



# GMUNC XI

## CCPCJ

COMBATTING TRANSNATIONAL CRIME  
GROUPS



## Letter from the Dais

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to GMUNC XI! For many of you, this is your first foray into the *MUNderful* world of Model United Nations, so we hope to make this experience as valuable and enjoyable as we can. For the more experienced delegates, we're glad to have you at our conference. In this General Assembly committee, you will be representing member states of the United Nations in a meeting of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, a subcommittee of the UN, that will be looking for a solution to combat transnational crime groups and international organized crime. Because GMUNC is intended to be a beginner-friendly conference, we will review parliamentary procedure at the beginning of the day, and explain the flow of committee as we move along.

In terms of logistics, GMUNC will be held at Gunn High School on **October 19th**. For more information about the conference, please visit the GMUNC website: [gmunc.onrender.com](http://gmunc.onrender.com). You will be able to find guidelines for position papers, as well as an example position paper, on the website. Position papers submitted by October 12th will be eligible for research awards. Delegates must submit position papers by October 18th to be eligible for any committee awards. Please send position papers in .pdf format, with the title formatted like “[nation] - Position Paper”, to our committee email at [gmunc.ccpcj@gmail.com](mailto:gmunc.ccpcj@gmail.com). Of course, we are also always happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have. We look forward to meeting all of you in committee!

Kiyon Zebarjadi

CCPCJ Head Chair

## About The Dais

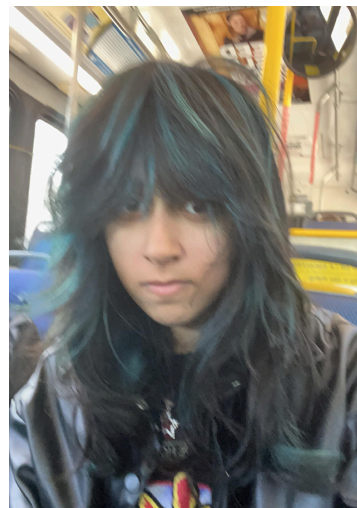
### Head Chair: Kiyon Zebarjadi

Kiyon Zebarjadi is a senior at Gunn High School. He's been participating in MUN since 6th grade, and has attended conferences in places like New York and DC. This is also his third year chairing for GMUNC. He is excited to chair the CCPCJ committee and looks forward to seeing thoughtful debate and creative solutions from delegates. Outside of MUN, Kiyon loves listening to music and traveling as much as he can, and is also a bit of a boba addict.



### Co-Chair: Seth Gray

Seth Gray, a sophomore at Gunn High School, started Model United Nations in his freshman year of high school, with his first conference being GMUNC. Outside of MUN, Seth enjoys playing golf, collecting CDs, and overusing the bus system. This is his first year co-chairing GMUNC and he can't wait to see the ideas and resolutions that come from this exciting day of committee.



## About This Committee

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) is the primary policy making body of the United Nations in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice. Established in 1992 by the Economic and Social Council, the CCPCJ replaced the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, which was formed in 1971. The CCPCJ guides the United Nations' activities in crime prevention and criminal justice and offers a forum for member states to exchange expertise, experience, and information to develop strategies and identify priorities for combatting crime. It also establishes expert and working groups to examine specific issues and report their findings. The mandates and priorities of the CCPCJ, as established by ECOSOC, include international action to combat both national and transnational crime, promoting the role of criminal law in protecting the environment, and improving the efficiency and fairness of criminal justice administration systems. Additionally, the CCPCJ provides organizational direction for thematic discussions on the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration, which followed a UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.



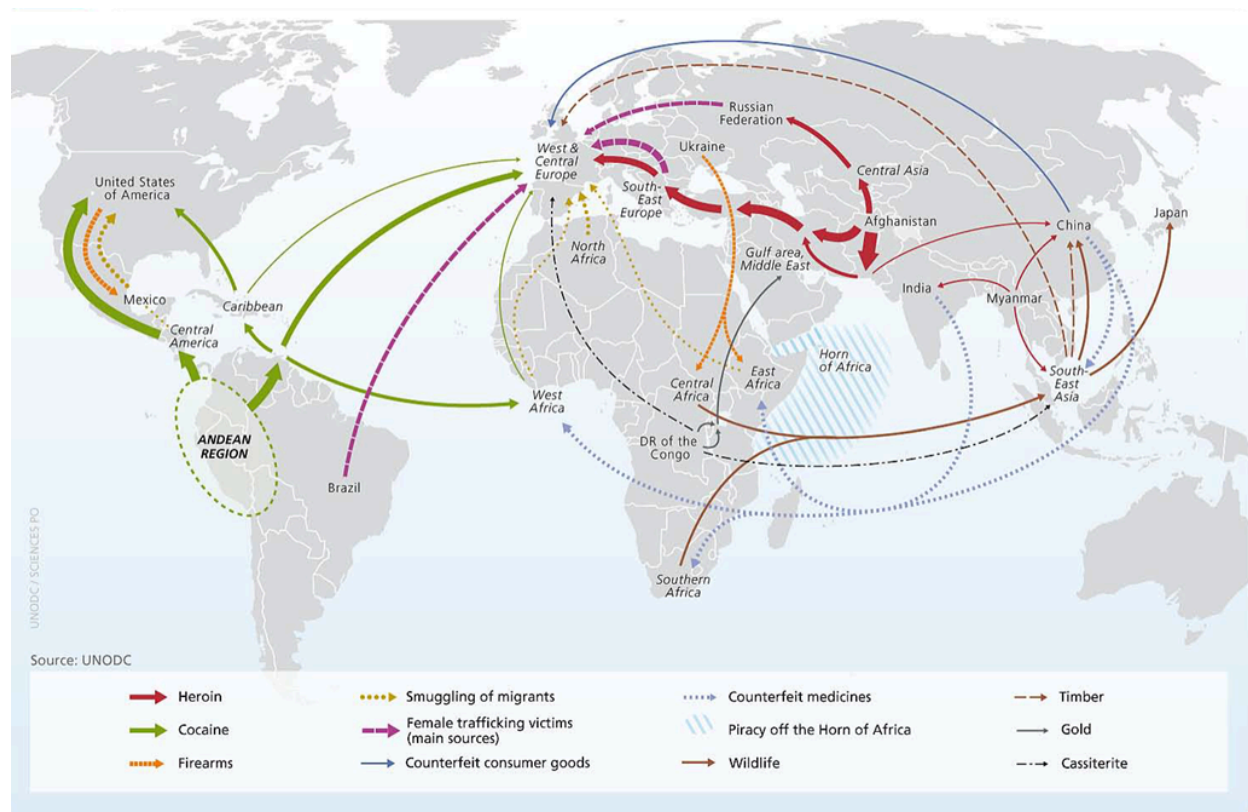
*The 31st Session of the CCPCJ in May 2022*

## **Introduction to Topic**

In a world increasingly interconnected by globalization, transnational organized crime (TOC) groups have emerged as a major threat. TOC is defined as any transnational activity with the goal of gaining power, influence, money, and commercial gains, generally through illegal means. Unlike traditional organized crime groups, which tend to be regionally focused and hierarchically structured, TOC groups are globalized and network with other criminal groups. TOCs take advantage of modern factors that have arisen due to globalization; some key characteristics of TOC groups include their global reach, strategic use of violence and corruption, and exploitation of weak governance. For many, while drug trafficking remains a significant source of revenue, TOC groups engage in a wide range of criminal activities to maximize profits. Still, drug trafficking is the most lucrative activity for TOC groups, generating billions in annual revenue. Mexican drug trafficking organizations (DTOs), for example, are a significant threat to security in North America. Elsewhere, connections between drug traffickers and terrorist organizations in regions like Afghanistan and Southwest Asia can lead to security threats. In addition, TOC groups profit from human trafficking and smuggling, exploiting vulnerable individuals through forced labor, sexual exploitation, and illegal migration. The UNODC estimates that human smuggling out of Latin America generated roughly \$6.6 billion annually for human smuggling networks as of 2010. Finally, TOC groups increasingly use the internet and digital technology to engage in cybercrime. This includes a variety of activities, including identity theft, financial fraud, and online scams that lead to losses of billions of dollars annually.

TOC groups pose an escalating threat to multiple aspects of society, which is why they must be addressed by the CCPCJ as soon as possible. One of the dangers of TOC groups is their involvement in politically volatile areas of the world; in countries such as Myanmar, the

involvement of criminal networks with terrorists and militias has exacerbated the country's ongoing civil conflict. In addition, in nations with weak and/or corrupt governments, criminal groups can take advantage of political systems, such as in Haiti, where gangs have taken de facto control over much of the nation's infrastructure. The erosion of state authority in these places simply fuels instability for the future. That can also perpetuate the human rights violations of TOC groups, which include the exploitation and abuse, especially of women and children, that accompanies trafficking, as well as forced labor. Finally, transnational criminal activities divert resources away from legitimate governments and hinder development. In many African nations, for example, more money is lost to tax evasion and money laundering than is gained from development programs. In other parts of the world, such as Southeast Asia and China, gambling and scamming operations are estimated to have redirected a staggering \$64 billion annually into the hands of crime syndicates.



## **Historical Context**

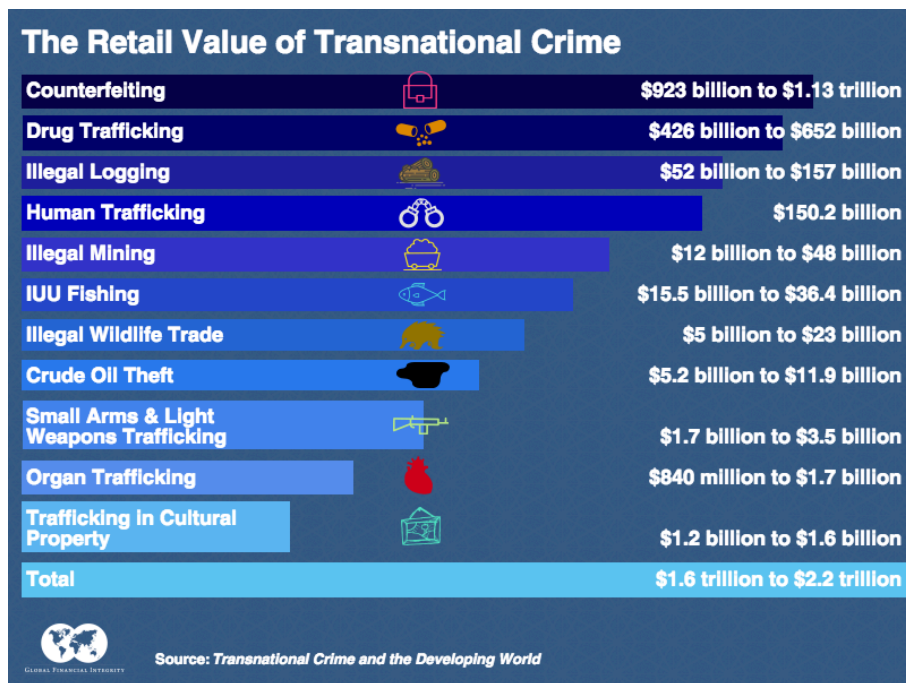
The end of the Cold War, accelerating in the early 1990s, brought in an era of increased global trade and cooperation. This political landscape created conditions conducive to the rise of transnational organized crime. During this time period, the decline of traditional, geographically-bound crime groups such as the Italian and Russian Mafias, coincided with the rise of larger, more interconnected criminal networks. This shift was further fueled by political instability and weak rule of law in certain areas, as well as advancements in technology which made new opportunities for criminal activity more accessible. Early transnational crime groups primarily operated within specific regions or targeted particular ethnic groups. However, as globalization intensified and technology advanced, the groups became increasingly networked; this included both collaboration and competition between burgeoning crime networks. Groups also adopted flatter structures and hierarchies to account for a different style of operations. This evolution also led to diversification in criminal activities. While traditional activities, such as drug trafficking, human trafficking, and smuggling, remain prevalent, new forms of transnational crime emerged, including cybercrime and environmental crimes. Examples include identity theft, financial fraud, and trafficking in wildlife, timber, and rare plants and animals. In addition, criminal organizations are increasingly exploiting technology to facilitate their operations, launder money, and target victims across borders. Another key aspect of the evolution of crime involves corruption; criminal groups bribe officials, infiltrate government agencies, and establish “shadow economies” to stay on the right side of the law.

In response, the international community, including UN agencies, has responded to the growing threat of transnational crime with various measures, generally aiming to strengthen cooperation, enhance law enforcement capabilities, and disrupt criminal networks. One key

development is the Palermo Convention, a UN treaty adopted in 2000 to combat transnational organized crime. The convention provides a framework for international cooperation in criminal matters and addresses specific crimes like human trafficking, migrant smuggling, and illicit firearms trafficking. Importantly, the role of the CCPCJ has increased significantly in previous years, with a poignant focus on addressing the root causes of transnational crime.

By today, transnational organized crime has become a pervasive global issue, with countries around the world affected by such groups. Southeast Asia has emerged as a hub for online scamming, human trafficking, and money laundering, while Central America faces challenges related to drug and weapons trafficking, human smuggling, and money laundering. Meanwhile, West Africa is a transit point for drug trafficking, and TOC activities in the region have weakened governance and fueled corruption. In addition, the Balkans have become a transit route for drugs, weapons, and human trafficking. These crime groups generate massive profits, estimated at trillions of dollars annually, rivaling the GDPs of some countries. The immense financial power some of these groups have undermines legitimate economies by distorting markets and depriving governments of tax revenues. By diverting resources away from legitimate economic activities, they also pose a significant threat to development. The activities of TOC groups often have significant consequences for individuals and communities. Human trafficking, for example, can lead to exploitation, abuse, and death. Cybercrime can have serious financial and psychological impacts on victims. Environmental crime can destroy ecosystems and contribute to climate change.





## Possible Solutions

The CCPCJ's mandate emphasizes the need for strengthened cooperation among countries to combat this growing threat. Although you should examine this topic from the perspective of your delegation policy, this section will examine a few areas in which international progress should be made.

First, your solutions should address international cooperation. Criminals frequently exploit legal and jurisdictional gaps between nations, making a coordinated legal response critical. To address this, all UN member states should fully implement some system of internationally recognized protocols. Doing so would ensure that there is a robust global legal framework for prosecuting transnational organized crime groups (TOC). With all nations adhering to the same legal standards, law enforcement can collaborate more effectively across borders. Next, effective data collection and sharing are essential for tracking TOC groups.

Collecting comprehensive data allows authorities to understand the full scope of trafficking operations. By improving cooperation in sharing intelligence, countries can better identify key figures involved, track financial proceeds, and map trafficking routes. This cooperation would include sharing details on fraudulent documents and concealment methods, providing a clearer picture of how criminal groups operate and offering ways to dismantle these networks. That being said, many developing countries face significant challenges in combating organized crime due to a lack of resources. Providing financial and technical assistance to these nations would enable them to strengthen their efforts in curbing organized crime. This support could range from training law enforcement officials to providing the technological resources necessary to track TOC groups. Such measures will help build capacity in regions that are most vulnerable to human trafficking. It's important to note that diverting resources away from larger nations that host larger numbers of criminal networks could also cause vulnerabilities, so a balance must be found. Finally, transnational organized crime thrives in areas where governance is weak, and corruption is prevalent. Strengthening the rule of law is crucial to eliminating the state-crime alliances that allow TOC networks to flourish. Efforts should focus on promoting transparency, enhancing judicial systems, and cracking down on corrupt officials who enable such operations. This approach will make it more difficult for these groups to operate with impunity.

## Questions to Consider

- Every international issue has legitimate root causes. What are the root causes of transnational crime, and what can be done to address them?
- How can the CCPCJ better address the human rights violations and exploitation associated with transnational organized crime, particularly the impact on women and children?
- Beyond financial aid, what strategies can be implemented to address the root causes of poverty and weak governance that make some countries more vulnerable to TOC activity?
- While technology can be exploited by TOC groups, how can member states use technology to their advantage to improve law enforcement and disrupt criminal activities?
- How can the international community strike a balance between ensuring public safety and protecting individual privacy rights in the fight against cybercrime?

## Committee Membership

Afghanistan	India
Algeria	Indonesia
Angola	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Armenia	Iraq
Austria	Italy
Bahrain	Japan
Bangladesh	Kenya
Belarus	Kuwait
Belgium	Libya
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Madagascar
Brazil	Malta
Bulgaria	Mauritania
Burkina Faso	Mauritius
Cameroon	Mexico
Canada	Morocco
Chile	Nigeria
China	Pakistan
Colombia	Paraguay
Cuba	Qatar
Czechia	Russian Federation
Dominican Republic	Slovenia
Ecuador	South Africa
Egypt	Thailand
Eritrea	Togo
Eswatini	Turkey
Finland	Uganda
France	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Germany	United States of America
Ghana	Uruguay
Guatemala	Zimbabwe

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