

# **BLUE BELLS**

## **MODEL UNITED NATIONS'25**



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# Letter From the Executive Board

Dear delegates,

As the Executive Board, we extend our warmest greetings to each one of you as we approach the upcoming conference. Your participation and engagement in this year's MUN is pivotal in shaping meaningful dialogue and fostering diplomatic relations.

With the conference approaching, we wish to commend your dedication to thorough preparation and intellectual curiosity. Your commitment to understanding complex issues and advocating for change reflects the ethos of the MUN and the spirit of diplomacy.

This study guide is by no means the end of the research, we would very much appreciate it, if the leaders are able to find new realms in the agenda and bring it forth to the committee. We are certain that we will be learning from you immensely and we also hope that you all will have an equally enriching experience.

The Executive Board is fully committed to supporting you throughout the MUN conference. We stand ready to provide guidance, resources, and assistance to ensure a successful and enriching experience for all delegates. Your contributions and active participation are fundamental to the success of the conference.

In conclusion, we express our deepest appreciation for your enthusiasm, commitment and passion for global affairs. Together, let us embody the values of diplomacy, collaboration and mutual understanding as we work towards a more peaceful and prosperous world.

Best regards,  
Executive Board

**CHAIRPERSON- ADVIT UPADHYAY**  
**VICE- CHAIRPERSON- ANIKET**  
**RANA RAPPORTEUR- VANYA**  
**SALUJA**



# ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

The **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** was established in 1997 through the merger of the **United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP)** and the **Centre for International Crime Prevention**. It operates as a specialized office under the **United Nations Secretariat**, reporting directly to the **United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** and working closely with the **General Assembly**, making it a key body in the UN system's efforts to promote justice, security, and health worldwide.

The formation of the UNODC was driven by the growing international recognition that **illicit drugs, organized crime, corruption, and terrorism** were becoming increasingly interconnected and posed serious threats to global stability, development, and the rule of law. Before 1997, these issues were addressed by separate UN entities, but the complex and overlapping nature of these challenges demanded a more coordinated and integrated response. The establishment of UNODC created a unified body to provide comprehensive support to Member States through research, policy development, technical assistance, and capacity-building.

UNODC is mandated to assist countries in implementing **international drug control treaties**, such as the **Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961)**, as well as key legal instruments like the **United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000)** and the **United Nations Convention against Corruption (2003)**. The Office also plays a vital role in counter-terrorism efforts by helping states strengthen their legal frameworks in line with international law.

Today, UNODC is active in over 80 countries, working on issues ranging from **drug trafficking and abuse prevention**, to **human trafficking, cybercrime, money laundering, and criminal justice reform**. Its creation reflects the international community's commitment to tackling these complex threats through **multilateral cooperation**, evidence-based policy, and a strong emphasis on **human rights and sustainable development**.



# FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

The **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** serves as the central UN body responsible for addressing the intertwined global challenges of **illicit drugs, organized crime, corruption, and terrorism**. Its functions are broad and multifaceted, reflecting the complexity of the threats it addresses. The key functions of the UNODC include:

## 1. Policy Development and Advocacy

UNODC helps Member States develop and implement international policies, conventions, and strategies related to drug control, crime prevention, criminal justice, corruption, and terrorism. It promotes global standards and encourages states to align their national laws with international legal instruments.

## 2. Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

UNODC provides technical support to governments to strengthen their law enforcement, judicial systems, border control, anti-corruption agencies, and public health responses. This includes training, infrastructure support, and legal advisory services.

## 3. Research and Data Collection

The organization conducts in-depth research and gathers reliable data on global drug trends, crime statistics, trafficking routes, and the effectiveness of legal frameworks. This helps inform evidence-based policymaking at national and international levels.

## 4. Monitoring and Implementation of International Treaties

UNODC supports the implementation of major UN treaties, including:

- The **United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000)**
- The **United Nations Convention against Corruption (2003)**



- The **International Drug Control Conventions**

It assists countries in meeting their treaty obligations and reviews their progress.

## **5. Promoting International Cooperation**

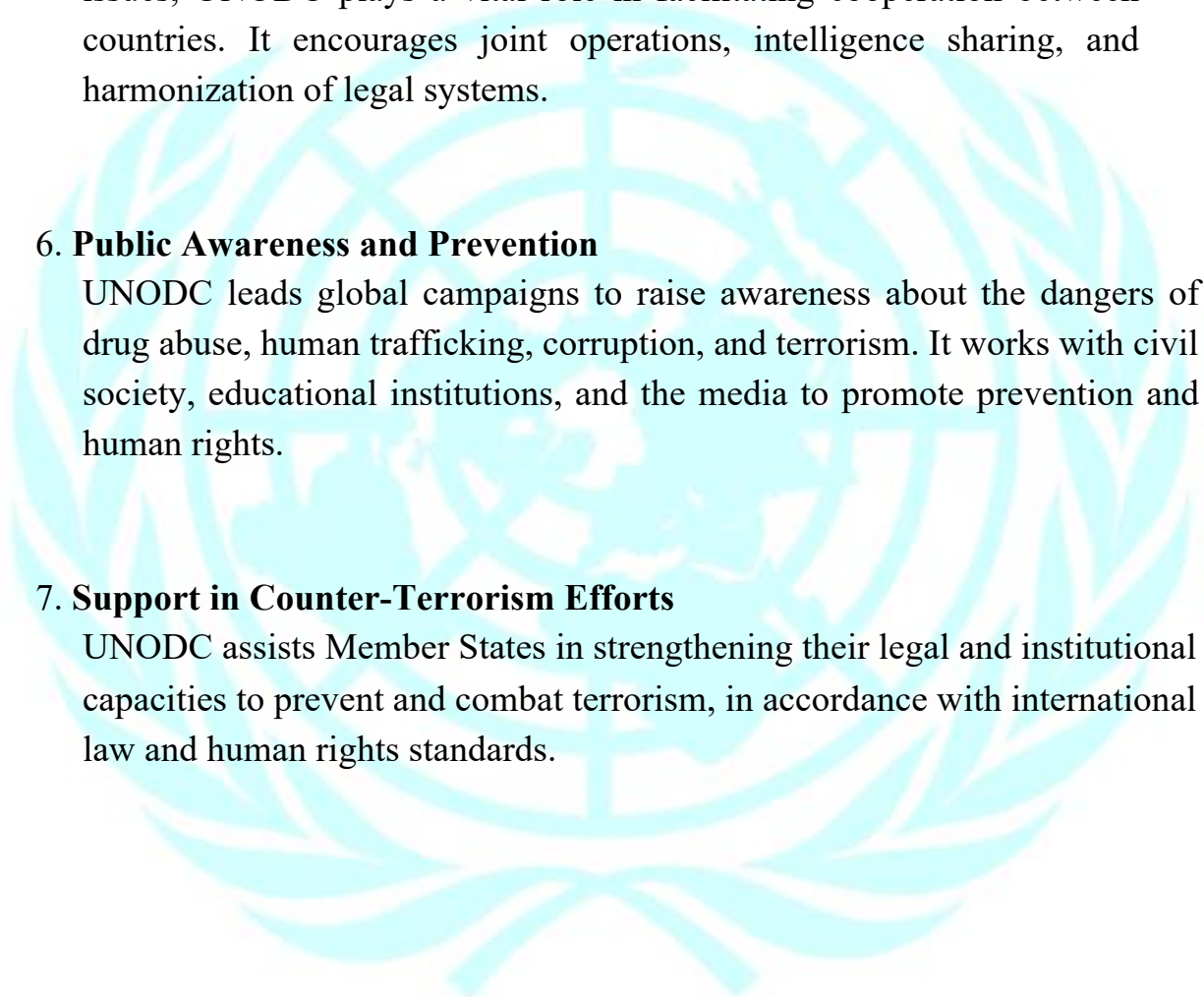
Since drug trafficking, corruption, and organized crime are cross-border issues, UNODC plays a vital role in facilitating cooperation between countries. It encourages joint operations, intelligence sharing, and harmonization of legal systems.

## **6. Public Awareness and Prevention**

UNODC leads global campaigns to raise awareness about the dangers of drug abuse, human trafficking, corruption, and terrorism. It works with civil society, educational institutions, and the media to promote prevention and human rights.

## **7. Support in Counter-Terrorism Efforts**

UNODC assists Member States in strengthening their legal and institutional capacities to prevent and combat terrorism, in accordance with international law and human rights standards.



# DISCUSSING THE AGENDA

## *“Addressing the Global Surge in Drug Abuse Among Young Adults”*

Over the past decade, the global community has observed a troubling surge in drug abuse among **young adults aged 18 to 25**, making this demographic one of the most vulnerable to the harms of illicit substance use. This rise is not limited to any one region; it is a **global crisis**, impacting both developed and developing countries. According to recent UNODC reports, young adults account for the **majority of first-time drug users**, and the consequences extend far beyond individual health — affecting education, employment, mental well-being, and even national development.

Multiple factors have contributed to this growing issue. These include increasing **mental health struggles, peer pressure, lack of awareness, socioeconomic instability, family breakdown**, and the **easy availability of both traditional and synthetic drugs**, especially through online platforms and social media. Additionally, misinformation and the glamorization of drug use in pop culture have led to a dangerous normalization of substance abuse among youth.

Drug abuse among young adults also fuels other global concerns, such as **organized crime, human trafficking, violence, and public health emergencies**, particularly in regions where healthcare systems are already overstretched. In some cases, punitive drug policies have led to the marginalization and criminalization of youth, often without offering effective prevention or rehabilitation alternatives.

As the primary UN body addressing these complex and interrelated issues, the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** plays a critical role in shaping international strategies that are **balanced, humane, and evidence-based**. This includes promoting public health approaches, strengthening legal frameworks, enhancing cross-border cooperation, and supporting the development of youth-centered education and rehabilitation programs.



# REASONS FOR SURGE IN DRUG ABUSE AMONGST YOUNGSTERS

## **Mental Health Challenges**

Increasing rates of depression, anxiety, stress, and other mental health disorders among young adults have contributed significantly to substance abuse. Many turn to drugs as a coping mechanism due to a lack of accessible and affordable mental health care.

## **Social Pressure and Peer Influence**

Peer pressure, especially in social or academic environments, often pushes young individuals toward experimenting with drugs. In many cases, acceptance and belonging within a social group can override concerns about health risks.

## **Unemployment and Economic Insecurity**

High youth unemployment and underemployment can lead to feelings of hopelessness, frustration, and lack of purpose — conditions that may increase vulnerability to drug use. In low-income areas, some may also become involved in drug trafficking for financial reasons.

## **Increased Availability and Accessibility of Drugs**

With the rise of dark web markets, online platforms, and unregulated supply chains, access to both traditional and synthetic drugs has become easier than ever. This has lowered the barriers for young people to acquire narcotics.

## **Glamorization and Normalization of Drug Use**

Media, music, film, and social media platforms often depict drug use as fashionable or rebellious, downplaying its risks. Influencers and celebrities can unintentionally (or intentionally) promote drug culture, especially among impressionable youth.

## **Lack of Awareness and Drug Education**

In many countries, drug education is either outdated, overly punitive, or completely absent. Without accurate information about the health and legal consequences of drug use, young people are more likely to experiment out of curiosity or misinformation.



## **Family Dysfunction and Childhood Trauma**

Exposure to domestic violence, abuse, neglect, or broken family structures can significantly increase the likelihood of substance abuse later in life. Emotional trauma during childhood is a strong risk factor for drug dependency.

## **Urbanization and Social Isolation**

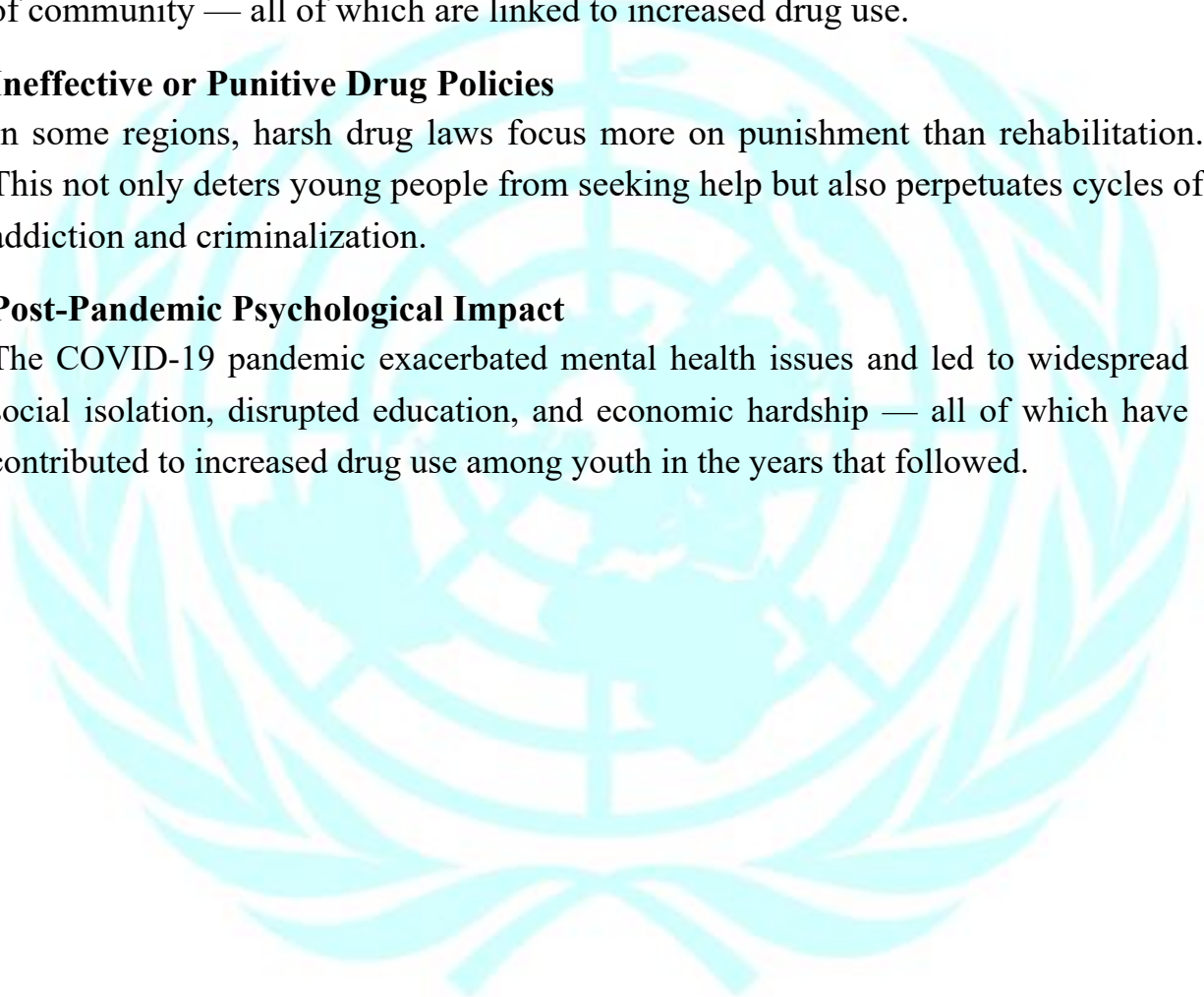
Rapid urbanization has led to greater social fragmentation. Many young people living in urban environments experience feelings of isolation, loneliness, and lack of community — all of which are linked to increased drug use.

## **Ineffective or Punitive Drug Policies**

In some regions, harsh drug laws focus more on punishment than rehabilitation. This not only deters young people from seeking help but also perpetuates cycles of addiction and criminalization.

## **Post-Pandemic Psychological Impact**

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated mental health issues and led to widespread social isolation, disrupted education, and economic hardship — all of which have contributed to increased drug use among youth in the years that followed.



# STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

## 1. UNODC World Drug Report 2024:

- Over **296 million people** worldwide used drugs in 2023 — a **23% increase** over the past decade.
- **Young adults aged 18–25** accounted for **more than 60%** of new users globally.
- Cannabis remains the most used drug, but there is a sharp rise in **synthetic opioids** (e.g., fentanyl) and **prescription drug misuse** among youth.

## 2. World Health Organization (WHO):

- **1 in 7 adolescents** worldwide experiences a mental health disorder — a key risk factor for substance abuse.
- Suicide and drug overdoses are among the **leading causes of death** in young adults aged 15–29.

## 3. UNESCO / UNICEF (2023):

- In low-income countries, **less than 30%** of schools include drug prevention education in their curriculum.
- A large majority of drug treatment centers are not accessible or welcoming to youth populations.



# CASE STUDIES

## 1. United States – Fentanyl Epidemic

The U.S. has seen a massive increase in overdose deaths, particularly involving synthetic opioids like fentanyl. In 2023, over **70,000 overdose deaths** occurred among people under 30. Social media platforms have been exploited to sell counterfeit pills laced with deadly substances. The crisis has prompted federal and community-level responses focused on **harm reduction, awareness campaigns, and access to naloxone** (an overdose reversal drug).

### RESPONSES: 1. Local Governments & Public Health Agencies

- **Distribution of Naloxone (Narcan)** in public spaces like libraries, schools, and public transit.
- Launch of **education and prevention campaigns** targeting youth and parents.

### 2. Schools & Educational Institutions

- Implemented **drug education programs** focused on the dangers of synthetic opioids.

### 3. Law Enforcement

- Increased efforts to **track and dismantle networks** selling fentanyl-laced drugs, especially those using **social media and encrypted apps**.
- Use of **drug interdiction strategies** at borders and ports.

### 4. Nonprofits and Community Organizations

- Provided **peer-led recovery services** and **addiction counseling**.
- Offered **clean syringe programs** and **overdose prevention training** to vulnerable populations.

### 5. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

- **Acknowledged fentanyl as a global threat** due to its role in overdose deaths, especially in North America.



- Issued reports warning about the **spread of synthetic opioids** beyond the U.S., including into parts of Europe and Asia.
- Called for:
  - **Greater international cooperation** to disrupt supply chains.
  - **Improved regulation and surveillance** of precursor chemicals used to manufacture fentanyl.
  - **Stronger global public health responses** to synthetic opioids.

## 2. Nigeria – Youth and Cannabis Use

In Nigeria, a 2021 UNODC report revealed that **over 10 million Nigerians aged 15–34** had used cannabis in the previous year. High unemployment and political instability contribute to drug use among youth, while stigma and lack of mental health services worsen the issue. NGOs have partnered with UNODC to promote **community-based outreach and youth rehabilitation programs**.

### RESPONSES: 1. Community-Based Outreach

- Local organizations and NGOs have created **awareness campaigns** in schools, religious centers, and neighborhoods to **educate youth** on the dangers of drug use.
- **Community leaders**, including traditional and religious figures, have played a key role in **destigmatizing addiction** and encouraging treatment-seeking behavior.

### 2. Youth Rehabilitation & Support Services

- Community-run **rehabilitation centers** offer counseling, vocational training, and reintegration programs.
- **Peer support groups** have emerged to provide young people with safe spaces to talk about substance use and mental health.

### 3. Grassroots Advocacy

- Activists and youth-led groups advocate for:
  - **Greater access to mental health services**
  - **Government investment** in job creation and education to address root causes like unemployment



#### 4. Research & Data Collection

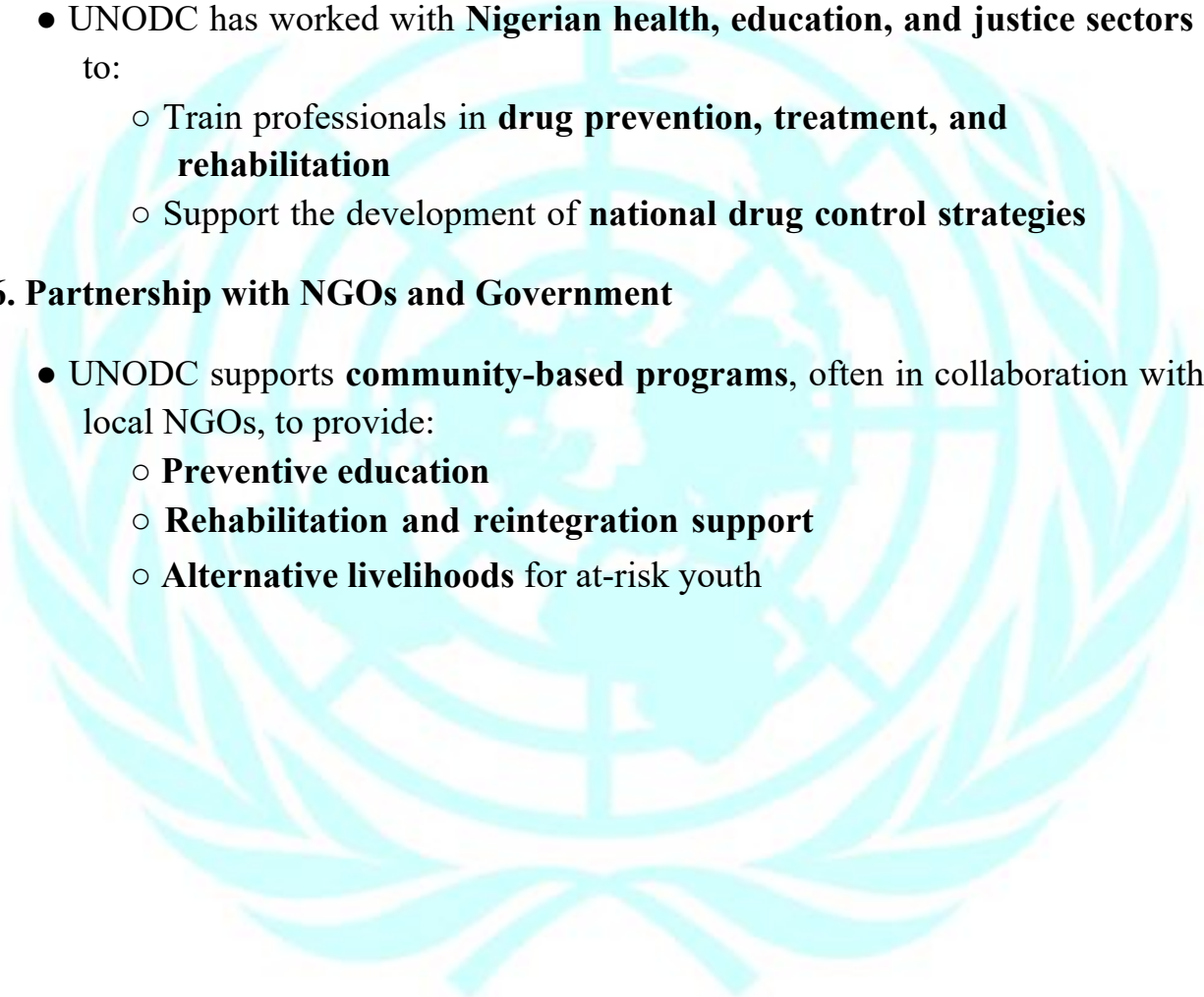
- The **2021 UNODC report** was critical in **bringing national attention** to the scale of cannabis use among young Nigerians.
- It has guided **evidence-based policymaking** by government and civil society groups.

#### 5. Capacity Building

- UNODC has worked with **Nigerian health, education, and justice sectors** to:
  - Train professionals in **drug prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation**
  - Support the development of **national drug control strategies**

#### 6. Partnership with NGOs and Government

- UNODC supports **community-based programs**, often in collaboration with local NGOs, to provide:
  - **Preventive education**
  - **Rehabilitation and reintegration support**
  - **Alternative livelihoods** for at-risk youth



# POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

## 1. Invest in Youth-Centered Prevention Programs

- Include age-appropriate, science-based drug education in school curricula.
- Launch peer-led awareness campaigns to counter misinformation and stigma.

## 2. Improve Access to Mental Health Services

- Integrate mental health support into primary healthcare systems.
- Train school counselors and social workers to identify early signs of substance abuse.

## 3. Promote Harm Reduction Strategies

- Support supervised consumption sites, access to clean needles, and overdose reversal medication.
- Decriminalize personal drug use and shift focus from punishment to treatment.

## 4. Strengthen Online Regulation and Surveillance

- Collaborate with tech companies to remove online drug trafficking content and promote educational resources.
- Train law enforcement to detect and prevent digital drug markets.

## 5. Enhance Rehabilitation and Reintegration

- Create youth-friendly, confidential rehabilitation centers with trained professionals.
- Provide education and employment pathways for recovered individuals to reduce relapse risk.

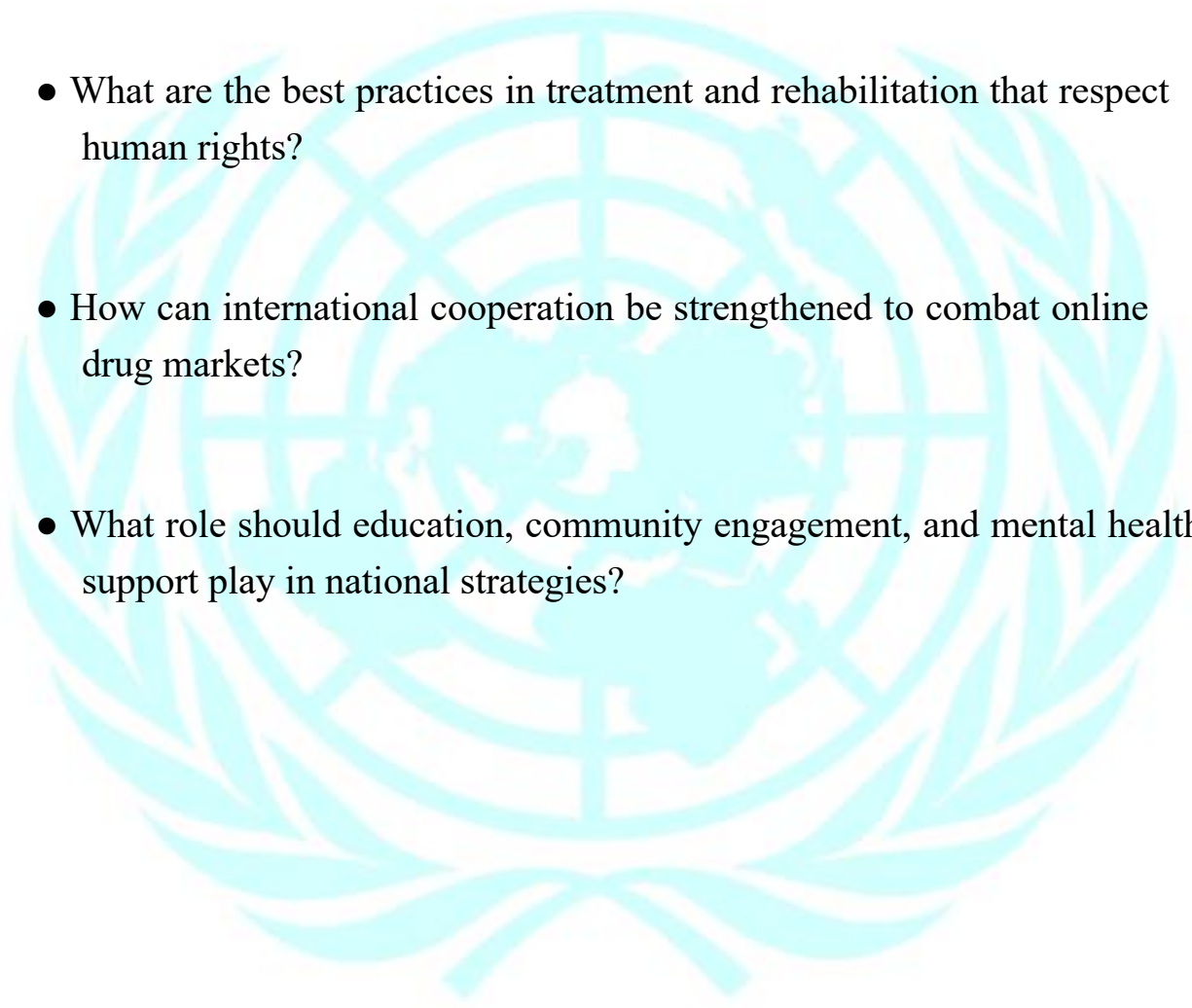
## 6. Foster International Cooperation

- Share best practices and data between countries.
- Build regional frameworks for cross-border intervention and youth engagement in prevention efforts.



# QUESTIONS FOR RESEARCH

- How can Member States implement effective prevention programs tailored to youth?
- What are the best practices in treatment and rehabilitation that respect human rights?
- How can international cooperation be strengthened to combat online drug markets?
- What role should education, community engagement, and mental health support play in national strategies?



# RULES OF PROCEDURE

- **ROLL CALL-** Every committee session begins with a roll call. The delegates can answer by saying either “Present” or "Present and Voting”.

**Present-** Delegates can vote yes, no or abstain for a draft resolution.

**Present and Voting-** Delegate is bound to vote either a yes or no.

- **MOTIONS-** Motions carry forward the committee. They generally require a vote and specify what will happen next.
- **DEBATE (Formal)-**

GSL (General Speakers List)- It serves as the introductory statement where the delegates present perspectives on the agenda.

- **DEBATE (Informal)-** Moderated Caucus- They address the agenda into a wider discussion addressing key events and urgent matters.

Unmoderated Caucus- It allows delegates to lobby, engage in discussions with each other and form alliances.

**POINTS-** Points are interjections in/during the conference-

Point of Information- To ask questions pertaining to fellow delegates' speech.

Point of Order- To raise any factual inaccuracy made by fellow delegates.

Point of Personal Privilege- To be raised by delegates for any personal matters-(attending a call, move out for a while etc)

Point of Parliamentary Inquiry- To be raised to enquire about the functioning and proceedings of the committee

**CHITS-** They help to facilitate communication between the delegates- to each other and with the executive board

POI Chits- To ask questions to other delegates or to reply to a question asked by a fellow delegate. (Mandatory to mention Via EB if wanted to be taken in account by the executive board)

Substantive Chits- To share research with the executive board like an extension to the speech, with structured arguments and logical analysis.

