



LASALLECUNMUN

# LASALLECUNMUN 2024

## UNODC

(United Nations Office  
for Drugs and Crime)

“Addressing the Global Fentanyl  
Crisis Combating Illicit  
Production, Trafficking,  
and Harm Reduction  
Strategies”.

Background Guide





Dear delegates,

Welcome everyone to this new LASALLECUNMUN2024, it's a pleasure to have you in this fascinate model. My name is Jorge Emiliano Soberanis Aguilar, and I am proudly part of the chair of the committee UNODC (Unites Nations Office on Drugs and Crime). My chair is formed by my office conference Paola Cab Bacab, my moderate Alicia Valencia Reyes, and me, the president. This is my second time being part of LASALLECUNMUN. Two years ago, I was a delegate of this same committee, and I decided to finish what I started doing a few years ago. I hope you to see this experience as an unforgettable and exciting activity during this period of your lives.

Currently, I am 16 years old, and I am a senior in “Universidad La Salle Cancún Preparatoria”, studying in the area of humanities. I am planning to study law on my first year of university in “Anahuac Cancún”. Since I am too young, I prefer to wait one year and then leave the country until the next year. But now, for the ones who are interested about my current life, I am a guy who likes to spend time doing sports, especially football soccer, I train two times per day, also I like to spend time with my family and friends, watch suspense series, and have my own personal time. I like this model because I enjoy debating with other people and also helps me to expand my social abilities. The first year in high school, I was a delegate of UNODC, and I didn't exceed my expectations, but instead of disliking MUN, I wanted to do it better the next time, so I postulate myself as a president of this committee, and fortunately I have the opportunity to improve my skills and do things right.

As the president, I expect you, my dear delegates, to have that hunger and desire to debate and make a change in the problematics I will propose. I will like to finish this welcome by telling you that you only live things once, so don't let your automatic mode control your way to see live, be conscious of everything you are living right now. If you have any doubts, don't hesitate to contact me.

With emotion,

**Jorge Emiliano Soberanis Aguilar**

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## **COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION**

The UNODC is devoted to providing health, security, and justice for all by promoting peace and sustainable well-being. This committee is a global leader that specializes in the fight against illicit drugs and international crime as well as being responsible for enforcing The United Nations lead program on terrorism.

***Topic: “Addressing the Global Fentanyl Crisis Combating Illicit Production, Trafficking, and Harm Reduction Strategies”.***

## **INTRODUCTION**

Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid pain reliever used to treat severe pain, such as cancer-related pain or post-surgical pain. It is much stronger than morphine and other opioids. The fentanyl crisis refers to the growing concern and alarm worldwide over the devastating effects of this drug. Fentanyl has been linked to a significant increase in drug overdoses and deaths. Fentanyl is extremely potent and dangerous in incorrect doses. Even a small amount can be lethal. The main concern is its appearance in the black market, often mixed with other drugs without the consumer’s knowledge. Efforts to address the fentanyl crisis include combating illegal production and trafficking, implementing harm reduction strategies, and promoting public awareness of the risks associated with fentanyl. Emphasis is placed on the importance of prevention and treatment of addiction to opioids, including fentanyl. This involves expanding treatment programs and making therapies and medications available to help people overcome their addiction.

## **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The global fentanyl crisis has arisen from the illicit production and trafficking of synthetic opioids, particularly fentanyl and its analogues, which are extremely potent. This has led to an increase in overdose deaths around the world. To address this crisis, measures have been taken at the national level, such as stricter legislation and harm reduction approaches, and international cooperation has been encouraged to combat illicit production and trafficking. The UN, through its United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), plays a key role in promoting international cooperation and regulation of precursor chemicals used in the manufacture of fentanyl. The global fentanyl problem emerged in the 2010s with the illicit production and trafficking of this extremely potent synthetic opioid. Criminal groups began manufacturing fentanyl in clandestine laboratories, allowing for its easy availability on the black market. This opioid was trafficked across borders and mixed with other drugs, increasing the risk of overdose. The high addictive potential and danger of overdose contributed to a significant increase in overdose deaths worldwide, resulting in a global public health crisis.

## **CURRENT SITUATION**

The fentanyl crisis has intensified in recent years. Fentanyl is an extremely potent synthetic opioid that is often produced illicitly and used in the manufacture of illegal drugs, such as heroin. Its potency is about 50 to 100 times greater than morphine, making it highly dangerous. Fentanyl overdose has become a leading cause of overdose death in many countries, especially the United States and Canada.

The UN has addressed the issue of fentanyl in the context of combating drug trafficking and preventing substance abuse. The UN has urged countries to crack down on the illicit production and trafficking of fentanyl, as well as strengthen addiction prevention and treatment measures. It has also promoted harm reduction strategies, such as the distribution of naloxone (an antidote for opioid overdoses) and needle exchange programs.

In recent years, there has been an increase in the production and trafficking of fentanyl, which has led to an increase in overdoses and deaths related to this substance. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the problem, as movement restrictions made it difficult to access treatment and prevention services. The consequences include a high overdose mortality rate, the burden on health systems, and the need to address the issue from a public health perspective.

Different countries have responded differently to the fentanyl crisis. Some have strengthened legislation to criminalize the production and trafficking of fentanyl, while others have taken a more focused approach on harm reduction, such as distributing naloxone and creating supervised consumption sites. International cooperation is essential to address the problem, as production and trafficking often transcend national borders.

The potential consequences of failing to address the fentanyl crisis effectively are alarming. They could include a continued rise in rates of fentanyl-related overdoses and deaths, increased pressure on health care systems, the spread of addiction, and crime associated with drug trafficking. There is also the potential for an international public health crisis to develop if the problem is not adequately controlled.

In short, the fentanyl crisis is a global problem that requires an internationally coordinated response. The UN has provided recommendations and guidance, but the effective implementation of measures to combat illicit production and trafficking, as well as the implementation of harm reduction strategies, are essential to address this crisis and reduce its devastating impact.

## **COUNTRY BOX**

Commonwealth of Australia

Federative Republic of Brazil

Canada

People's Republic of China

Republic of Colombia

Federal Republic of Germany

Republic of India

Republic of Indonesia

United Mexican States

Kingdom of the Netherlands

Federal Republic of Nigeria

Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Russian Federation

Republic of Singapore

Republic of South Africa

Kingdom of Thailand

Republic of Turkey

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern  
Ireland

United States of America

Socialist Republic of Vietnam

## **GUIDE QUESTIONS**

- I. What is your country's official position regarding the illicit production and trafficking of fentanyl globally?
  
- II. What specific measures has your country implemented to address the fentanyl crisis, both domestically and in collaboration with other nations?
  
- III. What are the main consequences and challenges that your country has experienced as a direct or indirect result of the fentanyl crisis?
  
- IV. How does your country evaluate the effectiveness of harm reduction strategies in managing the risks associated with fentanyl?
  
- V. What specific proposals does your country have to strengthen international cooperation in the fight against illicit production and trafficking of fentanyl, as well as to improve harm reduction strategies globally?

## **BIOGRAPHY**

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