

Forum: Economic and Social Council

Issue: Combating language extinction as a result of economic growth

Chair: Iris Huang and Andrew Xu

Introduction

Throughout the world, many minority languages face the threat of extinction. Such eradication results in the irreversible loss of unique culture and historical knowledge. The disappearance of said languages is most often caused by economic growth and success. In addition, widespread languages such as English and Chinese often displace other languages for they provide an easier platform for mutual understanding in day to day communications. In fact, the languages of our world are disappearing quicker than species, with two different languages fading about every two weeks. Even some individuals who speak endangered languages hope that their children will learn another, in the hopes that they find great success. At the same time, all countries have their own stance on economic growth. In fact, a strong economy is almost always beneficial to any country, and thus it may be hard to balance the interests of language preservation with economic growth. Delegates should analyze their country's stance on all these issues, then create fitting solutions.

Definition of Key Terms

Endangered Languages

Languages that are at risk of falling out of use due to its speakers dying out or their shift to another speaking language.

Extinct Languages

A language that no longer learned as a native language by a speech community.

Economic Economic Growth

An increase in the amount of goods and services produced per head of the population over a period of time.

General Overview

The Effect of Economic Growth on Language Diversity

Currently, the Ethnologue catalogue of world languages lists 7,096 living languages in the world. Of these languages, about 6% are spoken by more than one million speakers each, which collectively account for approximately 94% of the world population. However, about half of the languages listed are spoken by less than ten thousand people, and a quarter have even fewer than one thousand speakers. As of now, languages are rapidly being lost at a rate of extinction exceeding even the loss of biodiversity. The United Nations has noted that half of the languages spoken today will disappear by the end of the 21st century if no action is taken to save them from extinction.

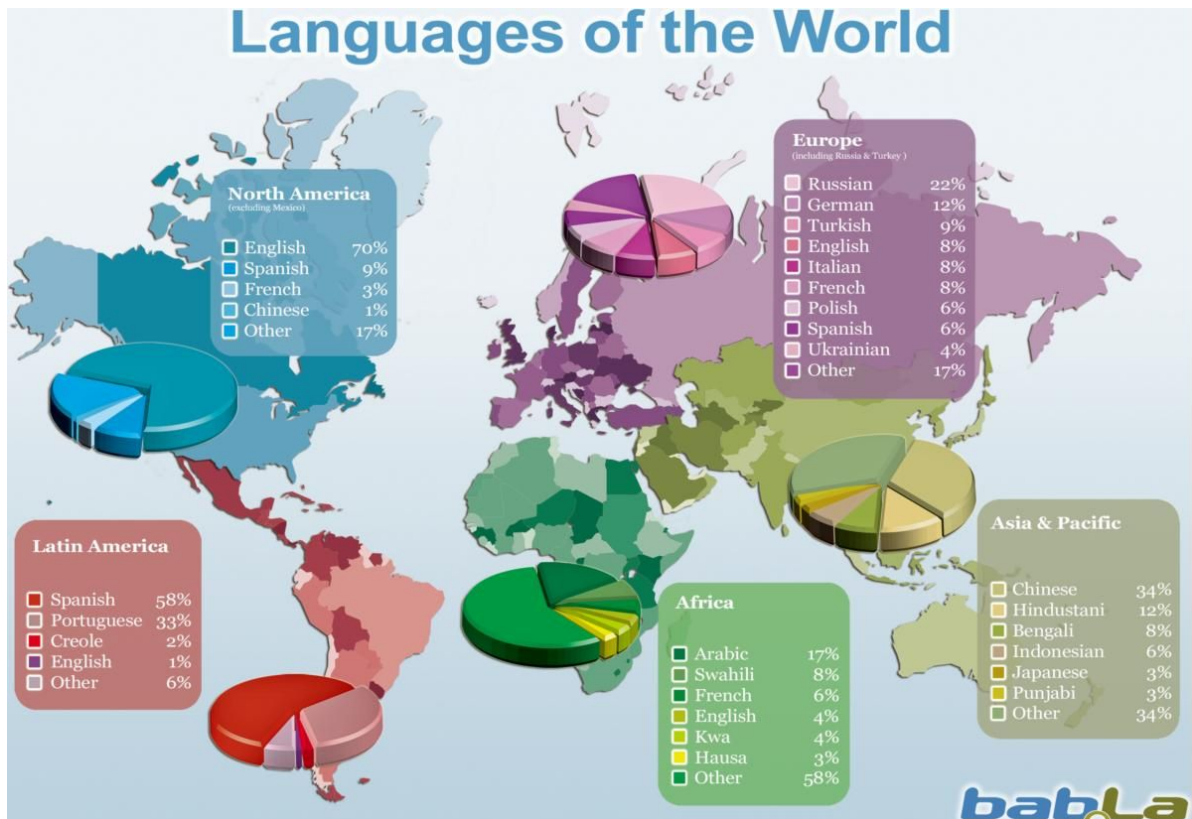
Defining Endangered Languages

The three main risk components used to define endangered species as proposed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) are also used to measure the rate and prevalence of language loss; these three main risk components include: small population size, small geographical habitat range, and population change. In other words, a language local only to a small village that only has a few speakers, with this number declining, will be at greater risk of extinction. Another proposed method of determining how endangered a language is can be found in a 2003 document submitted to the International Expert Meeting on UNESCO Programme “Safeguarding of Endangered Languages”. It states that eight different factors can be used to determine the endangerment of a language: intergenerational language transmission, absolute number of speakers, proportion of speakers existing within the total (global) population, language use within existing contexts and domains, response to language use in new domains and media, availability of materials for language education and literacy, government and institutional language policies, community attitudes toward their language, and amount and quality of

documentation. One such clause that delegates could include in their resolution is one that devises a better way to categorize endangered languages. Or one that expands upon an existing framework.

Connection Between GDP and Language Loss

A country's gross domestic product (GDP) per capita has been found to be directly correlated with the loss of language diversity. Hence, the more successful a nation is economically, the more rapidly language diversity in the nation disappears. This is because as economies develop, one language typically comes to dominate a nation's political, economic, and education spheres. Speakers of endangered languages may see the dominant language as offering more economic opportunities as well as a route of integration into mainstream society. Often times, this is a pressure causing people such people to forego their native language for the dominant language of the country or region in order to not miss out economically and politically.



Caption #1: Language distribution of each continent

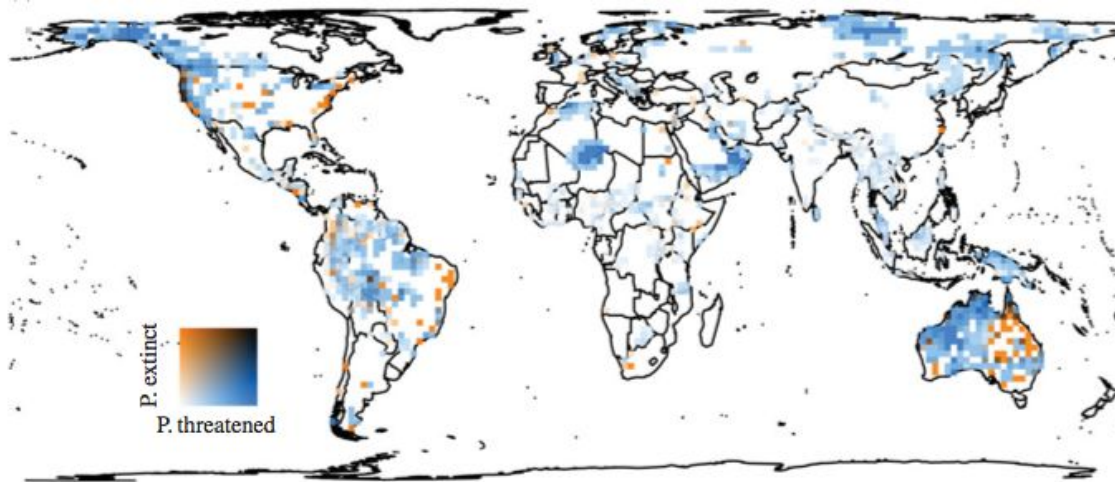
The issue of language extinction as a result of economic growth is a worldwide phenomenon that can be seen in both more economically developed countries (MEDCs) as well as less economically developed countries (LEDCs).

United States of America

In the United States, many indigenous languages that once thrived are now endangered. While there is no official language in the United States, English is the primary language used in politics but more importantly, day to day exchanges in the economy. Thus, many indigenous populations teach their children English, instead of their traditional languages. In response, the United States government passed the Native American Languages Act of 1990. In effect, the United States established a federal policy that strived to preserve, protect, and promote Native American languages. Funding was also given to some tribes to revitalize their languages.

Nepal

In Nepal, the existence of endangered languages is also apparent. One issue is the lack of knowledge or regard that Nepali speakers have of indigenous languages. In turn, speakers of indigenous languages often feel discriminated. Also, in Nepal it seems there is a correlation between early education access and language loss. A UNESCO research report on language endangerment in Nepal found that access to early education increases the chance that children adopt mainstream languages, namely Nepali. This shows that the languages taught in primary schooling can have a profound impact on students. Delegates could explore the possibility of including education in this way.



Caption #2: Map of threatened and extinct languages in the world

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
June, 1992	The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is signed by 150 nations at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit
June 1996	Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights signed by the International PEN Club and several NGOs
July 2000	United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues established
November, 2001	UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity adopted

UN Involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

- UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, 2 November 2001
- UN Resolution 56/262, 9 April 2002 (**A/RES/56/262**)

Possible Solutions

Various solutions may work to resolve this issue of language extinction as a result of economic growth. First of all, nations could encourage bilingualism as this would allow such speakers to continue speaking and preserving their own language while reaping the political and economic benefits provided by being a speaker of the dominant language of the nation. One of the most important solutions is to establish a clear scale to categorize levels of language endangerment. While globalization has been seen as an important factor that has resulted in the increasing lack of diversity in the world, little research has truly quantified the overall impact of globalization modernization on language extinction. Furthermore, the act of raising awareness of this issue is crucial to resolving this issue as most are not aware of or do not recognize the extent of the loss of language diversity in the world. Both nations as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) could be involved in raising awareness of this issue to the general populace as well as creating events celebrating cultural diversity.

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Forum:	Economic and Social Council
Issue:	Strengthening the role of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to sever the link between drug trafficking and the financing of terrorism
Chair:	Oliver Feuerhahn and Eden Pien

Introduction

For decades, drug trafficking has been causing detrimental effects to the world we live in today. Since the establishment in 1997, UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has been assisting member states to fight against drug trafficking, forming and implementing drug controlling policies, such as Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, and the International Drug Control Conventions. However, even to this day, we are unable to fully tackle the issue of drug trafficking. Terrorism, similarly, continues to stand as a major threat to global peace and unity. Given the extreme complexity of the activities terrorism can be involved in, UNODC has been working closely with the Counter-Terrorism Committee to develop and monitor universal legal framework against terrorism.

Drugs most often serve as the key source of financing for terrorist groups. Drug traffickers along with terrorist organizations both benefit from these transactions. For example, according to UNODC's World Drug Report 2016, it is estimated that a total value of illicit opiate economy in Afghanistan to be \$2.8 billion in 2014. Even a small proportion of this amount would greatly assist terrorist organizations to carry out their crimes. UNODC does not consider tackling illegal drug networks to be an overly ambitious goal, instead it considered them as "groups and networks that operate in ways that can be understood, identified, tracked and ultimately disrupted." UNODC proclaims to establish more effective and feasible solutions to combat this urgent issue.

Definition of Key Terms

Drug Trafficking

Global illicit trade involving the cultivation, manufacture and distribution of substances which are subject to drug prohibition laws. (UNODC)

Narcotic Drugs

Depressants that produce stuporous states for people who take them. These drugs often induce a feeling of extremely well-being. Furthermore, they are powerfully addictive.

Narcoterrorism

Illegal drug trade done by drug traffickers in order to support, or finance, terrorist groups.

Money Laundering

A method to conceal the source of illegally obtained wealth in order to avoid inspection from government agencies or organizations.

Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

An intergovernmental body established in 1989 by G-7 Summit in Paris. The objectives of the FATF are to terminate terrorist financing, money laundering and other similar threats to the international financing system, and to monitor nations' progresses in implementing the FATF Recommendations.

General Overview

Key Issues

Organized Crime

UNODC defined organized crime as, "crime threatens peace and human security,

violates human rights and undermines economic, social, cultural, political and civil development of societies around the world.” Organized crime can engage various illegal activities such as, drug trafficking, human trafficking, cybercrime, etc. Many innocent lives were lost by these abominable criminals. Organized crime has become a bigger problem; rapid international and transnational trades provide an easier path for these criminals. With the advance of technology as well as intricate workings of a complex drug network, it has become more difficult for government agencies and organizations to track down these criminal organizations.

Drug Trafficking

The use of narcotics to fund terrorism isn't something new to most countries. Evidently, terrorist organizations partake in illegal activity. This means that funding their actions through regular means like proper jobs and donations is harder to go unnoticed. Organizations and their members don't pay tax as these people cannot put a legally legitimate source of income down. Thus, they look to illegal means in order to carry out acts of terror across the globe.

Money-laundering

As money-laundering activities allow individuals to conceal their source of illegally obtained wealth, they come in handy when terrorist groups want to avoid inspection from government agencies or organizations. However, money-laundering activities are not only used by terrorist groups, politicians and businessmen may also engage in such activities. Money-laundering can have serious effects to a country's economic growth; it can result in welfare losses, macroeconomic instability and chaos in exchange-rate measures. Money-laundering can affect both major financial markets and developing countries.



The FATF Logo

Major countries and parties involved

Afghanistan

Vast amount of illegal drugs are smuggled into Afghanistan every year by organized crime groups or terrorists. Major sources, according to US Department of State, are initially from China, India and Central Asian states. Coupled with a large influx of illegal drugs are factors that all but make cracking down on the sources of these drugs harder. Internal issues such as limited administrative and police capacity put a drag on efforts to curb precursor substances and processing equipment. Afghan heroin conversion tend to take place in small laboratories as small scale operations. On top of all this, re-packaging and false labeling make it even harder to identify shippers. In the past, Afghanistan has established a program to target large traffickers and dealing processes. However, it was soon controlled by influential players of the local drug cartel.

United States of America

A large amount of terrorist attacks against the United States have appeared over recent times. This is largely due to American intervention in Middle Eastern countries that form terrorist organizations that are directly against the US. For example, Taliban and ISIS are two key players in terms of violence against the United States. These organizations are illegal in accordance to international law, however, they fund the violence against the United States through the drug sales globally.

Colombia

Colombia is one of the world's major producer of opium. While trying to tackle the complex drug dealing networks inland, the Colombian government has tightened chemical uses to reduce drug abuses. In 2000, the Colombian government has also taken a direct and comprehensive strategy, aerial spraying, in order to eradicate drug productions. Unfortunately, this strategy was claimed to be ineffective as the quantity of coca and poppy plant did not decrease. The Colombian government will continue working with the U.S government to find a feasible solution to fully combat this issue.

Timeline of Events

Description of event	Date
Establishment of the FATF	1989
Security Council passes resolution 1373, a counter terrorism measure following the attack on the United States, international law regarding terrorism has since shifted supporting the views established with the resolution	2001
Security Council passes resolution 2195, diminishing the possibility of funding terrorism through transnational organized crime	2014

Possible Solutions

The question presents two major world conflicts; however, it is important to note that stopping both of them isn't the main concern of the issue. In order for the both terrorism and organized crime to diminish in size it is important that the link between the two is severed. In order to do so, multiple concrete steps need to take place.

A large issue is of course the location of terrorist organizations and their funds, because organizations don't pay tax and abide to government regulations that tracking of wealth in terrorist organizations is hard to track. Thus, profits made from organized crime and drug trafficking need to first be monitored and located in order for governments and international organizations to gain the ability to stop the influx of profit many terrorist organizations receive due to their illicit activity. Finance can be monitored by conducting wealth analysis and worked globally to limit economic growth within terrorist organizations.

Another obvious problem is the global increase of unregulated trade. With billions of items being shipped every hour the monitoring and distribution of resources is bound to be a hard issue to tackle. However, if proper measures are taken the monitoring of trade could help solve the previous problem of wealth discrepancies and illegal activity. For example, if the United States would better regulate the imports from high risk countries like Colombia, cocaine

imports would be limited and thus terrorist organizations would receive less money in return of their crime. Thus, they wouldn't be able to fund their operations successfully severing the link between drug trafficking and terrorism.

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Forum: Economic and Social Council

Issue: Combatting the effects of overuse of legal pharmaceuticals and rising suicide rate in developed nations

Chair: Azim Butt and Jacob Chen

Introduction

Taking prescription drugs, drugs administered by doctors, have become a common and accepted form of treatment in modern society. Doctors would prescribe their patients with drugs for their illness, whether it is diabetes, depression, or even acne.. However, what many people do not realize is that prescription drugs have become an epidemic to society, with deaths by overdose of prescription painkillers alone quadrupling since 1999.

Prescription drugs are not dangerous if they are taken as they are prescribed by the patient's doctor, but the problems of prescription drugs start when patients start overdosing, taking others' medicine, or using drugs for pleasure. Patients may take an overdose of their prescribed drugs to commit suicide; over a million people take their own lives each year by taking an overdose of legal drugs. Furthermore there has been an increase of sixty percent in the global suicide rate over the past forty-five years. Drug abusers also may take other people's prescribed drugs, often unaware of the potential dangers of consuming non-prescribed drugs. Finally, many drug abusers take drugs hoping to achieve pleasure from the drug's side effects. However, this action can very likely lead to addiction, for many drugs activate the brain's reward or pleasure center and a higher dosage of the drug is needed to achieve the same feeling of "highness" every time the drug is taken.

Overuse of legal pharmaceuticals has been a source of suicide, addiction, and abuse; the "resolution" of this issue remains critical to the stability of society and the welfare of human

beings. Aiming to reduce and regulate the distribution of legal pharmaceuticals without restraining those that are taking the medicine as prescribed should be the goal of this topic.

Definition of Key Terms

Legal Pharmaceuticals

Drugs that are permitted by the law. Some examples are prescription drugs, sleeping pills, alcohol, aspirin, and nicotine.

Committing Suicide

Committing suicide is the act of intentionally causing your own death. Indicators of possible suicide include schizophrenia, mental disorders, being emotionally unstable, and substance misuse. Other factors that might potentially contribute to committing suicide include being bullied, troubles with a relationship, and financial difficulties.

Methods of taking one's own life varies from country to country. Common methods include firearms, suffocation, and poisoning.

Addiction

A constant behavioral pattern of drug use marked by an overwhelming desire to use the drug. Even if a person suffering from addiction were to stop using the drug, he or she would still be attached to the drug, wanting to take more of it.

Tolerance

Tolerance means that after constant usage of a drug over a period of time, it takes more and more doses of the drug to reach the desired pleasurable effect.

Psychological Dependency

A change that occurs in the nervous system which causes a person to need to take a drug to prevent the body from producing painful withdrawal symptoms. Psychological dependence also refers to feeling necessary to take a drug in order to achieve psychological or emotional well-being caused by the side effects.

Withdrawal Symptoms

Withdrawal symptoms are when you feel physically and emotionally painful after you stop taking drugs you're dependent on. Common drugs that cause withdrawal symptoms are alcohol, opioids, caffeine, and nicotine.

General Overview

Key Issues

Increasing suicidal tendency amongst the population

Suicide rates in the United States has been rising anywhere between the ages of 10 and 74 since 1999. In 2014, 13 out of 100,000 people in the United States took their own lives. However, high-income countries are not the only countries affected by increasing suicide rates; 75% of global suicides were committed in low to middle income countries in 2012. Often times, suicides occur “in the heat of the moment,” with a crisis such as financial issues, troubles with a relationship, or an illness. Some actions that can be taken to prevent people from committing suicide are: reducing access to the means of suicide (firearms, drugs that can be lethal if taken in a large dosage), early identification of people that may commit suicide, and follow-up care for those who have attempted suicide.

Dangers of legal pharmaceuticals

It is quite prevalent amongst society nowadays to misuse or overuse legal pharmaceuticals, which causes health problems in the long run. The most frequently misused drugs include opioid painkillers, central nervous depressants used for anxiety and sleep disorders, and drugs that treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Common misuses of legal pharmaceuticals include taking others' drugs, taking an excess dosage, and taking drugs with other medications or drinks. The consequences of misusing legal pharmaceuticals include choking, changes in mood, and slowed breathing. Furthermore, misusing legal pharmaceuticals could ultimately lead to addiction and dependency.

Abuse of prescription drugs

Opioids, prescription painkiller drugs, are often abused and lead to addiction. Abuse of prescription drugs are also depressing to our central nervous system, which is likely to harm our body over a long duration of time.

Nervous system

Our nervous systems can be affected in various ways by drugs. For example drugs can cause a release of dopamine, which causes a pleasurable feeling in our brain. When the brain detects this excessive release of dopamine, it closes up dopamine receptors. Therefore, the same amount of dopamine will not trigger a sensation as pleasurable as the first release. This is the science behind addiction and why people need to take larger and larger doses of a drug to feel happy. Furthermore, drugs can also block re-uptake of the neurotransmitter dopamine, which means that dopamine would stay around longer to excite neighboring neurons.

Marketing

1. Direct-to-consumer Marketing
 - Only a few countries allow it(USA and New Zealand).
 - Criticized for encouraging “disease mongering” among patients who are made to think that they are sick and thus will demand their doctors for certain prescription drugs.
2. Drug Representatives-to-healthcare Professionals
 - Offers promotional speaking, research grants, free gifts (meals, devices, etc.), and trips abroad to professionals.
 - In five months alone in 2013, \$3.5 billion US dollars were paid to doctors and hospitals for drug advertising.
 - This type of advertising may lead to inappropriate prescriptions.
 - The Sunshine Act and Mexico City Principles attempt to regulate this form of marketing.

Pharmaceutical Fraud

Sometimes, pharmaceutical companies may commit pharmaceutical fraud in the interests of earning that sweet money. Some violations include failure to uphold Good

Manufacturing Practices(GMP), off-label marketing or promoting unapproved drugs, lying about the lowest possible price of a drug, and providing rewards to medical professionals who prescribe their products.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

The UNODC serves as a major institution that helps address issues such as illicit drug trafficking and abuse. The UNODC annually releases a drug report, keeping statistics up to date and pinpointing the focus of issues pertaining to their research from time to time. Although legal pharmaceuticals are not illicit, there has been several conventions held to address the problems of drug abuse, controlling drugs, treating mental illnesses, etc.

United States of America (USA)

In the past two decades, the amount of prescription painkillers and legal pharmaceuticals (including drugs such as alcohol, nicotine, and caffeine) have exploded in the United States. About half of the people living in the United States are using prescription drugs. With an increased amount of drugs being consumed by the general population, overdose and addiction have taken control over a significant percentage of the public's life.

World Health Organization (WHO)

The primary functions and aims of the World Health Organization are raising awareness in global mental health. The WHO also sets conventions and guidelines for people to follow by collaborating or through other methods they deem necessary. Another function of the WHO is to help nations, whether developed or under developing nations, to formulate policies that increase its health support for its people.

Pharmaceutical Companies

Like all companies, pharmaceutical companies aim to make money, and that is fine. However, problems arise when making money causes death and addiction among the people. Major pharmaceutical companies such as Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer, and Novartis use aggressive marketing tactics to fool people into buying their products. These companies advertise their drugs as “all-purpose” and fund non-profit organizations such as the American Pain Society with the intention of promoting opioid treatment practices.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of Event
1950-1970	The first suicide prevention center in the United States was opened in Los Angeles, California. After 1966 other crisis intervention centers followed to study the prevention of people committing suicide. A national nonprofit organization dedicated to the cause of suicide prevention known as the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and National Institutes of Health (NIH) was then created.
1990s	Suicide became a central issue around the 1990s, politically and through other aspects of this issue needed wide attention. By following and as recommended by the U.N. guidelines, the United States has set its own public and private partnership that would be responsible for promoting suicide prevention. And also nonetheless implementing national strategies to prevent and help the suicidal population.
1999	Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent Suicide published, which consolidated the National Suicide Prevention Conference's recommendations, including the creation of a National Strategy for Suicide Prevention.

2004	Federal Policies such as the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act (GLSMA) were enacted, which is the most important legislative accomplishment in the field of youth suicide prevention in the past decade.
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UN Involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

The UN has attempted to limit the amount of production and distribution of drugs unless the use of it is licensed. Furthermore, as new drugs were developed and entered the market, the UN also limited the use of distribution of those drugs. However, these past UN conventions have been targeted towards illicit drugs, whereas the issue at hand is rising suicide rates caused by legal pharmaceuticals.

- Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol
- Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961
- Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971
- United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988

Possible Solutions

Regarding drug abuse, it is possible to provide rehabilitation for those in need. It is vital to detect early onsets of addiction and to prevent rather than to cure drug abuse. Furthermore, military intervention on drug use is not an authentic method to resolve this issue. Delegates may also consider limiting drug sell and use to patients that have actually been prescribed the medicine.

One of the main focuses of this topic is also rising suicide rates; therefore, delegates should also focus on how suicide can be prevented. Some possible solutions include encouraging self-care activities like physical exercise and meditative relaxation, restricting access to means of suicide (prescribed drugs, firearms, etc.), structured suicide intervention, increasing accessibility to psychotherapy, and improving reporting and portrayals of negative behavior, suicidal behavior, mental illnesses, and substance abuse in the news and social media.

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