



## ***CAKAMUN 2022 UNODC STUDY GUIDE***

***Committee:*** UNODC (United Nations office on Drugs and Crimes)

***Agenda Item:*** Implementing certain standards on an international level for vaccine flow and trade

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## [Messages for Delegates](#)

Dear delegates of CAKAMUN 2022,

I am Arman Kamar, and I would like to start by welcoming all of you to the fourth CAKAMUN session. During this conference, I will be the President Chair of the committee. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with you guys as well as my awesome Deputy İpek. I hope that the conference will be an occasion you yearn to attend again. I know that there will be both well-experienced delegates and first timers in this committee, which is something that should not be worried about. Even the experienced delegates had to start their MUN journey one way or another, so I encourage you to have fun and improve yourself as MUN'ers. Remember that MUN is also a place for socializing and making friends. That being said, as your friendly chair board we do expect you to participate in the debate to the best of your abilities and adhere to the rules of conduct. I am confident that we will come up with great products. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at [kamar.arman@gmail.com](mailto:kamar.arman@gmail.com) Hope to see you soon :)

Cherished participants of CAKAMUN 22,

My name is İpek Gökağaç, and I will be assisting you as your Deputy President Chair. We will be working to make the conference memorable, educational and fun for all the attendees. We are deeply honored to witness your willingness to participate in this year's CAKAMUN. The material in this study guide will be more than enough to thoroughly appreciate the issue under discussion and prepare you for our conference discussions. However, in order to achieve a long-term solution for this aim, your full engagement in the debate is critical. You can contact me at [ipekkqk@gmail.com](mailto:ipekkqk@gmail.com). Welcome!

## About the UNODC

Since its establishment in 1997 the United Nations office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) has been working towards creating a world safer from drugs, corruption terrorism and crime. Its goal is to fend off these threats and to ensure sustainable well-being for all. It tackles problems which are usually too great for a single nation to face alone by either practical help or transnational approaches.

The work of UNODC is based around five key areas. These areas include: *Countering terrorism, tackling corruption, strengthening crime prevention, addressing the world drug problem and strengthening member states to fight transnational organized crime.*

As it can be seen from the primary focuses of UNODC, the committee's work doesn't solely revolve around drugs and crime but the significant issue of corruption too. The main focus of the committee will be about the links between corruption and other forms of crime, in particular organized crime and economic crime acts that occur prolong the vaccine trade process. We hope delegates will bear this in mind when coming up with solutions.

## Introduction and Background Information

One of the basic human rights is the right to health. The right to health guarantees that every person no matter age, race or gender is able to receive sufficient healthcare. This right is recognized by every state and implemented in all of them. The topic we are facing today disrupts the application of this right which leads to many problems in the long run.

Ever since the first vaccine against smallpox was discovered in 1796, they have undoubtedly become an essential part of our lives. With the use of the vaccination

technique diseases that were once treated by cutting off limbs are cured before they even begin to harm one's body.

The importance of the issue spiked with the COVID-19 virus. The virus which emerged in 2019 spread to over 200 nations and killed millions. The vaccinations that were released to solve this pandemic helped change the scene by giving society the hope to overcome this disease. Although the vaccines have been advantageous in many ways, it has also come with its downsides.

Many OECD nations are keeping an eye on the issue in order to protect the supply chain for COVID-19 vaccines by inspecting product packaging, storage, and shipment. However, with inadequate healthcare systems and public infrastructure may become more appealing targets for criminals committing vaccine and medication fraud.

For criminals the vaccine brings opportunities for cash flow, as the processes that facilitate illicit trade in fake pharmaceuticals will also work for the COVID-19 vaccine. Ever since the vaccine was created, the expectations regarding the effective dispersal of the vaccine were high. In the legal framework national governments are in charge of vaccine distribution in order to ensure the process's safety and the production of it is carried out by private enterprises, but all output is commissioned by governments, who handle the distribution and vaccination procedures. Criminal organizations are trying to penetrate or sabotage supply chains as governments move to roll out vaccinations.

The OECD Task Force on Countering Illicit Trade hosted a webinar on April 23, 2020, to discuss the major effects of the COVID-19 epidemic on illicit trade. One of the webinar's key conclusions was that certain industries may be especially vulnerable to fraud and illegal behavior. These include pharmaceutical and other companies that were routinely targeted by criminals before the epidemic.

Based on the findings, the OECD Task Force hosted another webinar on June 10 to discuss the illicit trade in counterfeit pharmaceuticals. The webinar concluded that the pharmaceutical industry is particularly vulnerable. During the epidemic, there has been a significant increase in demand for drugs, which is frequently not supplied. Criminals are targeting this area because they see a chance for quick riches.

Experts have identified three areas of particular concern for illicit trade in COVID-19 vaccines:

- Theft and diversion of vaccines
- Logistical transportation risks
- Misuse of the on-line environment

### **Theft and diversion of vaccines**

Initially, criminals relied on the Internet, but as more countries got vaccines and the supply chain became increasingly blurred, criminals' ability to exploit the situation by pretending to give legitimate vaccines expanded.

The complexity of supply procedures generates a variety of hazards; it is impossible to pinpoint a single region where theft and diversion may occur. Thefts are likely to be seen at many points of the supply chain. These will include attempts to enter legitimate supply chains with hijacked and pirated products, as well as the sale of counterfeit and illicit products via the Internet and at juncture sites.

### **Logistical Transportation risks**

Aside from the concerns of theft and diversion, a distinct area of potentially severe vulnerabilities includes logistical operations. These include potential hostile cyber assaults on logistics firms. These assaults may result in greater unfulfilled desire for the vaccine; they may also be tied to problems in legal supply chains, which may promote theft and diversion. Another major logistical barrier is a lack of experienced workers to give vaccinations, as well as personal protection equipment and medical (e.g., immunization) equipment. Coordinating just-in-time staff presence and supply process management is a big problem that can result in substantial disruptions to the

entire process if not accomplished. These factors can also indirectly boost demand for the vaccines in illicit marketplaces. Effective governance activities, on the other hand, can greatly lower these risks.

### **Misuse of the on-line environment**

The online environment is one of the most challenging areas related to the illicit trade in COVID-19 vaccines. Incidences of scams and fraud related to the COVID-19 vaccines have already been observed. Criminals misuse all potential channels, including rogue online pharmacies, e-platforms, and social networks; in most cases, they use logos of genuine producers to legitimize their illicit offers. Experts also expect that criminals will begin to seek to misuse text messages, emails, or automatized calls about vaccines and treatments.

The scale of COVID-19-related online threats has been increasing since the outbreak of the pandemic. In the US alone, some 70 000 websites related to COVID scams have already been closed. Based on previous experience with other medicines and treatments, experts expect that these scams will be directed not only towards the general public but also towards health agencies and governments, in the form of fake tenders

Another issue regarding the topic is the different variations. While this in itself isn't particularly an issue, not all countries accept every type of vaccine. This restricts certain nations in both trade and travel as the citizens aren't allowed to travel. The damage this problem creates in the economy is something worth noting thus, should be resolved.

## Definition of Key Terms

**Legislation:** The process or product of enrolling, enacting, or promulgating law by a legislature, parliament, or analogous governing body<sup>1</sup>.

**International Agreements:** Formal understandings or commitments between two or more countries. An agreement between two countries is called “bilateral,” while an agreement between several countries is “multilateral.” The countries bound by an international agreement are generally referred to as “States Parties”<sup>2</sup>.

**Sustainable Development Goals:** Also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity<sup>3</sup>.

**Right to health:** The right to health is a fundamental part of our human rights and of our understanding of a life in dignity. *The right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health*<sup>4</sup>

**International trade:** It is the exchange of capital, goods, and services across international borders or territories because there is a need or want of goods or services.<sup>5</sup>

**Criminal networks:** Criminal networks can be defined as sets of actors that are connected by ties which in some way or other support the commission of illegal acts<sup>6</sup>

**Organized crime:** It is a category of transnational, national, or local groupings of highly centralized enterprises run by criminals to engage in illegal activity, most commonly for profit.

7

**LEDC:** The way that a country organizes its use of money, goods, and trade is described as its economy. Some countries have less developed economies than others. These are sometimes referred to as less economically developed countries (LEDCs)<sup>8</sup>

**MEDC:** Some countries have more developed economies than others. These are sometimes referred to as more economically developed countries (MEDCs) or developed countries.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legislation>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.phe.gov/s3/law/Pages/International.aspx>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.undp.org/sustainable-development-goals>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/documents/publications/factsheet31.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_trade](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_trade)

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.organized-crime.de/criminalnetworkstrust.htm#:~:text=Criminal>

<sup>7</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organized\\_crime](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organized_crime)

<sup>8</sup> <https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/less-economically-developed-countries/476290>

<sup>9</sup> <https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/more-economically-developed-countries/476297>

## Possible Solutions

- The establishment of a supply chain similar to the one used by the EU could be a viable solution. The EU vaccine supply chain is based on agreements with six pharmaceutical firms established by EU authorities. The production takes place inside the EU. Doses are assigned to each Member State, according to their population. National agencies oversee the shipping process and act as a safeguard.
- Track and trace systems will also be helpful if they are improved. Even though these systems are currently in use further improvement could be of use. They could also be implemented not only in MEDC's but also in LEDC's.
- Strategies to include the people who are in need the most like creating free and fair access to healthcare. Ensuring the involvement of such individuals prolong the vaccine flow. The use of digital tools and campaigns in reaching out to marginalized and excluded populations bearing in mind that these groups need to have entitlement regarding the vaccination programs and their current rights to access to healthcare.
- There are no vaccines online that are officially recognized; all vaccination should be done through the government. Although this is the case there are many false advertisements claiming otherwise. Unfortunately, people who are not aware of the situation could end up in dire health. The general public should be informed, which may be through various means, so as to not risk their health.



## [Useful Links](#)

<https://www.interpol.int/News-and-Events/News/2020/INTERPOL-warns-of-organized-crime-threat-to-COVID-19-vaccines>

<https://www.oecd.org/gov/illicit-trade/summary-note-covid-19-vaccine-and-the-threat-of-illicit-trade.pdf>

[https://www.unodc.org/documents/corruption/COVID-19/Policy\\_paper\\_on\\_COVID-19\\_vaccines\\_and\\_corruption\\_risks.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/corruption/COVID-19/Policy_paper_on_COVID-19_vaccines_and_corruption_risks.pdf)

[https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/vaccine\\_trade\\_tracker\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/vaccine_trade_tracker_e.htm)

[https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/vaccine\\_checklist\\_e.pdf](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/vaccine_checklist_e.pdf)

<https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/immunization/covid-19/strategy-to-achieve-global-covid-19-vaccination-by-mid-2022.pdf>