

# ACADEMIC GUIDE

## INTERPOL



# INTERPOL

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**Welcoming letter****United nations model GCBMUN XXIV**

Dear Dear delegates,

As your dais, all three of us, Laura, Emilia, and Mariana, welcome you to this model and to our INTERPOL committee. We are thrilled to have you join us for this GCBMUN edition, which we hope will be an exciting journey to learn and to share with others. Please know we are honored to be your dais in this edition and to be guiding you through this experience, know we will always aim to do it in the best way. Feel encouraged to use this opportunity to develop your abilities of being able to speak up, listen, and work together as a team. We value your compromise in participating in something that will endorse your global engagement and knowledge regarding what seem to be today's most challenging problematics for world leaders. Hopefully this experience is as unforgettable to you as it surely will be for us. With thorough preparation and research, we believe you can do a good work as a delegate, which is what matters the most in the model.

Finally, we thank you for giving us the opportunity of guiding you through this model, which hopefully inspires you to continue participating in further Model United Nations. Don't hesitate to ask us for help or any sort of guidance whenever you need it. In this guide you will find information that will help you understand the topic and think of possible solutions for it, as well as to have a kickstart on how you are going to represent your delegation in the debate.

Sincerely,

Laura Rojas

Maria Emilia Murcia

Mariana Torres

## HISTORY OF THE COMMITTEE

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The first International Criminal Police Congress took place in Monaco in April 1914, and although INTERPOL was formally founded in 1923, the concept originated there. Lawyers and police officials from 24 nations convened at Prince Albert I of Monaco's request to discuss collaboration in crime solving, identification methods, and extradition.

The International Committee of the Red Cross's main goal was to facilitate international police cooperation. Its goals and organization were outlined in several Resolutions, Direct police communication, collaboration on arrests and extradition, shared languages, establishment of offices for counterfeit money, checks, passports, and fingerprinting methods and documentation were a few of the major issues. These ideas are still applicable today, and they are still incorporated into the daily operations.

Vienna was chosen as the location of the headquarters. The Executive Committee elected Johannes Schober as its President, and Dr. Oskar Dressler, an attorney, and head of the Austrian Federal Police, as its secretary. With the approval of a revised constitution in 1956, the ICPC became the International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO-INTERPOL). By collecting dues from member nations and depending on financial investments, the Organization was able to gain autonomy. Since this, police from across the world have been working together to prevent and combat crime for more than a century, and have maintained efforts to keep up with societal, technological, and economic advancements.

## COMMITTEE SPECIFICATIONS

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INTERPOL works as an intergovernmental organization that seeks to facilitate international police cooperation. This is done by enabling secure databases holding information on crimes and criminals, as well as providing technical and operational support. Each country has an INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB), which works as the central point of contact between the General Secretariat (the principal unit of control of INTERPOL) and other NCBs, which are run by national police officials and generally located in the departments of each country's governments responsible for policing. The actions that INTERPOL takes to combat crime are the following: it enables databases with information on criminal activities, suspects, or ongoing investigations accessible in real-time to the police forces of countries; it offers investigative support like forensics, analysis, and assistance in locating fugitives worldwide; and it instructs and trains officials, who run tasks such as field operations and

networking alongside the police of other countries. INTERPOL itself cannot issue arrest warrants; however, it can issue a "Red Notice", which is a global request to law enforcement to find and temporarily arrest someone. These are directed towards individuals wanted by the requesting member country or an international tribunal. Countries individually can issue arrest warrants. INTERPOL's main sources of financing for their operations come from the money given by member countries and voluntary funding. It provides legal assistance on issues related to extradition or law enforcement, yet it is not able to directly modify or establish laws as it does not have legal authority over countries.



What is INTERPOL? (n.d.). <https://www.interpol.int/en/Who-we-are/What-is-INTERPOL>

Also, the main task of this committee is:

- Consider and approve the United Nations budget and establish the financial assessments of Member States
- Initiate studies and make recommendations to promote international political cooperation, the development and codification of international law, the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- Make recommendations for the peaceful settlement of any situation that might impair friendly relations among countries.
- Consider reports from the Security Council and other United Nations organs. (United Nations, s. f.-b)

## GENERAL MISSION

Today's security challenges are interconnected and global, this threatens the development of society. In consequence the cooperation from all sides among law enforcement agencies is vital to address the security risks around the globe.

As INTERPOL is the only police organization that works at a global level, it has an unique role on international efforts to protect communities and make the world more secure.

INTERPOL developed seven Global Policing Goals (GPGs) to address of issues related to crime and security, the Global Policing Goals are universal, ambitious and focused on collective actions.

*“The Global Policing Goals focus on the collective efforts of the international law enforcement community to create a safer and more sustainable world for future generations.”*

- **Goal 1:** Enable the global law enforcement community to more effectively counter and prevent terrorism through international cooperation
- **Goal 2:** Promote border security worldwide
- **Goal 3:** Enhance the law enforcement response to protecting vulnerable communities
- **Goal 4:** Reduce the global harm and impact of cybercrime
- **Goal 5:** Tackle corruption and financial crime in all its forms
- **Goal 6:** Counter serious organized crime and drug trafficking
- **Goal 7:** Strengthen environmental security and support the promotion of sustainable livelihoods by countering crimes that affect the environment and climate

INTERPOL GPGs and individual United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are somewhat connected. Some INTERPOL GPGs support the same UN SDG. This is seen on the SDG 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), and SDG 17 (Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development).

# TOPIC A

## Fentanyl Trafficking



Cengiz, Mahmut . "COLUMN: Cocaine Networks Merge with Fentanyl Trafficking between the Middle East and Central America - HS Today." Today US, 12 Apr. 2023, [www.hstoday.us/featured/column-cocaine-networks-merge-with-fentanyl-trafficking-between-the-middle-east-and-central-america/](http://www.hstoday.us/featured/column-cocaine-networks-merge-with-fentanyl-trafficking-between-the-middle-east-and-central-america/).



## INTRODUCTION

### What is Fentanyl?

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid (opioids are a broad group of pain-relieving medicines that work on the brain cells) approved by medical institutes for pain management and anesthetic purposes. Heroin and Morphine are also opioids with medical uses, but fentanyl is around 100 times more potent (Dea, N/D). Fentanyl use causes relaxation, euphoria, pain relief, sedation, confusion, drowsiness, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, urinary retention, pupillary constriction, and respiratory depression (Dea, N/D).



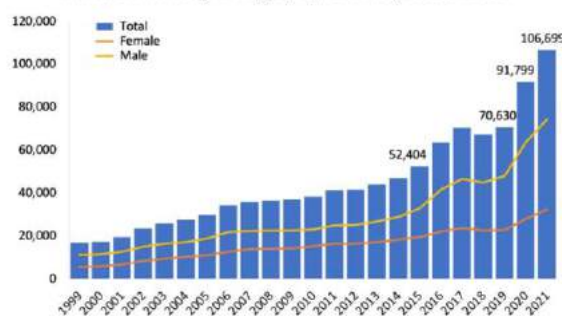
Detox, S. (2022, marzo 21). The dangers of fentanyl abuse. Summit Detox.  
<https://www.summitdetox.com/blog/the-dangers-of-fentanyl-abuse/>

### Implications of Fentanyl use

#### Who consumes?

The likelihood of opioid consumption was higher among individuals of lower socioeconomic status compared to those in higher one; economic deprivation serves as a significant risk factor for opioid overdoses in the United States, contributing to the trend of declining life expectancy (PMC, 2020). Unemployment correlates with an elevated risk of opioid use in contrast to those who are employed, also the heightened risk of opioid misuse was observed among individuals with lower levels of education may be attributed to downstream effects such as limited access to stable employment opportunities and lack of awareness (Altekruse, 2020). In other words, fentanyl and other opioid consumption are presented in those groups of people with lower economic status, people with scarce resources, and those with no opportunities.

Figure 1. National Drug-Involved Overdose Deaths\*, Number Among All Ages, by Gender, 1999-2021



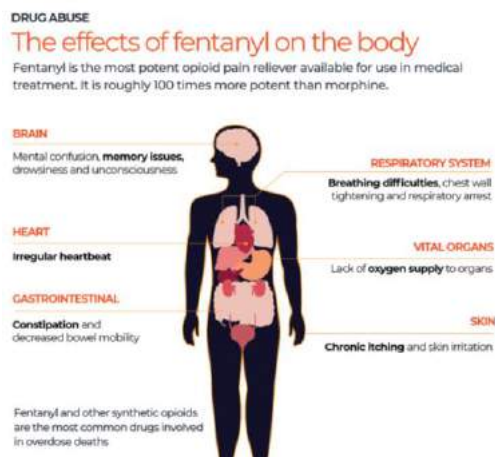
National Institute on Drug Abuse. (2023, junio 30). Drug overdose death rates. National Institute on Drug Abuse.  
<https://nida.nih.gov/research-topics/trends-statistics/overdose-death-rates>

### Impact of consumption

Similar to heroin, morphine, and other opioids, fentanyl operates by attaching to the opioid receptors in the body, which are located in regions of the brain responsible for managing pain and emotions, with repeated opioid use, the brain adjusts to the drug, reducing its responsiveness and making it challenging to experience pleasure from anything other than the drug, leading to dependence and then addiction (NIH,2021).

The addictive nature of fentanyl stems from its high potency, when legally prescribed, individuals using fentanyl may develop dependence, marked by experiencing withdrawal symptoms upon cessation of the drug. (NIH, 2021).

Addiction represents the most severe manifestation of a substance use disorder (SUD), marked by compulsive drug seeking and use that becomes challenging to manage, despite dangerous outcomes, addicted people persist in fentanyl usage despite encountering health issues or disruptions in their daily lives, whether at work, school, or home (NIH, 2021).



Those dependent on fentanyl may undergo intense withdrawal symptoms, often starting within hours after the last dose, these symptoms include muscle and bone pain, sleep disturbances, gastrointestinal issues such as diarrhea and vomiting, cold flashes accompanied by goosebumps, uncontrollable leg movements, and intense cravings (NIH, 2021). This discomfort caused by withdrawal contributes significantly to the difficulty of people to stop consuming fentanyl.

People consuming fentanyl experience high rates of addiction, meaning they just focus on the drug. For themselves this means their priority will be to take the drug as soon as withdrawal symptoms start, it does not matter where and with who they are. These people cannot have a normal life because as soon the effect of the drug stops, they focus on getting more, socially this means that if the person addicted to these has no resources to get more drugs will then do desperate things to fulfill their addiction, these could mean crimes, thefts, or prostitution.

Oxford, D., & Duggal, H. (2023, October 5). What's fentanyl, and why have deaths due to drug overdose spiked in the US? Al Jazeera.

[https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/5/whats-fentanyl-and-why-have-deaths-due-to-drug-overdose-](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/5/whats-fentanyl-and-why-have-deaths-due-to-drug-overdose-...)

## History and description of the topic

In the early 1960s, fentanyl was first introduced in Western Europe and the to be used as an intravenous pain relief medication, but in the United States, it was approved just until 1968. Because of its potential to become abused, it was only allowed when combined with another drug to decrease the risk of its abuse. Still, in 1972, it became available as an independent medication. By the late 1970s and early 1980s, it gained popularity in cardiac and vascular surgery

Misuse and overdose cases emerged in the mid-1970s, with no permitted forms synthesized in illegal labs from 1979. Transdermal patches and oral delivery methods were developed, for example, Duragesic and Actiq which expanded their use in cancer pain management. However, the reports of misuse and overdoses still happened, leading to FDA investigations,



especially on Duragesic, and illegal prescriptions of Actiq.

From the mid-2000s, there was an increase in illicit recreational use, with many deaths attributed to non-pharmaceutical fentanyl or illegal fentanyl. The crisis got worse in 2013, because it spread across North America, leading to a rise in fatal overdoses. A fact is that Prince's death in 2016 made the crisis to stand out, with also the creation of stronger derivatives of fentanyl, like carfentanil.

The current opioid crisis became larger in a shorter amount of time due to the synthetic opioids, specially the fentanyl, which significantly contributed to deaths because of overdose. These crisis generated multiple declarations of public health emergencies, but there is still no concrete solutions. The concerns about the spread of illegal fentanyl and its derivatives need imperative attention and solutions.

### How is fentanyl trafficked? Which countries are involved?

The US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) described China as “the main source for all fentanyl-related substances trafficked into the United States” and accused Chinese companies of selling precursor chemicals (chemicals used to produce fentanyl) to both the US and to Mexican drug cartels. (Al Jazeera, 2024) For China, the country with the second largest pharmaceutical market, it is easy and cheap to produce fentanyl given that the chemicals used in the production process are commonly found and can be legal prescription drugs, but due to the regulations imposed by the government there has been a shift towards illicit prescription drugs. Because fentanyl is easy to produce, then huge amounts of it will be manufactured which will contribute to the social problem of addiction and overdose and it will be harder for governments and law enforcement to intervene. As for China, being the market's main supplier represents a big issue for it as it could be considered largely guilty for facilitating the traffic of this drug which leads to thousands of deaths and overdoses in the world. Usually, the companies involved are small chemical companies that go easily unregulated and make big profits from the sale of very small amounts; A kilogram of precursor can be purchased from Chinese manufacturers for about \$800, which is enough to manufacture 415,000 fentanyl pills. (Financial Times, 2023) This makes the market of fentanyl profitable, which is an important cause for the expansion of this market; the larger the market is, the more harm that is done to society's wellbeing.

After it is manufactured, fentanyl or its precursors are shipped through direct export internationally. This is important as it positions fentanyl traffic as a global problem involving an international economy and market that operates unlawfully, which leads it to socially reach citizens across the globe. The main destination to which it is trafficked is Mexico, where its drug cartels such as the Sinaloa Cartel, and transnational criminal organizations manage to continue to run the fentanyl trade. These

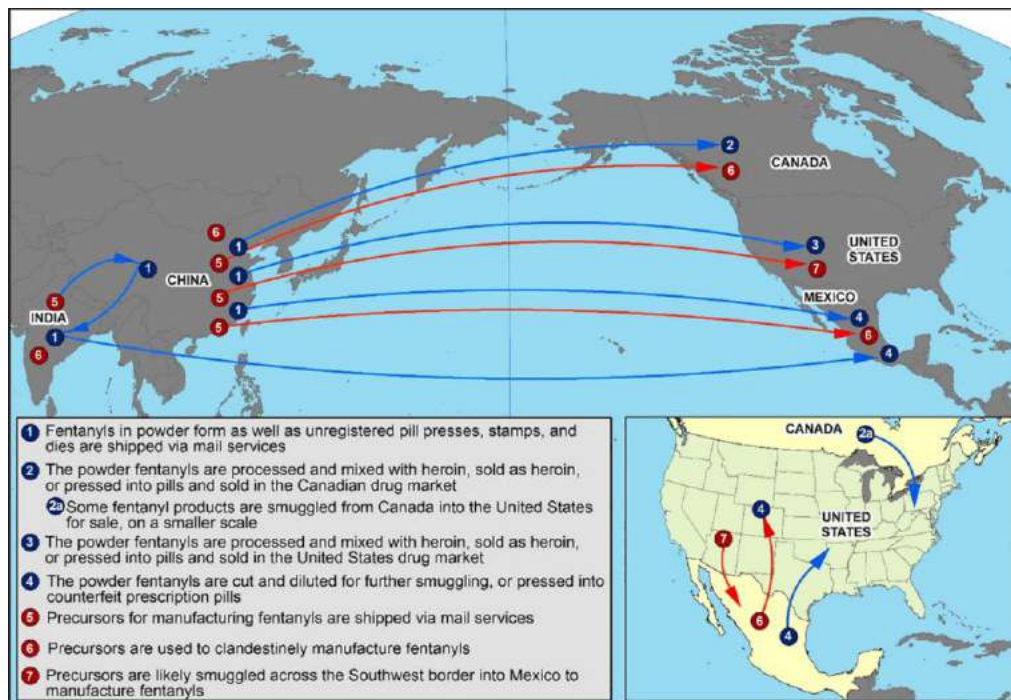
**In 2019, the U.S. Had More Opioid Deaths Than the Rest of the World Combined**

Estimated deaths from opioid-use disorders, 2019



Ferragamo, M. (2023, December 21). These eight charts show why fentanyl is a huge foreign policy problem. *Council on Foreign Relations*. <https://www.cfr.org/article/these-eight-charts-show-why-fentanyl-huge-foreign-policy-problem#chapter-title-0-2>

use clandestine laboratories where further processing methods are done to finish its production. Several transport methods like boats or planes then make its way through the US-Mexico border and fentanyl is then distributed to the rest of the United States. Countries in Europe, Southeast Asia and both South and North America have also received the drug. Among these are Canada, Spain, Germany, Colombia, Russia, Austria, Brazil, and Lithuania. Moreover, India has emerged as another main source of traffic fentanyl over the past years. This could be attributed to China’s attempts to set regulations to control fentanyl production.



Drug Enforcement Agency. *Fentanyl Flow to the United States DEA Intelligence Report*.

This diagram shows the main traffic routes of fentanyl and how it is illegally exported and imported into several countries. It principally focuses on India and China as manufacturers and Mexico, the United States and Canada as main destinations. It is important to understand how this drug enters the countries in order to know how to stop its traffic. Even if these are where fentanyl moves the most, remember it is now trafficked to many other countries.

## ACTUAL STATUS

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### What is being done?

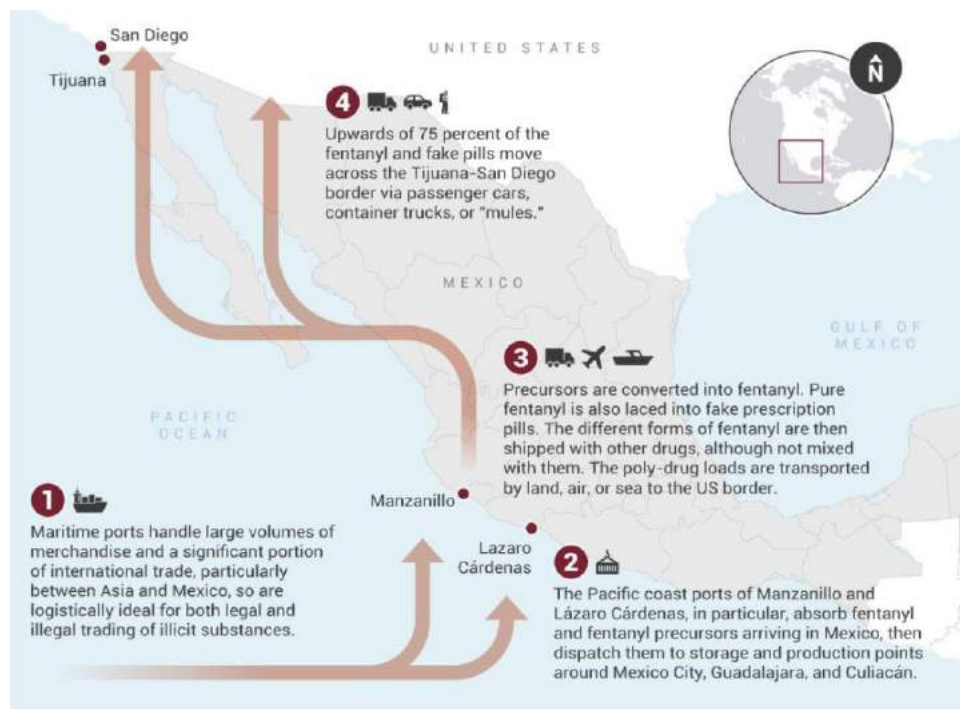
Some strategies used to combat psychoactive substances trafficking (Illegal manufacture and sale of chemical substances) have been firstly: collaboration among law enforcement, health, and social service agencies. By creating different methods to end up with Fentanyl Trafficking Act, for example senators such as Joni Ernst (R-IA) and Tim Kaine (D-VA) increase federal attention on this kind of trafficking by using tools provided by the Department of Defense (DoD) and involving Mexico as a key partner to fight with the “illicit opioid (type of drug) and disrupt psychoactive substance cartel (criminal organization that promote and sale drugs) and trafficking activity” this with the specific purpose of trying to improve security and provide more attention on certain places that criminal organizations use for trafficking. (*Carbajal-Bice Bill to Combat Threat of Fentanyl Signed Into Law, 2023*).

Also, the Biden-Harris administration diplomacy has started an action policy against fentanyl trafficking. The PRC (Peoples Republic of China) has been taking law enforcement action (Certain action made by organizations to make sure that rules are followed) against Chinese synthetic drugs; consequently, it has been sharing information about suspicious shipments and suspected trafficking, to help global law agencies identify trends and conduct intelligence-driven to disrupt illicit supply chains that are in charge on its creation and sale. Additionally, they increased security at the borders, deployed detection technology (A system that detect and monitor the most common places for trafficking), expanded their High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program, targeting the global illicit supply chain and finally regulating chemicals used to produce illicit Fentanyl. (House, 2023).

### Trafficking prevention:

On the other hand, the US and Mexican authorities are trying to combat the trafficking of this kind of drug fighting against many criminal groups. The most important routes of fentanyl are the US mailing system as can be observed on the image above and the southwest border of the United States according to Brian McKnight the special agent of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Chicago. That’s why the US mailing system is key for preventing the acquisition of Fentanyl in Mexican criminal groups, this by stopping and preventing Fentanyl precursors from being sent; As a result, they would not be able to send it directly from the North American country using the United States Postal service (USPS).

The service of narcotics (The ones that combat against the illegal drug) confiscated more than 18 metric tons of illicit drugs during 2017, which is an increase of 1,000 percent in international parcels (Delivery package or shipment full of drug) and 750 percent in domestic parcel seizures (Take by a legal authority). Especially in America, it had been evidencing an increase in synthetic drugs and opioids like Fentanyl, oxycodone, and illegal drug heroin that had been the cause of 70,237 deaths, according to the Centers for disease control and Prevention. Furthermore, the US authority's security on the mailing US system is key to stopping the huge number of deaths that had increased over the past years. Additionally, U.S Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents had modified and create a better technology to identify illicit drugs hidden in parcels; this also being a key intervention from part of the US government to prevent Fentanyl trafficking. (Asmann & Asmann, 2023)



Asmann, P., & Asmann, P. (2023, April 24). *US mailing system key to future fentanyl trafficking prevention*. InSight Crime. <https://insightcrime.org/news/analysis/us-mailing-system-key-future-fentanyl-trafficking-prevention/>

## ANÁLISIS

Fentanyl traffic is one of the most pressing issues nowadays as it has social, political, and economic repercussions on the world. The drug has reached almost all countries of the world, becoming responsible for thousands of deaths. If it continues to expand at the rate it has been

doing it will result in even more deaths and worsen many problems worldwide. In this way, it is crucial to act fast to stop its spread.

Firstly, it represents a significant threat to public health, given the numerous health risks associated with its consumption. Moreover, as the drug continues to circulate illegally, the potential for harm on several communities persists and expands. Its traffic fuels overdose and addiction, given that it has a very high potency which makes creating dependence from it very easy, making it harder for individuals to quit it or to seek help in any way. Also, it can potentially affect the security of countries as organized crime groups manage to run its illicit trade being able to get away with it despite law enforcement efforts and it can also lead to other ways of criminal activity affecting negatively social security at a local, community or even national level.

Moreover, fentanyl developing into a crisis can suggest governments have been inefficient regarding their regulations and anti-drug policies. It is important that countries considered centers of activity for fentanyl traffic such as China, Mexico, the US and India, work together and find ways to counter the issue. Yet, due to its expansion this means other countries should also seek for solutions because after all, the drug is entering through their borders smuggled and hidden as other types of products and in different ways of transport. Law enforcement plays a big role in the prevention of the traffic of the drug and is in need of international legal and political cooperation to address the root causes and dismantle the networks. Those responsible of it should go through a trial and penalized as they become a threat for other people, there is a wide legal framework that countries could work with to end fentanyl's traffic.

Finally, the fact that there is a established traffic route with many new routes opening shows the strong illegal economy built from fentanyl traffic; therefore, it is important to stop the global network behind it focusing on how and why the interaction takes place among those who supply it and those who consume it. As it is a drug easy to produce and to go unregulated in its production then it is as important to cut off the supply of it as well as its consumption, which is what mostly makes the market grow bigger and bigger as it continues to increase. Economic regulations and mechanisms to disrupt and make the market of fentanyl less profitable.

### **Important Documents:**

- Interpol and Drug Trafficking. <https://www.interpol.int/Crimes/Drug-trafficking>
- Interpol Illicit Drug Trade. [https://www.google.com/search?q=interpol+trafficking+fentanyl.pdf&rlz=1C5CHF A\\_enCO1009CO1013&oq=interp&gs\\_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUqCAgAEEUYJxg7MggIABBFgcYOzIICAEQRRgnGDsyBggCEEUYOzIGCAMQRRg5MgYIBBBFGDwyBggFEEUYPDIGCAYQRRg8MgYIBxBFGDyoAgCwAgA&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-](https://www.google.com/search?q=interpol+trafficking+fentanyl.pdf&rlz=1C5CHF A_enCO1009CO1013&oq=interp&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUqCAgAEEUYJxg7MggIABBFgcYOzIICAEQRRgnGDsyBggCEEUYOzIGCAMQRRg5MgYIBBBFGDwyBggFEEUYPDIGCAYQRRg8MgYIBxBFGDyoAgCwAgA&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-)

[8#:~:text=ILLICIT%20DRUG%20TRADE,content%20%E2%80%BA%20download%20%E2%80%BA%20file](#)

- Financial Action task Force (FATF) Report on Money Laundering from Fentanyl and Synthetic Opioids. <https://www.fatf-gafi.org/content/dam/fatf-gafi/reports/Money-Laundering-Fentanyl-Synthetic-Opioids.pdf.coredownload.inline.pdf>
- UNODC Opioid Strategy. [https://www.unodc.org/pdf/opioids-crisis/UNODC\\_Opioid-Strategy-Flyer\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/pdf/opioids-crisis/UNODC_Opioid-Strategy-Flyer_WEB.pdf)
- UNODC Report by intergovernmental organizations on drug control activities. [https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CND/CND\\_Sessions/CND\\_62/EC\\_N72019\\_CRP1\\_V1901401.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CND/CND_Sessions/CND_62/EC_N72019_CRP1_V1901401.pdf)
- GCBMUN’S Handbook: In the GCBMUN handbook delegates will find all the necessary information on committee procedures, parliamentary language, and formalities of interventions.
- Academic guide: The academic guide contains all the information needed for the committee. It works as a base for delegates to be able to understand the topic and to establish a context to do their own investigation.
- Opening speech: The opening speech is a formal document that has the purpose of making known to the committee the point of view of your delegation has and its position regarding the topic. Each delegate will have one minute and thirty seconds to read it. The structure it follows will be provided by the dais in an attached document.

## PREPARATION QUESTIONS

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1. What are the primary factors contributing to the trafficking and consumption of fentanyl in your country?
2. Is your country a major country involved in the production, distribution, and consumption of fentanyl?
3. What has your country done about fentanyl traffic?
4. What are some common methods used by traffickers to smuggle fentanyl across borders, and has your country taken measures to combat these tactics?
5. Which part of the society in your country is the most affected by fentanyl?

6. Has your country implemented any regulations on legal fentanyl or its precursors?
7. How does the trafficking of fentanyl contribute to social issues in your country?
8. What legal frameworks and international agreements is your country part of involving fentanyl?
9. What are the socioeconomic factors in your country that drive individuals to engage in fentanyl trafficking?
10. How can your country collaborate on a international scale to address the challenges posed by fentanyl trafficking?

## GLOSSARY

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- **Fentanyl:** A potent synthetic opioid approved by medical institutes for pain management and anesthetic purposes.
- **Opioids:** A class of drug used to reduce moderate to severe pain
- **Synthetic:** made artificially by chemical reaction; not natural.
- **Precursor:** a chemical substance that gives rise to another more important substance
- **Profit:** an amount of money that you gain when you are paid more for something than it cost you to make
- **Law enforcement:** the department of people who enforce laws, investigate crimes, and make arrests.
- **Organized crime:** A continuing criminal enterprise that rationally works to profit from illicit activities that are often in great public demand.
- **Profitable:** making or likely to make a profit

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