

YUNMUN XXX

UNODC

Topic 1: E-Cigarettes

UNODC is a global leader in the fight against illicit drugs and international crime. Established in 1997 through a merger between the United Nations Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention, UNODC operates in all regions of the world through an extensive network of field offices. UNODC relies on voluntary contributions, mainly from Governments, for 90% of its budget. UNODC is mandated to assist Member States in their struggle against illicit drugs, crime and terrorism. The issue of e-cigarettes is incredibly perturbing and as a committee we must tackle this world crisis before even more citizens of the world are affected.

There are many names given for electronic cigarettes. Some of these include e-cigarettes, vapes, e-hookahs, vape pens, Juuls and electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS). Many Member States already take this crisis seriously and have spearheaded initiatives and allocated resources to combat e-cigarette. There have been many direct deaths from e-cigarettes and the UNODC predict many fatalities in the future by complications caused directly from the use of e-cigarettes. Research being done shows that e-cigarette complications only come into effect after a few years. However, since this fad has only been around for a few years, the UNODC does not yet have the full research and does not know what its long term effects may be.

Reports have shown that in the US 27.1% of high school age students have used a tobacco product in the last 30 days and of that 76.8% have used some type of e-cigarette.¹ These statistics are astounding and only stand to rise if we, the UNODC do not come together and combat this crisis. China is another example of a country with large e-cigarette usage in adolescents; the World Health Organization (WHO) included more than 45,000 students, aged approximately 12 to 18 years in China alone. “E-cigarette use was significantly

¹ https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/youth_data/tobacco_use/index.htm

associated with respiratory symptoms in analyses adjusted for sex, age, perceived family affluence, second-hand smoke exposure, and school clustering effect.”²

Some of the practices the UNODC have outlined to combat this crisis can be found in “Good Policy and Practice in Health Education” which included education sector responses to the use of alcohol, tobacco and drugs.³ Utilizing school nurses, who discourage the use and sale of e-cigarettes, has proven to be especially effective. As part of a comprehensive school health programme, school nurses can initiate the discussion about the dangers of e-cigarettes and ensure that e-cigarettes are included in the tobacco education curriculum and no smoking policies in schools, provide individual counselling and education to students.

Now that you understand the huge crisis that we are trying to combat please consider some of the following things:

- What steps has your country taken to combat this issue?
- What future attainable goals can your country implement?
- Are there cultural and/or social factors that play a role in your country’s ability to ending the E-Cigarette crisis?
- The WHO (one of our UN sister organizations) has put out a short clip, please consider watching it <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbbEGZ0iERI>

There are lots of available sources to use for your research, please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Best wishes,

Zak Benarroch

Chair, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

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² https://www.who.int/tobacco/industry/product_regulation/BackgroundPapersENDS3_4November-.pdf