for Security in Central America.

Costa Rica

Costa Rica has traditionally been used as the meeting point between the two most prominent drug cartel homes on the continent, Colombia and Mexico. With the collapse of many Colombian cartels, a paradigm shift resulted in the restructuring of the region's drug trafficking organizations. Starting around the turn of the millennium, Mexican rings surged to be the dominant presence in Central America. With the surge, Costa Rica started becoming established as both a warehouse and trading center.

Panama

Panama has been spared much from all the drug violence of neighboring countries. However, drugs—mainly cocaine shipments—are shipped out of Panama at a high rate. Panama has to focus on a way to eradicate those drug shipments and look for new ways to improve their socioeconomic status.

El Salvador

El Salvador is a relatively small but growing player in the drug trafficking business. It serves as a drug recipient and storage point along the Pacific Coast, and a bridge via the Pan-American Highway, the Fonseca Gulf, and roads from Honduras that cut through relatively unpopulated areas. The Mara Salvatrucha 13 (MS13) and the Barrio 18 are the

two major gangs in El Salvador. Their rapid growth is due mainly to poverty, lack of education, pre-existing culture violence, etc.

Honduras

The growth of criminal organizations in Honduras has led to much unrest and spurred violence. However, the emergence of a powerful civil revolt against government corruption is giving Honduras some hope to restore peace and change the current governmental framework, leading Honduras to reach a stable socioeconomic level.

Nicaragua

The drug trade is this city's blessing and its curse. This country has managed to remain relatively peaceful despite being in one of the most dangerous regions in the world. This has helped the country not regress socioeconomically; however, there is still much progress to be achieved.

Bahamas

The aviation routes between the Bahamas and the US are of increasing concern. Small sport fishing vessels and small planes move cocaine from this territory and deliver it mainly to Florida.

Barbados

This island-state serves as transshipment points for the US and Europe. Marijuana is the main drug that moves through the Barbadian territory and is produced on the island. Barbados still remains a Caribbean state with low socioeconomic development even with the amount of yearly tourism.

Cuba

Cuba and the US have quietly cooperated on drug-enforcement issues, passing information on movements of suspected drug boats through the Caribbean. The shifting of narcotic trafficking to the Caribbean could potentially further strengthen this alliance and others in Latin America.

Italy

Many of the head Mexican cartels have entered into business relationships with several Italian criminal networks in Calabria, New York, and other parts of Italy. As a developed country, Italy has the potential to be a model of socioeconomic development for Latin America.

France

France is one of the largest European drug-consuming countries. However, France has put a lot of efforts to alleviate the war drugs in Latin America.

Norway

Norway is a high cocaine consumer. It transports these narcotics through the EU with the ease of the European free trade. Norway has requested the UN to take an approach for combating drugs that involves the protection and implementation of human rights.

Jamaica

Jamaica has a lot of social unrest due to violence as well as government corruption. The infamous Dudas Coke—biggest drug lord in Jamaica—has caused a lot of this unrest and instigated revolts.

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