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United Nations Simulation Conference 2020

United Nations Office Drugs and Crime

Background Guide



Letters from Chairs

You're the Ruler, and the comfort zone is an empire, Just like how a Ruler keeps expanding his empire, you must keep expanding your comfort zone. How? By simply getting out of it every time you're in it to try something new and when you get used to it, that becomes your new comfort zone, so you step out again and the process just keeps repeating and your empire keeps expanding. Ultimately, you must never stop conquering. Never.

Dear Delegates,

Warm welcome to all you delegates to the United Nations office on Drugs and Crime at UNSC. Delegates, have no fear as despite this being a competition, at the end of the day what matters most is the experience, knowledge, connections and friends that you made. Bear in mind, you will find yourself in heated debates, power-play, and direct opposition with nations and interests of other delegates but we highly recommend that you keep those grudges within the committee and only among your country policies and forget all of it outside the committee room.

In the course of the conference, we wish to see constructive, logical, and versatile influx of opinions and debates and how you delegates bring forth the interests of your nation and stand by it firmly. While all committees at UNSC prompt delegates to understand their country's policy, the UNODC adds another level of realism and diplomacy that requires delegates to refine their negotiating skills. To ensure that the committee runs as smoothly as possible, we hope that each and every one of you will bring unparalleled knowledge of your country's position and the rules of procedure, as well as an understanding of the functions of the UNODC.

We advise you that this background guide only serves as a starter for information and provides a direction, you are expected to carry out thorough research and debate at your highest potential. Apart from what you have learnt from research, your nation's interests and so on, we wish to see innovative and original ideas, opinions and arguments on how to achieve those interests. At the end, what matters most to us is the overall learning of you, the delegates, and what you take away from the conference. We wish you the very best for the conference and your future endeavours. Looking forward to seeing you all!

Warm Regards,

Chairs of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
Canris Mendoza & Sibah Nadeem

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was established in 1997 after the merger between the United Nations Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention. Nowadays, it is regarded as a “global leader in the fight against illicit drugs and international crime”. It has offices spread out all over the globe. 90% of its budget relies on voluntary contributions, which are mainly given by Governments.

The United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime is a body within the United Nations with a central focus of decreasing global drug trafficking and crime in all UN member-states, through the coordinating and standardizing regulations relating to drugs and crime in both the UN framework and the governments of UN member-states. The UNODC typically handles this overarching goal by conducting impartial research, providing information for the individual governments of UN member-states, as well as providing support for the development of stronger regulations in UN member-states. The UNODC divides its work into five key “normative areas of activity”.

UNODC’s mandate is to “**assist the Member States in their struggle against illicit drugs, crime, terrorism and transitional crime in all its dimensions**” as stated in the Millennium Declaration. The Office could divide its work programs into three different types of aid:

- Field based technical cooperation’s projects that can help Member States counteract critical situations;
- Research and analytical work to increase understanding of everything of concern of the Office ;
- Normative work to aid national Governments in implementing international treaties and declarations, but also to suggest the development of local legislation.

Programmes led by UNODC can cover different areas, such as:

- Organized crime and trafficking of any sort in order to help Member States with the instability caused by these type of crimes, but also with cybercrime

- of environmental crime;
- Corruption in order to work together with the public and private sectors or the civil society itself in order to help dismantle corrupted “empires” or to recover assets stolen by corrupt officials;
- Crime prevention and criminal justice reform in order to promote the adoption of measures that guarantee a fair criminal justice system that always bears in mind the respect for human rights;
- Drug abuse prevention and health in order to reshape the perception of drug usage at all levels thanks to educational campaigns and scientific researches;
- Terrorism prevention in order to effectively assist entities that are involved with cases of terrorism.

It's important to note the UNODC is not a body of enforcement or regulation; rather, the UNODC is responsible for providing information about global crime, providing recommendations of regulations/legislation for individual member-states regarding drugs and crime, and providing support for member-states. As crime legislation is very much within the jurisdiction of each sovereign nation, the UNODC cannot enforce regulations within the sovereign territories of member-states, so resolutions should focus on recommendations, research, support, and incentivization of drug and crime legislation. This will ensure that the resolutions produced in committee are as realistic as possible, thus making the simulation as a whole as realistic as possible

UNODC Executive director, Yuri Fedotov, affirmed that “If UNODC provides services that you require, or if you would like to support our work, please call on us. Working together to take action against drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism, we can increase security and improve the lives of individuals, families and communities all over the world.”

“The growing implications of the Dark web and its relevance in today's society.”

With an astounding 2.9 billion users or approximately 40.4% of today's entire global population, the Internet has become a primary medium for sharing information, news, political debate, and activism in both the private and public sectors. The Internet has provided a platform for those who seek to exercise their human right of freedom to information, granting them global access to ideas and materials via real-time communications. However, though there are clear advantages to the Internet, technology is increasingly being used by national governments and private corporations in ways that infringe on the privacy of citizens all around the world, disregarding and restricting the fundamental right to privacy. Due to the increasing societal reliance on the Internet in our daily lives, there has been a continuous recognition and there is a growing need for the formation of privacy guidelines and enforceable international law to govern the use of technology.

Even though it already seems like the visible information on the World Wide Web is infinite, it only contains 0.03% of what the World Wide Web holds, this is known as the surface Web. The other 99.97% is called the Deep Web. The Deep Web is invisible by search due to technical reasons, but there is a part of it that has been intentionally hidden, which is the Dark Web. Due to this circumstance, the Dark Web has got the potential to host illegal websites involved in crimes like pornography, terrorism, heist etc.

The Dark web is a subpart of the world wide web accessible only by special means of software. It is nicknamed “dark” because sites or entities on it cannot be indexed by a web crawling browser, such as Google. That makes it hard for ordinary people, and law enforcement, to find specific websites and data strings. The dark web has been misused by criminal organisations to act as a “black market” sales floor. This is an issue that has to be addressed. Furthermore, the surface web in contrast to the deep web can be easily monitored. The deep web is not visible due to technical reasons, such as the login into private accounts, while the dark web is even harder to

trace. The reasons for its invisibility are softwares such as The Onion Routing or the Invisible Project (I2P). The Dark Web's use is not illegal per se; it is the potential it holds to host illegal activities, such as pedophilia, murder, heist, and trafficking that make it dangerous. These activities (if implemented online) are called cybercrime. The counterpart of cybercrime in the deep web is the right to privacy. TOR or any other software that enables the right to anonymity; they can therefore not be blamed for cybercrime as they also provide humanity with numerous benefits.

Commercial services and the dark web

A commercial service is defined as an exchange of goods. In the Dark Web, those 'goods' are illegal content. The currency used on the Dark Web is bitcoins, which is considered a decentralized currency. Instead of a central authority e.g. bank or government, a network of users, called miners, control and verify transactions. These transactions are directly published onto a "Block-Chain". The difference is the illegality of the goods being sold. More radical darknet markets are those for murder and heist. Such websites offer services to kill and to steal. The Assassination Market, for instance, creates a list of targets. Their assassination date is then bet upon in bitcoins. By executing the murder on the date that is bet upon, the user wins the bet and therefore the sum of money.

Key terms

World Wide Web:

The World Wide Web (WWW) is an information system on the Internet, in which documents are connected to other documents using Hypertext links.

Internet:

The two terms, Internet and World Wide Web are often used as synonyms. The Internet is the network through which the World Wide Web can be accessed.

Deep Web:

According to the Global Commission on Internet Governance, the term Deep Web is used to denote classes of content on the Internet. Search engines do not index that.

Dark Web:

The Global Commission on Internet Governance defines the Dark Web as a part of the Deep Web that has been intentionally hidden and is inaccessible through standard web browsers.

The Onion Routing:

Created by the US Naval Research Laboratory in 2002, the Onion Routing is a software that creates a connection between several computers at a time that facilitates to hide an encryption. Hereby, the start and end point of information traveling through the dark web remains unknown. The Onion Routing can be used for illegal purposes such as darknet markets, but also enables the right to anonymity.

Darknet Markets:

A darknet market is any market on the dark web meant for illegal purposes. To access a darknet market a user needs to use software, such as The Onion Routing (TOR) or The Invisible Internet Project (I2P).

Hyperlinks:

A link from a hypertext document to another destination, activated by clicking on a highlighted word or image.

Silk Road Market:

Silk Road was an online black market and the first modern darknet market, best known as a platform for selling illegal drugs.

Denial-of-Service Attack:

A security event that occurs when an attacker takes action that prevents legitimate users from accessing targeted computer systems, devices or other network resources.

Key Parties

Japan

The origin of the dark web scene in Japan can be traced back to late 2012. While many people consider illegal activity to be the primary use for the dark web, Japan perceives the dark web differently. Many Japanese users view it as an alternate universe where they can express themselves and have harmless discussions. Japan suffers from some significant constitutional challenges that prevent it from being able to proactively respond to cyber threats.

China

Hacking in China started in 1994, when the Internet just arrived in the country. China uses a government-controlled Internet network that allows the government to monitor and control all access, activity and users across this network, as well as blocking the access to some foreign web pages.

United States of America (USA)

The power that countries have over the Internet is important as cyber-governance goes hand in hand with cyber-security. According to the Global Cybersecurity Index the USA, followed by Canada, has got the best 'readiness' for a cyber-attack.

Malaysia

According to the ITU Malaysia ranked third in the Global Cybersecurity Index 2014. This makes her a leading country in the cybersecurity field of Asia-Pacific. However, the country faced various incidents of attacks during the previous years.

New Zealand

New Zealand is one of the countries that are most linked to the Internet with over 80% of its population having access to the Internet at home. Recognizing the various threats in the internet New Zealand has invested a lot in the improvement of its cyber security infrastructure.

Global Commission on Internet Governance

The Global Commission on Internet Governance (GCIG) parameters for the Internet is openness, safety, trust and inclusion.

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

The ITU is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies. ITU takes a human rights approach on the issue of cyber-security. Its vision and aim is to connect all citizens around the world through the World Wide Web.

Timeline

Date	Description of Events
1960	First occasion of “hacking” took place, led by students in universities.
1982	First three viruses that are able to attack Apple computers were invented, these made computers crash or leak information.
1990	Creation of Arpanet operational Network, known as the Internet. 2.6 million users connect.
1994	Concern about Internet Security triggers American computer services company, NetScape, to develop Secure Socket Layer encryption for the safety of online transactions.
1998	First World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)
2000	ILOVEYOU worms attack governments and private systems, such as the “Financial Services Information Sharing and Analysis Center”. In the search for common computer crime laws, the US supports the Council of Europe Cybercrime Treaty.

2002	Creation of TOR Project.
December 12th 2003	The World Summit on the Information Society becomes a triparty Summit due to participation of government, private companies and civilians.
2005	The World Summit on the Information Society is held once again.
March 2006	Creation of National Security Division (USA).
2009	Aurora Attacks hit 34 companies among which is Google for intellectual property purposes.
2010	US Cyber Command goes operational.10 ‘Stuxnet’ disrupts Iran’s Nuclear program.
14th September 2011	Russia and China propose an International Code of Conduct for Information Security.
2013	The FBI shuts down Silk Road, a popular darknet market.
November 2014	Robert Hannigan, Director of the Government Communications Headquarters of the United Kingdom, accuses US tech giants Whatsapp, twitter, and Facebook to be the command and control websites for terrorist activities
2014	Facebook announces that it is hosted on TOR as well.
March 2016	Petya (malware) global cyberattack.

Major issues

In a few words, the Deep Web is anything a search engine cannot find. It is NOT only used by criminals or for illegal things. The Deep Web contains content that cannot be indexed by traditional search engines like Google/Yahoo/Bing. In order to clarify, the Dark web is a subpart of the Deep web which is itself a subpart of the World Wide Web. A number of problems come along with such a platform. *The problems include:*

- Unlabelled or mislabelled links, or sites that are disguised as one thing and turn out to be much worse.

- Purchase of drugs, cloned credit cards, and guns in the dark web is typical.
- No record or paper trail of anything that occurs in this cyberspace. This anonymity has several dire implications such as lack of respect and no fear of the law, anarchy.
- The deep web has become a corrupted hub of criminal activity.
- Illegal bidding market places similar to Ebay have been set up on the deep web to sell these illegal goods or services.
- It was until October 2013 that the general public really began to become aware of it. This was due to the primary deep web marketplace, ‘The Silk Road’

Terrorism and cyber security

The concepts of the Dark Web and Terrorism seem to be made for each other. Terrorists look for messaging platforms in which they remain anonymous. Apart from that, the Dark Web offers forums in which potential terrorists or curious radical individuals can state their opinion without being suspected. However, Pierluigi Pagani from the European Union Agency for Network and Information Security assures the “near-absence” of terrorism on the Dark Web. According to him and other experts, terrorists prefer the usage of the surface web.

This is for the following two reasons: Firstly, terrorist propaganda on the surface web gets more attention from a larger audience. Secondly, the Dark Web is both unstable and slow. Although these characteristics of the Dark Web seem to be a reason why terrorism is not yet promoted through it, it can for sure serve as an alternative if the current methods of terrorist get detected.

Past Attempts to Solve the issue

→ UN INVOLVEMENT: RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS,

- TREATIES AND EVENTS Creation of global culture of cybersecurity (A/RES/57/239).
- Council of Europe Cybercrime Treaty, 2000.

- European Parliament Resolution of 29 October 2015 on the Follow-up to the European Parliament Resolution of 12 March 2014 on the Electronic Mass Surveillance of EU Citizens (2015/2635(RSP)).
 - Report on ‘Human rights and technology “the impact of intrusion and surveillance systems on human rights in third countries’ (2014/2232(INI))” by the European Union.
 - European Council Resolution of 28 January 2002 on a Common Approach and Specific Actions in the Area of Network and Information Security.
- One of the largest and most infamous Dark Web marketplaces was Silk road. It was created in 2011 by Ross William Ulbricht, he obtained \$13 million from allowing vendors to use his Silk Road Platform. The platforms not only sold drugs, but anything and everything that vendors put online. In October 2013, the FBI discovered who was under Silk Road and finally shut it down. They concluded that over \$1.2 billion sales had occurred which entailed 150,000 customers and 4000 vendors. This crisis depicts that illegal trade is a massive business in the Dark Web.
- The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has worked in more than 50 countries to provide the necessary training, to sharpen investigative skills, trace cryptocurrencies as part of financial investigations, and use software to detect online abuse materialise and go after predators. As a result of this, a high-risk paedophile which had around 80 victims was arrested, tried and convicted. The training is carried out in partnership with the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children and Facebook.
- Other attempts taken by the FBI and government organisations have been that of impersonating a darknet market in order to identify users of such markets. From February 20th, 2015 to March 4th, 37 were charged with the crime. This measure has proved to be helpful to punish more people for their crime.

Questions to Consider

1. Ensuring security and protecting privacy in the digital age is a difficult balancing act that requires the cooperation of civil society, the private sector, and government. What are the legal decisions to be implemented to effectively uphold this balance?
2. How have the respective member state citizens been affected by the use of the dark web and to what extent? What are the actions, if any, taken by the nations to combat this issue?
3. When there are clear violations of rights and, in particular, online privacy, what are the ways in which civil society members and groups are pushing for increased transparency on surveillance and even the ability to address privacy violations due to these dark web markets?
4. What should the UNODC's long-term role be in tackling the growing implications of the dark web? Have the respective nations worked on par with the UN's regulations and steps to curb this issue?

Further Readings

Your country's official website (e.g. <http://www.bundesregierung.de>)

Your country's permanent mission to the United Nations (e.g. <http://china-un.org>)

Your country's ministry of foreign affairs

Your country's ministry of defense and security

UN Official Document System: <http://documents.un.org>

UN wire: <http://www.unwire.org>

National Model UN: <http://www.nmun.org>

Center for Defense Information: <http://www.cdi.org>

Foreign Policy Association: <http://www.fpa.org>

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http://www.edri.org/files/paper06_datap.pdf

Internet Governance Forum. (2014). About the Internet Governance Forum [Website]. Retrieved 25
October 2014
from:<http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/aboutigf>

Privacy International. (2014). Data Protection [Website]. Retrieved 18 July 2014
from: <https://www.privacyinternational.org/resources/privacy-101/data-protection>

"FBI Hosted Images of Child Sexual Abuse on Dark Web to Hack Pedophiles around theWorld." The
Next Web
from:<https://thenextweb.com/insider/2016/01/24/fbi-hosted-images-of-child-sexual-abuse-on-dark-web-to-hack-pedophiles-around-the-world/>

Terrorists and the Dark Web, What Is Their Relationship?" Security Affairs.
from:<http://securityaffairs.co/wordpress/45755/terrorism/dark-web.html>

“Counterfeit goods and their large demand; with special emphasis in Medical supplies and basic essentials”

Counterfeit goods are products that have been manufactured to imitate well-known brands. Counterfeit goods are generally of a lower quality and can be bought at a lower price. Medical supplies that have been counterfeited pose a health risk to the ones using them. This background guide will examine counterfeited goods across the world, the reasons for their large public demand, key parties associated with them and measures to reduce the counterfeiting of goods, all while keeping in mind the effects of the current global COVID 19 pandemic.

Counterfeited goods offer super profit along with consumer satisfaction. The main incentive to produce such goods is because consumers have high demand for cheap yet branded products. In this case, consumers are more driven by the urge to possess well-known brands rather than purchase a product of better quality. Some of the main areas of interest include:

1. Factors contributing to the demand for counterfeit products
2. Key parties involved in counterfeits
3. Medical supply counterfeits and their repercussions

KEY TERMS

COUNTERFEIT GOODS:

Goods that are a copy or imitation of something that is intended to be taken as authentic and genuine to deceive another.

TRANSNATIONAL ORGANISED CRIME (TOC) GROUPS:

Self-perpetuating associations of individuals who operate, wholly or in part, by illegal means and irrespective of geography and constantly seek to obtain power, influence and monetary gains.

ILLICIT TRAFFICKING:

Illegal “trading, selling or dealing” in specified goods.

FRAUDULENT MISREPRESENTATION:

According to WHO Member States Mechanism on Substandard/Spurious/ Falsely labelled/Falsified/ Counterfeit Medical Products, fraudulent misrepresentation refers to any substitution, adulteration, reproduction of an authorized medical product or the manufacture of a medical product that is not an authorized product.

SUBSTANDARD MEDICAL PRODUCTS:

Those medical products that fail to meet either their quality standards or their specifications or both. They are also known as *out-of-specification products*.

UNREGISTERED/UNLICENSED MEDICAL PRODUCTS:

Those medical products that have not undergone evaluation and/or approval by the national or regional regulatory authority for the market in which they are marketed, distributed or used, subjected to permitted conditions under national or regional regulation and legislation.

HISTORY

Counterfeiting has a long, ancient history. Ancient Rome and ancient Greece have had instances of counterfeiting, where currency was counterfeited due to changes in coinage from full bodied money to credit money. Due to the lack of legal frameworks pertaining to subjects such as intellectual property rights, patents and trademarks, counterfeiting thrived onwards into the Middle Ages as well. The art of forging was at such a vast level during this period in history that consumers feared purchasing durable goods, preferring the cheaper ones instead. For example, recent research studies have shown that most of the pottery manufactured in Europe in medieval

times was counterfeited. Laws against counterfeiting first developed in Italy and then spread throughout Europe in the two centuries following the Middle Ages.

America also suffered from counterfeiting due to their fledgling currency and lack of legal measures. The 19th century saw the creation of a firm legal framework against counterfeiting with the advent of the US Secret Service, which was founded on July 5th, 1865. Throughout history, as consumer goods improved in quality and their production techniques grew more complicated, so did the techniques related to forging consumer goods.

The counterfeiting of medical supplies and other essentials is more of a modern development, with counterfeited, inferior quality masks and sanitizers produced due to tax breaks and subsidies offered by governments in the pandemic situation. Studies have found that counterfeiting has always plagued humanity and will continue to plague humanity forevermore.

Laws against counterfeiting are relatively uniform from country to country, mostly because of the diplomatic conference held in Geneva in 1929 that produced a convention signed by 32 major powers. This convention has since been recognized by most of the states gaining independence after 1929.

KEY ISSUES

The many so-called “law-abiding citizens” think of counterfeit goods as nothing but a knock-off of designer brands and are encouraged to buy these goods knowingly or unknowingly of its dangers and impacts it can have on a country and their personal lives. The branding of a product is meant to provide quality assurance and a legal line of accountability for the consumers. The consumers are so blinded by the counterfeits’ prices that they tend to overlook the dangers of these goods and take quality assurance of these brands for granted.

Products of high demand are manufactured based on the same or similar designs. These manufactured products are often packaged and branded in ways that make them indistinguishable from the original product. The poor quality of these goods destroys the reputation of the real brand. The cheaper goods dominate eventually. These products are sold in parallel markets.

These goods can be priced extremely competitively and in some parts of the world counterfeit goods are far more common than the original ones.

Counterfeiting is most common in the case of apparels and accessories, however, its dangers and impact are more seen especially in automobiles, electronics and pharmaceuticals. Counterfeit auto parts are not subjected to rigorous safety testing and counterfeit batteries and cigarettes are prone to explode due to usage of cheap materials and workmanship in its making. Counterfeit medicines and personal hygiene products need not contain any active ingredient at all and may contain toxic ingredients that can put your health in line.

A cheap yet productive workforce is often used in the production of counterfeit products. The labour is obtained usually from lower-income countries. The problem is seen in the safety of employees and the workplace. A licensed company aims at improving the quality and safety of the workplace; however, the lack of regulatory capacity makes authorized production impossible.

Counterfeiting accounts for 5-7% of world trade and it's worth an estimated 600 billion US Dollars a year. The impact of counterfeiting has been seen in some parts of the developing world as the original, high-quality products have been priced out of the market. Even producing countries are also affected by the impact of counterfeit goods as they take advantage of global sweatshops and enjoy the cost-saving of dirty production without contributing to the country's economy.

MAJOR PARTIES INVOLVED

1. CHINA

Most of the counterfeit goods produced in China are built in sweatshops through the use of child labour and slave labour.. The Chinese consumer base sorely lacks consumer awareness pertaining to these issues, and because of this China is now one of the most counterfeit industry riddled nations in the world.

More recently, there have been complaints all across the world, regarding the export of faulty, counterfeit medical supplies and masks from China. Many unqualified industries have taken advantage of this to turn over a large profit, thereby perpetuating the spread of such counterfeit supplies.

2. INDIA

India has become a hub for counterfeit goods due to the weak enforcement of governmental regulations pertaining to intellectual property rights. These goods are produced domestically and are even exported to foreign nations. Due to the vast domestic demand of Personal Protective Equipment during the pandemic, counterfeiters of such equipment set up shop overnight and medical supplies were grossly counterfeited.

3. EUROPE

21 European countries participated in operation Aphrodite to target the trafficking of counterfeit goods in the EU. This extended to the counterfeiting of medical supplies and medical goods with special emphasis on the COVID 19 scenario. Hidden links on social media and the internet were uncovered, leading to the uncovering of several counterfeiting networks across the continent.

4. AFRICA

Africa is greatly plagued by the issue of counterfeit goods, especially counterfeit medical goods. Here, counterfeiters thrive since they do not have to pay import duties and thus make a gigantic profit margin despite their low prices. Counterfeiters are thriving, often driving other businesses out of business. Africa suffers from fake coronavirus cures and falsified, substandard medicines. The nation requires more low-cost alternatives and products.

PAST ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

The war on counterfeit goods is one that's hard to fight, detect and control. To win this fight, the international community must work together to set clear guidelines on what counterfeits are and how to deal with them.

In 2014, the World Customs Organisation (WCO) welcomed a new global campaign launched by the UN under the auspices of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), to raise awareness among consumers on the dangers of counterfeit goods and their link to organized crime. The campaign – 'Counterfeit: Don't buy into organized crime', was launched to urge customers to consider who and what lies behind the production of counterfeit goods. The campaign was a bid to boost understanding of the multi-faceted repercussions of this illicit trade.

WHO launched a task force namely The International Medical Products Anti-Counterfeiting Taskforce (IMPACT) in 2006, to fight a thriving multimillion-dollar illegal trade in counterfeit drugs, vaccines and other medical products. The task force aims to put a stop to deadly trade in fake drugs, which kills millions each year. The taskforce encourages the public, distributors and hospital staff to inform the authorities about their suspicions regarding the authenticity of a drug or a vaccine and helps the government crackdown on corruption and illicit trade.

In 2010, INTERPOL created a special unit known as the Medical Products Counterfeiting and Pharmaceutical Crime (MPCPC) unit. The unit's primary tasks are to coordinate field operations to defeat crime rings, increase skills and knowledge in the fight against pharmaceutical crime, and build partnerships both internationally and industrially. INTERPOL has led several operations, where they target different sectors where pharmaceutical crime tends to thrive.

FOCUSING QUESTIONS

1. What are some techniques to be adopted in order to tackle counterfeit goods in developing nations? Does human trafficking and counterfeiting of goods go hand in hand?

2. Is there a requirement for an international framework of laws pertaining to counterfeiting of goods, with standard penalties listed?
3. How can consumer awareness be brought about on a mass scale during the current era of the pandemic?
4. What methods can be used to eradicate counterfeit industries apart from petitioning MNCs and pharmaceutical companies to lower their prices?
5. What are the economic and societal impacts of counterfeited goods? How would it impact social and economic infrastructure if it was completely eradicated?

RECOMMENDED READINGS

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