

**XXXIII**  
**TECMUN**

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United Nations Office on  
Drugs and Crime

“Todo el mundo piensa en cambiar el mundo, pero nadie piensa en cambiarse a sí mismo”

-León Tolstoi

Delegados, embajadores, jueces, ministros, fiscales y compañeros:

Primeramente, quiero darte la bienvenida al XXXIII TECMUN. Te agradezco por atreverte a participar y formar parte de este evento tan importante para muchos. Esta ocasión me toca dejar este modelo, que me ha dado tanto y me deja con una de las mejores historias que puedo contar. No soy la única que enfrenta un gran cambio tan importante este año. En México, Paraguay, Colombia Brasil y Venezuela, los ciudadanos, como tú y como yo, enfrentarán un cambio mucho más importante que el pase de preparatoria a universidad. Efectivamente, este año dichos países llevarán a cabo distintos procesos electorales que les permitirán elegir a su presidente.

Desde mi punto de vista, el cambio va más allá de un nuevo gobierno. El cambio comienza en mí, en ti, en el señor que se dedica a abrir las puertas de un restaurante, en el profesor que nos da una clase de matemáticas y en todos y cada uno de los individuos que intentan día con día salir adelante.

Nuestro México y nuestro planeta, hoy más que nunca, necesitan que gritemos que estamos aquí, que nos hagamos notar por nuestras buenas acciones y que estamos dispuestos a cambiar. Yo sé que TECMUN no es más que una simulación, una ayuda para pasar una materia o lo que aplique a tu caso, pero, si aprovechas todo lo que ya pusiste para estar aquí hoy (esfuerzo, tiempo, dinero, etc.) te prometo que será el primer paso para alzar la voz y para demostrar que estás y estamos aquí.

No me queda más que invitarte a expresarte como tú sabes, defender tus ideas y hacerte notar estos tres días y por el resto de tu vida.

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Yael Ruiz Morales  
Subsecretaria del Consejo Económico y Social  
XXXIII TECMUN

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# Outline of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) works as a global leader in the fight against illicit drugs and international crime. It was established in 1997 through a merger between the United Nations Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention. The UNODC operates in all regions of the world through an extensive network of field offices. The office relies on voluntary contributions, mainly from Governments, for 90 percent of its budget. The UNODC is mandated to assist Member States in their struggle against illicit drugs, crime and terrorism.

The UNODC is able to create programs to counter maritime crimes. The UNODC Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP) assists states to strengthen their capacity to combat maritime crime. The GMCP grew out of the UNODC "Counter Piracy Programme" (CPP), which was established in 2009 response to Security Council resolutions calling for a concerted international response to address piracy off the Horn of Africa. The CPP played a central role in the establishment of a regional 'piracy prosecution model'. This involved delivering comprehensive criminal justice support to States in the Indian Ocean region, which received suspected pirates for prosecution. This work continues under the GMCP *Indian & Pacific Oceans Programme* which delivers support to Indian Ocean littoral states to tackle wider maritime crime.

## Topic A

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Measures to reinforce policies regarding prevention and reduction of HIV/AIDS within countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, as a consequence of the use of intravenous drugs

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## ***Introduction***

“People use drugs, legal and illegal...It should tell us something that in healthy societies drug use is celebrative, convivial, and occasional, whereas among us it is lonely, shameful, and addictive.” (Berry, W. 2003) Throughout the last decades the humanity has been submerged and embraced by an alarming increase of the usage and creation of illegal drugs. Among them there are found several intravenous drugs such as heroin, amphetamines, and methamphetamines. Intravenous methods first appeared as a medical treatment. However, this also became a new way for the use of illegal drugs. Representing not only a threat for the internal security but also to the welfare of the population; since numerous persons suffering from a drug addiction do not take the necessary safety precautions when using drugs. They frequently share needles, which can lead to uncover to the exchange of bodily fluids and subsequent infectious diseases. Thus, those who share needles are at risk of contracting infections like HIV. The prevention of HIV usually relapses on the policies of each country concerning the efficiency of programs in relation to HIV. But, it mainly relies on the correct application of policies referring to illegal drug abuse.

## ***HIV and its repercussions***

The human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is a retrovirus that enters the body and attacks the immune system weakening defense systems. This infection attacks the immune system increasing the risk of acquiring infections such as tuberculosis, opportunistic infections and sometimes cancers and tumors. The most advanced stage of HIV infection is known as Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS.)

HIV / AIDS represents a major global public health issue, considered a pandemic. 76.1 million people have become infected with HIV since the start of the epidemic, and has claimed the lives of more than 35 million people so far. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) data, in 2016 there were approximately 36.7 million people living with HIV,

- 34.5 million [28.8 million–40.2 million] adults
- 17.8 million [15.4 million–20.3 million] women (15+ years)

- 2.1 million [1.7 million–2.6 million] children (<15 years)

As of June 2017, 20.9 million people living with HIV were accessing antiretroviral therapy (ART). About 54% of adults, 43% of children and 76% of infected women who are pregnant or breastfeeding are currently receiving lifelong ART. According to estimates, only 70% of people infected with HIV know their health status. In 2016, 1 million people around the world died from AIDS-related illnesses. Tuberculosis remains the leading cause of death among people living with HIV, accounting for around one in three AIDS-related deaths.

Worldwide, HIV / AIDS has had a great impact on economic, political and social development as well as a destructive impact on health systems. Millions of orphaned children, communities destroyed, health services are overwhelmed and entire countries face hunger and economic ruin. AIDS makes the recovery of the development process, beyond the achievement of the much-desired progress, inestimably more difficult. Weakens the human and institutional capacities that fuel sustainable development by robbing communities and nations of their greatest wealth, their people. By draining human resources, the epidemic distorts labour markets, disrupts production and consumption, and ultimately diminishes national wealth, thus, has become a crisis of health and development.

### ***HIV in Eastern Europe and Central Asia***

Eastern Europe and Central Asia is the only region in the world where annual new HIV infections continues to rise rapidly at a concerning rate. The HIV epidemic in this region has, for the most part, hit people who inject drugs the hardest. The coverage of harm reduction services remains low and where there are existent services offered, they are often not comprehensive. (Avert, 2017)

Since 2012 it was discovered that in five Central Asian countries such as Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan more than half of newly diagnosed HIV infections occurred among people who inject drugs. It was reported by the World Health Organization that in these countries 190,000 people practice injecting drugs use and among

these people there were diagnosed half of the newly HIV infections in central Asia that are now 14 times higher than in 2000.

On the other hand, according to data from the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS the Russian Federation and Ukraine are the two countries in Eastern Europe that have been most affected by HIV. As nearly 90% of newly HIV cases in the region since 2006 were diagnosed in these two countries in which 51% of them were concentrated predominantly among people who inject drugs, and another 33% were a consequence of unprotected sex. Along with Europe, Central Asia has been strongly affected by HIV/AIDS. According to an UNAIDS study at the end of 2005 around 1.5 million people were living with HIV in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. It is concerning that in less than a decade the numbers of newly HIV infections have twenty-fold and only between 2010-2015 there was a 60% increase in annual new HIV infections in this region, making it the only region where HIV continues to rise rapidly.

There are roughly 2.9 million people who inject drugs in Eastern Europe and Central Asia and one of every four people that inject drugs worldwide are from this region. Surprisingly “HIV prevalence is much higher among people who inject drugs than among the general population in the region” (Avert, 2017). In Russia (2.3%) of the population are injecting drug users and between 18% and 31% live with HIV, in Ukraine (1.2%), in Belarus (1.1%) and in Moldova (1%) are injecting drug users in which 20%, 20% and 10% live with HIV virus in each region respectively.

In the region, HIV prevalence is almost the same among men and women who inject drugs is similar, at 9% and 10% respectively. However, there are variations between countries with HIV prevalence among women who inject drugs higher than their male counterparts in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Belarus, and Ukraine. (UNAIDS,2016)

A high percentage of women who inject drugs engage in sex work making sex work a major co-driver of HIV in which it's prevalence is estimated to be 20 times higher among female sex workers who inject drugs than those who do not. In the region there is poor access to sterile injecting equipment, condoms and reproductive health services and young women who inject drugs engage in riskier sexual behaviors, and share injecting equipment more often than men who inject drugs.

In 2013 it was created the 90-90-90 UNAIDS treatment target to help end the AIDS epidemic which main objective is that by 2020; 90% of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status, 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy and that 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression. Looking forward to achieving these targets in 2016 Eastern Europe and Central Asia reported that 63% of all people living with HIV were aware of their HIV, 45% of people aware of their status were on treatment and 77% of those on treatment have achieved viral suppression.

### ***Intravenous drugs and HIV in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.***

On an international level Eastern Europe and Central Asia represents the regions in which the majority of new HIV infections prevails among people who inject drugs.

HIV between people who inject drugs is 28 times higher than among the rest of the population. Drug use now accounts for an ever-growing proportion of those living with HIV. On average one in ten new HIV infections is caused by the sharing of needles. Moreover, almost one third of global HIV infections- With a higher impact in Eastern Europe and Central Asia- outside of sub-Saharan Africa are caused by injecting drugs. (Avert, 2017)

In Eastern Europe and Central Asia, which saw a 57% increase in new HIV infections between 2010 and 2015, the burden is particularly high among people who inject drugs. In 2015, over half of new HIV cases in the region were among this group.

Despite the increased risk of HIV for people who inject drugs they are among those with the least access to HIV prevention, treatment and healthcare. This is because drug use is often criminalised and stigmatised. “When we [inject] drugs we need to be quick. Police might come at any time. For that reason... we don't mind sharing with others.” ( Drug user Impala, India.)

Eastern Europe and Central Asia has transformed into an alarming region because of the recent, and high increase of HIV; in 2016, there were an estimated of 1.6 million people living with HIV in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Hence it is the only region in the world

where the HIV epidemic continues to rise rapidly. With a 60% increase in annual new HIV infections between 2010 and 2015. (UNAIDS 2017)

Nowadays, there are approximately 2.9 million people who inject drugs in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The region accounts for roughly one in four people who inject drugs worldwide.

Namely, Russia has the highest number of injecting drug users in the region (1.8 million) - about 2.3% of the adult population. Moldova (1%), Belarus (1.1%) and Ukraine (0.8-1.2%) also have significant numbers of its population.

Across this region, HIV prevalence is much higher between people who inject drugs than among the general population. For example, in Russia, between 18% and 31% of injecting drug users are thought to be living with HIV. A survey made in 2015 of people who inject drugs, which was conducted in five Russian cities-Abakan, Barnaul, Volgograd, Naberezhnye Chelny, Perm- found that one in three people who inject drugs were living with HIV. In Belarus, HIV prevalence among people who inject drugs is also high, exceeding 20% in the cities of Svetlogorsk, Minsk and Pinsk. In Ukraine, it also exceeded 20% in 15 cities.

Regionally, HIV prevalence among men and women who inject drugs is similar, at 9% and 10% respectively. However, there are variations between countries with HIV prevalence among women who inject drugs higher than their male counterparts in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Belarus, and Ukraine.

Sex work has emerged as a major co-driver of HIV among females who inject drugs in the region. An estimated of 62% of women in Kyrgyzstan and 84% of women in Azerbaijan who inject drugs, also engage in sex work. In Central Asia, HIV prevalence is estimated to be 20 times higher among female sex workers who inject drugs than those who do not. Women who inject drugs also tend to be younger, to engage in more risky sexual behaviours, and to share injecting equipment more often than men who inject drugs.

In Eastern Europe, only 0.003% of women who inject drugs have access to opioid substitution therapy (OST) and have poor access to sterile injecting equipment and condoms, as well as limited access to sexual and reproductive health services.

### ***International work compelling HIV.***

In 2001 the General Assembly held a special session on HIV/AIDS to review and address the problem of HIV/AIDS in all its aspects as well as to secure a global commitment to enhancing coordination and intensification of national, regional and international efforts to combat it in a comprehensive manner. In this session the members debated about the leadership needed to address the matter effectively, prevention, care and treatment for HIV/AIDS, as well as the research and development on the cure of HIV/AIDS. And in September 2015, the World adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) plan of action for people, planet and prosperity, to be implemented over the next 15 years.

SDG 3 has a dedicated target on ending AIDS by 2030, leaving no one behind. Similarly, other SDGs, particularly 5, 10, 16 and 17 are also very closely linked to the AIDS response. UNODC will contribute towards reaching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 3.3 target of ending the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030.

Teaming up with governments and communities to achieve major reductions in new HIV infections and HIV related deaths these key populations SDG 17, UNODC will promote HIV services which are gender responsive, SDG 5, advocating equal access to HIV services for people who use drugs and people in prisons that are human rights and public health based SDG 10, while working to eliminate discrimination against people who use drugs and people in prisons SDG 16.

The UNODC global HIV programme supports countries to achieve universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services for people who use drugs and for people in prisons. UNODC supports governments and civil society organisations to implement large-scale and wide-ranging evidence-informed and human rights-based interventions. An important project regarding the Sustainable Development Goals is the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) which is leading the global effort to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

UNAIDS generates strategic information and analysis that increases the understanding of the state of the AIDS epidemic and progress made at the local, national, regional and global levels. It leads the world's most extensive data collection on HIV epidemiology, programme coverage and finance and publishes the most authoritative and up-

to-date information on the HIV epidemic—vital for an effective AIDS response. UNAIDS produces data for impact—no major report, speech or policy initiative on HIV has been launched or made without referring to data collected and released by UNAIDS. As a co-sponsor of UNAIDS, UNODC will implement the UNAIDS Fast-Track Strategy 2016-2021, which calls for a 75% reduction of new HIV infections including among key populations, including people who use drugs and people in prisons, by 2020.

In addition to the UNAIDS organization we have organizations who fight against HIV such as:

- The WHO's HIV/AIDS Department which provides evidence-based, technical support to WHO Member States to help them scale up treatment, care and prevention services as well as drugs and diagnostics supply to ensure a comprehensive and sustainable response to HIV/AIDS.
- The Global Fund which is a financing institution designed to accelerate the end of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as epidemics. Founded in 2002, the Global Fund is a partnership between governments, civil society, the private sector and people affected by the diseases. The Global Fund raises and invests nearly US\$4 billion a year to support programs run by local experts in countries and communities most in need.
- The International AIDS Society (IAS) is the world's largest association of HIV professionals, with members from more than 180 countries working on all fronts of the global AIDS response. The mission of the IAS is to lead collective action on every front of the global HIV response through its membership base, scientific authority, and convening power. IAS advocates and drives urgent action to reduce the global impact of HIV. The IAS is also the steward of the world's two most prestigious HIV conferences – the International AIDS Conference and the IAS Conference on HIV Science.

### ***Law enforcement in Eastern Europe and Central Asia regarding the prevention of HIV***

“HIV continues to be a major global public health issue. In 2016, an estimated 36.7 million people were living with HIV (including 1.8 million children) – with a global HIV prevalence of 0.8% among adults.” (Avert, 2017)

By 2016, 1.8 million people get newly infected with HIV, the number of new infections has decreased globally by 16% and 53% of the people living with HIV have now access to lifesaving treatment. Nevertheless, these statistics are far away to reach the Fast-Track strategy, constituted by the UNAIDS, and the 2016 United Nations General Assembly Political Declaration on Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030.

Eastern Europe and Central Asia had a total amount of 190,000 new infections by 2016. Is the only region in which the annual infection continues increasing by 60% between 2010 and 2016. Meanwhile, the number of deaths due to AIDS-related causes increased by 25% according to the UNAIDS statistics of 2017. The most affected country of this region is the Russian Federation, that had the largest epidemic of HIV with a number of 98,000 new infections in 2015 and under 850,000 to 1.5 million people currently infected, in which 54% of the transmissions were through intravenous drug use and 44% by heterosexual sexual intercourses. The second country most affected one is Ukraine with 240,000 people living with HIV.

There has been certain treatments and prevention programmes implemented. As well as policies and regulations to prevent infections, such as the laws requiring parental consent for adolescents to access sexual and reproductive health services in Belarus or the laws of criminalization of transmission of, nondisclosure of, or exposure to HIV in Kazakhstan.

In the other hand, there are some cases in which there is a lack of systematic prevention implementation, the absence of political commitment, and inadequate investments, and has as a consequence, the failure of programmes implementation.

### ***Recommended material***

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## *Glossary*

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### **A**

**Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS):** is the most severe stage of HIV though, is not per se a virus, rather a set of symptoms. A person is considered to have AIDS when their immune system is weakened and do not have the strength to fight a certain infection or virus. (Avert, 2018)

**Antiretroviral therapy (ART):** consists in the usage of antiretroviral drugs (also called HIV medicines) to treat the virus. (NIH, 2018)

### **C**

**Central Asia:** is considered to extend from the Caspian Sea to the border of western China, bounded on the north by Russia and on the south by Iran, Afghanistan and China. It is conformed by former Soviet republics such as Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan. (Britannica, 2014)

### **E**

**Eastern Europe:** the term is often used to refer to all European countries that were ruled by communist regimes. The UN considers that countries such as Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, and Slovakia, as well as the republics of Belarus, Moldova, and Ukraine. (New World Encyclopedia, 2017)

**Epidemic:** refers to a sudden increase in the number of disease cases above what is expected in certain population area. Epidemics usually occur when hosts are exposed to agents (virus or bacteria) due to meager protection. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2012)

## H

**HIV:** is a virus that attacks the immune system, it destroys white blood cells (CD4 cell) and copies itself inside the cells. (Avert, 2018)

## I

**Illegal drugs:** a drug is a substance that affects the body functions, a drug is classified as illegal when it is forbidden by the law or is strictly allowed per medical prescription. (Positive Choices, 2018)

**Intravenous drugs:** are medications that are sent directly into the veins by the usage of a needle or a catheter. (Rodriguez, 2016)

## O

**Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST):** is a therapy for patients who try to quit drugs, it consists in the prescription (by a specialized physician) of opioid medication that offset the withdrawal symptoms and acts as a substitute for the drug that the patient was using. (Addiction Centre Toronto, 2015)

## P

**Pandemic:** is the worldwide sudden spread of a new disease. (World Health Organization, 2016)

## R

**Retrovirus:** is a type of virus that transcribes its viral genetic material in a host cell so it proliferates. (NIH, 2018)

## S

**Sterile:** free from all bacteria or other living microorganisms, entirely clean. (Oxford Dictionaries, 2018)

**Stigmatised:** classify something or someone as disgraceful or disapprove it. (Oxford Dictionaries, 2018)

**Sustainable development:** is a process of change in which the exploitation of resources, the direction of investments, the orientation of technological development; and institutional change are all in harmony and enhance both current and future potential to meet human needs and aspirations. (World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987)

## W

**World Health Organization:** is a specialized agency of the United Nations established in 1948, its role is to direct international health within the UN's system. (Britannica, 2017)

## **Topic B**

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Measures to reinforce policies regarding prevention and reduction of HIV/AIDS within countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, as a consequence of the use of intravenous drugs

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## ***Introduction***

Along several decades human being has relished a supposed security within the seas. However maritime crime has emerged once more. It has, and represents different fronts. Maritime crime not only becomes an alarming threat to the economy of the affected states but to the security and welfare of the population as well. “Maritime crime affects major shipping lanes, and puts at risk the lives of seafarers and merchant seamen from all over the world.” (INTERPOL, 2016) Thus, it can be addressed from different perspectives. The socioeconomic and security plane, regarding law enforcement, works as an elemental factor in the fight against maritime crime. Piracy at sea is an old problem that persists to modern times in big scale across the world. During the last decades, piracy has seen a surge, to become one of the most serious threat to global shipping. The root causes of the piracy have been ascribed to the lack of government as well as the lack of economic opportunities.

## ***Maritime Crime defined***

Criminal activity perpetrated at sea is often directed at vessels or maritime structures, but also includes the transportation of illicit substances or trafficking in persons by organized transnational criminal networks. In its violent forms, it is a constant menace to the security of navigation and to the physical integrity and life of seamen. (UNODC, 2017)

The maritime crime that has increased the most over the last decade is maritime piracy, which according the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) consists in attacks to vessels by pirates, affecting major shipping lanes and risking the lives of seafarers and merchant seamen. (INTERPOL, 2017) It is mainly divided in two types, the first is robbery that consists in attacks to steal a maritime vessel or its cargo and the second is kidnapping in which a captured vessel and its crew are threatened until a ransom is paid. Also, it has been observed the increase of maritime drug trafficking given that a substantial part of the total amount of seized drugs is confiscated from shipping modes or transported by sea. Narcotics

trafficking by sea has become practically an industry and the maritime environment is one of the main ways in which drugs can enter some countries. According to UNODC Maritime crime poses a serious threat to the safety of seafarers, international trade and regional stability. As over 90% of global trade is carried out by sea, the economic effects of maritime crime can be crippling.

### ***The increase in Maritime Crime in the Indian Ocean and the Horn of Africa***

The Indian Ocean, joining East Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia, holds part of the world's busiest shipping routes and angling grounds. Most Indian Ocean littoral states rely heavily on their economy as a source of income, nutrition, employment, and generally a driver of development. In addition, oceans are considered the biggest crime scene in the world due to the unique nature of the high seas, falling outside the jurisdiction of any single State, as vast unregulated spaces offer perfect conditions to hide criminal activities, namely anonymity and freedom from law enforcement.

“As over 90% of worldwide trade is carried out by sea”(European Commission, 2017) , the economic impact of maritime crime can be crippled apart from that of the maritime crime poses to a serious threat to the safety of seafarers, international trade and regional stability. Besides, crimes committed at sea not only threaten the security of seafarers and undermine economies, they also have harmful societal spillover effects in littoral states such as, for example, increase in drug addiction in small island developing nations that are transit points for maritime narcotics smuggling.

With the longest coastline in the Horn of Africa and a position adjacent to some of the world's busiest shipping routes, Somalia is a nation the seas offer huge opportunities for sustainable and Somali-led employment and development. Nevertheless, Somalia continues to have a reputation as the launching point for terrorism, piracy, people trafficking and smuggling operations which obstructs efforts to commercialise Somali marine resources.

With the alarming increase of heroin trafficking in the Indian Ocean and the reemergence of illegal fishing off the Horn of Africa, the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) is, concerned over the lack of capacity to manage Somali maritime resources

effectively. Meanwhile, the inability of Somalia to successfully do this is consistently seen as one of the underlying causes of instability.

Piracy remains a substantial threat and this is in part attributed to problems with unregulated fishing by foreign vessels in Somali waters. Other maritime threats such as human trafficking, smuggling of weapons, migrants, drugs and alcohol also hinder effective stabilisation of the country.

Recognizing that the livelihoods of 37% of the world's population rely on the oceans (UN Stats, 2010), UN Sustainable Development Goal 14 seeks to protect coastal and marine resources and ensure that they remain a driver of economic development in the long term. Maritime security and countering maritime crime, also termed Blue Justice, is therefore a key priority for Indian Ocean States, particularly as the volume and gravity of crime committed at sea increases. The reach of law enforcement in the Region is, however, very scarce and the physical challenges of apprehension are vast.

### *Cases*

The Indian Ocean is considered as one of the most relevant trade routes UNODC “The Indian Ocean, joining East Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia, holds some of the world's busiest shipping routes and fishing grounds” (2016). Inasmuch as it represents the major conjecture regarding different countries, and their trade routes. Furthermore, groups coming from diverse regions have emerged and remarked their interest in the Indian Ocean. Maritime security and countering maritime crime, also termed Blue Justice, is therefore a key priority for Indian Ocean States, particularly as the volume and gravity of crime committed at sea increases.

The hijacking of a ship by Somali pirates in 2012 was the first incident off the Horn of Africa. Consequently more maritime crimes resurfaced off West Africa. BBC “The latest State of Maritime Piracy report by the watchdog Oceans Beyond Piracy (OBP) warns against security complacency in the shipping industry, particularly around the Horn of Africa.” (2012). Piracy has not declined even though its form has changed. In its 2015 report, the OBP

noted that attacks were on the rise of the West African coast (one out of every five pirate attacks takes place in this region) making it the most dangerous region for seafarers.

Namely, “The recent hijacking of a ship by Somali pirates was the first such incident off the Horn of Africa since 2012, and more ships are being targeted off West Africa” (BBC, 2017). The report provided by the watchdog Oceans Beyond Piracy (OBP) in May of 2017 confirmed the recent and alarming resurgence of maritime crimes. After five years without any type of hijackings or kidnaps the Comoros-flagged vessel Aris 13 was captured in March off the coast of Somalia. Hence, pirates freed the oil tanker and its Sri Lankan crew three days later without ransom.

A further case took place in Nigeria. Incident in which two US sailors from an oil supply ship were seized by pirates. A gunman attacked the C Retriever, an oil supply vessel, near the coastal town of Brass in Nigeria's oil rich Bayelsa State. The captain and chief engineer of the US-flagged ship were taken by armed men who stormed the boat. US officials said it was not a terrorist act, but were concerned about the rise in piracy off Africa.

### ***Legal frameworks regarding maritime crime in the Indian Ocean and the Horn of Africa***

Law of the sea mechanisms, specifically the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea (UNCLOS), provide an engaging starting point for regulatory analysis of private maritime security. Although it is not the only relevant legal instrument in existence, the Convention is the most pertinent, setting the backdrop for oceans management and providing the broadest foundation for uniform governance.

Yet UNCLOS does much more than simply set up broad frameworks. It also specifies detailed nautical mile limits of maritime zones, establishes rules of the road, and other highly technical criteria for oceans management and operations at sea. UNCLOS also contains a brief, though nonetheless specific, security component that addresses key tenets of responding to maritime threats.

### *International work compelling the fight against maritime crime*

Eighty percent of the world's cargo is carried by sea on more than 112 000 ships manned by more than 1,5 million seafarers, and as the maritime domain is an unregulated area, ships and crew on these ships are vulnerable to maritime violence. (Lydelle Joubert, 2011)

The demand for shipping services has increased by 2016, with 2.6% in world seaborne trade volumes and by 2017 it will increase by 2.8%, forecasts UNCTAD, with 10.6 billions of tons in total volumes. Developed countries, such as United States, European Union, and Japan had had the biggest growth in the volume of merchandise trade between 2013–2016. There has been also a positive development between nations such as comprehensive economic and trade agreements and economic partnership agreements.

Provided that the global naval trade statistics are improving, the number of maritime crime has been increasing as well, mainly in regions like West and Central Africa. By 2016, heroin trafficking in the Indian Ocean and the reemergence of illegal fishing off the Horn of Africa has increased gravely. This affects the safety of seafarers, regional stability, and international trade.

An increase in incidents of maritime piracy and acts of armed robbery of ships in specific regions could usually be explained by conflict in the region, an absence of crime-fighting institutions or strong navies to counter piracy and acts of armed robbery of ships, or a change in socio-economic conditions in the country or region affected. (Lydelle Joubert, 2011)

To prevent this conflict certain global programmes and conventions have been implemented to suspend the transnational criminal networks; such as the Global Maritime Programme (GMCP), instituted in 2009 to address the piracy off the Horn of Africa. GMCP provide technical assistance through interregional approach, and it has more a global focus than regional of transnational crime. In the last years, it has established the Horn of Africa Programme, which delivers infrastructural, technical and material support and assistance forward the Somali coast, and the Atlantic Ocean Programme which encompass 11 countries in Western Africa. In 1988, the *Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation* was adopted, this convention's main purpose is to guarantee

that convenient action is taken against people accomplishing unlawful acts against ships. There is also been implemented the *United Nations Convention Against the Illicit Traffic of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances*, which emphasise the cooperation to suppress illicit traffic by sea, according to the article 17, and the “Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation”, signed in 1988, encourage the global cooperation to prevent and suppress transnational crime.

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## *Glossary*

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### **A**

**Angling:** is a method of fishing with a rod and a line. (Oxford Dictionaries, 2018)

### **C**

**C Retriever:** is an United States cargo vessel first built in 1999. (MarineTraffic, 2018)

**Cripple:** is a word often used to refer to a person with a physical disability or a permanent injury that does not allows them to move their bodies properly. (Collins, 2018)

### **E**

**East Africa:** part of sub-Saharan Africa compounded by Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Somalia, Djibouti, Eritrea, and Ethiopia. (Harold and Low, 2015)

### **F**

**Framework:** basic conceptual structure. (Merriam Webster, 2018)

### **H**

**Hijack:** is defined as taking control of an aircraft or other moving vehicle using violence. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2018)

**Horn of Africa:** is a region of eastern Africa conformed by the countries of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia. (Britannica, 2015)

### **I**

**International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL):** is the world's largest international police organization, which role is to enable police around the world to work together. (INTERPOL, 2018)

## J

**Jurisdiction:** territory within which a court or government agency may properly exercise its power. (Legal Information Institute, n.d)

## M

**Middle East:** are the lands around the southern and eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea, from Morocco to the Arabian Peninsula. (Britannica, 2018)

## N

**Narcotics:** refers to opium, opium derivatives, and their semi-synthetic substitutes. Not to be used to refer all drugs. (DEA, n.d)

## O

**Oceans Beyond Piracy (OBP):** is a program of the One Earth Future Foundation, a privately funded and independent non-profit organization. OBP was launched in 2010 with the intent to develop a response to maritime piracy. (OBP, n.d)

## P

**Piracy:** refers to any robbery or any other violent action committed without authorization by a public authority, committed on the seas or in air outside the jurisdiction of any state. (Jenkins, 2018)

## R

**Ransom:** can be defined as money demanded in exchange for someone or something who has been taken prisoner. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2018)

## S

**Seafarer:** persons who work or travel frequently on ships on the sea. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2018)

**Smuggling:** the clandestine movement of goods to evade customs responsibilities or importation or exportation restrictions. (Britannica, 2013)

**South Asia:** refers to the southern countries of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. (The World Factbook, 2017)

## T

**Terrorism:** the systematic use of violence to create fear in a population and thereby to impose certain ideology or project. (Jenkins, 2017)

**Trafficking:** the activity of buying and selling goods or people illegally. (Cambridge Dictionaries, 2018)

**Transnational:** used to describe companies or business activities that take place or involve more than one country.

## W

**Watchdog:** a person or organization responsible for making certain that companies obey particular standards and do not commit illegal acts. (Cambridge Dictionaries, 2018)