STUDY GUIDE: UNODC
TOPIC: COUNTERING STATE-SPONSERED NARCO-TERRORISM AND INSTITUTIONAL CORRUPTION

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MANDATE:

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes supports Member States in preventing and addressing forms of identity-based violence, including violence rooted in organized crime, trafficking, exploitation, and other criminal networks. UNODC builds capacity in criminal justice, enhances law-enforcement, and encourages victim-focused security and justice. It also assists in the design and implementation of legal frameworks that are in line with international standards. Additionally, it provides capacity, sharing of data, technical assistance to concerned organizations, and international cooperation. By doing this, UNODC attempts to mitigate the vulnerability, eliminate violence that has happened, and strengthen the rule of law to help communities to live safer and secure.

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE:

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) serves as the only UN office dedicated to preventing and addressing drugs and crimes. With a network of field offices across the globe, covering 150 countries, the Commission is composed of 40 Member States elected by the Economic and Social Council. Starting in 1997, UNODC has had headquarters in Vienna, Austria

The UNODC is a technical and advisory body responsible for working with the government and other stakeholders to rapidly identify new criminal trends and threats, and take strategic and effective action. UNODC brings countries together to cooperate and find common solutions, and develop legislations, policies and strategies to bring transnational organized criminal groups to justice while protecting people and their rights. UNODC exists to stop deadly opioids and other illicit drugs, leave criminals with no place to hide, protect people from online scams and cyber fraud, and keep trafficked weapons and criminal proceeds from fueling more crimes, terrorism, and conflict

INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC:

Narco-terrorism is the involvement of terrorist organizations and insurgent groups in drug trafficking. State-sponsored Narco-Terrorism refers to the collaboration of governments or state officials with drug traffickers and terrorist groups for financial gain, political power, and geopolitical control.

Corruption plays a pivotal role in how organized crime groups operate and expand their criminal activities, demonstrating that corruption and organized crime are often intertwined. Corruption is used to gain political power and attempt to influence or disrupt decision-making. For example, a member of parliament could accept and use funds from an organized criminal group in exchange for a vote in a certain direction. Criminal groups may also help certain parties to come into power so they feel obligated to protect and assist the groups. Unlike drug traffickers and organized crime groups that primarily seek monetary gain, terrorist groups usually have non-financial goals: publicity, dissemination of an ideology, the destruction of a society or regime, and spreading terror and intimidation.

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND:

The term "narco-terrorism" was first used by Peruvian President Fernando Belaúnde Terry in 1983 to describe attacks by the Shining Path against anti-narcotics police.
The term emerged in 1983 to describe violent drug cartels targeting state institutions. Non-state armed groups and insurgents increasingly turned to illicit drug networks to replace foreign state funding after the Cold War. Over time, this situation evolved as lawless regimes and corrupt state officials began actively co-operating with drug traffickers. By using state infrastructure to protect cartels, weaponize illicit cash flows, and fund proxy forces, corrupt regimes transformed drug trafficking into a tool of statecraft, hence bringing the term "Institutional Corruption". Today this affects areas like Venezuela, Mexico, Afghanistan, Syria, Myanmar, etc.

Narcotics trafficking and other transnational crimes have become one of the main sources of financing for terrorism, serving the interests of illegal armed groups that imperil governability, obstruct economic and social development, weaken democratic institutions, increase violence, violate human rights and destroy the natural environment.

CURRENT CONTEXT:

Today, state-sponsored narco-terrorism and corruption are changing fast because of the sudden rise of synthetic drugs. While traditional plant-based drugs like heroin and cocaine are still huge moneymakers, criminal groups and corrupt governments are shifting to man-made drugs—like Fentanyl, Captagon, and Meth. These synthetic drugs neither need farmland nor depend on weather, and are much easier to hide. Regional wars and political chaos have turned this illegal drug money into a weapon, allowing rogue regimes, military groups, and rebels to dodge international sanctions, build secret cash reserves, and fund armed groups. On top of that, digital payments, fake business invoices, and bribed border officials make it easy to wash this drug money through regular global banks—weakening governments and destroying public trust.

Corruption has a disproportionate impact on the poor and the most vulnerable, increasing costs and reducing access to services, including health, education and justice. It erodes trust in government, undermines social contract and perpetuates the inequalities and discontent that lead to fragility, violent extremism and conflict.

ROOT CAUSES:

Giant financial proceeds

Worldwide illegal drug trafficking generates hundreds of billions of dollars each year and it gives cartels an easy way to bribe the low paid policemen, custom officers and politicians, which gives many corrupt officials an extremely large benefit from bribes.

Bypassing Economic Sanctions

A regime or a country under tight sanctions frequently turns to illegal drug traffic (Captagon, cocaine etc.) in order to attain some black money to maintain the army and the functioning of the country.

Funding of proxy wars and militias

Illegal money is used by governments as well as guerilla movements in order to obtain arms and pay for insurgent groups/proxy militias without leaving a clear trace in governmental budget systems.

Weak legal institutions and lack of supervision

In the countries which are poor on the level of an independency of the judiciary system, due to a lack of objective journalistic investigations and lack of control from transparency and supervision mechanisms, officials are able to cover those drug-trafficking operations without fear of legal implications.

Poverty and Lack of Economic Opportunities

In developing and conflictual states and regions in poor farming communities it is often the only way to produce a sufficient quantity of any product. Legal agriculture is poorly rewarded and unable to maintain the existence of such communities which would make cocaine, opium etc.

Leaking Borders and Lawless Zones

In vast desert areas, dense jungles or wild seas, countries have difficulty administrating border zones that are managed by corrupted officials, and criminal organizations seize critical entry points by bribing responsible agents or employing force.

Extensive systemic corruption

In numerous cases, the corruption is not limited to some officials, but it is deeply institutionalized - if there is no way to power with normal means and the administration depends on money obtained from illegal drug trafficking, then every government apparatus will eventually act towards letting the organisations carry out their illegal acts for income

DIRECT CONSEQUENSES:

State sponsored narco-terrorism proves to be a growing threat to the security and solidity of many nations. Whether highly industrialized or developing, wealthy or poor, all nations, in some way, are adversely impacted by terrorism and the lasting repercussions of terrorist activities. Modern terrorist organizations are better funded, well organized, and well informed on the nature and dynamics of their targets. Terrorism adversely affects the way public, private and non-profit organizations conduct business. In its contemporary form, narco-terrorism has dramatically altered the way governments interact with nations, regulate national and international events, and engage in international trade. It becomes increasingly difficult to protect and defend large and complex facilities when terrorist organizations are funded and supported by a government. Groups like narcotic traffickers, terrorist organizations and insurgent groups negatively affect government stability of various countries. Under conditions of corruption, funding for education, health care, poverty relief, and elections, political parties' operating expenses can become a source of personal enrichment for party officials, bureaucrats and contractors.

STAKEHOLDERS:

AFGHANISTAN:

Accounting for an estimated 85 per cent of global opium production in 2020, opium produced in Afghanistan supplies heroin to large consumption markets in neighboring countries such as Europe, the Near and Middle East, South Asia and Africa. It reaches destinations as far as North America and Oceania

VENEZUELA:

According to the U.S. Department of State, Nicolás Maduro and his representatives continued to provide a permissive environment for certain terrorist groups to operate within Venezuelan territory. They cooperated with non-state armed groups where their interests aligned, including providing safe haven to Colombian-origin, U.S.-designated terrorist groups such as the ELN, FARC-EP, and Segunda Marquetalia. Enabled by Maduro and his representatives, these terrorist groups, insurgents, and criminal organizations operated in large stretches of the nation's territory, profiting from illicit activities and financial ties they had built with elements of the Venezuelan state.

HAITI (affected stakeholder):

There are multiple factors compounding Haiti's criminal markets for drugs and firearms. Most obviously, Haiti features extensive land and maritime borders that are poorly monitored, guarded and defended. Haiti has frequently been included among the world's most corrupt countries. A share of the cocaine shipped through Haiti and onward to foreign markets is transferred by air, including via illegal runways. The Savane Diane area, which since 2021 was designated a "free agro-industrial export zone", is suspected of having experienced an uptick in air traffic in May and June 2021, with thousands of kilos of drugs allegedly changing hands. According to the US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), some planes also stopped and refueled in Port-au-Prince even when the international airport was closed

SYRIA:

The Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) sanctioned 11 individuals and entities supporting the regime of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad through the facilitation of illicit financial transfers and trafficking of illegal drugs, as well as the extraction and export of Syrian commodities. Syria has become the leading producer and exporter of Captagon, a highly addictive amphetamine-type stimulant trafficked illegally throughout the Middle East and Europe.

MEXICO (affected stakeholder):

Organized crime in Mexico threatens societal stability and public safety, driving pervasive violence and economic disruption. Despite security investments and social programs designed in part to reduce involvement in crime, cartel power and violence continue to persist. Given the far-reaching societal costs posed by organized crime groups, Mexican institutions continue their efforts to curb these activities. The economic investment made by Mexico in terms of national security programs each year amounts to US$ 9.88 billion. However, existing strategies have failed to contain violence, reduce the power of cartels, block the flow of weapons, or prevent access to illicit substances.

KEY TERMS:

Narco-Terrorism:

Terrorist groups deal drugs to buy weapons; drug cartels use terror tactics to control territory. Terrorist groups leverage the multi-billion-dollar illicit drug trade to generate untraceable cash, which pays for heavy weaponry, recruitment, and military-style attacks.

Institutional Corruption:

Corrupt border agents, police, judges, and politicians take bribes to give these groups safe passage and legal immunity. Narco-terrorists rely on a network of compromised actors to survive. Border agents and customs officers accept bribes to bypass cargo checks.

State-Sponsored:

"State-sponsored" generally refers to actions, activities, or crimes that are carried out with the active support, encouragement, or involvement of a government or its officials. In this context, "state-sponsored" means that a state provides resources such as funding, training, weapons, intelligence, or safe harbor to individuals, groups, or organizations that engage in specific activities on behalf of the state's interests

Cartel de los Soles (Cartel of the Suns):

A corrupt network embedded inside the Venezuelan military and government that uses state airports, seaports, and intelligence channels to traffic cocaine into international markets.

FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia):

A long-standing guerrilla army that evolved into a major drug-trafficking organization, relying on coca production, processing, and smuggling taxes to fund its armed conflict.

Money Laundering:

How criminals hide the illegal origin of their money. They turn illegal money from drug trafficking or terrorism into white money that looks legitimate. This process is vital for cartels and terrorists because it lets them spend their profits safely without alerting law enforcement.

Asymmetric Warfare:

Conflict where two sides have extensively unequal military power. Instead of fighting face-to-face, the weaker side (like a terror group or cartel) avoids direct battles with the stronger side (like a state military). Instead, they use unpredictable tactics to exploit the stronger enemy's weaknesses.

Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs):

Illegal movements of money from one country to another. This involves money that is illegally earned, illegally transferred, or illegally used across international borders. For narco-terrorists, IFFs are the global pipelines used to hide drug money and fund operations worldwide.

Failed State:

A failed state is a country where the central government has completely lost control. The government can no longer enforce laws, provide basic services (like water, electricity, or safety), or protect its borders. This creates a dangerous power vacuum that narco-terrorists easily exploit to set up their headquarters.

Darknet Marketplaces:

Encrypted online commercial hubs used to buy and sell illegal goods anonymously. Unlike the normal internet, they cannot be found via Google and require specialized encryption software (like Tor) to access onion websites. For narco-terrorists, these sites act as digital safe havens to sell drugs, purchase weapons, and hire cyber-services.

Narco-Kleptocracy:

A government where high-ranking political leaders, judges, and military officials are thoroughly corrupted or actively controlled by drug cartels. In these states, the government does not fight organized crime; instead, it uses official state power, police forces, and legal systems to protect the narco-terrorist network.

Transnational Organized Crime:

Transnational Organized Crime refers to self-perpetuating, global criminal networks that operate across multiple national borders. These syndicates do not belong to a single nation; they run highly organized, corporate-style operations that specialize in trafficking drugs, weapons, and humans while laundering billions of dollars.

Front Companies:

A front company is a legally registered, operational business used by narco-terrorists to hide their illicit activities and launder money. Unlike shell companies (which exist only on paper), front companies conduct actual, daily commercial trade (like running a chain of car washes, a logistics firm, or an agricultural export business). This allows criminals to mix their black drug cash with legitimate daily revenue, making the illegal money look like normal corporate profits.

Shell Companies:

A legally registered business entity that exists only on paper. It has no physical office, no real operations, and no employees. While shell companies can be used for legal business reasons, narco-terrorists use them as anonymous corporate masks to hide who really owns and controls illicit drug and terror money.

PAST UN ACTIONS:

UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION (UNCAC)

UNCAC Article 5:

Mandates that states establish effective anti-corruption policies and oversight bodies. It forces nations to build strong, transparent legal frameworks that prevent government institutions from being bribed or controlled by criminal organizations; it acts as the primary tool to dismantle the state corruption that shields, funds, and protects drug cartels.

UNCAC Article 14:

Requires states to initiate comprehensive domestic regulatory and supervisory regimes for banks and non-bank financial institutions. It establishes comprehensive frameworks to prevent money laundering, requiring states to strictly monitor domestic banks and track cross-border transactions; its main goal is to choke off the illicit financial pipelines that corrupt government officials and fund cartel operations.

UNCAC Article 23:

Requires Member States to criminalize laundering of proceeds of crimes. It criticizes the laundering of criminal actions, forcing nations to legally prosecute anyone who tries to hide, convert, or transfer illicit funds; it acts as the primary legal tool to act against corrupted officials who hide cartel black money and to seize the funds that fund terrorist operations.

UNCAC Article 51:

States that the return of assets stolen through institutional corruption is a "fundamental principle" of the treaty. It establishes fund recovery as a basic part of the convention, requiring nations to cooperate globally to return stolen public funds; it acts as the primary tool to track, freeze, and replenish state wealth destroyed by corrupted officials through illicit cartel partnerships.

UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (UNTOC)

UNTOC Article 7:

Requires states to implement strict customer identification, record-keeping, and reporting of suspicious transactions. It forces countries to set up strict rules to stop money laundering, making banks closely track cash moving across borders; it acts as the main tool to block the secret money trails that cartels use to bribe government officials and buy weapons.

UNTOC Article 8:

Explicitly obligates states to make the bribery of public officials a criminal offense. It prohibits public corruption, forcing countries to make it a law to punish government officials who take bribes from criminals; it acts as the primary tool to arrest and prosecute the dirty politicians and border guards who protect drug cartels.

UNTOC Article 18:

Allows state authorities to share evidence, law enforcement intelligence, and cross-border bank records to prosecute narco-networks. It forces countries to give each other mutual legal assistance, meaning they must share evidence, track assets, and cross borders to investigate crimes; it acts as the primary tool for nations to team up, share intel, and legally take down international drug cartels that span multiple countries.

UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES (1988)

Article 3:

Establishes global standards for criminalizing the laundering of drug profits and the diversion of precursor chemicals.

Article 12:

Gives international legal frameworks to monitor and restrict commercial trades of essential precursor chemicals used to manufacture synthetic drugs.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SDG 16.4:

Significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets, and combat all forms of organized crime by 2030; it acts as the primary global target to starve cartels of the weapons and dirty money they use to buy political power.

SDG 16.a:

It focuses on strengthening national institutions through international cooperation to build capacity at all levels, preventing violence and combating terrorism and crime; it serves as the foundation for developed nations to send training, technology, and intelligence support to help weaker states clean up corrupted border security and police forces.

CASE STUDIES

- **Syria and the Captagon Trade**

During the Syrian conflict, high-level state actors and elite military units transformed Syria into an industrial-scale "narco-state" by manufacturing and exporting Captagon to bypass international sanctions and generate billions in un-intelligible revenue. Instead of hiding from law enforcement, the trade was directly integrated into state infrastructure—using official chemical import channels, converting state factories into laboratories, and deploying military checkpoints and Mediterranean ports to protect trafficking pipelines. This massive influx of drug money was used to sustain state operations, pay security forces, and directly fund state-aligned armed proxies. Although the fall of the former regime in late 2024 led to the dismantling of major state-run laboratories, UNODC reports highlight that the threat has since fragmented into decentralized criminal networks run by remnant warlords and regional militias, demonstrating how state-sponsored narco-terrorism degrades sovereign institutions, finances armed conflicts, and creates long-term regional instability even after central state control collapses.

- **Haiti:**

In Haiti, high-level political corruption and severe institutional degradation transformed the nation into a major transit hub for cocaine while facilitating a massive influx of illegal heavy firearms. Rather than enforcing the law, corrupt political figures, business elites, and rogue security personnel allied with heavily armed gangs, providing them with protection and firearms in exchange for political control. This systemic co-operation of state infrastructure—including unmonitored seaports and border crossings—created widespread "zones of impunity" where law enforcement lost all control. Over time, these state-backed gangs grew so powerful that they derailed government authority altogether, seizing physical control over key parts of Haiti, like its capital Port-au-Prince. For UNODC, Haiti serves as a striking case study of how institutional corruption can completely erode state capacity, turning a country from a simple trafficking corridor into a territory dominated by armed criminal groups.

- **Afghanistan:**

While Afghanistan is responsible for more than 90 per cent of the world's illicit opium poppy cultivation, less than 2 per cent is seized before reaching the international market. With methamphetamine manufacture in Afghanistan sharply increasing in recent years the illicit drug economy has been increasingly complex and has increased the threat to countries in the region and beyond.

The production of opiates is arguably Afghanistan's largest illegal economic activity. The world's deadliest drug flows from this poor, unstable and landlocked country through the Balkans and Central Asia to major heroin markets in the Russian Federation and Western Europe. The joint trafficking of opiates and methamphetamine poses a cross continental threat and may result in a supply-driven development of new methamphetamine markets. The cultivation of opium poppy is driven by many socioeconomic and security-related factors, including multi-dimensional poverty, lack of licit economic opportunities, and limited access to markets.

With production increasing over the last decade, market destinations for Afghan opiates diversified and illicit opiates continued to be exported to the lucrative European market. Some 40 per cent of Afghanistan's heroin is trafficked to Pakistan, which is one of the main transit countries for Afghan heroin destined for Iran, India, Africa, Europe, the USA, Canada, China and East and South-East Asia. Afghanistan's drug money weakens key institutions and strengthens the Taliban. Since Afghanistan's financial institutions are still developing, money primarily goes through the informal hawala system, making it difficult to track and therefore cutting out the nascent banking system. The link between the lack of security and opium cultivation is also evident. 90 per cent of total opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan takes place in the Southern and Western provinces, the most insecure areas, where anti-government elements and drug traders are extremely active. The continued expansion of cultivation is not only driven by global consumption, but also by the government which is encouraging this activity and exchange for bribe money by narcos.

Narco-corruption is present at all levels of the Afghan government. Executive branch officials, legislators, police chiefs, and governors have been implicated in trafficking, enabling bribery schemes, and related narco-corruption. Decades of war and economic dislocation have eroded institutions, so that an informal system of favors and payoffs has become the normal process for resolving issues. In this environment, narcotics corruption thrives. For example, the judicial system has difficulty prosecuting corrupt officials, due to low salaries, limited institutional capacity, and the lack of a professionalized bureaucratic infrastructure.

Afghanistan is in a state of constant crisis, with a precarious economy and wider instability enabling illicit markets. The current contraction of licit economic opportunities makes households even more vulnerable to engaging in illicit activities such as opium and cannabis cultivation, and heroin and methamphetamine manufacture and trafficking. The methamphetamine market is experiencing a global rise in demand which may push an increase in methamphetamine manufacturing in Afghanistan

- **<u>Guinea-Bissau:</u>**

Guinea-Bissau has become a major hub for cocaine trafficking and is a key entry point for cocaine into West Africa, a region that operates as a transit point on international cocaine trafficking routes between cultivation countries in Latin America and consumer end-markets in Europe.

United Nations officials have repeatedly raised concerns about growing cocaine trafficking in West Africa and its potential impact on stability and development in that fragile region. Guinea-Bissau in particular has been the subject of concern for some time, due to the relative political instability of that country and the evidence that it is being used as part of a major drug transshipment route. Many governments in the region are under-resourced and some are unable to properly control their institutions, and it seriously limits the ability of many states to regulate their own territory. Furthermore, police forces in this region often lack basic equipment, such as vehicles, petrol, communications technology, handcuffs, and even office supplies.

The judicial risks appear especially low in Guinea-Bissau, which makes the country more attractive for illegal activities. Like many other state institutions, the judicial system in Guinea-Bissau lacks sufficient resources and trained personnel who could fend off corruption attempts. High-ranking officers have also publicly admitted to the involvement of some military officials in drug trafficking; therefore, pursuit of drug graft threatened governance and stability of this country. Moreover, many of the large seizures of cocaine made by West African governments later disappeared from police custody, indicating high-level law enforcement corruption.

By 2005, it became clear that massive amounts of drugs, worth billions of dollars, were being shipped through one of the least stable regions in the world.

Strengthening border and territorial controls, law enforcement agencies' operational capabilities, legal frameworks and enforcement mechanisms against organized crime, money laundering and corruption are all measures required to restore the authority of the state and the rule of law.

STATE ACTORS:

State actors are individuals or organizations which are part of a government, who either combat the issue or facilitate it through corruption

1. National Governments
Policies against drug trafficking, terrorism and corruption are the under domain and responsibility of National Governments. Weak and corrupt governmental institutions directly enable state-sponsored narco-terrorism, allowing drug networks to infiltrate the state.

2. Law enforcement agencies
Corruption within law enforcement can directly facilitate drug trafficking and protect narco-terrorist organizations. Police, border forces, customs authorities, and other law-enforcement bodies are responsible for preventing drug trafficking.

3. Judiciary
Judges, prosecutors and judicial officials are responsible for ensuring the penalization of drug traffickers, corrupt officials and terrorist organizations. A compromised judiciary can create impunity, allowing drug-trafficking and the officials supporting them to avoid prosecution.

4. Anti-Corruption Commissions
Strong anti-corruption commissions help in exposing and dismantling networks connecting government officials with drug traffickers and terrorist organizations. Conversely, if these institutions are politically controlled, corruption can continue unchecked.

5. Heads of State and other Government Officials

Presidents, ministers, military officials, senior bureaucrats who are eligible to combat state sponsored narco-terrorism and corruption by ensuring stricter border control, supporting investigations, or facilitating it by protecting criminal organizations, accepting bribes and using political influence to shield traffickers.

NON-STATE ACTORS:

Non-State Actors are individuals or organizations which are not part of the government but are involved in or affected by narco-terrorism and institutional corruption

1. Drug Cartels
Cartels can bribe government officials, finance corruption, and exploit weak institutions to protect their trafficking operations. They contribute to the narco-terrorism nexus by collaborating with insurgent groups.

2. Terrorist Organizations
Drug trafficking in cooperation with corrupt government officials provides financial resources, access to territory, weapons, intelligence or safe havens for terrorist groups.

3. Transnational organized crime groups
They can exploit differences between countries, laws and enforcement systems, and move drugs and illicit money across borders.

4. NGOs and civil society organizations
Supporting communities affected by drug trafficking, they act as an independent check on government institutions, investigating and reporting corruption.

5. Financial Institutions and Banks
Can be exploited to launder proceeds from drug trafficking or transfer illicit funds. Criminal organizations may use them to hide or move drug profits by taking help from accomplice workers.

QARMAs (QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER):

1. What steps can countries take to stop cartels from bribing local police, judges, and border guards?
2. What steps should be taken to shut down drug laboratories operating in war zones and lawless border regions?
3. How can international organizations help weak governments fight corruption without violating their national sovereignty?
4. How can UNODC help countries set up independent anti-corruption agencies that corrupt politicians cannot easily shut down?
5. What alternative jobs or financial support can be given to poor rural farmers so they do not rely on growing illegal drug crops?
6. What rules should be made to prevent state-owned assets—like ports, military bases, and official aircraft—from being used to transport illegal drugs?
7. What steps can be taken to stop corrupt state officials from using fake companies or offshore accounts to hide their drug profits?
8. How can neighboring countries share real-time border intelligence to stop drug smuggling across land, sea, and air?
9. How can the international community hold government and military officials accountable when they protect drug cartels?
10. How can international law enforcement agencies work together when a country's own government actively blocks investigations into its cartels?

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