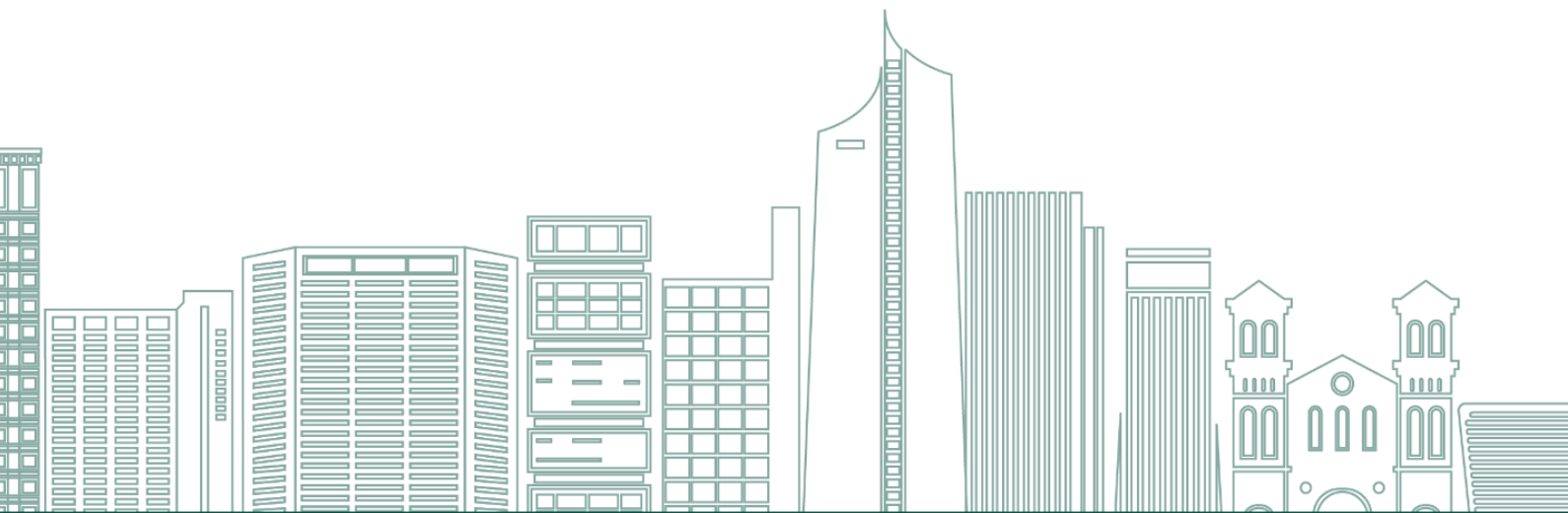




UNCTAD



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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, Juliana Bedoya Correa and Maria Camila Benjumea Cacante, had chosen the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), to carry out 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.

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,

Juliana Bedoya Correa and

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.

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).

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 hashish¹. 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

¹ Drug preparation derived from the resin secreted by the flowering tops of cultivated female plants of the genus *Cannabis*.

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 species², 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 trichomes³, they are covered with, secrete the resin that contains the cannabinoids (CBD⁴, THC⁵, 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.
- 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

² Plant or invertebrate organism which has the female and male reproductive organs in separate individuals.

³ A small hair from the epidermis.

⁴ Cannabidiol

⁵ Tetrahydrocannabinol

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. Historical 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."

"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."

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 Convention⁶. Throughout the years, this has caused a lot of confusion, as the

⁶ 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

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.

- 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

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



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. 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

Ground documents: https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/issmisc2019d2_en.pdf
<https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/203700?ln=en>

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