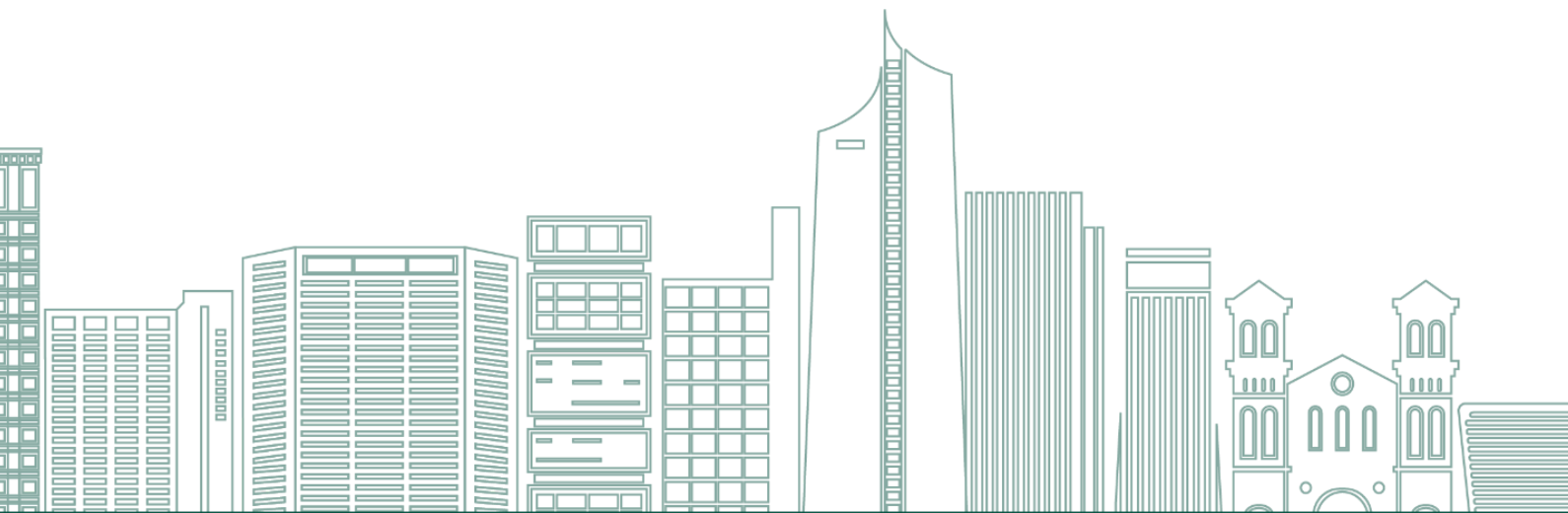




UNCTAD



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1. Welcoming letter

“World trade depends on differences among countries, not similarities. Different countries are in different stages of development. It is appropriate for them to have different patterns, different policies for ecology, labour standards, and so forth.” - Milton Friedman.

Dear delegates,

We are convinced that Models of United Nations bring opportunities that allow each one of the participants to be aware of the situations that are happening worldwide and that we normally omit. These spaces also allow us to be more conscious about what we can do in order to act in a way that our actions impact society.

That’s why, we, Jeronimo Calle Serna and Maria Camila Benjumea Cacante, in the 13th version of CCBMUN have designed, through the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), an agenda in which we expect from you as delegates to be fully committed, objective, and more importantly, to accept the challenge to debate topics that are not normally involved in our daily routines, but can have repercussions in it.

As a community we must aim for international sustainable development, which will not only be done by the efforts of one state, but by the joint actions of neighbouring nations towards the achievement of one common goal. That’s why we consider that in this committee you have the responsibility to not only satisfy the needs of your people, but also to contribute to the betterment of international relations and to the lithosphere’s balance.

If you have any questions, or have any inquiry about the commission as a whole, please feel welcome to contact us. We will be at your full disposal in order to ensure that CCBMUN XIII will be an experience that will last in your memory for years to come.

Finally, we encourage you to look at CCBMUN as an opportunity, much more than a school event, and as an experience to plan the way you want to change the present from the past, and do more than just watch.

Sincerely,

Jerónimo Calle Serna.

Maria Camila Benjumea Cacante.

Chair of UNCTAD.

unct@ccbenv.edu.co

2. Introduction to the committee

2.1 History

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was established in 1964 with the aim of promoting international trade and development. Since its creation, UNCTAD has played an important role in addressing the challenges faced by developing countries in the global trade system and has been actively involved in various initiatives to support their economic growth and development. ("United Nations Conference on Trade and Development [UNCTAD]," 2021)

Throughout its history, this organism has organised a series of conferences known as the "UNCTAD Conferences," providing member states with a platform to discuss and negotiate trade and development-related issues. These conferences have served as important forums for shaping global trade policies and fostering cooperation among nations.

In addition to its conference activities, UNCTAD publishes the annual "Trade and Development Report," which offers comprehensive analysis and policy recommendations on global economic trends, trade, and development matters. This publication has become a valuable resource for policymakers, researchers, and practitioners in the field.

Moreover, UNCTAD also provides technical assistance and capacity-building support to developing countries in various areas such as trade policy, investment promotion, debt management, and sustainable development. Through its initiatives, UNCTAD aims to promote sustainable development, address the technology gap, and advocate for inclusive and equitable trade practices.



2.2 Functions and powers

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development carries out several important functions and exercises specific powers in its pursuit of promoting international trade and development some of them are:

- **Research and Analysis:** It conducts extensive research and analysis on global economic trends, trade, and development issues. Its reports, including the flagship publication "Trade and Development Report," provide valuable insights and policy recommendations to member states, policymakers, and practitioners.
- **Policy Advice and Technical Assistance:** The conference offers policy advice and technical assistance to member states, particularly developing countries, in areas such as trade policy formulation, investment promotion, debt management, and sustainable development.
- **Capacity Building:** The UNCTAD plays a vital role in building the capacity of developing countries to participate effectively in international trade. This includes assistance in trade negotiations, enhancing trade-related skills, and promoting sustainable development practices.
- **Trade Facilitation and Promoting Inclusive Trade:** UNCTAD works towards facilitating international trade by addressing barriers and promoting inclusive and equitable trade practices. It focuses on enhancing market access, reducing trade costs, and promoting fair trade rules.
- **Consensus-Building and Policy Coordination:** UNCTAD provides a platform for member states to engage in discussions, negotiations, and consensus-building on trade and development-related issues. It helps coordinate policies among nations and fosters cooperation to address global challenges.
- **Forum for Debate and Knowledge Sharing:** UNCTAD's conferences serve as a forum for debate, knowledge sharing, and information exchange among member states, civil society, and academia. It brings



together stakeholders to discuss emerging trade and development issues (*About UNCTAD*, 2015).

2.3 Tools

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development has multiple tools which allows the correct operation of its functions and powers that are mentioned above. According to the UNCTAD Toolbox¹, its tools can be classified in 4 main categories, which are conformed by other actions; these categories are:

- a. Transforming economies, improving competitiveness
 - i. Investment Policy Reviews
 - ii. Services Policy Reviews
 - iii. Trade Policy Framework Reviews
 - iv. Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Reviews
 - v. E-Commerce and The Digital Economy
 - vi. Non-Tariff Measures
 - vii. Trade Negotiations and The International Trading System
 - viii. Sustainable Trade and The Environment
 - ix. Investment Promotion and Facilitation
 - x. Investment Guides
- b. Tackling vulnerabilities, building resilience
 - i. Support to Graduation from Least Developed Country Status
 - ii. DMFAS – Debt Management and Financial Analysis System
 - iii. UNCTAD Contribution to the Enhanced Integrated Framework
 - iv. Market Access, Rules of Origin and Geographical Indications for the Least Developed Countries
 - v. Breaking the Chains of Commodity Dependence
 - vi. Sustainable and Resilient Transport and Logistics Services
- c. Fostering economic efficiency, improving governance
 - i. Voluntary Peer Reviews of Competition and Consumer Protection Law and Policy

¹ See the complete Toolbox: <https://unctad.org/projects/TOOLBOX>

- ii. Competition and Consumer Protection Policies and Frameworks
- iii. Business Facilitation
- iv. Trade Facilitation
 - v. ASYCUDA – Automated System for Customs Data
 - vi. Statistics
- vii. Enabling Accounting and Reporting on the Private Sector’s Contribution to Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals
- viii. Investment and Public Health
- ix. International Investment Agreements
- d. Empowering people, investing in their future
 - i. Trade, Gender and Development
 - ii. Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development
 - iii. Train for Trade

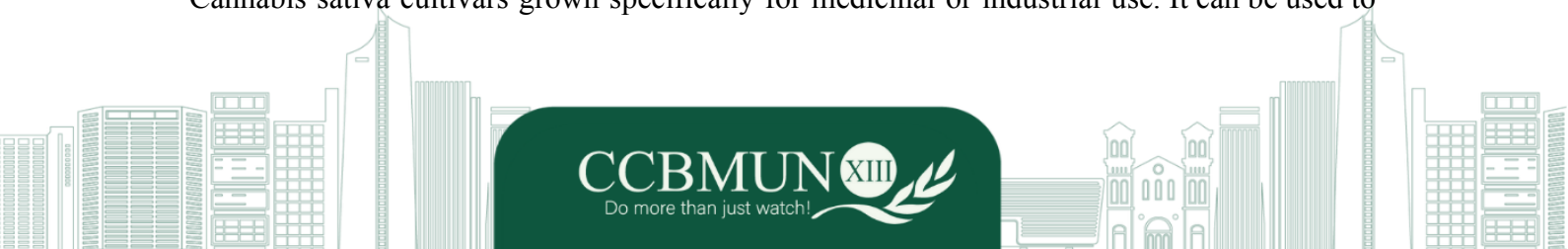
2.4 Ground documents

- United Nations Charter: <https://treaties.un.org/doc/publication/ctc/uncharter.pdf>
- Establishment of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as an organ of the General Assembly: <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/203700?ln=en>
- Rules of Procedure of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and its Subsidiary Bodies: https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/issmisc2019d2_en.pdf

3. Topic 1: Legalisation of industrial hemp worldwide.

3.1. Introduction

Hemp has been with mankind for more than 10,000 years, It's a botanical class of Cannabis sativa cultivars grown specifically for medicinal or industrial use. It can be used to



make a wide range of products such as clothing, food, medicine, therapy, etc. Along with bamboo, hemp is among the fastest growing plants on Earth. It is cultivated because of its bast fibre and edible seeds. Nevertheless there is currently a lot of misinformation about this plant.

It is usually confused with marijuana and the drug preparation hashish². The confusion between them is based on the visual similarities of widely differentiated varieties of plants. All three of them contain tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), which is a compound that produces psychoactive effects to humans, but in comparison to marijuana and hashish, it contains a minimum amount.

Cannabis sativa L., is a vigorous herbaceous annual plant. It is normally a dioecious species³, with females more vigorous and later maturing than males. But most industrial varieties are minor; in this way, all plants are fertilised and later produced so that field maturation is more homogeneous. Both sexes are morphologically indistinguishable before flowering. Male plants are taller and die after flowering. The females, on the other hand, live 3 to 5 weeks longer, until the seed matures. These female flowers are the ones that, through the trichomes⁴, they are covered with, secrete the resin that contains the cannabinoids (CBD⁵, THC⁶, among others).

Industrial hemp is from the plant species *Cannabis sativa*. It has been used worldwide to enhance the economy, such as the production industry and the medical fields. The plant is a source of fibre and oilseed grown in more than 30 nations. This plant has a vast amount of properties that have been used throughout history to develop various fields of work such as:

- Medical purposes
 - The hemp seed are easy to digest, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, high in fibre and protein which allows the body to improve cardiovascular circulation, reduce cholesterol levels in the blood, strengthen the immune system, help muscles recover after exercise, moisturise the skin, and are great for premenstrual syndrome.

² Drug preparation derived from the resin secreted by the flowering tops of cultivated female plants of the genus *Cannabis*.

³ Plant or invertebrate organism which has the female and male reproductive organs in separate individuals.

⁴ A small hair from the epidermis.

⁵ Cannabidiol

⁶ Tetrahydrocannabinol

- Environmental benefits

- Hemp has one of the longest, strongest and most durable plant-based textile fibres. The cultivation of industrial hemp and its rapid growth prevents erosion and weed growth, does not require pesticides and herbicides, it has a high yield and improves soil structure.
- Hemp cultivation is capable of generating a positive impact on the environment as it is one of the few crops capable of balancing the CO₂ emitted by humans. Through a process known as "carbon sequestration", the hemp plant traps CO₂ from the atmosphere. This generates a negative carbon footprint in the environment because the amount of CO₂ that the plant metabolises in its growth stage is greater than that released in its harvesting and processing.
- The cultivation of industrial hemp absorbs between 9 and 13 tons of CO₂ per hectare, and provides nutrients to the soil. It saves 75% more water than cotton, and also helps reduce deforestation, as it is a source of cellulose for paper manufacturing.
- Hemp does not need pesticides or herbicides, meaning that about 25% of the pesticides and herbicides, which are produced worldwide for the cotton cultivation, are going to be saved because this type of crop does not need them.
- Industrial hemp can replace plastic and petroleum. The use of hemp can replace petroleum in almost all its applications. It is used as a raw material in the production of more than 50,000 products, and it is useful for a large amount of industrial applications. Hemp can be obtained from biofuels to plastics, textile fibres, cellulose for the paper industry, materials for construction, for the aeronautical industry, etc.

Hemp was one of the first plants with usable purposes that began over fifty thousand years ago. The plant can be refined into a vast variety of applications and commercial items such as:



- Starting with one of the main applications, the hemp fibre. It possesses a number of unique properties that make it ideal for hemp clothing. Hemp fibre is one of the most durable, strongest and softest fibres in the plant world.
- Other products that can be extracted from industrial hemp are flower, which is harvested by hand and has medicinal uses, beer fermentation, infusions, etc. Then the hemp seed, which is used for food, and finally we obtain the straw, which is made up of cellulose and fibre, the former is used to produce paper, biomass, bioethanol, etc.

3.2. Background

Throughout history, hemp has been used extensively in several fields such as: paper, arts, medicine, fabrics, food, pottery, etc. Hemp was one of the first cultivated fibre plants with an archeological record of its tracking back in ancient civilizations in North and central Asia. Originating the pottery and rope imprints. Later on some seeds of the plant were found in Europe, Asia and America.

Hemp started to be cultivated long ago, almost fifty thousand years ago. It may also be one of the first plants to be domesticated or cultivated. Hemp use archaeologically dates back to the Neolithic Age in China, with hemp fibre imprints found on Yangshao culture pottery dating from the 5th millennium BC.

Textile expert Elizabeth Wayland Barber summarises the historical evidence that *Cannabis sativa*, "grew and was known in the Neolithic period all across the northern latitudes, from Europe (Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Romania, Ukraine) to East Asia (Tibet and China)" but, "textile use of *Cannabis sativa* does not surface for sure in the West until relatively late, namely the Iron Age." That's why "I strongly suspect, however, that what catapulted hemp to sudden fame and fortune as a cultigen and caused it to spread rapidly westwards in the first millennium B.C. was the spread of the habit of pot-smoking from somewhere in south-central Asia, where the drug-bearing variety of the plant initially occurred. The linguistic evidence strongly supports this theory, both as to the time and direction of spread and as to cause." (*About Hemp History Hemp Is One of the Oldest and Most*, n.d.)

"The use of hemp reached its peak in the 18th century. After the industrial revolution, the development of the cotton gin. along with industrialised agribusiness, other materials were favoured for fabric and paper. Even so hemp is still just as versatile and strong, and in the

fight against climate change and ecological breakdown, hemp could be a key to unlocking sustainable and regenerative production.” (Assaf, n.d.)

As a result of what was mentioned above, for a further understanding of the history of the topic and plant, we are going to take a more specific look regarding its presence throughout history in most of the continents:

- Hemp in Asia

There are several pieces of evidence which reveal that hemp was used in a variety of artefacts such as bowstrings casted-off by archers in battle, to records of cannabis used as medicine. Despite that it was also significant in poetry, art and prose because it was always referenced.

“The earliest Chinese history, celebrates the value of hemp for fibre, and reported that hemp was grown in present day Hunan and Anhui provinces.” (MacGilp, 2021) The Hindu religious paper hemp is considered a gift since it is a “sacred grass,” one of the five sacred plants of India.

The latest Chinese dictionary with cultural, agricultural and social content, (written during the Qin (221 BC-207 BC) and Western Han (206 BC-24 AD) dynasties.) does a distinction of the plant sexuality; which was the male (*xi má*) and female (*ju má*) hemp. The book also describes the plant as a plant with strong and soft fibre, able to be whirled into cloth, and the plant's seeds could be used for food.

- Paper hemp

This tool was one of the most laboured inventions of the Chinese empire at the time. The material was found in Chinese graves dating as early as the 1st century. “This paper was made by crushing hemp fibre and mulberry tree bark into a pulp, and mixing this with water in a large tank of water. The tangled fibres rose to the top of the water, were removed, and placed into a mould. After drying, the fibres formed sheets that could be written on.” (Assaf, n.d.)

This process was a secret for several centuries, until the 5th century, where the Japanese empire discovered it and, through the Chinese prisoners in the 9th century, the information was leaked that caused the Arab countries to be able to access this new technology.

- Fabric hemp

In ancient China, the bast fibre of the male plant was used to spin yarn and weave cloth. Until cotton was introduced to the country during the Northern Song dynasty (960 AD-1127 AD), hemp was the dominant cloth in Chinese society. During the Western Zhou dynasty (1100 BC-771 BC) hats, shoes and robes were made from high-quality hemp. The fine and strong nature of the fibre provided evidence of the advanced agricultural tools developed by these ancient civilisations.

Once the element was well developed as an industrialised crop in China, it was later introduced to Europe along with the Silk Road, where it was traded in the Mediterranean countries across the Middle Ages. In the 16th century it reached South America, (Chile, Peru,) lastly North America.

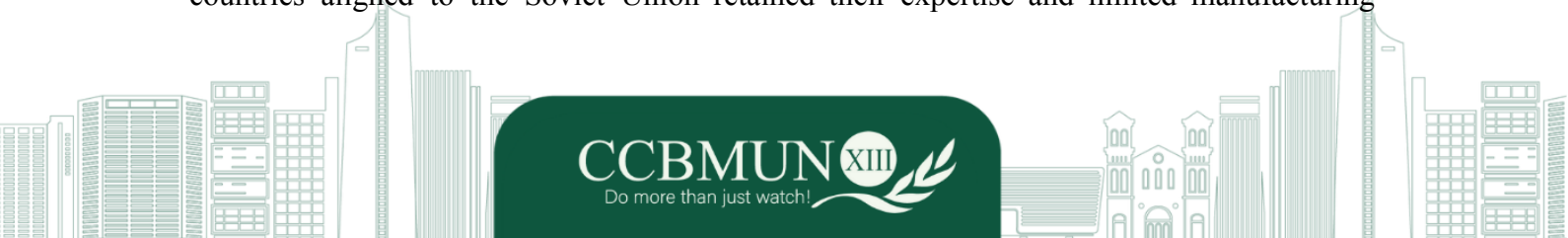
- Hemp in Europe

Hemp has been a traditional plant in Europe throughout the years. All parts of the plant are consumed; the leaves, stem, flowers, seeds, extracts, etc. All of them are traditional ingredients and food supplements that have been part of the culture for centuries. The plant is tied to European agrarian culture, and its culinary use can be traced back to the Middle Ages. Countries such as Italy, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden and Slovakia among others, documented how hemp could be used to make dishes and improve people's well-being. In fact, one of the oldest cookbooks, "De Honesta Voluptate Et Valetudine, published in 1475 AD by Bartolommeo de Sacchi Platina, shows a recipe of a health drink of cannabis nectar."

Many European countries, such as Sweden and Poland more specifically, documented the plant as a vegetable. However, hemp was most popular in temperate regions for its ideal characteristics to make textile and cordage fibre. Together with flax, hemp is one of the oldest natural fibres used by humans.

Later in Europe, hemp was mainly cultivated for its fibres and was used for ropes on many ships, including those of Christopher Columbus. The use of hemp as a cloth was centred largely in the countryside, with higher quality textiles being available in the towns.

Hemp production in Europe sharply decreased as soon as the new synthetic fibres (nylon, polyester, and acrylic) made their grand debut in the 1950s. "Only France and some Eastern countries aligned to the Soviet Union retained their expertise and limited manufacturing



facilities. Elsewhere, thousands of companies, working with natural fibres, closed under the pressure of competition from new “artificial” fibre products.” (EIHA, n.d.)

- Hemp in America
 - Latin America

The plant arrived on the American continent around 1492, at the hands of the Spaniards. After their arrival, and after the land was reclaimed on behalf of the Catholic Monarchs, it was the Spaniards who brought hemp seeds to America, which belonged to the non-psychoactive varieties of the plant. The seeds were destined for the production of fibre that would later be used for the elaboration of industrial hemp products, such as ropes, fabrics, and textiles.

Thus, since the 16th century, the cultivation of the first strains of cannabis began to develop in America, mainly in Mexico and Chile, where the growing climate was more similar to that of the Iberian Peninsula. These Spanish plants belong to the species traditionally cultivated in Europe for industrial purposes, known today as *Cannabis Sativa*, or narrow-leaf hemp.

- Anglo America

Hemp was widespread in Canada and the United States in the 18th and 19th centuries. The Puritans brought hemp to New England in 1645 as a fibre source for household spinning and weaving, but it never rivalled flax in importance.

Cultivation spread to Virginia and, in 1775, to Kentucky, where the crop grew so well, a commercial cordage industry developed. The hemp industry flourished in Kentucky, Missouri, and Illinois between 1840 and 1860, because of the strong demand for sailcloth and cordage by the U.S. Navy. However, increased production of cotton in the South, due to the development of the cotton gin, and imports of cheaper jute and abaca eventually displaced most domestic hemp production (Dempsey, Ehrensing).

In Canada, in 1938, the cultivation of the plant was prohibited, along with the Indian hemp. “Hemp followed the negative stigma of marijuana and became illegal. With the ban, the hemp industry collapsed for the first time.” (terrafibre, n.d.) However, in 1998, Ottawa agreed to distinguish between industrial hemp and marijuana. Because of this, the hemp plant can now be cultivated freely again. Since then, Hemp has taken a slow but steady race to banish all negative connotations surrounding the ingredients and use of the plants.

3.3. Current situation

Nowadays, the hemp plant, which had been widely used as food for centuries, was erroneously designated alongside the cannabis (marijuana) flower as a narcotic substance in the UN Single Convention⁷. Throughout the years, this has caused a lot of confusion, as the cultivation of cannabis plants for industrial purposes is clearly exempted from the scope of international control. The industrial hemp sector has been severely restricted in terms of onerous licensing procedures, unclear and complex procedures that the European and national regulations are dealing with all hemp-derived food products.

The cultivation of industrial hemp is one of the crops that is best adapted to environmental conditions. More than 25,000 biodegradable products can be manufactured from hemp, such as paper, building materials, textiles, cosmetics, among many others.

Since there are several legal loopholes in the legislations of a great amount of countries regarding this topic, we're going to facilitate some information about the general legislation in the majority of the continents:

- Europe

Between 2013 and 2018, the cultivation of industrial hemp has increased by 70% across Europe. Currently, there are about 50,000 hectares grown throughout Europe, according to the EIHA (European Industrial Hemp Association).

The cultivation of industrial hemp in the European Union is permitted, and it is also subsidised with EU funds. As Spain is a member state of the European Union, all eligible Spanish farmers can apply for financial support for the cultivation of industrial hemp.

Under EU legislation, food supplements have no market barriers. Moreover, they can be consumed freely, or produced under appropriate restrictions. Until now CBD had been legally defined as a food supplement. This spurred a huge industrial hemp revolution in health stores across Europe.

⁷ Conference for the adoption of a single convention on narcotic drugs to replace by a single instrument the existing multilateral treaties in the field. The Convention was ratified almost 60 years ago (24 January to 25 March 1961) by 180 states and it still determines today's national drug control legislations worldwide. https://www.unodc.org/pdf/convention_1961_en.pdf



- Asia

In the continent most of the delegations are not willing to use their lands to enhance the use of this plant. However, Thailand legalised marijuana cultivation at home in 2022, while South Korea, Japan and Malaysia are paving the way for pharmaceutical applications.

- America

The continent is the one that holds the highest shares in the market. Brazil and Argentina are the countries with the greatest impact on this market. The governments of each country have different legislations that allow the development of these products, but even so it is still very limited.

The United States finds themselves in a similar case. The few farmers who have a permit to grow this plant have a very small field of action, which does not allow them to do as much as they could with these crops.

As for the current crisis or problem that we are facing as an international community, there are several documents or laws, that end up chaining or interacting with each other: first is the lack of information, not only by civilians but also by the governments themselves, as mentioned at the beginning of the guide, and even in this section. Second, comes the extinction of the plant, which can even be considered as an eradication or destruction of something that has been part of the history of mankind for more than 100,000 years. Last but not least, there is the sustainable development that we must have as a community, and how this plant could be of great help. However, a lot of countries consider it illegal, and they have banned it from their countries, not only for their cultivation, but the products themselves.

3.4. Guide questions

1. In your country, how is the legal status of hemp? Is it legal to produce it? To sell it? To use it in industrial processes?
2. In your country's legislation, is specified the differentiation between the industrial and recreational purposes of cannabis?
3. Does your country cultivate and produce hemp? If the answer is yes, how much hemp is produced yearly?
4. In your country, in which industries or sectors is hemp used most?

3.5. Recommendations

It is important to start by highlighting that cannabis can be used for many purposes, the one that is most common is for recreational purposes, where it is used as a hallucinogenic substance, which in some countries is prohibited by law. However, due to all the benefits and properties that this plant has (that are mentioned above), it can also be used for industrial purposes (where it is commonly known as hemp), something that in some countries is not taken into consideration under the law.

With all these in mind, it is important that during the debate you analyse and discuss all the advantages and disadvantages that a worldwide legalisation of hemp would have. Taking into consideration all the different subjects where it can have repercussions, such as a country's development, the environment, the social and political contexts, a country's economy, the law enforcement, the agriculture and those who work in it, among many others.

3.6. Useful links

- Commodities at a glance: Special issue on industrial hemp <https://unctad.org/publication/commodities-glance-special-issue-industrial-hemp>
- Workshop on industrial hemp <https://unctad.org/meeting/workshop-industrial-hemp>
- Linking Cannabis and hemp policies <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/linking-cannabis-and-hemp-policies-sustainable-development-and-human-rights>
- <https://eiha.org/>
- <https://www.britannica.com/plant/hemp>
- <https://feel.prima.co/magazine/the-history-of-hemp/>
- <https://hanfhaus.de/en/about-hemp-history-pi-155.html>
- <https://www.agmrc.org/commodities-products/fiber/industrial-hemp>
- <https://www.marketdataforecast.com/market-reports/latin-america-industrial-hemp-market>

3.7. Glossary

Herbaceous: Any vascular plant that does not have true woody stems above ground.

Dioecious: (Of a plant or invertebrate animal) having the male and female reproductive organs in separate individuals.

Ribbed: Especially of a fabric or garment) having a pattern of raised bands.

Pilot taste.

Taproot: A large, central, and dominant root from which other roots sprout laterally.

Trichomes: Unicellular or multicellular appendages, which are an extension of the above-ground epidermal cells in plants.

Cannabinoids: A class of biological compounds that bind to cannabinoid receptors.

Tetrahydrocannabinol: Major psychoactive component and one of the 113 cannabinoids recognized in cannabis.

Onerous licensing procedures: formal agreement that brings disadvantages for one of the people or companies that have signed it.

4. Topic 2: Applications of a continental strategy to strengthen regional cotton value chains for poverty reduction and food security.

4.1 Introduction

What is meant by continental strategy is a concrete plan or program, which is formulated to facilitate sustainable rural development in accordance with the vision of the leaders of the continent/region. These plans are created In order to achieve a prosperous region based on inclusive growth and sustainable development.

Regarding the topic , Michael E. Porter invented a method named the value chain analysis, which is defined by the Oxford Dictionary as the process or activities by which a company adds value to an article, including production, marketing, and the provision of after-sales service. This process helps companies and projects to make them more strategically interesting and successful, by creating a clear overview of the organisation. The company gains competitive advantages by performing the strategically relevant activities more cheaply or better than its competitors.



Bearing this in mind, the UNCTAD has already started a strategy, along with continental leaders. It is named the Pan-African Cotton Road Map, which aims to alleviate poverty and increase food security in each part of the African continent. It was developed in 2014, because of the need of the continent to reinforce their development and economy, and it continues nowadays, but with less strength.

Therefore there is a need to define both crises, which can be defined as; poverty: the insecurity, powerlessness and exclusion of individuals, households and communities (*United Nations Definition of Poverty*, n.d.). And food security as: when a person has the physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (*Food Security and Nutrition*, n.d.).

4.2 Background

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations itself have taken a variety of decisions that have allowed the reduction of poverty and improvement of food security in several continents, especially in Latin America and Africa. Nevertheless there are still a lot of situations that do not allow these processes to take place. An example of one of the solutions that the commission came up with, was to indicate which strategies are better to improve food security including diversifying imports and increasing domestic production, circular farming and responsible investment in food systems. Also, regarding poverty, the conference conducts “policy-oriented research on the interlinkages between trade and poverty in poor, developing countries such as those in Africa and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The overall goal of research activities is to identify policy options at the national and international levels on the use of trade as a tool for poverty eradication.” (*Trade and Poverty Reduction | UNCTAD*, n.d.).

More precisely, a roadmap is a strategic plan that defines a goal or desired outcome and “includes the major steps or milestones needed to reach it. It also serves as a communication tool, a high-level document that helps articulate strategic thinking—the why—behind both the goal and the plan for getting there.” (*Roadmap Basics: What Is a Roadmap?*, 2019)



Taking into account what was previously said, this method has been applied by the UNCTAD but only in the African continent. Cotton was identified as a raw material that allows a lot of countries and thus continents, to develop themselves and mitigate several crises such as unemployment, poverty, clandestine jobs, etc. Therefore, you will be given a context and summary of what was done in the case of Africa, so that there is a better background of what happened, what has improved in the project and how it will be carried out on a larger scale, so it can be delivered to most of the continents.

The Cotton roadmap is the result of UNCTAD's extensive process of consultation with governments of cotton producing countries, stakeholders in the cotton sector as well as regional and international partners to define a common strategy and overcome major challenges in this sector. UNCTAD, as the specialised agency of the United Nations with a mandate on international trade policy on commodities and development, has long been interested in problems related to raw materials in developing countries. From this perspective, in December 2008, UNCTAD organised a multi-stakeholder event on cotton⁸. This meeting, which assembled six African Ministers of Commerce, the Director General of World Trade Organization (WTO), several senior government officials as well as representatives of international organisations, from civil society and the private sector, reviewed the situation of the cotton sector and discussed specific challenges facing low-income countries dependent on cotton exports.

The need to address problems of the African cotton sector was highly prioritised. Participants also requested that UNCTAD organise a multi-stakeholder meeting to specifically discuss the issues faced by African countries that rely mainly on cotton exports. In response to this request, UNCTAD, in collaboration with international institutions and stakeholders, organised a Pan-African meeting on cotton in Benin in June, 2011. During the preparatory process of the meeting, numerous consultations were held and several studies were undertaken to present a full overview of the current situation and principal challenges of the cotton sector at national, regional and international levels.

⁸ https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/dom20091_en.pdf

The Road Map is based on the results and conclusions of the Cotonou meeting.⁹ It spells out the path towards the integration of on-going processes in the African cotton sector with the objective of reviving it. In this context, the Road Map describes concrete short, medium and long-term actions and objectives for the various cotton sector stakeholders. It also specifies the length of these actions and provides indicators to assess progress. Consequently, the Road Map is a pragmatic tool with a real potential for improving living conditions of populations involved in the cotton sector on the continent. The Road Map specifically seeks to respond to the issues in the cotton sector linked to productivity, marketing and value-addition.

In addition, the application of risk management techniques, links between producers and buyers and information exchange at different stages of the value chain of cotton must be improved to ensure that production and processing are in line with changing market demands. Finally, it is necessary to reverse the current situation, in which an important share of cotton added-value goes to external stakeholders. Promoting a qualitative and sustainable African textile sector will require addressing the many constraints facing the African manufacturing industry, such as outdated technology and poor-quality infrastructure.

The progress and expected results this mechanism has given are:

- Strengthening the coordination and capacities of stakeholders and institutions of this sector, to mobilise programmes and instruments of existing national, regional and Pan-African sectoral policies, as well as cooperation policies, in response to the needs of the cotton sector in the following fields:

⁹ The Pan African Cotton Meeting (PACM) took place on 27 – 29 June 2011 in Cotonou, Benin. The meeting was held as a response to the request made by the African cotton producing countries during the Multi-stakeholder Meeting on Cotton, organised by UNCTAD’s Secretary-General in Geneva on 2 December 2008. The main objective of the meeting was to define a 10-year Road Map for the African cotton sector, by building on the existing national and regional strategies in the sector, and taking into account the EU-Africa Partnership Action Framework. This Road Map is intended to increase consistency between the different initiatives and give a general direction to the development of the African cotton sector at a pan-African level.

Some of the conclusions that were gathered in the PACM were:

- Increase productivity: (i) research, extension and advisory services, (ii) agricultural inputs and funding, and (iii) soil protection and restoration of soil fertility.
- Improve marketing: (i) knowledge of and relations with markets, (ii) quality, standards and labels, and (iii) risk management and funding.
- Raise value-addition: (i) cotton processing and derived products, (ii) textiles and clothing, and (iii) on-farm horizontal diversification.

- Productivity
 - Marketing; and
 - Value addition
- Facilitating the implementation of principal policy support instruments which are necessary for developing the sector and increasing the synergies between the three regional strategies in each of the three fields of interventions of the Road Map.

Keeping in mind the context of the Pan-African Cotton Road Map, we also need to know the history, importance and applications of this raw material, the cotton, since it is significant for the economy and the commission, cotton is “a staple fibre, which means it is composed of different, varying lengths of fibres. Cotton is made from the natural fibres of cotton plants, which are from the genus *Gossypium*.” (*What Is Cotton? A Complete Guide to the History, Characteristics, and Uses of Cotton - 2023, 2021*)

The background of the cotton is what made the past defecation clear that is why it is important to know about the story of this raw material:

- B.C.
 - Scientists searching Open Cotton Boll Caves in Mexico found bits of cotton bolls and pieces of cotton cloth that proved to be at least 7,000 years old. They also found that the cotton itself was much like that grown in America today.
 - In the Indus River Valley in present-day Pakistan, cotton was being grown and first cultivated as a fabric, spun and woven into cloth 3,000 years BC.
 - At about the same time, natives of Egypt’s Nile valley were making and wearing cotton clothing. Later on in 2500 BC early farming societies in South and North America domesticate and breed two local species of cotton: *Gossypium hirsutum* and *Gossypium barbadense*.
 - 300 B.C. Alexander the Great’s army brings cotton goods into Europe following the conquest of the Persian Empire. However, cotton cloth remains expensive and its use is limited.

- 100 to 1400 A.D.
 - Arab merchants brought cotton cloth to Europe about 800 A.D.

- When Columbus discovered America in 1492, he found cotton growing in the Bahama Islands.
 - In 1492 Christopher Columbus found the modern world's most popular current cotton variety, *Gossypium hirsutum*, in the Bahamas.
 - By 1500, cotton was known generally throughout the world. Cotton seeds were believed to have been planted in Florida in 1556 and in Virginia in 1607.
 - By 1616, colonists were growing cotton along the James River in Virginia. (*The Story of Cotton- History of Cotton*, n.d.)
 - Years later, in 100 A.D. Arab traders bring two cotton fabrics, muslin and calico, to Italy and Spain.
 - Lastly in the 800s the Moors introduced cotton cultivation to Spain.
- 1500s
 - In the 1500 Denim fabric was initially produced in Nimes, France. Denim derives its name from 'serge de Nimes' ('fabric of Nimes').
 - Also the sailors from the Italian port city Genoa begin to wear denim trousers. The word 'jeans' is derived from 'Genes', the French name for Genoa.
 - Later in the 1530s naturally-coloured cotton fabrics were among the first items collected from the Americas and more technically sophisticated than fabric woven by European looms at the time.
- 1600s
 - The East India Company brought rare cotton fabrics to Europe from India.
 - Years passed, and in 1621 cotton was first produced in parts of present-day USA.
 - Afterwards, in 1641, the first cotton spinning factory opened in Manchester, UK, marking the true beginning of Europe's cotton industry.
- 1700s, 1800s
 - In the 1730s the world cotton industry developed dramatically as Britain acquired colonies suitable for cotton growing, whilst at the same time textile machinery improvements allowed stronger yarn to be spun, and cotton replaced flax and wool as Europeans' most popular fabric.

- In the 1760s Britain overtook India as the world's largest cotton processor, as a result of the Industrial Revolution.
 - Later in 1764-67 the 'spinning jenny' – a multi-spindle spinning frame – (1764) and Arkwright's spinning frame (1767) were invented, enabling cheap, mass production of cotton cloth.
 - Subsequently, in 1793, the American Eli Whitney patented the cotton gin, separating cotton 50-times faster than traditional hand methods.
 - As a result of the patent, the advent of cheaper industrial dyes, *Gossypium hirsutum*, a white cotton species, replaced coloured varieties as the most popular cotton variety.
 - In the early 1800s southern states of the USA became the world's largest exporter of cotton to thriving British textile mills.
- 1900s
 - 1920s the USA accounted for more than half of the world's cotton fibre.
 - Then in 1939/45 during WWII, naturally green and brown cottons were again produced commercially to counter the lack of dyes available.
 - In the 1940s Denim's popularity became more widespread, as a image shifted from durable clothing for blue-collar workers towards everyday apparel for the general public, and youth in particular.
 - Later on, in 1950-51. world cotton demand and production levels each reached seven-million tonnes. In the early 1980s, most native, coloured cotton varieties grown in Africa, Asia, Central and South America were replaced by all-white, commercial varieties.
 - Then in 1996 transgenic cotton varieties were first introduced, and are widely adopted by the world cotton industry.

The history of cotton has allowed us to know all that this raw material has helped us to progress as a race, that is why it is important to know some of the applications of cotton.

- Woven fabrics. Cotton is used to make a variety of woven fabrics, including canvas, denim, damask, flannel, and more.
- Clothing. Cotton is a fixture of the textile industry as a result of its mass production, soft feel, durability, and absorbency. Cotton is frequently used for T-shirts, blue jeans, dresses, sweats, and so much more

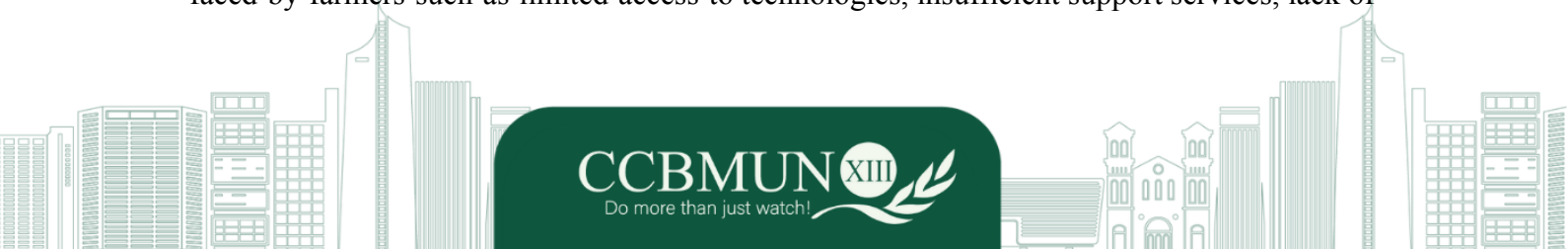
- Bed sheets and towels. Since cotton is extremely soft and absorbent, it is an ideal fabric for bedroom linens and towels needed to sop up moisture.
- Home decor. Cotton is also used throughout the home for upholstery, curtains, rugs, pillows.
- Cottonseed oil. Cottonseed is a byproduct of the cotton production process, and the seeds are used to manufacture cottonseed oil, which is used for salad dressing and margarine. It can also be used in makeup, soap, candles and more.
- Cotton can be blended with other fibres like polyester, rayon to manufacture fabric for different applications.

Bearing in mind the history and applications of this material, the importance of cotton is significant not only for humanity nowadays, but our history too, since cotton is the most widespread profitable non-food crop in the world. Its production provides income for more than 250 million people worldwide, and it employs almost 7% of all labour in developing countries. Approximately half of all textiles are made of cotton. The global reach of cotton is wide, but current cotton production methods are environmentally unsustainable—ultimately undermining the industry’s ability to maintain future production. Bringing cotton production in line with even minimally acceptable environmental standards is a challenging task. (*Cotton | Industries*, n.d.)

4.3 Current Situation:

An estimated 100 million family farmers across 80 countries directly depend on the cotton industry, and women play a key role in the value chain. It supports the economies of many low-income and emerging countries. World production of cotton is valued at about \$50 billion USD, while global trade stands at \$20 billion. (*World Cotton Day: Celebrating the Role of Cotton in Global Development While Calling for Developing the Crop More Sustainably*, 2022)

“A single tonne of cotton provides, on average, year-round employment for five people - often in some of the poorest regions, it is a means of livelihood that sustains millions of smallholders and their communities, securing their food security and nutritional requirements” the FAO Director-General said. That’s why we need to highlight the problems faced by farmers such as limited access to technologies, insufficient support services, lack of



investments and depleted natural resources that hamper the growth of this water intensive crop. Therefore, there is a need to craft inclusive policies that would better develop the crop and promote decent jobs in the cotton sector.

Several continents are interested or have invested in this industry. The ones that are the most related to this topic are America, Asia, and Europe, because America and Asia, even Europe and Australia at some point are the major producers of this raw material, while Europe and Asia are processors and the labour force of these products.

A precise example of this situation is the Pan-African Cotton Road Map, which is the one that gave the background to this topic, it is a project developed by UNCTAD to help the African continent specifically. It can be supplied in several ways since this project has done a few meetings aiming to tackle assorted problems that the continent is facing. One way of contributing is to invest into the businesses that are in development inside the continent.

This project can help mitigate poverty and guarantee a better quality of food security, not only in Africa, but the rest of the world, because it will allow more people to gain jobs, leave illegal workspaces, and also handle the economy of the country and continent itself, which will help people to gain a better quality of lives, since these work spaces are crafted to produce decent jobs for everyone, enhancing equity and quality.

In many countries, cotton is the most important crop, not only providing fibres for the textile industry, but also playing an important role in the food industry, as its seeds have a high oil and protein content. Cotton production employs some 350 million people (in the field, in transportation, ginning, packing, pressing, storage...). China consumes 40% of the world's raw cotton production.

Cotton is at the forefront of fibre crops. Current world production is 25.5 million tons of cottonseed, grown on 34.8 million hectares in comparison to the rest of the raw materials used in this field. The United States, China and India are the world's leading cotton producers, accounting for almost 60% of global production. Pakistan is another important cotton producing country, while Australia and Egypt produce the highest quality cotton. It is grown in more than 100 countries and accounts for 40% of the world fibre market.

Making an emphasis on the fashion industry, all companies, even the smallest, are required to do their financial accounting. There are books to keep to record all financial transactions, reporting to the government and investors, and tax payments. However, when it comes to natural capital - water, energy, soil, air, biodiversity - there are almost no standardised systems for measuring it, accounting for it, and quantifying the value of it.

While some companies internalise negative impacts on the environment by investing in precautionary measures, many other companies produce so-called "externalised costs". Companies do not pay for precautionary measures but externalise costs by producing negative impacts on the environment. They pollute water, destroy soil fertility, beyond other damages. In such a system, more sustainable products are often more expensive, and customers pay for the internalisation of negative costs. When costs are not internalised, neither companies nor customers pay for them, but the general public, affected communities, or future generations do by suffering the damages the crops cause, such as: water pollution, waste disposal of the industries, etc.

40% of the industry is made out of cotton and the rest from polyester. Cotton is a thirsty crop, water consumption is gigantic. Only in the production of a cotton polo shirt it is about a thousand litres of water. Even so between 40% and 60% of a garment's water consumption occurs in the wearer's use phase, not in production, but at home - washing clothes. On the other hand, water pollution is a very serious problem, because of the dyes that are used, and it is very much focused on the production part of the cotton industry .

With cotton production rates improving, but in a much more sustainable way, we can reach a middle ground where cotton farmers and workers know how to cope with the - climate change, threats to the environment and even global pandemics - seem within reach. A new generation of cotton communities will be able to make a decent living, have a strong voice in the supply chain, and meet growing consumer demand for more sustainable cotton. It will also mitigate so much of the damage done by the fashion industry, agriculture, etc, as well as it will improve the production and development rates of the countries/continents taking into account the objectives that each one has and without ignoring the problems of each one of the countries that are part of this topic.



What will be carried out in this project is the development of a similar plan to the Pan-African Cotton Road Map but on a larger scale, with variations for each of the continents, in order to facilitate the development of each of the countries and mitigate the most notorious problems in each of the regions, not leaving aside the global crisis which is of great importance for the committee.

4.4 Guide Questions

1. Does your country currently produce cotton? If the answer is yes, how much cotton does it produce yearly?
2. Does your country currently export or import cotton? If the answer is yes, from which country or countries?
3. Does your country have a large textile industry or clothing industry? Will it benefit by increasing the cotton production worldwide?
4. Was your country part of one of the meetings in which was designed and planned the Pan-African Cotton Road Map?
5. In the hypothetical case in which a cotton road map is created in your continent or region, will your country benefit from it? why?

4.5 Recommendations

As it has been mentioned before, cotton is a crop known worldwide, with multiple applications and uses, and its need for basic human needs such as clothing. All these lead to the fact that cotton can be used as the centre of a continental program to contribute to the development and food security, and to fight against poverty. With all these in mind, we recommend that you first analyse the cotton road map, its advantages, benefits, disadvantages and major issues; but not only as a program, but all the social and economical consequences that it might bring to a region. Secondly, we consider that it is necessary that you discuss which are the main challenges (social, cultural, political and economical) that these kinds of strategies could have when they are adapted to another region, and with the conclusions of these discussions it can be decided if this program can be adjusted to other continents. Third, it is vital that you take into account the clothing industry, and how a correct implementation of this program can benefit this industry that answers to a human basic need. Finally, if you decide to continue with the promotion and implementation of this strategy, it is fundamental that the International Community starts looking for more sustainable ways to plant and

harvest this plant. Because the economic progress and development should be in the same track of sustainability.

4.6 Useful Links

- PAN-AFRICAN COTTON ROAD MAP:
https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/suc2014d6_en.pdf
- UNCTAD ANNUAL REPORT 2008
https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/dom20091_en.pdf
- <https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/world-cotton-day-celebrating-the-role-of-cotton-in-global-development-while-calling-for-developing-the-crop-more-sustainably/en>
- https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/VCA4D%2019%20-%20Cameroon%20Cotton%20ENG_0-1.pdf
- https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/36127-doc-au_gis_continental_strategy_eng_with-cover-1.pdf

4.7 Glossary:

Gossypium hirsutum: also known as upland cotton or Mexican cotton, is the most widely planted species of cotton in the world. Globally, about 90% of all cotton production is of cultivars derived from this species.

Gossypium barbadense: is one of several species of cotton. It is in the mallow family. It has been cultivated since antiquity, but has been especially prized since a form with particularly long fibres was developed in the 1800s.

Moors: a tract of open uncultivated upland, typically covered with heather.

Denim fabric: a type of woven twill fabric, usually made from cotton. It consists of two yarns that are woven together.

5. List of delegations

1. United States of America
2. Russian Federation
3. French Republic

4. People's Republic of China
5. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
6. Federal Republic of Germany
7. Kingdom of Spain
8. State of Japan
9. Federative Republic of Brazil
10. Republic of Argentina
11. Republic of India
12. United States of Mexico
13. Republic of Cameroon
14. People's Republic of Burkina Faso
15. Republic of South Africa
16. Republic of Sudan
17. Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
18. Republic of Mali
19. Federal Republic of Nigeria
20. Islamic Republic of Pakistan
21. People's Republic of Bangladesh
22. Commonwealth of Australia
23. Kingdom of Netherlands
24. Kingdom of Thailand
25. Republic of Chile

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