

11<sup>TH</sup> MUN  
ICT



# **UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL**

## **BACKGROUND**

**“Collaborative Strategies for Security in  
Mexico's Fight Against Narco trafficking”**

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# WELCOME

Greetings delegates,

Welcome to the 11th Model United Nations of the Instituto Cultural Tampico.

The Committee Chair expresses extreme gratitude for your valuable participation and your interest in the selected debate topic. We hope that this can be a place of growth and development where you can benefit from learning, leading and working aptitudes, as we expect it to be a pleasant experience.

Throughout the debate and exchange of information, the Chair hopes the delegates can come up with solutions and agreements for the topic of Collaborative Strategies for Security in Mexico's Fight Against Narcotrafficking.

We extend our sincere appreciation for your contribution to this committee, sure of the great things you will achieve.

Best of luck,

- The Chair of the Security Council

President: Ana Camila Rodríguez Álvarez  
Secretary: Laura Irene Lee García  
Moderator: Romina Calderón Lozano

# HISTORY OF THE COMMITTEE

The Security Council originally consisted of 11 members—five permanent members (the Republic of China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States) and six nonpermanent members elected by the UN General Assembly for two-year terms. An amendment to the UN Charter in 1965 increased council membership to 15, including the original five permanent members and 10 non-permanent members.

Among the permanent members, the People's Republic of China replaced the Republic of China in 1971, and the Russian Federation succeeded the Soviet Union in 1991. The nonpermanent members are generally chosen to achieve equitable representation among geographic regions, with five members coming from Africa or Asia, one from Eastern Europe, two from Latin America, and two from Western Europe or other areas.

Five of the 10 non permanent members are elected each year by the General Assembly for two-year terms, and five retire each year. The presidency is held by each member in rotation for a period of one month.

Each member has one vote. On all “procedural” matters—the definition of which is sometimes in dispute—decisions by the council are made by an affirmative vote of any nine of its members. Substantive matters, such as the investigation of a dispute or the application of sanctions, also requires nine affirmative votes, including those of the five permanent members holding veto power.

In practice, however, a permanent member may abstain without impairing the validity of the decision. A vote on whether a matter is procedural or substantive is itself a substantive question. Because the Security Council is required to function continuously, each member is represented at all times at the United Nations headquarters in New York City.

The composition of the Security Council has been a contentious matter, particularly since the end of the Cold War. Critics have argued that the Security Council and its five permanent members reflect the power structure that existed at the end of World War II, when much of the world was under colonial rule.

Reform efforts have remained elusive but have centered on efforts to make the work of the Security Council more transparent and on demands by important non-permanent members, such as Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan (the so-called G-4), to obtain permanent membership—or at least have special status within the Security Council.

One proposal put forward by the G-4 countries was to increase the membership of the Security Council to 25 seats by adding six new permanent members, including one each for themselves and two for Africa.

Any state—even if it is not a member of the UN—may bring a dispute to which it is a party to the attention of the Security Council. When there is a complaint, the council first explores the possibility of a peaceful resolution. International peacekeeping forces may be authorized to keep warring parties apart pending further negotiations (see United Nations Peacekeeping Forces).

If the council finds that there is a real threat to the peace, a breach of the peace, or an act of aggression (as defined by Article 39 of the UN Charter), it may call upon UN members to apply diplomatic or economic sanctions. If these methods prove inadequate, the UN Charter allows the Security Council to take military action against the offending nation.

In addition to several standing and ad hoc committees, the work of the council is facilitated by the Military Staff Committee, Sanctions Committees for each of the states under sanctions, Peacekeeping Forces Committees, and an International Tribunals Committee.

# INTRODUCTION

The origins of narcotrafficking in Mexico date back to the early 20th century, but it became a significant issue in the 1970s, during this time, the demand for illegal drugs in the United States soared, creating lucrative opportunities for Mexican traffickers, this period saw the emergence of more organized and powerful criminal networks in Mexico. Initially, the focus was on marijuana and heroin, but by the 1980s, Mexican cartels had expanded into cocaine trafficking, forming alliances with Colombian cartels. Later in the 1990s the dismantling of Colombian cartels empowered Mexican organizations, allowing them to dominate the drug trade and diversify into methamphetamine and other drugs. After the arrest of key leaders like Félix Gallardo, the Guadalajara Cartel split into several factions, leading to the formation of new cartels, like The Sinaloa Cartel, led by Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán, and Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada, is one of the most powerful drug trafficking organizations in the world, controlling significant portions of the drug trade and established extensive smuggling routes into the United States.

The Tijuana Cartel, controlled by the Arellano Félix family, and the Juárez Cartel, founded by Amado Carrillo Fuentes, known as "El Señor de los Cielos" for his use of aircraft to transport drugs, the Juárez Cartel dominated the trafficking routes through Ciudad Juárez.

The insecurity in Mexico due to drug-related violence has escalated significantly over the past few decades, particularly since the mid-2000s, this period, has seen a surge in violent crime, with homicide rates increasing day after day, the catalyst for this increase can be traced back to December 2006 when then President Felipe Calderón launched a large-scale military offensive against the drug cartels. This strategy, aimed to dismantle the powerful drug trafficking organizations, resulted in widespread violence as the cartels retaliated against both the government forces and each other. The fragmentation of major cartels into smaller, more violent groups led to turf wars and power struggles, exacerbating the insecurity across the country.

The year 2010 marked one of the most violent periods in Mexico's drug-related violence, one of the most shocking events of 2010 was the massacre of 72 migrants in Tamaulipas state, occurred in August, members of

the Los Zetas cartel abducted and murdered these migrants, mostly from Central America, who were trying to reach the United States, the brutality of the massacre drew international attention and underscored the extreme violence perpetrated by drug cartels against vulnerable populations.

Ciudad Juárez, a major battleground in the drug war, located on the border of the United States, saw a surge in killings as rival cartels, primarily the Sinaloa Cartel and the Juárez Cartel, fought for control of trafficking routes, and by the end of the year, the city had over 3,000 homicides, making it one of the deadliest places in the world at the time.

Throughout 2010, the Mexican government, led by President Felipe Calderón, intensified its military-led strategy against drug cartels. This approach involved deploying thousands of troops to regions most affected by drug violence, including Tamaulipas, Chihuahua, and Michoacán. In February 2010, the government launched Operation Chihuahua, an effort by federal and state forces to curb the violence in Ciudad Juárez and other parts of the state, but despite these efforts, the operation struggled to achieve results, as cartels continued their violent confrontations.

## **Migration to the United States**

As violence has escalated, internal displacement has become a significant issue, thousands of Mexicans were forced to leave their homes in search of safety, either relocating to other parts of the country or attempting to migrate to the United States. Historically, most Mexican migrants moved to the U.S. for economic reasons, but the rise in asylum applications indicated a shift towards seeking protection from violence, the U.S. asylum system faced significant strain as more individuals and families claimed persecution due to cartel-related violence and threats.

The U.S. policies have ranged from increased border security measures to changes in asylum processing by implementing programs such as Operation Streamline, that mandates the criminal prosecution of all undocumented immigrants crossing the border, under this policy, migrants, including those fleeing violence, face immediate detention and swift legal proceedings.

At the time, the Trump administration also implemented stricter immigration policies, including the "Remain in Mexico" policy (Migrant Protection Protocols), which required asylum seekers to wait in Mexico while their cases were processed.



The increase in Mexican migrants has prompted calls for comprehensive immigration reform, multiple proposals have included citizenship for undocumented immigrants, such as the DACA program, initiated in 2012, the DACA program provides temporary protection from deportation and work authorization for undocumented immigrants who came to the U.S. as children, many DACA recipients, known as "Dreamers," are from Mexico, efforts to make DACA protections permanent and provide a path to citizenship have been part of broader immigration reform debates.

## **Efforts by the United Nations**

The United Nations has played a crucial role in combating narco trafficking through various initiatives and frameworks, key international agreements, such as the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988), also known as the Vienna Convention, have established legal frameworks for coordinated efforts to tackle narco trafficking.

Surrounding countries, especially those in Central America, have also been profoundly affected, countries like Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador have become key transit points for drugs en route to the United States, which is why the United Nations has been actively involved through many agencies, programs, and initiatives such as the UNODC's Regional Program for Central America and the Caribbean that focuses on enhancing security and justice in the region, which aims to strengthen national capacities to combat organized crime, including narco trafficking, by providing technical assistance, promoting regional cooperation, and enhancing criminal justice systems.

The Global Programme Against Money Laundering helps countries combat money laundering by disrupting the financial operations of drug cartels, the program aims to weaken their power and influence.

And the Container Control Programme, a joint initiative between the UNODC and the World Customs Organization, to improve the capacity of countries to detect and intercept illicit goods, including drugs, in maritime containers.



# HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Drug trafficking was not invented by a mafia but by the European colonial powers in the 19th century. While they were spreading opium throughout Asia, the pharmaceutical industry was discovering miraculous products: morphine, cocaine and heroin. During the mid-1800s, Chinese immigrants arriving in California introduced Americans to opium smoking. The trading, selling, and distribution of opium spread throughout the region, creating opium dens, which were designated places to buy and sell the drug, they began to pop up in cities throughout California and soon spread to New York and other urban areas, before long, Americans were experimenting with other opiates like morphine and codeine. The Harrison Act of 1914 outlawed the use of opium and cocaine for non-medical purposes, but the illicit drugs continued to circulate. In 1925, a black market for opium opened up in New York's Chinatown, at this time, there were about 200,000 heroin addicts in the United States. The distribution of opiates continued during the 1930s and 1940s, American Mafia families were caught smuggling and selling illicit drugs as early as the 1950s, in addition to gambling and other illegal activities, these organized groups paved the way for future drug cartels that focused on drugs for their revenue.

When prohibition came into force at the beginning of the 20th century, the first drug networks sprang up in Mexico, Colombia, France, Panamá, and China. In the late 1970s, the illegal cocaine trade became a major money making opportunity throughout the world. The Medellin Cartel, an organized group of drug suppliers and smugglers based in the city of Medellin, Colombia, began operating during this time. By the mid-1980s, the U.S.-Mexican border became the main transport route for cocaine, marijuana and other drugs into the United States. By the late 1990s, Mexican traffickers dominated drug distribution and introduced methamphetamine. According to the U.S. Attorney General's office, the Sinaloa cartel imported and distributed almost 200 tons of cocaine and large amounts of heroin between 1990-2008. The infamous drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzmán led The Sinaloa Cartel beginning in 1989. In 2003, the United States Department of the Treasury considered Guzman the "most powerful drug trafficker in the world." After several arrests and escapes from prison, Guzman was recaptured by Mexican authorities in 2016. In early 2017, he was extradited to the United States to face criminal charges.

## OBJECTIVE

The Committee Chair has the goal of creating a conscious group of young men and women, who are aware of the crisis Mexico is facing in these times, from a humanitarian and civil perspective. The Chair seeks for delegates with an active participation, respect for the world, and its peacekeeping.

Delegates must always look out for the best interest of all the nations and global security, maintaining respect and an open mind to all ideologies presented.

Delegates of the Security Council are responsible for finding solutions and ensuring the safety of the populations of all the countries involved, as well as studying the conflict from an impartial point of view and always keeping in mind the entire world's peace and security.

Delegates will dedicate their time to analyze Mexico's fight against narcotrafficking and come up with collaborative strategies and solutions, and apport the best proposals of their countries to the council. Their role is to prioritize equity and safety for all nations involved in the conflict, they must maintain their focus on achieving justice and peace.

With this in mind we encourage delegates to advocate for their country's principles and beliefs in pursuit of peace, progress, and national well-being.

- The Chair of The Security Council

# **COUNTRY'S BACKGROUND**

## **United States of America**

In December 2008, Mexico and the United States signed the first Letter of Agreement (LOA) for the Merida Initiative, opening a chapter of historic cooperation and acknowledging the shared responsibilities of the United States and Mexico to counter drug-fueled violence threatening citizens on both sides of the border. Through 13 years of implementation, the Merida Initiative has led to a new architecture for bilateral security cooperation, provided tangible support to Mexico's security and judicial institutions, and helped to galvanize joint efforts to stop the flow of weapons and money, and the demand for drugs.

In 2011, Mexico and the United States agreed to a new strategic framework for implementing the myriad of Merida Initiative activities and programs, referred to as the Four Pillars, each of which pulls together Merida Initiative programs under strategic objectives. Taken together, these four objectives strengthen both of our societies in the fight against organized crime and violence.

## **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

Most forms of illegal drugs originate overseas and are trafficked into the UK via various routes, including: Container shipping, Yachts and small boats, Light aircraft, Vehicle traffic from continental Europe, Airline passengers and The post and fast parcels.

Trafficking methods frequently rely on the recruitment of vulnerable people as mules - often at great risk to their lives and welfare. They can also rely on enlisting the help of employees at ports and borders; this corruption weakens the integrity of border security and increases the risk of other forms of trafficking, including firearms and organized immigration crime.

Profits are high at all stages of drug trafficking, but particularly for those who can access the drugs in their source country. Criminals from the Balkans dominate the cocaine market, but British traffickers remain a significant threat.

## **French Republic**

On May 14, the conclusions of a major report by the French Senate's commission of inquiry into the consequences of drug trafficking in France and the measures to be taken to remedy the situation were officially presented. The report highlights three main recommendations for improving the fight against drug trafficking.

### **Strengthening measures at sea and overseas**

The report highlights the need to improve intelligence sharing to better combat drug trafficking on the high seas, and to step up maritime controls in overseas territories, which are often used as gateways for narcotics. Modernization of the air and sea equipment used by law enforcement agencies in the French overseas territories is also advocated to meet the growing threat. France also intends to bolster the counter-narcotics capabilities of West African and Gulf of Guinea states, which are often involved in the transit of drugs to Europe

### **Record seizures**

The recent increase in the number of seizures made during marine inspections alone justifies these measures.

On May 2, the frigate VENTOSE intercepted an unregistered sailing boat at 510 nautical miles east of Martinique. Following the interception, Customs seized 1,237.79 kg of cocaine in bundles, some of which was visibly arranged in the bow of the cabin.

These actions bring to ten the number of cocaine seizures made by French authorities in 2024, with a total of 22.52 tons of cocaine intercepted, already surpassing the 21.29 tons seized in 2023.

### **France determined to eradicate crime at sea**

France is showing increased determination to combat drug trafficking through reinforced measures and effective operations. However, many challenges remain, particularly in terms of equipment modernization, international cooperation and management of overseas areas. The Senate report's recommendations, if fully implemented, could significantly improve the country's ability to combat this complex and persistent threat.

## **People's Republic of China**

In 2019, China was the principal source of finished fentanyl for the U.S. illegal market. Since China scheduled the entire class of fentanyl-type drugs in May 2019, it is the principal source of precursor chemicals for fentanyl. And since many precursors are dual use, they have not been placed on control schedules. Chinese brokers knowingly sell these chemicals to Mexican criminal groups for the production of fentanyl.

## **Russian Federation**

Cybercrime, terrorism, illegal drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, corruption and other crimes threaten the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. According to the UN Secretary General António Guterres, criminal groups generate an income of \$ 1.5 trillion a year through criminal acts on the Internet . It is almost

impossible to identify, record and prove crimes committed through the means of the global web, and this aggravates the situation of vulnerable groups of the population and undermines the national security of all countries of the world.

To enhance capacity of staff of the competent authorities of the Kyrgyz Republic involved in the system of combating drug trafficking and legalization of drug proceeds, UNODC together with the Counter Narcotic Service of the Ministry of Interior of the Kyrgyz Republic and with the financial support of the Russian Federation conducted a five-day training on the "Specifics of identifying, documenting, qualifying and proving crimes in the field of illegal drug trafficking, committed using information and financial technologies".

## **United Mexican States**

The Presidents of Mexico and the US, Felipe Calderón and George W. Bush, agreed that Mexico would receive an aid package totalling US\$1.4 billion over three years. The first US\$500 million would be delivered in the financial year 2008. The package was called the Merida Initiative so as to avoid being compared to the controversial Plan Colombia. It is a plan to fight organized crime, mainly drug trafficking, and it commits an additional amount in cooperation to Central American countries, which in the first year will total US\$50 million.

Strengthening security and the military in Mexico has been an urgent priority since the government of Felipe Calderón first took power. The increase in aid from the US via the Merida Initiative can have two effects: one positive and one negative. The positive side is that the Mexican government recognises the need to modernize its military equipment, and to update the technology used in its intelligence systems and in the systems for training people who are involved in defense and national security institutions. The negative side is that it could lead to an unwanted increase in the militarisation of the strategy for fighting organized crime, which could have negative consequences in terms of human rights, and which could also imply a dominating role for the armed forces in controlling many police security forces which should, by their institutional nature, be civilian. Based on these two factors, the Merida Initiative could have the collateral effect that decision-making processes in defense matters are not modernized, and this could undermine the process to fully democratize the State.

## **Republic of Colombia**

The Colombian Military Forces are keeping up the fight against narco trafficking carrying out operations within the frame of the Ayacucho Joint Strategic Campaign Plan, the military plan that supports the government's "Total Peace" effort. These include the destruction of drug processing laboratories, cocaine seizures, and the

capture of criminals, among other achievements aimed at weakening the strongest narcotrafficking links.

From January 1 to November 9, 2023, the Military Forces seized 151 cocaine laboratories, destroyed 2,050 coca paste laboratories and more than 23 million coca bushes in seedbeds, and captured 12,563 people, according to figures provided to Diálogo by the Military Forces' General Command. They also seized 24,846 kilograms of cocaine base paste, 395,979 kg of cocaine, 172 kg of heroin, and 574,947 kg of coca leaf.

## **Republic of Guatemala**

On May 17th 2024, the presidents of Mexico and Guatemala, Andrés Manuel López Obrador and César Bernardo Arévalo de León met in Chiapas to reaffirm a new stage of collaboration where they agreed to redouble their efforts to strengthen collaboration between the two countries, particularly in the border area, in order to address the challenges of security, infrastructure, trade and investment

Convinced of their shared responsibility in the fight against transnational organized crime, the presidents instructed the security agencies of both countries to carry out joint and immediate actions. They prioritized activities related to the fight against drug trafficking, smuggling and migrant trafficking and smuggling, through initiatives aimed at prevention, prosecution and the exchange of information to strengthen security on the common border, and to protect the wellbeing of the communities in the area.

The country has recognized the challenges that need to be faced in the fight against corruption, drug trafficking, gang violence and transnational crime and is confronting these situations by enhancing the capacity of the police, improving border security, reforming laws and justice sector institutions, and creating additional courts focused on organized crime.

## **Republic of El Salvador**

Criminal networks located in El Salvador, including gangs, are actively involved in cocaine transportation, and some have collaborated with Mexican and Colombian cartels. The government has developed an ineffective strategy for combating organized crime. This is due to high-level corruption and collusion with criminal groups. The current government and its allies have weakened the system of democratic checks and balances by enacting laws that remove hundreds of prosecutors and lower-level judges.

## **Republic of Costa Rica**

Since 2020, Costa Rica has been the number one transshipment point for cocaine headed from South America to the United States and Europe, leading to increased crime and related corruption.

The United States continues to offer assistance to Costa Rica in hopes to help counter drug trafficking and transnational crime. The Department of State of the United States allocated over \$269 million in bilateral and regional security assistance to strengthen and modernize Costa Rica's security forces, improve local security throughout the country, reduce the influence of corruption, and enhance the justice sector's ability to investigate and prosecute transnational criminals. This assistance includes equipment donations, training, and technical assistance that enhance Costa Rica's capacity to confront the growing threat of organized crime and narcotrafficking. This has helped the economic development in the region and contributed to security in Central America.

## **Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela**

Recent political unrest, financial collapse, and corruption in Venezuela have created an environment that allows transnational criminal organizations to operate unchecked. Their illegal activities include illicit finance, as well as trafficking of people, drugs, and arms.

The United States Government Accountability Office has described Venezuela as a preferred drug trafficking route, predominantly for moving cocaine to global markets. In 2023, it was reported that Colombian cocaine was being trafficked through Venezuela to the U.S., Europe, and Africa. It was also identified that corrupt Venezuelans are collaborating with drug traffickers. These activities undermine U.S. counternarcotics goals in the region.

## **Republic of India**

Narcoterrorism or the trafficking of illicit drugs by terrorist and insurgent groups has long threatened India's national security. In 2023, the United States Department of Justice warned that the Sinaloa Cartel (CDS) and Jalisco Cartel (CJNG), the two most dangerous criminal organizations in Mexico had managed to expand their illicit activities to more than 100 countries, including the Republic of India.



## **The Islamic Republic of Pakistan**

Pakistan is a nuclear-armed country of 230 million people, and is critical to the stability and security in the region and the world. The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) has become determined to support Pakistan's efforts to manage a sustainable, humane, and effective correctional system and enhance surveillance and border monitoring activities to improve counterterrorism and counternarcotics activities. This union has successfully trained over 250 officials on new-age drug-related security challenges.

## **Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**

According to the United Nations, in 2020, Afghanistan accounted for about 85% of global opium production. Under the former Republic, the drug trade was Afghanistan's largest economic sector, providing full-time employment to over half a million people.

After taking power last August, the Taliban vowed to crack down on narcotics, and they did by issuing a decree that unequivocally banned the production and sale of illicit drugs. Although, the record so far strongly suggests that the Taliban has not enforced its narcotics ban. Drug production and trafficking have remained at high levels or increased since the change of regime in Afghanistan.

## **Republic of Ecuador**

On the night of April 5th, the Mexican embassy located in Quito was raided by Ecuadorian police. Consequently, Mexico announced that it was breaking all diplomatic relations with Ecuador. The raid was considered as a violation of the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the 1954 Caracas Convention on Diplomatic Asylum.

This event will have severe repercussions for security cooperation since Mexican drug trafficking organizations are among the main buyers of the cocaine trafficked through Ecuador and contractors of the Ecuadorian criminal groups that move it through the country and are the principal drivers of domestic insecurity in the nation.

## **Republic of Peru**

Peru is the second largest producer of cocaine and cultivator of coca in the world, with an estimated 49,800 hectares (ha) of coca under cultivation in 2017. The majority of cocaine produced in Peru is transported to South American countries for

domestic consumption, or for onward shipment to Europe, the United States, East Asia, and Mexico.

In an effort to reduce the amount of illegal activity in the nation, the Government of Peru came up with a comprehensive five-year counternarcotics strategy to aggressively eradicate illicit coca, implement alternative development programs, interdict illicit narcotics, and reduce domestic drug abuse.

## **Federative Republic of Brazil**

With one of the longest land borders in the world and a territory of continental proportions, Brazil has faced considerable challenges in its effort to combat drug trafficking.

Since 2020, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in a partnership with the Brazilian Ministry of Justice and Public, have improved and strengthened the technical capacities of institutions responsible for generating statistical data on illicit drug supply and transnational organized crime.

## **Republic of Honduras**

Honduras serves primarily as a key transit country for cocaine trafficked through the Central American strip to Mexico and the US. Despite increasing government crackdowns, drug peddling continues to be a lucrative source of revenue for local criminal gangs.

In 2014, the Honduran government took a number of serious steps to disrupt and dismantle drug trafficking organizations, including arresting and extraditing leaders of these organizations, seizing their assets, and deploying security forces to under-governed parts of the country.

## **Dominion of Canada**

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police are actively involved and committed to supporting Mexico around transnational organized crime, which is a threat to the region. The Anti-Crime Capacity Building Program is designed to reinforce capacities to prevent and respond to threats from transnational organized crime, and includes programs in port and maritime security, crime prevention in tourist areas, aviation and border security, traffic of migrants, human trafficking, cybersecurity and cybercrime, and criminal justice reform. The Canadian government has destined more than 20% of the program's budget to Mexico as a way to prevent and respond to these threats.

The total value of these projects is CAD \$36M, out of which approximately CAD \$4.7M is directly committed to anti-crime capacity building programming in Mexico. These projects aim to improve Mexico's ability to combat drug trafficking, cybercrime, corruption, human smuggling, and trafficking in persons, as well as support security and justice sector reform and improve border management.

## **Republic of Chile**

Across Latin America, narco trafficking groups have had to expand and diversify their operations in order to maintain profits during the coronavirus pandemic, which has complicated the movement of drugs. Chilean narco trafficking groups have pivoted towards moving to "cheaper and more addictive drugs" in order to maintain a consistent profit line during the upheaval, recalling similar trends observed during Chile's political crisis in the 1980s.

Chile has invested heavily in counter narcotic efforts in the north of the country through its Northern Border Plan, and in 2014, the Government of Chile began developing a national strategy to combat drug trafficking, which will include enhanced interagency cooperation, institutional development and international cooperation.

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