

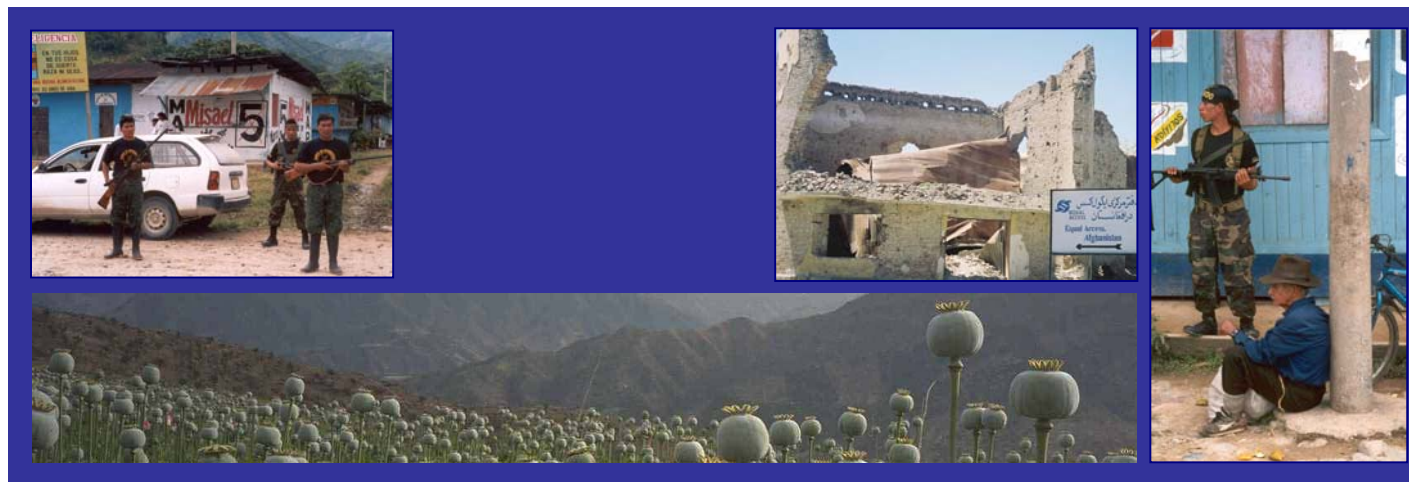
## Conclusions and Challenges

Drugs undermine and easily destroy development efforts, the establishment of democracy and the construction of a legal system in accordance with the rule of law.

Violent conflicts have similar negative effects on development and can ruin long-time development work within a short time.

It is evident that development-oriented drug control and crisis prevention/conflict transformation have similar objectives, such as the promotion of stability, sustainable development, good governance and the rule of law. Concepts, methods and Instruments should include both perspectives and be adjusted accordingly.

Regarding approaches for the solution of these problems and how development cooperation can make a contribution, however, there still seem to be more questions than answers. It is important to combine efforts to find solutions on different levels – micro, macro, state, civil society, national, international level - and any intervention needs a previous thorough analysis of the drugs and conflict situation.



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## Drugs and Conflict

### Summary of a Discussion Paper



Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH

commissioned by:



Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development

**Discussion Paper Drugs and Conflict**  
by the GTZ Development-oriented Drug Control  
programme (DDC), in cooperation with the GTZ  
priority area „Crisis Prevention and Peace-  
Building / Division Governance and Democracy  
The paper is available on the DDC-homepage  
[www.gtz.de/drogen](http://www.gtz.de/drogen)  
Your comments are very welcome and will  
contribute to an up-date version of this paper

## Objective of the Discussion Paper on Drugs and Conflict

The perspective of illicit drugs and their often close connection to conflict has not received much attention in the debates on crisis prevention and conflict transformation although there are evidently several linkages between drugs and conflicts.

The 25-page discussion paper aims to introduce these complex issues and to increase the awareness of the linkages between the two subjects as well as to stimulate further discussions. However, it so far does not offer solutions or guidelines for technical cooperation though it wants to provide a platform for further developments in this field.

We consider the paper as a “living document”, which is supposed to benefit substantially from readers’ contributions. The following is an overview of the key aspects of the paper:

## Crisis and Conflict

### Factors and conditions that increase the risks for conflicts and warfare in societies are

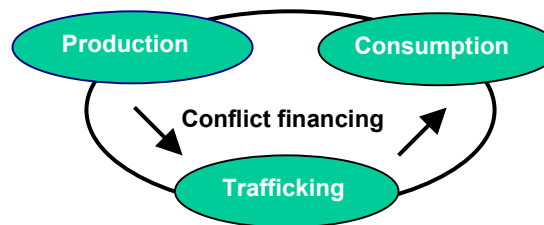
- Lack of democratic processes and unequal access to power
- Social inequality and unequal distribution or, and access to resources
- Control of natural resources by a single group
- Demographic changes that affect the provision of essential services and job opportunities

*“Conflicts are an expression of tensions and incompatibilities between different, mutually independent parties with regard to their respective needs, interests and values.”*

## Emergence of a Drug Economy

Social, political and economic problems can lead to the weakening of state and government, which results in the loss of control and of the monopoly of force (“Failing of the State”). Violent or criminal groups operate easily in these regions and determine the political and economic system. The actors satisfy their economic needs (i.e. control over resources and trafficking) by means of violence. Violence becomes a trading good and the foundation of the Economic system (“Economies of Violence”). The trivialization of violence, the creation of mafia structures and grey markets contributes to long lasting conflicts and the freezing of conflict situations.

These factors along with others such as poverty and other development problems may give rise to a drug economy.



## Actors in the Drug Economy

In order to determine a response in a drug related conflict it is important to identify and clarify the actors involved and to understand their relations, motives and structures. The main actors involved into drug economies are:

- Criminal Groups - Organised Crime
- Violent ideological Groups – Rebels, Guerrillas and Terrorists
- Warlords
- Paramilitary, Military and Police
- The Private Sector

## Consequences of drug economies

### Destabilisation and delegitimisation of the state through:

- The intensification of state failure and increased corruption
- The increase of violence, conflict and crime
- The diminishing attractiveness of legal activities
- An augmented income disparity
- A stabilisation and financing of war economies

## Linkages between Drugs and Conflicts

There are many interrelations between drugs and conflicts. The majority of illicit drug crops are cultivated in countries characterised by civil wars, conflicts, instability and violence. Illicit drug trafficking facilitates and strengthens conflicts and violence and drug consumption patterns frequently increase in environments characterised by conflicts.

Weak states and conflict prone regions offer favourable conditions for the production and trafficking of illicit drugs. Consumption increasingly occurs in transit countries, which frequently are located in conflict or post-conflict regions.

DDC has developed a **Drugs and Conflict Profile Analysis**, a method and tool to assess the impact of drugs and conflicts on projects and their environment and vice versa in order to adjust interventions accordingly.