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## ***Colombia and USA: united producers and consumers will never be defeated***

The war on drugs decreed by President Nixon 50 years ago has failed. The UNITED NATIONS report indicates that between 2010 and 2019, the number of consumers



*The fundamental economic law of capitalism is that of supply and demand. It allows to understand how the system "regulates" the market so that it produces profits in the interest of companies, maintaining the stability of the system. One of the most important commodities in the global market to sustain this stability are psychotropic substances that produce an exorbitant profit for the "entrepreneurs" who traffic this product, under rules established by developed countries in order to nourish potential customers without trauma*

*or social breakdown, ensuring that dividends flow without conflict through the global financial system.*



[Data and trends in the monitoring of territories affected by illicit crops in Colombia \(2020\)](#)

Last week, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) [announced](#) that coca crops in Colombia fell by 7% in 2020 compared to 2019, with 143,000 hectares, compared to 154,000 the previous year. However, although the area sown was reduced, its yield increased 8%, to 1,228 tons of cocaine per hectare, compared to 1,137 the previous year. In fact, anti-drug policies have foundered, not least because they have not set out to attack the market but the peasants who produce coca.

According to Leonardo Correa, coordinator of the Integrated Monitoring System for Illicit Crops and author of the most recent UNODC report, this situation is the result of more efficient production due to learning and technological changes that "happen mainly in productive enclaves". Interestingly, these enclaves are located in the border regions with Ecuador and Venezuela. Much more curious is that they have increased in superlative

degree on the border with Venezuela (being the Norte de Santander the department with the largest area planted with 40,084 hectares) despite the fact that there is the largest and most sophisticated Colombian-American military contingent. It is inexplicable that 40% of the coca produced in 2020 is related to these border areas and that there has been an upward trend since 2010, when only 1,700 hectares were planted.



The report also highlights that there is an "optimization of agricultural inputs" in these places, something that does not happen in the rest of the country, as well as of chemicals to convert coca into cocaine: sulfuric acid, hydrochloric acid, potassium permanganate, cement, lime, urea, ammonia and fuel. It is well known that the most substantial part of these inputs are not produced in the country and are imported - in the overwhelming majority - legally from the United States without the authorities of either country having done anything to prevent it despite having knowledge of the use given to these substances.

The report concludes by stating that despite the continued decline in coca in recent years, Colombia remains the world's leading producer of cocaine. This is happening in a country where, according to the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE), 3.6 million people have entered poverty and 2.78 million have entered extreme poverty since

the beginning of the pandemic, so it is clear that the increase in cocaine production does not bring benefits to peasants. but to the big capital that traffics in it. According to experts, Colombia has gone back nearly a decade in the fight against poverty.

According to this Colombian government agency last year 42.5% of the population was in poverty, that is, there was an increase of 6.8 percentage points compared to the figure of 2019 (35.7%), reaching a total of 21.02 million citizens while extreme poverty reached 7.47 million Colombians.

On the other hand, if you look at the inequality figures, there is also a decline, since at the national level the Gini index went from 0.52 to 0.54, the highest figure of all the measurements made by the DANE since 2012. What has happened at the other end of the market? Life expectancy in the United States fell by a year and a half during 2020, reaching the lowest levels since World War II and impacting primarily on Latino and African American communities according to that country's Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Anyone would think that this figure is the result of the effects produced by the coronavirus pandemic, however, being true, the authorities say that this problem was accentuated because of the drug overdose epidemic, which increased by 30% compared to 2019. The U.S. National Center for Health Statistics reported that more than 93,000 people died of overdoses in the country in 2020, nearly 30% more than the previous year. Many people in poverty lost their jobs, living in conditions of extreme tension because they do not have the resources to solve their basic problems, so they turn to drugs as a way of escaping from this situation.

According to an RT report, since 1999, more than 900,000 people have died of overdoses in the United States, a good part of them from the cocaine that Colombia sends to them. This figure far exceeds that recorded in all the rich countries of the world. The U.S. overdose death rate is estimated to be 3.5 times higher than the average in twenty comparable countries. While this is happening, international banking is happy to "gobble up" the billions of dollars that this business produces.



FAO and WFP have already warned that 41 million people were at risk of famine unless they received immediate food and livelihood assistance.

Simultaneously, [another report](#), this time released on July 30 by the World Food Program (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) draws attention to 23 outbreaks around the world that will suffer food shortages in the next 4 months, affecting farmers and citizens to a greater extent, in the face of the connivance of governments and the so-called international community that does not provide resources to provide food aid preventing large-scale crops from being planted at the right time. In the meantime, the great millionaires who have seen their fortunes swell during the pandemic, are distracted by organizing walks through space, squandering billions of dollars that could be used to alleviate this scourge and that – however – are used by them to relax observing the poverty of the planet from the firmament.

The aforementioned report says that the biggest warning spots are located in Ethiopia and Madagascar, as well as in 23 other countries among which el Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Haiti and... oh surprise Colombia!. That is why President Duque is doing his best international efforts by pretending that the United States declares Venezuela a country that encourages terrorism. Is it that he thinks that this can enable him to reduce drug production in his country and overcome the growing hunger of his people in the face of their indifference, ineptitude and indolence? Or, perhaps, in this way, he intends to hide the whole disaster previously exposed.



### [FAO/WFP report warns of famine hotspots in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)

The war on drugs decreed by President Nixon 50 years ago has failed. The UN report indicates that between 2010 and 2019, the number of consumers increased by 22% in the world, while the market has remained fairly stable in proportional terms. It also states that in 2019 around 275 million people used a drug at least once, of which 36 million already suffer from consumption abuse disorders, with more profits reported for sellers. This will remain the case as long as capitalism "regulates" the market according to its interests of profit and inordinate profit.

Sergio Rodriguez Gelfenstein for La Pluma, August 4, 2021

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