

The Blue Committee: Topic B Primary Sources

Combatting Illicit Trade

Here are the primary sources that your moderator or legal chair thought would be helpful in gaining an understanding of the topic. These are by no means all of the sources available, just sources we wanted to highlight.

Source #1: Confronting Illicit Tobacco Trade: A Global View of Country Experiences

This source tackles issues presented by the illicit tobacco trade, which is the most popular illicit good on the market, coupled with an analysis of the countries that lack the capacity to prevent these illicit markets from growing. The report showcases how the reduction of the illicit tobacco trade will positively impact public health, public finance, governance, and equity. Key messages from the source include that “tobacco taxes play only a minor role in illicit trade [and] to reduce illicit trade in tobacco products, it is crucial...for all countries to strengthen tax administration and enforcement.”

<http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/377251548869371433/WBG-Tobacco-IllicitTrade-ExecutiveSummary-web-FINAL.pdf>

Source #2: Mapping the Impact of Illicit Trade on the Sustainable Development Goals

The Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (TRACIT) showcases how illicit trade and its related practices are detrimental to achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Not only does it hinder the advancement of decent work and economic growth, as outlined in SGD 8, but it also impacts goals relating to poverty, health, and sustainability. Particularly, this report goes through major components of illicit trade, including alcohol, forestry, and pharmaceuticals, and describes how it hinders the progress of the global community.

https://unctad.org/meetings/en/Contribution/DITC2019_TRACIT_IllicitTradeandSDGs_fullreport_en.pdf

Source #3: Our Response to Illicit Goods (INTERPOL)

In this article and those accompanying it, INTERPOL takes a law enforcement centered approach on the issue of illicit trade. It outlines the efforts that INTERPOL takes to combat areas of illicit trade including illicit and counterfeit goods, food crime, and pharmaceutical crime. Additional sources on this webpage show the efforts INTERPOL is taking to train law enforcement officials on combating illicit trade, as well as partners it has been collaborating with in these efforts.

<https://www.interpol.int/en/Crimes/Illicit-goods/Our-response-to-illicit-goods>

Source #4: Technology Fueling Illicit Trade

With the continuous advancement in technology, more goods are being easily exploited in illegal online markets. This article describes how modern technologies, such as international supply chains, can be manipulated so illicit goods can be distributed. In particular, it highlights how technology is increasing the volume in which illicit trade is conducted, since it can technically be done from the comforts of our own homes.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1429086/world>

Source #5: Economic and Social Consequences of Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

This report by the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime conducts a socioeconomic analysis of the illicit drug- showing how this issue not only impacts the markets but also individual people. It highlights the intense magnitude of the issue, focusing specifically on counterfeit addictive substances like poppy and heroin. The UNODC then describes the damages this industry has on the macroeconomy, such as how it damages prices and incomes, as well as general productivity. Finally, it outlines how this can damage social determinants, such as levels of education, crime, and corruption.

https://www.unodc.org/pdf/technical_series_1998-01-01_1.pdf

Source #6: What if Illicit Trade Goes Unchecked?

In an interview with Steven Broad, the Executive Director of TRAFFIC, the World Economic Forum highlights the impact illicit trade could potentially have on all industries, ranging from tuna to pharmaceuticals if it goes unchecked. He highlights the often-ignored social and environmental impacts illicit trade can bring about by depleting natural resources and causing direct harm to humans. Additionally, he describes potential long-term solutions to these issues, including greater engagement of consumers.

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2012/06/what-if-illicit-trade-goes-unchecked/>